



A publication of First-Faith United Methodist

# MESSENGER

---

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. I hope this newsletter finds you well and that you have been having a wonderful summer. It's crazy to think that just a few short months ago I was making plans for summer and now it seems that it has all but slipped quickly away. Natalie and I have had a great summer time hosting family and friends at the parsonage and taking some much-needed time off.

As August comes rolling in I always find this month to be a strange month of transition. It's not really summer, but not fully fall. School is back in and school activities begin to dominate many of our family's calendars. Before too long Natalie will be headed back off to Lincoln, hopefully for the last time as she finishes up work on her degree. It always seems like such a strange time. But I hope that as we get deeper into August you will be sure to make worshiping with us a priority for you and your family.

One of the great things about this church is that it has become a place to be loved and seen. We spend so much time isolated in our homes or in our jobs that we rarely get the opportunity to invite others into our lives and in turn be welcomed into others lives. Life is often challenging, but it is more challenging when we do it alone. That is what is so powerful about living a life of faith, we get to live it together. We are never alone

We share in the moments of joy and celebration but are also honored and humbled to be there when things are not going well and when life is at it's most challenging. I know that I have been blessed throughout my life with the love and care of the many churches that I have served. I hope that you will make being in the lives of others a priority for yourself and your family.

I am excited to continue in August our sermon series called Ancient Stories. The passages of July will give way in August to some different types of passages. We will be looking at some of the different types of writing in the Old Testament in August including Psalms and Proverbs.

Poetry and wisdom are not stylings or even topics that we read daily. Yet through these words, so eloquently laid out, we can gain a beautiful and thought-provoking view on our relationship with God. It is not only through reading and listening to sermons that strengthen our divine relationship with the God of all creation. It is also in the songs we sing, the moments of silence and prayer, and in the internal imaginations of our hearts.

I am excited this for the first Sunday of August for the opportunity to sing some older hymns that we don't hear much anymore. I am thankful for Linda Bogus work in helping to select hymns from the Evangelical United Brethren hymnal for us to sing on that Sunday. I hope you will join us as we lift our voices to God and sing hymns of our forefathers and mothers.

August 11 will be our back to school Sunday and backpack blessing. We encourage our children and our school teachers to come as we bless their backpacks and bless them for the upcoming school year. Thank you for your continued love and support of my family, it means so much to us. I look forward to all the wonderful and exciting new things that this August will bring. May God bless and keep you until we see each other again.

*Pastor Ray*

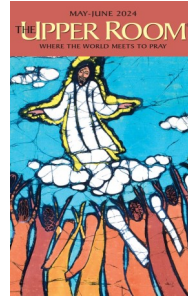
JOIN US FOR  
**WORSHIP**

**Every Sunday**

Worship Service at  
9:30 a.m.

Join us in person or  
online on our  
Facebook page

(First-Faith United Methodist Church)



**THE UPPER ROOM  
DAILY DEVOTIONAL**

Pick up your copy of the  
July-August 2024  
issue in the narthex!

Suggested donation amounts:  
Regular Print: \$1.50  
Large Print: \$2.00



- Mon, Aug. 5th**—Trustees Meeting at 7:00pm
- Tues, Aug. 6th** - United Women in Faith Picnic at the church (Salads & Desserts) ALL WOMEN ARE WELCOME! Event is at 6:00pm
- Sat, Aug. 10**- SPARCC Event - “Aurora Day” at 11:30am
- Mon, Aug. 12th** - Combined Finance/Church Council Meeting at 6:30pm
- Tues, Aug. 13th** - United Methodist Men’s Group Meeting at 6:30pm
- Wed, Aug. 14th** - Refresh Children’s Ministry from 9am-11:30am
- Thurs, Aug. 22nd**- SPRC Meeting at 5:30pm
- Mon, Aug. 26th** - Susanna Circle at 6:30 pm  
Pitch Game Night at 7:00pm
- Wed, Aug. 28th**- Refresh Children’s Ministry from 9am-11:30am

Junk Jaunt is coming 9/27 & 9/28! This is a MAJOR fundraiser for our church.

Chyna Hayes (with lots of help from Deb Trosper!) will be organizing this year’s event. The Men’s group will be serving lunch on our sale days (contact Bob Trosper or Stephen Hayes with questions or to volunteer). We will begin collecting your “treasures” for our Junk Jaunt after 8/1. There will be someone here to help and open the garage on **8/7 from 9:00-12:00 & 8/18 after church and until noon**. If you need to drop items off at another time please call (308)390-2352! **Items need to be at church prior to 9/20**. Boxes to help sort and organize items are always useful! We are asking that you wait until 9/22 to bring large furniture items. You do not need to mark any of your items! Please make sure items are clean and in good repair. We are not taking clothing or shoes. The Goodwill truck has been reserved to help make the clean up extra smooth at the end of the sale.



Do YOU want to help???

Just let us know and we will put you to work!

**A Perk & A Prayer**

Come by and see us on Wednesday mornings, 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!



**YOUTH GROUP STARTS  
BACK UP ON SEPTEMBER  
11TH AT 7:00PM**  
**WE’D LOVE FOR YOU TO  
JOIN US!**

# HAPPY BIRTHDAY ANNIVERSARY

## August Birthdays

- 2nd - Renee Harp
- 2nd - Don Shultz
- 4th - Floyd Sorensen
- 6th - Frank Hawk
- 8th - LaVonne Catron
- 9th - Beverly Gallaway
- 9th - Emily Sorensen
- 11th - Terry Carlson
- 12th - Larry Craven
- 15th - Myla Power
- 15th - Larry Zimmerman
- 20th - Jane McIntyre
- 20th - Tyler Salpas
- 21st - Kris Coates
- 27th - Duane Johnson
- 29th - Timothy Goding
- 29th - Laverne Jensen
- 30th - Bruce Kleint

## August Anniversaries

"Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs."

1 Corinthians 13:4

- Brian & Heather Ford - 8/1/1998
- Mark & Carla Maurer - 8/5/1989
- Larry & Kris Coates - 8/10/1995
- Larry & Liz Seifert - 8/11/1984
- Dale & Karleen Beckman - 8/12/1962
- Linda & Ralph Cure - 8/13/1960
- Robert & Melodie Bigger - 8/18/2012
- Wain & Dixie Codner - 8/23/1975
- Erick & Donna Schwartz - 8/30/1959



Roadside cleanup will be on Wednesday, **August 7<sup>th</sup>, 6:30pm**. Meet at the 2<sup>nd</sup> Street Walgreens and we will dispatch from there. If you need a t-shirt we need your size ASAP. (They were getting new ones this year.) This should take 1 hour to 1 ½ hours. **SIGN UP SHEET IS LOCATED IN THE NARTHEX**



Englemar

### Education Partnership

Beginning August 8th and every other Thursday, volunteers are to meet at Engleman at 8:30am. This is a great opportunity to help our teachers with their classrooms!

Contact Glenda Vetter with any questions at 383-1716



Concession Stand Revenue From Grand Island Little League: **\$2,298.26**



Dear First Faith Family,

I would like to say thank you to everyone who have prayed for me over the years and to those involved in my gift. The water bottle was perfect. Thank you, everyone!

Sincerely,  
Jacob Albers

## HAND BELLS AND CHOIR PRACTICE

### RESUMES

WEDNESDAYS BEGINNING SEPTEMBER 4TH

**HANDBELLS AT 6:00**  
**CHOIR PRACTICE AT 7:00**

Make a joyful noise to the LORD  
Psalm 100:1



In 1968 the Methodist Episcopal Church and the Evangelical United Brethren merged to create the United Methodist Church. This merger called for the creation of a new Hymnal and the merging of two musical heritages. One of the unfortunate side effects of that is that there are many old hymns that we just don't get to sing any more. With the help of our pianist Linda Bogus, we have selected ten hymns from the 1951 edition of the Evangelical United Brethren Hymnal for a hymn sing on August 4<sup>th</sup>. We hope you will join us as we worship and sing together these wonderful older hymns.

### MEN'S COFFEE TIME

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



### Join us for Pitch

**PITCH**



Monday, August 26th at 7:00p.m.

*Bring a partner or we'll find you one!*

**Lunch Bunch**  
Wednesday  
August 14th at 12:00

Special thanks to the United Methodist Men's for putting together another successful steak feed! With around 60 people in attendance, it was a wonderful time full of fellowship and delicious food!



## ANCIENT STORIES

Prophets, Kings & Wisdom

The writings of the Old Testament cover so many different literary styles and contexts spanning thousands of years, it can be

overwhelming to know where to start. In August we will be continuing our series called Ancient Stories: Prophets, Kings, and Wisdom. Each week we will be delving into different writings from prophets, history, proverbs, and psalms to the learn lessons, and hear the stories of God's work in the lives of people like us. Please join us as we explore these Ancient Stories together each Sunday.

**August 4, 2024—Hymn Sing**

**August 11, 2024—Psalm 130—My Soul Waits**

**August 18, 2024—Proverbs 9—An Invitation**

**August 25, 2024—Joshua 24: 1-2, 14-18—To Serve the Lord**

### August SPARCC Event

"Aurora Day!"

Saturday, August 10th

Meet at the church at 11:30 and carpool to Aurora. Lunch will be served at JoJo's (1007 Q St.) Followed by a visit to the Plainsman Museum (210 6th St) or Edgerton Explorit Center (208 16th St.)



Please RSVP to the church office by Wednesday, August 7th, so that we know how many to plan for.

Everyone is responsible for their own costs.

THE EDGERTON  
**EXPLORIT**  
CENTER

### Ladies' Sewing Group

**August 13th at 9:30**  
**August 27th at 9:30**



We meet at the church and all are welcome!



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 Wednesday from 9 to 11:30 a.m.  
August 14 & 28**

Please feel free to invite friends and family to use this service.  
Questions? Call Sharon Sorensen at 308-382-7543.

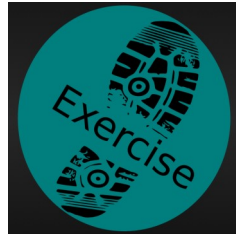
### EXERCISE CLASSES

**Strong Women**  
Every Monday and  
Wednesday at 3:00 pm

**Chair Yoga**  
Every Tuesday at 10:30 am and  
6:30 pm and Thursdays at 10:30 am only

**Step Aerobics**  
Every Monday, Tuesday and Thursday at 5:00 pm

**Wear comfortable clothes & come and join us!**



**CHANGING LIVES TAKES A COMMUNITY!**

Help ensure that no one in our community goes hungry by donating to our food pantry! These items are free to people in need and could make all the difference!

Contact the office at 308-384-5620 if you have an questions regarding items that can be donated!



**DON'T FORGET! VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL IS TODAY (AUGUST 28TH) FROM 10:45AM-1:00PM!**

**4 YEARS OLD THROUGH 5TH GRADE!**

Right after church, we'll have an opening time, Bible Story, songs, games, crafts and have lunch!



**BACKPACK BLESSING  
AUGUST 11TH AT THE 9:30AM WORSHIP**



### News from South Central Jurisdictional Conference

While several of his South Central Jurisdiction colleagues will find themselves with additional episcopal areas, Bishop

David Wilson will remain the leader of the Great Plains Conference.

On the first day of the South Central Jurisdictional Conference in Rogers AR, clergy and lay delegates unanimously approved a recommendation from the episcopacy committee that would give additional duties to two episcopal leaders and the unification of three Texas annual conferences into the new Horizon Texas Conference, led by former Great Plains Bishop Ruben Saenz Jr.



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. Ray Stone



## New Steps Youth Group

### August Schedule of Activities

August is when we take some time off and recharge as school gets started. We will be having a youth planning meeting and fire-pit at Pastor Ray's house to plan out the fall. Parents, be on the lookout for youth registration and forms for the upcoming fall, followed by a calendar of upcoming events and trips for the youth.

**Youth Fall Planning—August 14—6:30 pm to 8:00 pm at Pastor Ray's**

**Youth Group Kick-off—September 4<sup>th</sup>—7:00 pm to 8:30 pm**



**Article Deadline for August Newsletter: August 20, 2024**