



A publication of First-Faith United Methodist

MESSENGER

Peace to you in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. I hope that this month's newsletter finds you each well. We have hit the ground running in the new year and am excited for all the things happening in 2024.

While February may be the shortest month of the year, it is no less busy. We have many things happening and hope that you will take the opportunity to join us for some or even all of our activities.

Tuesday, February 6th, is our Community Soup Supper. This is a new fundraiser and I hope you will join us for a wonderful night of fellowship. Sunday, February 11th, is our Scout Sunday. I hope you will come and celebrate scouting with us and our Scout Troop 114. Sunday, February 18th, is the United Methodist Men's Valentine Banquet. This is a fun night of food and music. Everyone is welcome to come out and celebrate!

I would also like to highlight that February is the beginning of the season of Lent. Lent is the forty days (not counting Sundays) that lead up to Easter. It is a season that begins February 14th with our Ash Wednesday service at 7:00 pm and ends on Easter morning. The season of Lent is meant as a time of contemplation, devotion, even self-denial, as we remember Jesus's final days and his death on the cross at Calvary. We are meant to spend this time looking upon our lives and our relationship to God through Christ Jesus.

Our Lenten worship series is entitled *Orienting Our Lives*. The reading from the Bible in this season illustrates Jesus's desire for us to orient our lives in ways that seem strange or even counterintuitive. Jesus challenges His followers to look and live differently, and we are tasked to do the same. As we prepare for the joy of Easter, we should prepare ourselves by coming closer to Christ as learning and walking with him in his final days. Please join us in person or on Facebook live as we work at orienting our lives towards Christ.

During Lent, we will also be having a Lenten study each Sunday morning with Pastor Ray. We will be exploring the text for Sunday as well as some other writers and their views on the Christian life. Lent is a perfect way to build up spiritual practices that help us grow in our faith. In the Bible study, you will have daily readings and we will come together each Sunday, after church, for group reflection on our Lenten journey. I hope you will add this study to your Lenten journey.

I would like to thank everyone for their cards and gifts during Christmas as well as for my birthday. Natalie and I are so thankful for your generosity. As we continue into winter, I hope and pray that you may stay safe and warm. I am continually grateful for your devotion and faith and am excited to begin our journey in Lent together.

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)!



Join Us Each Sunday in the Season of Lent

Orienting Our Lives
Lenten Worship Series 2024
Wednesday at 7 p.m.
Sunday mornings at 9:30 a.m.

Feb. 14—Ash Wednesday Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21
 Feb. 18—1st Sunday in Lent 1 Peter 3:18-22
 Feb. 25—2nd Sunday in Lent Mark 8:31-38

Meetings and Circles

Thurs, Feb 1 - Worship Committee Meeting at 6:30 pm
Mon, Feb 5 - Trustees Mtg at 7 pm
Mon, Feb 12 - Finance Committee Mtg at 5:30 pm
 Church Council Mtg at 6:30 pm
Thurs, Feb 22 - SPRC Meeting at 5:30 pm
Mon, Feb 26 - Susanna Circle meets at 6:30 pm



Ladies' Sewing Group

February 13 and 27
at 9:30 a.m.

We meet at the church and all are welcome!

Better Together Giving Update

This year, we collected our first Better Together Anniversary Offering on January 7th.

This offering is meant as a way for all of our members to celebrate the many years of ministry of First-Faith UMC and to help provide for the church's future. This year we asked each member to give \$10 in recognition of 10 years of service for the church. The donations collected were an amazing \$1,048.00 that will be deposited into our Savings Fund at the Nebraska Foundation. The goal is to continue to grow this fund so that we may secure the future ministries of the church. If you are interested in making long term gifts to our church savings fund, or would like to speak about end of life giving in your will or trusts, please feel free to contact Pastor Ray.



Lenten Bible Study
February 18 and 25
March 3, 10, 17 and 24
Sunday Mornings at 10:30 a.m.

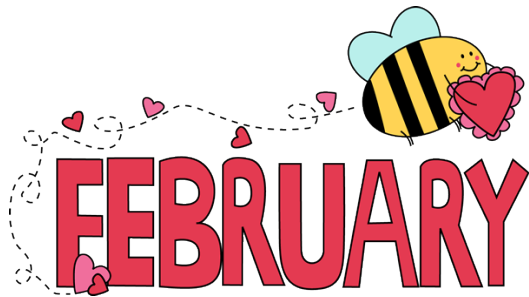
Join Pastor Ray each Sunday, after church, to explore the lectionary passage for that week and discover what way God is calling us to orient our lives for today. Lent is a perfect way to build up spiritual practices that help us grow in our faith. In the Bible study, you will have weekly readings and then we will come together for group reflection on our Lenten journey. Beginners to the Bible are welcome in this low stress discussion group. We hope you will add this study to your Lenten journey.

Ash Wednesday Service

February 14th at 7:00 pm



One of the our oldest Christian traditions is to mark the beginning of the Season of Lent with an Ash Wednesday service. The service emphasizes two themes: our sinfulness before God and our human mortality. Both themes, helping us realize that both have been triumphed through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. All are welcome to join us as we begin the season of Lent together.



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|-----------------------|------------------------|
| 3 - Greyson Underwood | 17 - Sharon Bigger |
| 5 - Don Preisendorf | 19 - Roland Engel |
| 6 - Dee Johnson | Sheila Sautter |
| 11 - Ralph Cure | 22 - Janna Cornelius |
| Tom Rauert | 24 - Larry Seifert |
| Natalie Stone | 25 - Judy Bliss |
| 13 - Betty Carlson | Shantel Miles |
| 14 - Mason Forsman | 27 - Vicki Shottenkirk |
| 15 - Kathryn Hansen | 28 - Tim Enck |



FEBRUARY WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

Darrel and Connie Anderson - February 2, 1964 - 60th Anniversary!
Rod and Pam Clausen - February 10, 1973 - 51 years

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.

WHAT IS LUNCH BUNCH?

It's a monthly gathering of old and new friends. We gather to share a potluck meal (bring a dish to share) and have lots of good conversation. Then, we play a game or cards.



Come and join us on **Wednesday, February 14th, at 12 noon**
 Then, save the date on your calendar for the second Wednesday of every month.



Handbell Choir Practice on Wednesdays at 6:00 p.m.
 Choir Practice on Wednesdays at 7:00 p.m.

There will not be practice on February 14th.

Come and join us!



Tri-City Storm Faith and Family Night
Saturday, March 16, 2024
At the Viaero Center in Kearney
Doors open at 5...Puck Drops at 6:05 pm
Tickets are \$10 each.

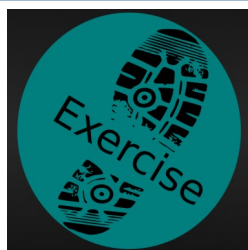
EXERCISE CLASSES

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.
 There will be no evening class on February 13th.
 There will be no classes on February 15th.

Step Aerobics
 Every Monday, Tuesday and Thursday at 5:00 p.m.
 There will be no class on February 6th and 13th

Wear comfortable clothes & come and join us!



These ice hockey players play hard and they are fun to watch. If you are interested in going as a group, then we can buy tickets together and sit in the same section.

Just give your \$10 per person (cash only) and name to Stacey Salpas or bring into the church office by March 1st so we can purchase the tickets and get them to you.



Let's have a fun night out watching ice hockey!

Community Soup Supper

(this is a fundraiser for the church)

Tuesday, February 6th, from 5 to 7 p.m.

Cost: \$8.00 each (Adults)

\$5.00 each (12 and under)

This includes your choice of Chili, Chicken Noodle or Cheeseburger soup and dessert.

Please pay at the door.

If you would like to help, we need people to come and make the soups, set up, serve at the supper and clean up afterwards on February 6th.

Sign-up sheets are in the narthex.

If you have questions, see Sharon Sorensen or Mary Jo Mowinkel.

You are invited to bring a canned good to support the church Food Pantry.



**S SINGLE
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C CHRISTIAN
C CONNECTIONS**

**Let's celebrate the Chinese
New Year Together!
Saturday, February 10th**

Meet at the Imperial Palace Express
at 11:30 a.m.

2504 S. Locust St. in Grand Island

If you are single, we would love to
have you join us!



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

**PARTNERS IN EDUCATION WITH
ENGLEMAN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**



We would love to have you join us in
this ministry. This month, we will meet
at Engleman on Thursdays, February 8th and 22nd, at
8:30 a.m. If you have questions, please contact Glenda
Vetter at 308-383-1716.

SCOUTING MINISTRIES SUNDAY
February 12, 2024 at 9:30 a.m.

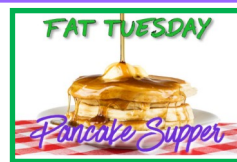
This annual celebration gives Scouts
a **highly visible way to show their
appreciation for their faith-based
chartered organization.** The Scouts
will be wearing their uniforms to
church and participating in the service.



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

**Monday, February 26th
7 to 9 p.m. at the church.**

Bring a partner or we'll find you one!



**The Boy Scouts Troop 114
Annual Pancake Supper
February 13th
4:00 to 7:30 p.m.**

Here are the Pancake Supper prices:

Kids 5 and under are free

6-year-olds to Adults: \$8.00 each or 2 for \$15

Family/Household: \$20.00

"To Go" box: \$8.00 each or 2 for \$15.00

Hope to see you there!

SAVE THE DATE!

MEN'S COFFEE TIME

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



If you would like to help with any of the following ministries,
please call the church office and let Emily know. Thank you!

Liturgist
Usher
Salvation Army

Fellowship Time Host
Bible Time for Kids



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. - February 14 and 28

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



The Reason Behind the Leap Year

Every leap year features an extra day added to the end of February, giving February 29 days instead of the usual 28. This bonus day happens because there isn't actually 365 days in a year, but rather 65.242190 days. To compensate for this extra time, an extra day needs to be added approximately every four years.

Fun Things to Do on Leap Day

Here are some fun ways you and the kids or grand-kids can celebrate leap day, on February 29th:

1. Write a letter to yourself to be opened four years later on the next leap year.
2. Frogs are associated with leap day, which is why you should make some frog origami, play a game of leap frog with classmates, or make a frog puppet.
3. Build a "leaping" collage featuring animals that are known to leap high and far, including kangaroos, frogs, cheetahs, and lemurs.
4. Learn about the mathematics behind the leap year to give your brain a workout.
5. Make a leap day time capsule.
6. Do something new. Try a new hobby or a new food.
7. Tackle a DIY (do it yourself) project.
8. Read an entire book on leap day!
9. Visit a loved one.
10. Take a class.
11. Do some spring cleaning.
12. Practice thankfulness. Take time to write out a list of all the things you are thankful for.

Ultimately, every leap year is an opportunity to do something different and make memories. You only get to celebrate it once every four years, so use this opportunity to do something special.



The United Methodist Men are hosting their Annual Valentine's Banquet on Sunday, February 18th, at 6:00 p.m.

The tickets are \$20.00 each.

Each ticket includes ham and roast beef, au gratin potatoes, green beans, salad and homemade desserts.

The entertainment will be delightful!
Get your tickets from any of the UMM Men.

Also, we would love to have you bring a framed wedding picture to decorate the tables and play a fun game of guessing who is in the picture. Bring to the church office or give to Karleen Beckman by Sunday, February 11th. Thank you!



Willow Rising is available 24-hours a day, 7 days a week to provide emergency and supportive services for victims of domestic violence, sexual assault and human trafficking. They provide these services for Hall, Howard, Hamilton and Merrick Counties. All services are 100% confidential.

Willow Rising is dedicated to creating new beginnings for those impacted by domestic and sexual violence by providing safety, support, education and survivor empowerment.

If you would like to donate any items, we will be collecting them during the month of February. The list of items needed are in the narthex or you can call the church office and Emily will email one to you. This is sponsored by our United Women in Faith ministries. Thank you!



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

Non-Profit Org.
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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

New Steps Youth Super Bowl Subs!

The youth will be selling sub sandwiches for you to enjoy on **Sunday, February 11th**, as you watch the Super Bowl!

- ◇ For only **\$10** you will have a fresh sub sandwich, chips, pickle and a chocolate chip cookie.
- ◇ **PRE-ORDER** your sub sandwich and pick it up at church on February 11th!
- ◇ Fill out the order form included in this newsletter and return it to the church by February 8th or give to any of the Salpas family members.
- ◇ **Please pay when you order.**

We will be meeting on the following Wednesdays in the month of February:

- 2/7 Bible study and games
- 2/14 Please plan on attending the Ash Wednesday service with your family at 7:00 pm to begin the season of Lent in our church.
- 2/21 Bible study and games
- 2/28 Game night!

NOTE: The youth will be preparing the sub sandwiches to enjoy on February 11th. Youth, please plan on being at church by 9:00 a.m. on 2/11/24 to prepare the sandwich orders before church that morning. Thank you!



Article Deadline for March Newsletter: February 19, 2024