January 2020

Volume 3, Issue 1

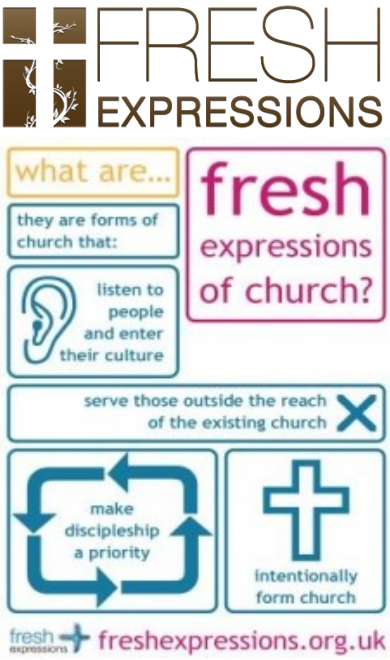
A publication of First-Faith United Methodist Church

THE MESSENGER

Peace Light Comes to First-Faith

Each year, an orphan from Upper Austria fetches the light from the grotto in Bethlehem where Jesus was born. The light is carried in two blast-proof miner's lamps on an Austrian Airlines jet from Tel Aviv Israel to Vienna, Austria, where it is then distributed at a Service of Dedication to delegations from across Europe who take it back, with a message of Peace, to their own countries. Austrian Airlines then flies the miner's lamps containing the Peace Light from Bethlehem to New York City.

The goal is to help the light spread like the branches of a huge tree rooted in New York and spreading across the continent. Chad Nabity secured the light from a distribution point in Denver and brought it to First-Faith, using that flame to light our "Christ the Prince of Peace" Advent candle. As the congregation sang "Let There Be Peace on Earth," each household had the opportunity to light a votive candle from the Peace Light to carry home. For the second year in a row, First-Faith was listed as a peace candle distribution sight on Peacelight.org. This was a wonderful opportunity to be a part of peace-focused, global event!



Attending the Fresh Expressions Workshop in Hastings on December 7th was invigorating! The presenters and those attending, both clergy and laity, gave us a glimpse of how God is reaching out to make new relationships in unexpected places-since the Holy Spirit goes where the need is and we know that could be almost anywhere. Mostly that's because people need people that care about them-just as God does.

A new community of caring is being started in the northern Hall-Howard county area for women who are in their 40s, 50s and 60s. Over the winter we will explore subjects like mid-life transitions, struggles like aging parents, PTSD (ours or our partners) and how to be authentic as we move toward wholeness and holiness as children of a loving Creator. In warmer weather the group might move into Equine therapy and building a locally available labyrinth. This will be for women both in and outside of the traditional Church.

Find out more through the First-Faith Facebook page or by cell (call or text) to Roxie Lehman 605-354-1854. The New Year upon us - make 2020 a time when you see your future more clearly!

Roxie Lehman

Worship Highlights

Servants in Worship

1/5 Roxie Lehman, Duane Johnson, Vera Thiem, and Chyna Hayes
1/12 Terry & Melanie Sheen, Bruce Kleint, and Floyd Sorensen
1/19 Dale & Karleen Beckman and Gordon & Sharon Bigger
1/26 Clyde & Marilyn Church, Sue Routh, and Roxie Lehman

1/5 Gordon & Sharon Bigger
1/12 Kay Clarke and Barb Dunning
1/19 Larry & Kris Coates
1/26 Clyde & Marilyn Church

1/5 Sharon Sorensen and Renee Harp
1/12 Kris Coates and Heather Welsh
1/19 Jessica Igo and Marilyn Church
1/26 Gloria Craven and Layla Ford

1/5 Sharon Kleint
1/12 Carla Maurer
1/19 Stacia Morrison
1/26 Ken Ross

1/5 Routh and Sheen
1/12 Beckman and McKinny
1/19 Bliss and Bumann
1/26 Bigger and Hess

1/5 Jodi Awtry
1/12 Randi Pennell
1/19 Julie Berggren
1/26 Linda Bogus

1/5 Cody Pennell
1/12 Jon Jefferies
1/19 Roxie Lehman
1/26 Cody Pennell

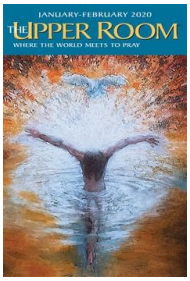
1/5 Shantel Miles and LaVonne Catron
1/12 Lori Bendixen and Duane Johnson
1/19 Cindy Hemmann and Glenda Vetter
1/26 Tennille Lingreen and Vicki Shottenkirk

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**

As a church we filled 27 shoeboxes for Operation Christmas Child!

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)



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

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

Worship Attendance - November

3rd - 110 10th - 99
17th - 114 24th - 124

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

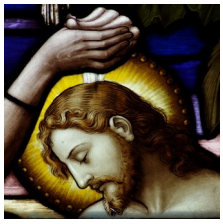
Who's waiting to be invited?

Blood Pressure Checks

Sunday, January 19th before and after Worship service. Sponsored by the Healthy Congregations Ministry Action Team.

Worship and other Gathering Highlights

1/5 - On this Epiphany Sunday, we celebrate God's revelation of Emmanuel, "God-with-us," to the world. Come hear Pastor Trudy share how the magi were filled with joy when they encountered Jesus. Do our journeys lead us to the Christ child? Our text for this day is Matthew 2:1-12. The choir will sing and we will celebrate Holy Communion. Please plan to assist with the "un-hanging of the greens" following worship.



1/12 - On this Baptism of the Lord Sunday, we fast forward in Jesus' life to the beginning of his public ministry that begins with his baptism. On this Sunday, we will remember and affirm our own baptisms. Pastor Trudy's message is based on Matthew 3:13-17, "Washed to Serve."

1/19 - On this "Human Relations Day" we participate in giving to the United Methodist's global efforts to encourage social justice and work with at-risk youth. Our text, John 1:29-42, tells of John the Baptist's witness of Jesus as God's Son and Jesus' calling of his first disciples to join him in God's mission. Pastor Trudy's message helps us explore how we are also called to join God in the work of justice. The choir will lead us in worship.

1/26 - On this third Sunday after the Epiphany, things are heating up. Following the arrest of John the Baptist, Jesus announces that the Kingdom of Heaven has come as he continues calling disciples and enacts a powerful healing ministry. Looking at Matthew 4:12-23, Pastor Trudy helps us learn what it means to live *now* in Heaven on earth. The bells will ring out a joyful song.

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

SPARCC received their third $1000 grant award from the Nebraska United Methodist Foundation

Congratulations!

31 doll blankets were donated to the United Way for Toys for Tots Christmas. **WAY TO GO!!**

Ministry Action Team & Council Meetings

Tuesday, Jan. 7th - Worship Team, 6:30 pm

Monday, Jan. 13th - Finance Team, 5:30 pm

Monday, Jan. 13th - Church Council, 6:30 pm

Monday, Jan. 20th - Safety Ministry Action Team, 6:00 pm

Monday, Jan. 20th - Trustees, 7:00 pm

Monday, Jan. 27th - Staff Parish Relations Ministry Team, 1:00 pm

Circles & Meetings

United Methodist Women

7th - Ruth Circle, *1:30 pm,*
Host: Sharon Sorensen
Lesson: Karleen Beckman

United Methodist Women

7th - Joy Circle, *11:30 am*
Meet at Grand Generation Center

Jan. 27th - Friendship Circle, *1:30 pm*

27th - Susanna Circle, *5:45 pm - Social*
6:15 pm - Meeting

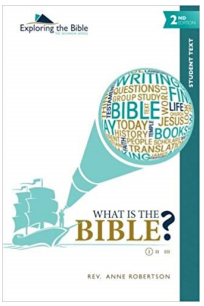
United Methodist Men

Tuesday, January 14th - 7:00 pm

UNITED METHODIST MEN

STUDY & GROW IN GOD'S WORD

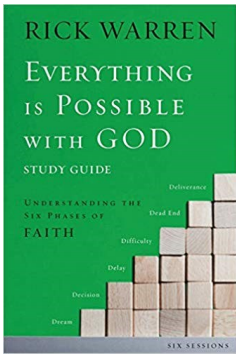
Pastor Trudy' Sunday school class concludes the last two sessions of *"What Is the Bible?"* written by Anne Robertson **Jan 5th &12th at 11:30.**



They will then start a study of *"Introducing the Old Testament"* written by the same author. This study will help 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.

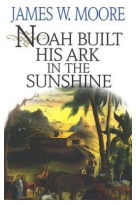
Larry Coates' **Fireside Class** will start a new study "Everything is Possible With God," by Rick Warren.



This six-session study will help 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 starting a new book, "Noah Built His Ark in the Sunshine" by James W. Moore, on January 8th. All women are welcome to join.

We are in need of more 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!

We had a good turn out for worship and the meal for Consecration Sunday. Current estimate of givings for 2020 totals $114,854 which is approximately 51% of our 2020 Spending Plan.

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

Monday, January 13th @ 11 am

Connection Opportunites, thank you's, odds & Ends

Dear First-Faith Family,
Thank you for your expressions of love through well wishes, cards, gifts, and goodies through this holiday season. You are such a blessing to me and my family! I pray every blessing for you in this new year.
Pastor Trudy

Thank you all for your generosity. I appreciate the gift and feel blessed to be part of the First-Faith Family.
Danielle

Lunch Bunch
Wednesday, January 8th.
The monthly potluck dinner starts at 12 pm. Hope to see you there! Everyone is welcome to join.

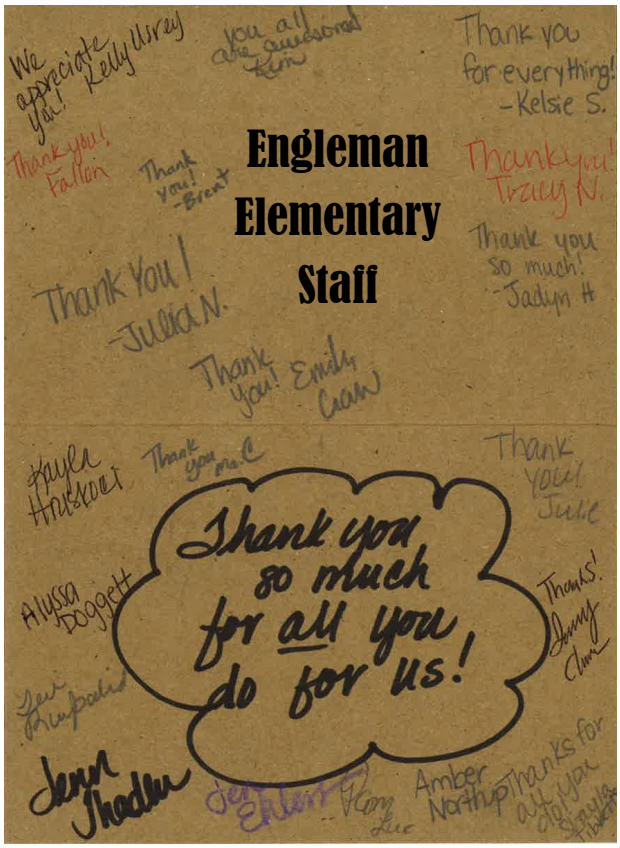
Join us for Pitch!
7:00-9:00 pm, **January 27th.**
The last Monday night of the month! Bring a partner or we'll find you one! It's just plain, good ole fun!

Dear First-Faith Family,
I am enjoying your gift of an orchid! Thank you for a beautiful plant and for making me so welcome at First-Faith. Being aware of the many ways you reach out in the name of God to those both inside and outside of the church in encouraging. We all know there is much to be done - some of it in new ways and some in more traditional fashion. It is my pleasure to walk that path into the future with you.
Blessings, Roxie

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 **January 8th & 22nd, 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)

A Perk & A Prayer,
Thank you for spreading the Lord's love in our town! I look forward to seeing all of your smiling faces every week! You provide me with a heart full of love and gratitude! Just what I need to love and serve my kiddos.
Love, Fallon

Rev. Trudy & friends,
What a special way to start my day Wednesday! Thank you for letting me join in the Wednesday coffee and a prayer. What a neat group of people I got to meet. You could see on their faces as well as those that stopped what a neat ministry it is. God is good.
Thank you again, Erica Long



Dear Church Family,
Thank you so much for your prayers, visits, cards, flowers, and gifts. My recovery journey has been long, but all of your concerns have made it tolerable for me.
God Bless You All,
Joyce Lind

A Special Thank You for the prayer shawl that was given to me and made by our church member Nelda. It is wonderful.

Children & Youth page

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!

Children's Time with the Operation Christmas Child boxes that were collected.

Youth - Watch for a newsletter from Chyna early in January with Youth Group information.

The children & youth of the church shared their talents during the Christmas Pageant, "No Room Inn," on December 8th.

Education Partnership

Be a part of our partnership with **Engleman Elementary**, with bi-monthly workdays scheduled through the school year. Upcoming workdays are **January 9th & 23rd, 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.

New Steps Youth's brunch on December 8th yielded $261 in contributions. A big THANK YOU to the congregation for supporting our efforts!

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!

1/1 Brian Ford
Jama Obermiller
Shirley Richards
1/4 Cindy Christensen
Keanna Leonard
Randi Pennell
1/7 Connie Anderson
1/8 Kaitlyn Berggren
Leola Harlow
1/9 Colten Leighty
Jane Mitchell
1/10 John Bixenman
Jennifer Soto
1/11 Liz Seifert
1/12 Matt Albers
1/13 Kenny Bandt
Madison Roseles
1/14 Evelyn Henderson
Terry Sheen
1/18 Dorothy Ammerman
Melodie Bigger
Dylan Kemmet
Jama Morrison
Paula Rauert
1/19 Ruth Clough
Pat Igo
Heath Maurer
1/20 Thad Johnson
1/21 Susan Albers
Easton Brahmstead
Chastity Perales
1/23 Nathanial Bandt
Brenda Freeman
Daniella Lamberson
1/25 Brianna Leighty
Donna Seitz
1/26 Janet Enck
1/27 Anna Sorensen
1/28 Cher Bermel
Brenda Bixenmann

1/5/1974 Douglas & Margaret Ferguson (46)
1/17/2015 Leah & Devin Borer (5)
1/23/2010 Mary & Kenneth Grashorn (10)

Want to be part of an amazing singles community?

Consider SPARCC!

Upcoming Events:

January 25th
Chinese New Year!
6:00 pm - Dine at Buffet House
3537 W 13th St.
Please RSVP by January 22nd
Please leave a phone number when you RSVP in case of inclement weather

Thank you to everyone who helped with the Craft Fair & Bake Sale.

Proceeds netted $3620

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

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

Creative Missions

Sewing Group
January 14th & 28th at 9:00 a.m.

Craft Group
January 21st @ 9:00 a.m.

Join us for Exercise Classes

Step Aerobics
Mondays, Tuesdays, and Thursdays
@ 5:15 pm

Chair Yoga
Tuesdays and Thursdays
@ 10:30 am and 6:oo pm

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

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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://firstfaithumcgi.org/wordpress/

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

Pastor: Rev. Dr. Trudy Kenyon Anderson

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 this information event:

at First-Faith: January 12 @ 1:00 pm

Or contact the office for more information.

Article Deadline for February Newsletter: January 22, 2020