



A publication of First-Faith United Methodist Church

THE MESSENGER

Staff Parish Relations Adds a New Staff Position

Seeking consistency and growth in our audio/visual capabilities, a new staff position for an audio/visual tech was recently created. Staff Parish approached Duane Coates to fill this position and he graciously agreed. There will be times when Duane is unable to be in our Sunday service, but he will still prepare our visual media in advance. Volunteers will still be needed to “run” the system on these rare occasions.

It is *with much appreciation that we thank those who have volunteered* so much of their time over the years to this important ministry: LaVonne Catron, Warren Pennell, Talon Clay, Stacia Morrison, and Meghan Pennell.

WELCOME ABOARD!



Duane is the fourth of five sons of two United Methodist pastors. He grew up in small Nebraska towns where his father served churches. After graduating from Neligh High School, he attended Nebraska Wesleyan University, majoring in science and math education. He earned a Masters Degree in Educational Technology from UNK. During his 36 year career in education, he taught at Palmyra, Grand Island Northwest, Elwood and the Ombudsman Alterna-

tive School. Subjects taught included math, science, and computers with tutoring in many others.

Duane has been married to Kim for 35 years. Their two daughters are married and they have two grandsons. He still substitute teaches and is an officer of the Grand Island Concert Association and the Gideons International. He serves as our Lay Member to Annual Conference and participates in bell choir, chancel choir, volunteers in mission, and United Methodist Men.

New Safety Ministry Action Team Establishes Protocols

Over the past year or so, several First-Faith members have participated in training events to help promote a safe environment for those who gather at our church building. Previous training included “Stop the Bleed” and “Active Shooter” as well as some overall, general safety training.

Subsequently, a new Safety Ministry Action Team has been formed and is led by our Head Usher, Clyde Church. Ten other men serve with Clyde on this team: Terry Sheen, Bob Trosper, Mike Welsh, Floyd Sorensen, Jerry Bland, Alan Hess, Stephen Hayes, Ken Ross, Bruce Kleint, and Duane Johnson.

These men serve on a rotation basis, and provide an extra level of security alertness during our worship services. If you would like to be a part of this team, please speak with Clyde.

Another safety protocol soon to go into effect is the **locking of the front doors 24/7**. All ministry leaders are

encouraged to have a greeter at the door prior to their ministry event and to provide all participants with their cell phone number in case someone arrives late and needs to be let into the building.

Persons visiting the church during office hours should plan to use the doorbell on the south side of the entranceway. This creates a visual display in the office and provides two-way audio communication with guests. While the team believes most will agree that we live in such times requiring prudent measures, we apologize in advance for any inconvenience this may cause.

Church Council Initiates Survey to Determine Congregations’ Standing on LGBTQ Inclusion.

On January 15th, every household was mailed a survey calling for prayerful responses to questions currently facing our denomination concerning the ordination of gay and lesbian persons and the ability to officiate same-sex marriages.

Households with persons aged 12 and above, should have received one survey form for each member to complete and return. Everyone’s voice matters and this was a way that Council felt everyone could be heard.

If you have not had an opportunity to complete and return your survey, please do so immediately so that a summary report can be prepared in time for the next Council meeting on Feb. 10.

WORSHIP HIGHLIGHTS

Servants in Worship



2/2 Mary Jo Mowinkel, Glenda Vetter,
Vicki Shottenkirk, and Vera Thiem
2/9 Alan & Gena Hess, Jean Chesnut,
Bruce Kleint, Scouts from Troop #114
2/16 Duane Johnson, Floyd Sorensen,
Ken Ross, and Clyde Church
2/23 Dale & Karleen Beckman, Sue Routh,
and Eli Ford



2/2 Judy Jones & Sheila Sautter
2/9 Deb Grim & Gena Hess & Scouts
2/16 Jane Mitchell and Sue Routh
2/23 Norman & Shirley Stelk



2/2 Sharon Sorensen and Renee Harp
2/9 Kris Coates and Heather Welsh
2/16 Jessica Igo and Marilyn Church
2/23 Gloria Craven and Layla Ford



2/2 Sharon Sorensen
2/9 Scouts from Troop #114
2/16 Melanie Sheen
2/23 Deb Grim



2/2 Doyle & Cheryl Henke and
Mike & Susan Welsh
2/9 Bruce & Sharon Kleint and
Stephen & Chyna Hayes
2/16 Jean Chesnut and Leola Harlow
2/23 Clyde & Marilyn Church and
Warren & Randi Pennell



2/2 Jodi Awtry
2/9 Randi Pennell
2/16 Julie Berggren
2/23 Linda Bogus



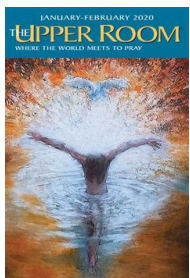
2/2 Gordon Bigger
2/9 Jon Jefferies
2/16 Roxie Lehman
2/23 Cody Pennell



2/2 Shantel Miles and LaVonne Catron
2/9 Lori Bendixen and Duane Johnson
2/16 Cindy Hemmann and Glenda Vetter
2/23 Tennille Lingreen and
Vicki Shottenkirk

Interested in Serving during Worship?

- ◆ Indicate where you'd like to serve on the weekly attendance sheet
- ◆ Let Pastor Trudy know
- ◆ Contact Danielle in the office



Are you connecting with God Daily?

Remember to pick up your copy
of the January/February Upper
Room Devotional

Available in the Narthex
Regular Print \$1
Large Print \$1.50

Blood Pressure Checks

Sunday, February 16th before and
after Worship service. Sponsored
by the Healthy Congregations
Ministry Action Team.



We are stacking the chairs in the
sanctuary and fellowship hall on
Sundays after Worship. Please
stay and help if you are able or
stack a few before you leave.
(chairs are stacked 4 high)



Worship Attendance - December

1st - 88 8th - 125 15th - 100
21st - 21 22nd - 124 24th - 47 (5pm) 103 (7pm) 29th - 33

When asked why people don't attend worship, a surprisingly
high number stated that they weren't invited.

Who's waiting to be invited?

WORSHIP AND OTHER GATHERING HIGHLIGHTS

On the first three Sundays of February, we'll take a look at the first portion of Jesus' Sermon on the Mount. We'll explore how Jesus turns things upside down, inviting us to see God's Kingdom in ways that were, and still are, countercultural.

2/2 - Pastor Trudy guides us through the Beatitudes in Matthew 5:1-12, the opening words of Jesus' Sermon on the Mount, as we hear who are favored, or blessed, in God's sight. The Chancel Choir will sing and we will celebrate the sacrament of Holy Communion.

2/9 - On this **Scouting Sunday**, our worship is focused on Matt. 5:13-20, the second of the Sermon on the Mount mini-series. Pastor Trudy's message, "Lampstands and Salt Shakers," helps us understand how these metaphors are essential for Christian living.

2/16 - This Sunday's worship concludes the Sermon on the Mount series with a focus on our thoughts and emotions. Pastor Trudy preaches on Matthew 5:21-37 with this new look at old laws. The Chancel Choir leads us in singing and the **Children's Noisy Can Offering** will again go toward supporting Camp Fontanelle.

2/23 - The Season of Epiphany comes to an end as we gather on this **Transfiguration Sunday**. Pastor Trudy's message, based on Matthew 17:1-9, shares how this event serves as a peek at things to come; and how, like the disciples of so long ago, God commands us to listen to Jesus now. The Bell Choir will share their anthem.



The Season of Lent begins with **Ash Wednesday**, which falls on **February 26th** this year. The word "Lent" comes from the Anglo-Saxon word *lencten*, which means "spring." The season of Lent is to be a time of preparation for Easter and is historically a time for fasting. Christians are encouraged to enter a time of self-reflection on one's mortality and the need for repentance in anticipation of Resurrection. Our **evening service is at 7:00pm** and will include the Imposition of Ashes. Pastor Trudy's message will focus on the importance of forgiveness.

Join us for **informal conversations** about the United Methodist Church in the Fireside Room



Feb. 6 @ 5:30 pm & Feb. 18 @ 2 pm

Ministry Action Team & Council Meetings

Thursday, Feb. 6th - Worship Team, 6:30 pm

Monday, Feb. 10th - Finance Team, 5:30 pm

Monday, Feb. 10th - Church Council, 6:30 pm

Monday, Feb. 17th - Safety Ministry Action Team, 6:00 pm

Monday, Feb 17th - Trustees, 7:00 pm

Monday, Feb. 24th - Staff Parish Relations Ministry Team, 1:00 pm

Circles & Meetings

United Methodist Women

Feb. 4th - Ruth Circle, 1:30 pm,

Host: Jean Chesnut

Lesson: Jean Chesnut



Feb. 4th - Joy Circle, 1:30 pm

Host: Carolyn Janssen

Feb. 24th - Susanna Circle,

5:45 pm - Social; 6:15 pm - Meeting

Feb. 25th - Friendship Circle, 1:30 pm

United Methodist Men

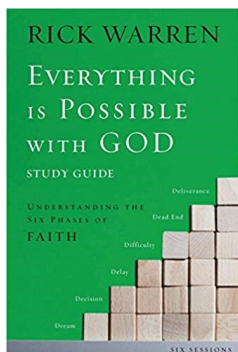
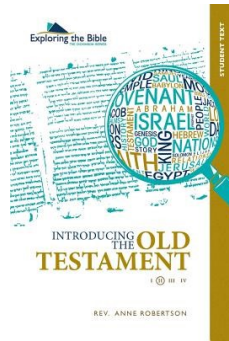
Tuesday, February 11th - 7:00 pm



STUDY & GROW IN GOD'S WORD

Pastor Trudy' Sunday school class continues a study of *Introducing the Old Testament* written by Dr. Amy-Jill Levine. This study helps participants better understand the Old Testament in the context of the world in which it was written.

This course on basic biblical literacy assumes no prior knowledge of the Bible and is open to youth and adults.



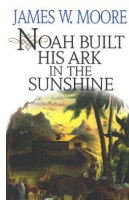
Larry Coates' **Fireside Class** will continue a study of *Everything is Possible With God* by Rick Warren.

This six-session study helps participants recognize, understand, and cooperate in the predictable patterns and processes God uses to strengthen our faith and develop our character.

Are you looking for a group to join?

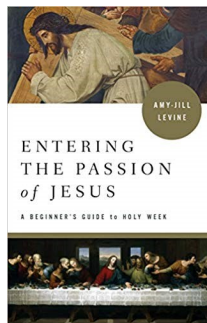
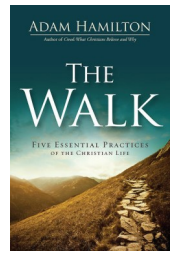
Do you like to read?

The Women's Book Study group meets on Wednesdays at 1:30 pm. They will be continuing to read, "Noah Built His Ark in the Sunshine" by James W. Moore. All women are welcome to join.



Upcoming Lent Study Series

Beginning March 1st, the Fireside Class, led by Larry Coates will begin a study of "The Walk" written by Adam Hamilton. This DVD-based study covers five essential spiritual practices rooted in Jesus' own walk with God. The sessions include: Worship and Prayers, Study, Service, Giving, and Sharing. This class is open to all interested youth and adults.



Jesus' final days were full of risk. Every move he made was filled with anticipation, danger, and the potential for great loss or great reward. Jesus risked his reputation when he entered Jerusalem in a victory parade. He risked his life when he dared to teach in the Temple. His followers risked everything when they left behind their homes, or anointed him with costly perfume. Discover the risks we take as we read and re-read these stories, finding new meanings and new challenges. Join Pastor Trudy's Sunday School class beginning March 8 as we study Amy-Jill Levine's *Entering the Passion: A Beginner's Guide to Holy Week*. This six-week class will run 3/8 - 4/19 (not meeting Easter Sunday) and is open to all interested youth and adults.

Lenten Worship Series

Begins March 1st



We welcome new voices for our Choir. If you can sing our hymns at church, you have the ability to join us. We practice on Wednesdays and we sing two Sundays of the month. Thank you!



CONNECTION OPPORTUNITIES, THANK YOU'S, ODDS & ENDS

Dear Friends,

Thank you so much for your donation of \$58.22 to help The Salvation Army help others. With the support of kind friends like you, we can continue to reach out to families and individuals in our community, regardless of the season. By providing food, shelter, clothing and other emergency assistance, we can make a significant difference in their lives. None of this would be possible without your generosity and prayers. Your friendship is so important to us and to those we serve. Thank you again for your compassion and concern. May God bless you as you have blessed us.

Sincerely, Lisa Ayala, Lieutenant

Thank You

Thank you all for the generous Christmas gift! The joy and friendships shared in our bell choir is an amazing blessing. It is wonderful to be a part of such a loving congregation.

God Bless you all!

Debbie Ritchie

Thank you to everyone that donated clothing to the students of Engleman Elementary. We donated 46 pair of underwear, 37 pairs of socks, 11 sweatpants, and 6 pairs of shoes. They are very much appreciated by the school nurse that uses them for students in need. I would also like to thank those who help on the Thursday work days. Your dedication is appreciated.

Glenda Vetter

Thank you

THANK YOU for your help in making the Toys for Tots Program a success! Over 780 families were able to shop for over 1,850 Hall, Hamilton, Howard & Merrick county children who would have otherwise gone without this Holiday Season. We truly appreciate all your help.

The Heartland United Way Staff,

Karen, Cammie, Valerie, Tiffany, and Stephanie

Thank you!



Birthday Celebration!

On February 23rd, Sharon Bigger's family is hosting a Birthday Party to celebrate Sharon's 80th Birthday.

The party is here at the church, 2-4 pm
Everyone is welcome to attend.



The United Methodist Men are hosting their Annual Valentine's Banquet on **Sunday, February 9th at 6:00 pm.**

The tickets are \$10 each.

Each ticket includes an entrée, sides, and a dessert.

The entertainment is delightful!



Join us for Pitch!

January 27th, 7:00-9:00 pm

The last Monday night of the month! Bring a partner or we'll find you one! It's just plain, good ole fun!

Our Refresh "Grandmas" would love to give you a break. We provide **free quality childcare** on the second and fourth Wednesdays of the month. Our next dates are **February 12th & 26th, 9:00-11:30 am.** We welcome new kids any time. If you have any questions, please contact the office or call Sharon Sorensen directly (382-7543)



Lunch Bunch

Wednesday, February 12th.

The monthly potluck dinner starts at 12 pm. Hope to see you there! Everyone is welcome to join.

New Steps Youth Group Wednesday Meetings



New Steps Youth Group on Wednesdays from 7-8:15 pm. All 6-12th graders are welcome and encouraged to bring a friend!



Come and Join Us!!

New Steps Youth Group has been studying from a book titled The 13 Most Important Bible Lessons for Teenagers.

Here is a list of our topics for February:

Feb. 5 "In the Beginning"

Feb. 12- "The Human Journey"

Feb. 19- GAME NIGHT

Feb. 26- Ash Wednesday

(Our meeting will be to attend this service as a group.)

Education Partnership

Be a part of our partnership with **Engleman Elementary**, with bi-monthly workdays scheduled through the school year. Upcoming workdays are **Feb. 6th & 20th, 8:30-11:00 a.m.**



If interested, please let Glenda know at church or call her at 383-1716 by the Sunday preceding the workday.

Parents and Youth:

Be making plans to attend church camp this summer.

There are many scholarships available so everyone has the opportunity to go. On March 29 a representative from Camp Fontanelle will be speaking about their facility during church. There are also many other camp sites in Nebraska for youth. Contact Chyna, or the church office, or see the links below for more



There are 3 United Methodist camps in Nebraska. Camp Fontanelle is north of Fremont, Camp Comeca is south of Cozad, and Camp Norwesca is south of Chadron. Check out their websites.

<http://campcomeca.com/>

<http://www.campfontanelle.com/>

<https://norwesca.org/>

Bible and BBQ dates for this summer will be:

June 10 and 24

July 8 and 22

Please consider hosting the Youth for one of these dates!



Chyna and Stephen already have the July 8 date reserved!

Hey kids, come on down!

Toddlers through 5th grade...Join Chyna during Children's Time each Sunday morning.

We have a story related to Pastor Trudy's lesson and a prayer. This is a great time to experience the Bible on a level just for you!



Happy Birthday



2/1 Wade Williby
 2/2 Ryan Enck
 2/3 Greyson Underwood
 Mike Welsh
 2/5 Rich McKinny
 Don Preisendorf
 Janai Reynoldson
 2/6 Kenneth Grashorn
 Dee Johnson
 Abigail Karr
 2/7 Lillian Berggren
 2/9 Alec Enevoldsen
 Kasey Ramos
 2/11 Ralph Cure
 Tom Rauert
 2/12 Wayne Johnson

2/13 Chris Berggren
 Betty Carlson
 Madison Dembowski
 2/14 Mason Forsman
 2/15 Kathryn Hansen
 Dillon Petzoldt
 2/17 Sharon Bigger
 Jacob Enck
 2/18 Kimberly Schropfer
 2/19 Rich Bringelson
 Melissa Dembowski
 Roland Engel
 Penny Hoselton
 Sheila Sautter
 2/22 Janna Cornelius
 Cesar Ramos
 2/23 Briella Campos
 2/24 Larry Seifert
 2/25 Jacob Bauman
 Judy Bliss
 Shantel Miles
 2/27 Vicki Shottenkirk
 2/28 Tim Enck
 2/29 Derik Fischer



2/2/1964 Darrel & Connie Anderson (56)
 2/19/2011 Glen & Deb Foight (9)
 2/27/1982 Bob & Linda Smith (38)



Want to be part of an amazing singles community?

Consider SPARCC!

Upcoming Events:

February 29

6:00 pm - Dine at Carlos O'Kelly's
 1810 Diers Ave.

Please RSVP by February 26th

Please leave a phone number when you RSVP in case of inclement weather
 This is a self-pay event



Creative Missions

Sewing Group

February 11th & 25th @ 9:00 a.m.



Craft Group

February 18th @ 9:00 a.m.



The church offices will be closed the first day Grand Island Public School closes.

If schools are closed for inclement weather on a Wednesday, youth will not gather that evening.

For closing information please check: 10/11 News, NTV News, 107.7, 102.3

Join us for Exercise Classes

Step Aerobics

Mondays, Tuesdays, and Thursdays
 @ 5:15 pm



Chair Yoga

Tuesdays and Thursdays
 @ 10:30 am and 6:00 pm
 (Starting in February, the 6:00 pm class will meet on Tuesdays only)



Strong Women

Mondays and Wednesdays
 @ 3:30 pm



Call the church office for more information 384-5620



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 with Fellowship
Time and Sunday School
to follow at 10:45am

Office Phone:

(308) 384-5620

Office Email:

firstfaithumc@gmail.com

Website: [http://](http://firstfaithumc.org/wordpress/)

[firstfaithumc.org/
wordpress/](http://firstfaithumc.org/wordpress/)

Office Hours:

Mon-Fri 8:00-4:30
(Closed for Lunch Hour)

Pastor: Rev. Dr. Trudy
Kenyon Anderson

Join Pastor Trudy and Pastor Russ on a Lands of the Bible Cruise in October 2020



Departing from Rome aboard the Explorer of the Seas, we'll visit six different ports of call where we'll explore the places Christianity began and flourished. We'll walk in the land Jesus called home and step foot in places Paul traveled on his missionary journeys, visiting sacred sites venerated by faithful Christians for two millennia. This trip to the Holy Land and ancient ports will undoubtedly enrich the way you read and experience the Bible. Sail with us on this faith adventure for spiritual renewal and awakening.

For more information, attend one of these
final information events:

at **First-Faith:** February 9th @ 3:00 pm
February 23rd @ 3:00 pm

Or contact the office for more information.

**WALK WHERE
JESUS WALKED.**



Article Deadline for March Newsletter: February 20, 2020