



A publication of First-Faith United Methodist

THE MESSENGER

Grace and peace to you in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ! It is getting closer to the end of summer and I know that my wife Natalie and I are trying to get in just a few more activities before school starts up this month. I hope that each of you have made the best of your summer time too!

Through the month of July our worship series has been focused on Paul's letter to the Romans. This seminal work is so important to how we understand our place in the world as Christians. Many of Paul's writings are to churches that are in turmoil, or at least churches that are looking for some guidance in who they are and what it means to follow Jesus.

The task as Christians to love God with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength and to love our neighbor as ourselves is not an easy one. This can be especially true when we think we are doing it alone. That may be one of the big lies that we tell ourselves in our day to day lives. I can do this on my own, but the truth is that we need each other.

The beginning of fall, the start of school, the many things that we busy ourselves with each year can have the effect of tugging at our time with God and with our community. With school, sports and other activities, there's a lot to do. But, where does our faith stand? As John Wesley was famous for asking, how is it with our soul? We need a reminder, even in our busiest times, that our relationship with God and with others is paramount for our lives. That is why it is so important that we remain plugged in to church and to God.

Our Worship series in August is called *Plugged In*. We will be exploring Ephesians 2:11-22, 3:14-21, and 4:11-16 as we reflect about being "plugged in" and making sure that we're filling our lives with community, purpose and service to others.

On August 13th we will have our Rally Sunday. We will be kicking off the school year and the church year in amazing fashion as we bless and give Bibles to our third graders, bless backpacks for the school year, and bless our Sunday school teachers and small group leaders for the fall.

I am so excited for so many of the activities that we have planned for the fall and can't wait to see what the Holy Spirit continues to do in the lives of this congregation and in this community. I am still blown away by your faithfulness and your hard work for the kingdom of God.

I hope and pray that the end of your summer is safe and fun. I am looking forward to this fall and hope to see you in worship and at many of the fun activities or ministries of the church. May God bless and keep you until we meet again.

Pastor Ray



Every Sunday

Worship Service at 9:30 a.m.

Join us in person or online on our Facebook page

(First-Faith United Methodist Church)!

A Perk & A Prayer



Every Wednesday morning, from 7 to 9 a.m., you can drive in to the church parking lot and get a free cup of coffee and lots of smiles. If

you have a prayer request, someone will be there to pray with you.

HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE!!

Meetings and Circles

Mon, August 7th

Trustees Meeting at 7:00 pm

Tues, August 8th

UMM Meeting at 6:30 pm

Mon, August 14th

Finance Committee Meeting at 5:30 pm

Church Council Meeting at 6:30 pm

Thurs, August 24th - SPRC Meeting at 1:00 pm

Mon, August 28th - Susanna Circle at 6:30 pm



WOMEN'S EXERCISE CLASSES

Strong Women

Every Monday and Wednesday at 3:00 p.m.

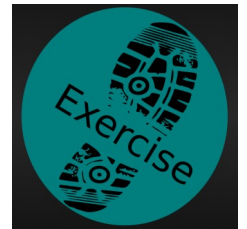
Chair Yoga

Every Tuesday and Thursday at 10:30 a.m. and 6:30 p.m.

No class on August 1st at 6:30 p.m.

Step Aerobics

Every Monday, Tuesday and Thursday at 5:15 p.m. No class on August 1 or 3.



Wear comfortable clothes & come and join us!



Beginning on August 30th

Handbell Choir Practice
Every Wednesday at 6:00 p.m.

Choir Practice
Every Wednesday at 7:00 p.m.
Come and join us!

MEN'S COFFEE TIME



Come and join us every Tuesday at 9 a.m. for some coffee and great fellowship the church!

at

Men's Fellowship and Cornhole

Even if you've never played before, come on out and join us for some fun. We'll be playing every Thursday night at 7:30 pm, in the church sanctuary. Please enter through the kitchen door.



Our Lunch Bunch Potluck will be on Wednesday, August 9th, at 12 noon. It will be at the church and everyone is welcome!

Bring a dish to share and then join in the fun afterwards as we play RUMMIKUB!!!



SUMMER LADIES' NIGHT OUT

Sponsored by United Women in Faith

Tuesday, August 1st, at 6:00 p.m.



- * All ladies are cordially invited to our Annual Salad Supper at the church.
- * You do not need to bring anything as the United Women in Faith ladies will be bringing the salads.
- * We will be playing Bingo (with prizes!!!) so come for a great evening of food, fellowship and fun!



AUGUST

- 2 - Renee Harp
Don Shultz
- 4 - Floyd Sorensen
- 6 - Frank Hawk
- 8 - LaVonne Catron
LaVerne Jensen
- 9 - Beverly Gallaway
Emily Sorensen
- 12 - Larry Craven
- 15 - Myla Power
Larry Zimmerman
- 16 - Barbara Brand
- 20 - Jane McIntyre
Tyler Salpas
- 21 - Kris Coates
- 25 - Cindy Hemmann
- 27 - Duane Johnson
- 30 - Bruce Kleint

AUGUST

- Brian and Heather Ford - August 1, 1998**
- Mark and Carla Maurer - August 5, 1989**
- Larry and Kris Coates - August 10, 1995**
- Dale and Karleen Beckman - August 12, 1962**
- Ralph and Linda Cure - August 13, 1960**
- Rob and Melodie Bigger - August 18, 2012**
- Wain and Dixie Codner - August 23, 1975**
- Erick and Donna Schwartz - August 30, 1959**



"Thank you so much for the scholarship for college. I really appreciate your generosity and the kindness that you have shown me."

Eli Ford



**Join us for Pitch
(a card game)!**

Monday, August 28th
7 to 9 p.m. at the church.

Bring a partner or we'll find you one!



We extend our sincere sympathies to the family and friends of:

Lela Embree

June 5, 2023

Member since 10-18-59

**The Church Office will be closed on
Friday, August 25th.**



Ladies' Sewing Group

**August 8th and 22nd
at 9:30 a.m.**

We meet at the church and all are welcome!

HELPING ONE ANOTHER

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR THE STATE FAIR:

We are looking for volunteers to help put on the State's largest 11-day event of the year. There are lots of opportunities available so there is something for everyone. Shift times are 10 am-2 pm, 2-6 pm and 6-9 pm. Come out and be a part of the fun! To sign up, go to www.statefairvolunteer.org or call Haley Roush at 308-382-1620.

If you would like to sell or give something away, please call or email the church office at:

308-384-5620 or firstfaithumc@gmail.com

List your name, phone number, a brief description of the item and the price you are asking and we will put it in the next month's newsletter.



RALLY SUNDAY IS AUGUST 13TH!

Let's come together as a whole congregation to begin a new year of exploring more about the love of God.

Here is what is planned:



3rd Grade Bible Presentation

The children going into 3rd grade will receive their own personal Bible! We have four youth ready to step into this next milestone in their faith journey: Lane Borer, Mason Forsman, Vivian Igo, and Mordecai Bigger will be receiving their Bibles. If you know of any 3rd grade child we missed, please let the office know as soon as possible.

NOISY CAN OFFERING ON AUGUST 13TH WILL GO TOWARDS BUYING FOOD FOR THE FOOD PANTRY IN OUR PARKING LOT.

Bring your backpack, tote bag, lunch bag or work bag to church so that we can pray together for a successful and blessed year of work and learning. There will be a cross lanyard with a blessing from FFUMC for those wanting to add a message to their bag.



BIBLE TIME FOR KIDS BEGINNING A NEW THEME!

"GOD IS LOVE"

3-years-old to 5th Grade

We will begin having Bible Time for Kids on August 13th during the sermon. Please plan on having your children participate in this "Sunday School" experience.

The Sunday School room will sport some new décor and will be a welcoming space for our children to learn. This year, children will become familiar with:

- The Lord's Prayer
- The Ten Commandments
- Learn different verses to "Jesus Loves Me"
- Learn a new song, "Jesus, Jesus, Hear My Prayer"
- Crafts

They will receive a weekly newsletter that addresses the liturgy that Pastor Ray uses during the sermon.

HELP NEEDED: This children's ministry is an essential element in the growth of our church and is instrumental in spreading God's word throughout the world. If you would like to be a part of this ministry, please let Chyna Hayes know!

On July 16th, we gave attendance awards to three children that attended more than half of the 42 Sundays that we had Bible Time for Kids. Let's make it an even larger number of children attending this year!

All-Church Hot Dog Lunch and Potluck

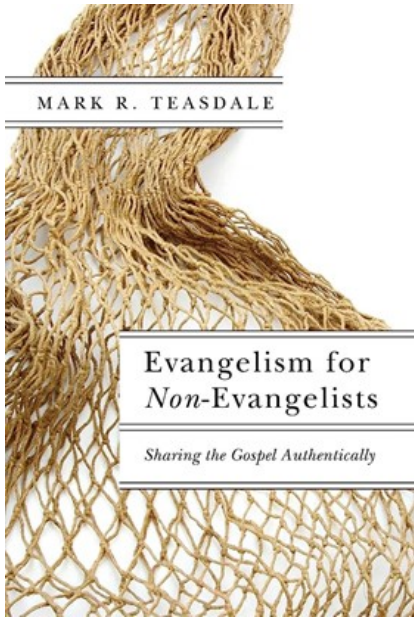
Come and join us for lunch after the morning service on August 13th! Hot dogs will be provided and we ask that you bring either a side dish or dessert to share.

What a good time to come together as we kick off a new year of ministry. This will be a great time to visit with each other, get to know a new friend, and talk about future Bible Studies and projects that will enhance the faith and fellowship provided at FFUMC.

Maybe there is a ministry that you want to know more about or want to see happen. Let's gather together to ask the Lord's blessing on the mission of our church.

We hope you will be a **BIG PART** of this time spent together as a church family!





Evangelism Study with Pastor Ray

The book for this short-term study is *Evangelism for Non-Evangelists* by Rev. Dr. Mark Teasdale. The class will be offered on Sundays and Wednesdays:

Sundays at 10:30 am: August 27, September 3, 17 and 24

Wednesdays at 7:00 pm: August 30, September 6, 20 and 27

Why evangelism? The very word makes palms sweat and images spin: standing on a soap box in a city park, knocking on neighborhood doors, being conscripted into evangelistic campaigns, to say nothing of that annoying religious neighbor or coworker. We have met the evangelists—and they are not us. If evangelism is the welcome door to faith, why does it grate open on rusting hinges?

In *Evangelism for Non-Evangelists* Teasdale sympathizes with the perceptions and discomfort we bring to evangelism. But he also opens up a non-threatening space for us to weigh what we believe the evangel of evangelism—the good news!—to be. And he helps us navigate our way toward expressing the gospel in a manner true to what we believe, authentic to who we are, and attractive and even compelling to others. Here is a refreshing, practical, and companionable look at evangelism. It might even chart a course toward your own authentic evangelism.

Please be sure to sign up for this short-term study early so we can order the books. Books are \$20.

CELEBRATING 10 YEARS

In the Spring of 2013, First UMC and Faith UMC began the process of merging together as one congregation that would become First-Faith United Methodist.

Over the last decade First-faith has grown into a vibrant and mission minded congregation dedicated to being a light of hope for our neighbors. Please join us for our 10 year celebration on Sunday September 10, 2023. This special worship service will celebrate the history of First and Faith as well as the many successes since both congregations came together. There will be a meal after the service and we hope you will stay to share memories and join in fellowship.



PLUGGED IN

August Worship Series

Week 1: Plugged into Community

Ephesians 2:19-22

The world has never been more connected, and yet feelings of isolation and loneliness are at an all-time high. In church, you have a place and are welcome in our community!

Week 2: Plugged into Jesus

Ephesians 3:14-21

Christian community is different than any other group or gathering on earth because Jesus is at the center. We are rooted in God's power and love. As fall programming ramps up and gets busy, this week we'll learn how to be plugged into Jesus first.

Week 3: Plugged in for Others

Ephesians 4:11-16

We are here for a purpose. When we plug in, Jesus fills our lives with meaning; but that's not the end of the story! Jesus sent the disciples to go into all the world – and sends us to do God's work too.



Our Refresh "Grandmas" would love to give you a break. We provide FREE quality childcare for ages 6 and under. If you need a few hours to get things done, bring your little ones by the church and our ladies will take great care of them! They will have fun during play time, reading, having a snack and making a craft.

We will be open on Wednesdays from 9 to 11:30 a.m. - August 9th and 23rd

Please feel free to invite friends and family to use this service.

Questions? Call Sharon Sorensen at 308-382-7543.

PARTNERS IN EDUCATION WITH ENGLEMAN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

We would love to have you join us in this ministry. We meet every two weeks, beginning in August, at Engleman on Thursdays at 8:30 a.m. We help teachers by preparing educational materials for them. The starting date will be announced and calendars will be available soon with the dates for the new school year.

Please let Glenda Vetter know if you would like to join us for the first time or if you would like to continue participating. She will then notify the school and set up a schedule. Her number is 308-383-1716.



S SINGLE
P PEOPLE
A ACHIEVING
R REAL
C CHRISTIAN
C CONNECTIONS

LUNCH AT THE SWEET SHOPPE

Saturday, August 12th

Meet at the church at 10:30 a.m. We will carpool to St. Paul and have lunch at The Sweet Shoppe followed by a shopping spree before returning home. Everyone is responsible for their own costs.

Please RSVP to the church office by Wednesday, August 9th, so that we know how many to expect.



BIBLE TIME FOR KIDS ATTENDANCE AWARDS!



We had a wonderful "first year" experience for *Bible Time for Kids* where we averaged 5 children attending this new Sunday School design. Attendance recognition was given to Vivian and Josh Igo for attending 39/42 Sundays and to Harlow Nicolaus for attending 29/42. Thank you to parents and children for making this a successful faith opportunity for our children.



2023 ROADSIDE CLEAN UP FOR THE STATE FAIR

Wednesday, August 9th, at 6:30 p.m.

Let's all help spruce up the community for the Nebraska State Fair! This is for anyone who would like to help pick up trash on the roadside. Trash bags and gloves will be provided.

The Methodist churches will be doing their part on Wednesday, August 9th, at 6:30 p.m. Meet at the Walgreens on 2nd Street and we will divide up into teams to pick up trash from Broadwell Ave. west to Webb Road. Plan on it taking 1 to 1-1/2 hours.

Please sign up by Sunday, August 6th, using the sign-up sheet in the narthex or by calling the church office. If you have any questions, feel free to contact Carla Maurer at 308-383-2553 or email her at mcmaurer@hamilton.net.

Thank you in advance for pitching in to help keep our city looking great!

Little League Hot Dog Feed

June 5th and 6th



As a community outreach, we were able to give away 425 hot dog dinners to our Little League kids, siblings, parents and grandparents. Everyone was SO appreciative! A big thank you to everyone who volunteered to help with the dinner and the Snack Shack this season. We were able to raise \$2,167.96 to help with our annual mission share expenses.



The family and friends of Jerry Brand have purchased a concrete bench in Jerry's honor. It has been placed in the Prayer Path closest to Independence Avenue. Feel free to sit there any time to reflect, pray or enjoy some quiet time under the trees.



Thank you to Floyd, Bob, Tom, Doug, Stephen and Doyle for planning and then pouring the concrete for Jerry's Memorial Bench landing and the pathway up to the bench in the Prayer Walk.



MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

The Junk Jaunt at First-Faith United Methodist Church is coming!

Friday, September 22nd (8:00 am-4:00 pm)

Saturday, September 23rd (8:00 am-2:00 pm).

There will be many opportunities to volunteer in lots of different ways, so please consider helping. We need people to price, organize ahead of time, work the sale dates at the church (in whatever way you are able), clean up after it is over, and to **donate items to sell.**

Volunteer Sign-Up Sheets are in the narthex!

PLEASE bring your sale items to church between now and September 18th. We will **NOT BE ACCEPTING CLOTHING.** Please make sure your items are clean and in good repair.

The United Methodist Men will have lunch for sale and we will serve free coffee both days.

For more information, contact Deb Trosper at 308-379-5753. If you have large items that need to be picked up, please contact Bob Trosper at 308-379-4835.





First-Faith United Methodist Church
 4190 W Capital Ave
 Grand Island, NE 68803
 Return Service Requested

Non-Profit Org.
 U.S. Postage
 PAID
 Permit #22
 Grand Island, NE

Worship Schedule

Sunday

9:30am - Morning Service
 10:30 am - Sunday School and Fellowship Time

Office Phone: (308) 384-5620

Office Email:
firstfaithumc@gmail.com

Website:
<http://firstfaithumc.org>

Office Hours:
 Mon-Fri 8:00-4:30
 (Closed 12-1 pm - Lunch Hour)

Pastor: Rev. Wm. Ray Stone



New Steps Youth Group



Cole Salpas hard at work!

Bible and BBQ was a fun time this summer! Thank you to Susanna Circle, Pastor Ray and Natalie Stone, Stephen and Chyna Hayes, and Rocky and Stacey Salpas for providing a place to gather and for a tasty meal!

Our youth group will be helping the Volunteers in Mission clean up an area downtown in preparation for the Nebraska State Fair. On Wednesday, August 9th, at 6:30 pm, we will meet at Walgreens on West Second Street to get our assigned area. Friends and parents are welcome to help the youth. It usually takes about an hour and is a great community service project. **Plan on attending!**

Cody Pennell helping to clean up the Prayer Path.

On Wednesday, August 30th, the youth will meet at the Hayes' home (4316 Claussen Road) for a Fire Pit Planning Meeting from 7:00-8:15 pm. Mark your calendar and attend to be a part of beginning a new year together. S'mores to cook, games to play and plans to make will be our agenda. **FRIENDS ARE WELCOME** and I hope all of our youth 6th-12th grade will plan on attending.



Our first regular Wednesday meeting will be on September 13th.