



A publication of First-Faith United Methodist Church

MESSENGER

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

I hope you have all weathered the cold days of January and are looking ahead with hope to the month of February. Though February is the shortest month of the year, it is always full of meaningful activity in the life of the church, and this year is no exception.

On Sunday, February 8, we will celebrate Scout Sunday. I look forward to lifting up and honoring the work of scouting in our community and in our congregation. Then, on February 17, Troop 114 will host their annual Pancake Feed. This event is a wonderful opportunity for fellowship and a great way to support the Troop's fundraising efforts.

February also brings us into the holy season of Lent. Lent is the forty days (not counting Sundays) leading up to Easter. It is a season of reflection, devotion, and even self-denial as we remember Jesus' final days and his death on the cross at Calvary. Our observance begins on March 18 with our Ash Wednesday service at 7:00 p.m. and continues until Easter morning.

Lent invites us to look closely at our lives and our relationship with God through Christ Jesus. Many people choose to take on a new spiritual practice or to give something up during this season. Whether you choose to add something meaningful or set something aside, I hope you will consider how your practice renews your spirit and draws you closer to God.

We often think of Lent primarily as a time of giving things up. While that can be true, the deeper purpose is renewal—letting go of what distracts us so that we may become more fully the people God calls us to be. We take on spiritual practices because we sense a longing for deeper connection with God. Lent gives us space to renew and strengthen that relationship.

Our Lenten sermon series this year is titled "Renewed." Each week, the readings will guide us through stories of renewal as we follow Jesus on the road to the cross.

I encourage you to consider ways you might seek renewal in your own life through prayer, scripture reading, or reconnecting with practices that have sustained you in the past. This is a season to mend the strained places in our lives and to draw nearer to Jesus.

In a time when our world feels marked by division and uncertainty, I have felt a deep call to prayer. During Lent, the church will offer a Wednesday morning prayer service at 7:00 a.m. The service lasts about twenty minutes and provides a simple, intentional way to begin the day in prayer. I invite you to join me as we pray not only for those close to us, but for all people, in all places.

As always, I am grateful to serve alongside you. Thank you for the birthday blessings and for the support you have shown my family. I look forward to walking through this season of renewal with you. May God bless you richly in the month ahead and may God's grace and mercy continue to be poured out upon you.

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)!



Our next Lunch Bunch
Potluck will be on Wednesday,
February 11th, at 12 noon.
It will be at the church and
everyone is welcome!
Bring a dish to share and then join in the fun!

Meetings and Circles

Mon, Feb 2nd Trustees Meeting
at 7:00 pm

Mon, Feb 3rd Ruth Circle at
1:30 pm

Mon, Feb 9th

Finance Committee Mtg. at 5:30 pm
Church Council Meeting at 6:30 pm

Tues, Feb 10th - Umm Meeting at 6:30 pm

Mon, Feb 23rd - Susanna Circle at 6:30 pm



Join us for our Ash
Wednesday Service
and our Drive up
Ashes on
Wednesday
February 18th

Drive Up Ashes 7:00 am—9:00 am

Ash Wednesday Service at 7:00 pm



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

*Monday, February 23rd,
7 pm at church.*

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



**PARTNERS IN EDUCATION
WITH ENGLEMAN
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

February 5th and 19th at 8:30 a.m.

If interested, or if you have
questions, please call Glenda
Vetter at 308-383-1716.



It's Scout Sunday on February 8th

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



Choir Practice
Every Wednesday at 6:00 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 at
the church!



Happy Birthday

6 - Dee Johnson
 11 - Ralph Cure
 Tom Rauert
 Natalie Stone
 13 - Betty Carlson

14 - Mason Forsman
 17 - Sharon Bigger
 22 - Janna Cornelius
 24 - Larry Seifert
 Sheri Nelson

25 - Judy Bliss
 Shantel Miles
 25 - Vicki Shottenkirk
 28 - Tim Enck



Darrel and Connie Anderson - February 2, 1964

Rod and Pam Clausen - February 10, 1973



Thank you all for the warm birthday wishes, cards, and cake. Your kindness and encouragement mean more than you know, and I'm grateful to be part of this community. Your prayers and support are a true gift.

Pastor Ray



The Boy Scouts are hosting their annual Pancake Feed Tuesday, February 17th from 5:00pm-7:00pm.

Valentine's Day Dinner
 A NIGHT YOU DON'T WANT TO MISS



The United Methodist Men are hosting their Annual Valentine's Banquet on Sunday, February 15th, 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.

Get your tickets from any of the UMM Men.



Lent Sermon Series: *Renewed* This Lent, our congregation will journey through a six-week sermon series called *Renewed*, exploring how Christ meets us with restoration, clarity, and new life. Each week draws directly from the Gospel readings and invites us into a different dimension of spiritual renewal.

We begin on **Ash Wednesday** with *Renewed in Secret* (Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21), remembering that renewal starts quietly—within the hidden places of the heart where God shapes us through humility and honest reflection.

Week 1, *Renewed in the Wilderness* (Matthew 4:1-11), reminds us that the wilderness is not punishment but preparation. Jesus' temptations expose the false stories we cling to and call us back to a grounded identity in God's word.

In **Week 2, *Renewed from Above*** (John 3:1-17), Nicodemus seeks Jesus in the night and discovers that true renewal is Spirit-given, not self-engineered.

Week 3, *Renewed by Living Water* (John 4:5-42), brings us to the well with the Samaritan woman, where Jesus meets us in our deepest thirsts and invites us to bring our full story into the light.

In **Week 4, *Renewed in Sight*** (John 9:1-41), we witness Jesus giving both physical and spiritual sight, teaching us to see God's work where others see only limitation.

Week 5, *Renewed in Hope* (John 11:1-45), leads us to the tomb of Lazarus, where Jesus calls life out of places we believed were finished.

On **Palm/Passion Sunday, *Renewed by the Cross*** (Matthew 21; 26-27), we follow Jesus' path of vulnerable, self-giving love—the surprising way God renews the world.

Join us this Lent as we open ourselves to God's renewing work, week by week, story by story.



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

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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://firstfaithumcgi.org>

Office Hours:

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

Pastor: Rev. Wm. Ray Stone



New Steps Youth Group

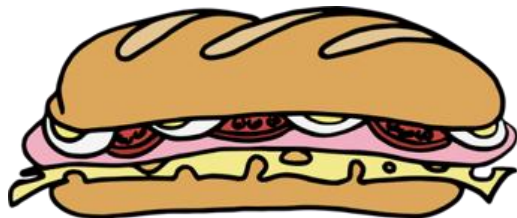
New Steps Youth Super Bowl Subs!

The Youth Group is selling sub sandwiches for you to enjoy on **February 8th** as you watch the Super Bowl!

PRE-ORDER your sub sandwich and pick it up at church on February 8th!

For only **\$15.00** you will have a fresh sub sandwich, chips, pickle and a chocolate chip cookie.

Fill out the and return it to church by **February 2nd**. **There will be a basket in Amelia's office on her desk. Please pay when turning in your order.**



The youth will meet on the following dates in February:

Feb 4: 7:00—Youth Group

Feb 8: The youth will be making the Super Bowl Subs before church on Sunday,

Feb 11: 7:00 —Youth Group

Feb 18 No Youth Group

Feb 25 7:00—Youth Group