



A publication of First-Faith United Methodist Church

MESSENGER

Grace and peace be yours in abundance First-Faith family. July marks one year since I came to Grand Island and joined in ministry with you at First-Faith. It is amazing to me that it has been one year! This last year has been a roller coaster of challenges and unimaginable triumphs and joy. We have worked through some of the most challenging situations and obstacles that the church has faced in some time and found ways to be the people of God while seeking to keep people safe.

The leadership of this church has been a true blessing in this last year. They have shown that this is a church that is determined to serve, even in the face of a pandemic. They have been so wonderful in all the work that they have done to not only create opportunities to serve, but to also think outside the box and find ways to serve that are different and new. I am so proud of the tireless work of the lay leadership of First-Faith for continuing to work with me and challenge me to grow.

This next month we are going to be exploring different people in the Bible who had extraordinary challenges and obstacles and still faithfully served God. The name of our series is "Not so Ordinary." When we look at the challenges that face us, and the obstacles in our way, we can choose to respond in many ways. We can choose to do nothing, choose to help a little, or we can choose to step out in faith to do what God has called us to do. I hope that these characters from the Bible help us to understand our own fears and our own hesitation when God asks us to step up.

I know that God is continuing to work in the lives of this congregation and in our Grand Island community. I am excited to plan, study, share and build up our community so that we can continue to be the light of Christ for the world. I am looking forward to another exciting year and hope for growth and service to our church family and to the greater community that surrounds us.

I hope that you have a safe and happy Independence Day, and for those of you that are going on vacations in July, I pray for safe travels and relaxing vacations. Thank you all so much for your continued support and help in making First-Faith one of the leading churches in our district and in our conference.

Peace and blessing to you all,

Pastor Ray



WORSHIP In Person and Online

Every Sunday

Worship Service at 9:30 a.m.

Join us in person or online on our Facebook page!



Meetings and Circles

- Mon, July 12th** - Finance Team, 5:30 pm
Church Council, 6:30 pm
- Tues, July 13th** - Ruth Circle, 12:30 pm
Tso's Asian Buffet, 2250 N. Webb Rd., #236
- Worship Committee, 6:30 pm
- Mon, June 19th** - Trustees, 7:00 pm
- Thurs, July 22nd** - Staff Parish Meeting, 1 pm
- Mon, July 26th** - Susanna Circle, 6:30 pm



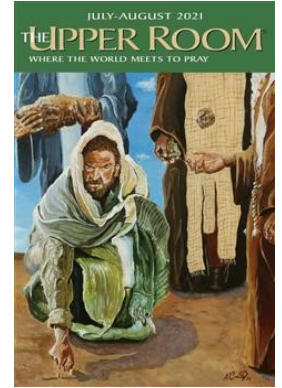
Our Refresh "Grandmas" would love to give you a break. We provide FREE quality childcare for ages 6 and under.

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! Upcoming dates are July 14 and 28 from 9 to 11:30 a.m. Please feel free to invite friends and family to use this service. Questions? Call Sharon Sorensen at 308-382-7543.

THE UPPER ROOM DAILY DEVOTIONAL

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

Regular Print - \$1.00
Large Print - \$1.50



A Perk & A Prayer will be available each Wednesday morning in July from 7 to 9 a.m. Come and get a free cup of coffee and have someone pray with you.

Ladies' Sewing Group July 13 and 27 9:30 a.m.

We meet at the church and all are welcome!



Worship is an important part of not only discipleship, but is important for our own spiritual health. We are finding that we have members who are not able to drive any longer that still wish to come to worship. The Administrative Council has asked that we create a list of church members who would be willing to assist in driving people to worship on Sundays. If you are able and willing, please contact the church office so that we can start compiling a list of available members.

7/2 Melanie Sheen
 7/3 Charlie Ponec
 7/6 Kim Coates
 7/7 Gena Hess
 DJ Miles
 7/9 Chyna Hayes
 7/11 Heather Ford
 Stacie Forsman
 7/13 Robert Bigger
 Barb Dunning
 7/21 Carrie Kolar

7/22 Thaddeus Erington
 7/23 Doug Ferguson
 Mike Novosad
 Macey Salpas
 7/25 Leah Borer
 7/27 Dale Beckman
 7/29 Ken Ross
 7/30 Donna Schwartz
 7/31 Devin Borer
 Les Cornish



I would like to thank all of my church family for their visits, food, prayers and cards after my surgery. Each day is better and I look forward to seeing you in church soon!

Deb Trosper

I want to thank my church family for all of the concern shown to me when I had carpal tunnel surgery. It's amazing how a card or call can lift your spirits!

Leola Harlow

STRONG WOMEN

This class meets on Mondays and Wednesdays at 3:30 p.m. at the church. Bring your own weights from 1 to 5 lbs. If you have questions, please call Barb Wiczorek at 308-382-2428. Leave a message if she does not answer right away and she will call you back. Come and join us!



Women's Step Aerobics
 5:15-6:15 p.m.
 Every Monday, Tuesday and Thursday

CHAIR YOGA CLASS

Sessions are held on Tuesdays and Thursdays, at 10:30 a.m., and an evening session is held on Thursdays at 6:30 p.m. **There will be no classes on July 13 and 15.**



Remember to wear comfortable clothing and invite your friends!

Thank you so much for your generous donations to the following non-profit organizations during the past month. Here are the totals:
 Peace with Justice - \$280.00
 Salvation Army - \$50.00
 UMCOR - \$50.00
 Gideon Bibles - \$50.00



Clyde and Marilyn Church - July 6, 1968
Brett and Stacie Forsman - July 13, 2013
James and Carrie Kolar - July 14, 1990
Jim and Judy Bliss - July 14, 1968
Bob and Deb Trosper - July 15, 2000
Mike and Alice Gray - July 20, 1977
Gordon and Sharon Bigger - July 26, 1959
Todd and Ellen Goshorn - July 27, 1985
Gene and Kate Spencer - July 29, 1961
Dustin and Lisa Butler - July 31, 1999

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

PIZZA PARTY AND GAME NIGHT
Saturday, July 17th, at 6 p.m.

We will gather at the church between 5:30 and 6. Pizza and salad will be served at 6 p.m. SPARCC will cover the cost of the pizza and salad

for those who RSVP to Lacey Follmer by 3 p.m. on July 15th. Her number is 402-432-9300. Attendees are invited to bring a non-alcoholic beverage of their choice and a game to play if they choose.

United Methodist Men's Annual Steak Feed



Join the United Methodist Men for a steak feed on **Tuesday, August 10th, at 6:00 pm** at Stolley Park.

Tickets are \$15 and can be purchased from Bob Trosper, Doyle Henke, Duane Coates, Stephen Hayes or Doug Ferguson. This includes a big, juicy steak and a drink.

Bring your favorite side dish or dessert for all to enjoy and your own table setting. Fellowship and games will follow the meal.

HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE!

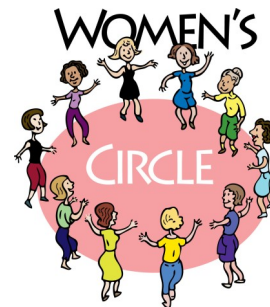


We're bringing back the Lunch Bunch Potluck! Our first one for the year will be on Wednesday, July 14th, at 12 noon at the church and everyone is welcome!



Bring a dish to share and then join in the fun afterwards as we play RUMMIKUB!!!

The UMW Circles will be hosting Coffee in the Park at George Park on Tuesday, July 27th, at 9:30 am. **All Women** are invited to come out and share in some great fellowship. Donuts will be provided. Please bring your own beverage of choice.



Join us for Pitch!

Monday, July 26th, 7 to 9 p.m. at church. Bring a partner or we'll find you one! It's just plain, good ole fun!

GET READY FOR OUR 1-DAY VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL!

Our Children's Vacation Bible School Event will be on Sunday, July 11th, from 10:30 am - 1:00 pm, following the church service that morning! This will be a one-day activity for children 4 years of age through 5th grade. We will learn how God keeps his promises and the great plan He has for all of us! Children will be busy singing, crafting, hearing stories and learning a Bible verse. Lunch will be included. Please pre-register your child so we can plan accordingly. There is no fee! Call the church office to register or pick up a registration form to invite your neighbor children or your grandchildren. See you there!

Registration due July 6th!



BEFORE



Pastor Ray's office received a much needed makeover the week of June 7th. Thank you so much to those who came in to paint and make it a reality!
It looks fantastic!!



AFTER

4th ANNUAL HOT DOG FEED FOR OUR LITTLE LEAGUE PLAYERS & THEIR FAMILIES

The Grand Island Little League just recently finished up their season on our church ball fields. It's always fun to see the kids and families each summer and make new (and old) connections. It ended up being a great season, even with a few rainouts and finishing a few days earlier than expected due to the heat.

The season concluded with us serving over 450 free hot dogs and chips to our team families! We heard so many nice comments and people were so appreciative!



Floyd and Terry grilling up the hot dogs!



Serving God and loving our community!

Thank you to all of you who helped in one way or another this season. We look forward to continuing our tradition of connecting with our community neighbors again next year!



Cody helping out with the drinks!



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 - 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 for Lunch Hour)

Pastor: Rev. Wm. Ray Stone



New Steps Youth Group

DATES for Bible and BBQ from 6:30 to 8 p.m.
(friends are welcome so invite someone you know!)

July 7th: At the home of Stephen and Chyna Hayes, 4316 Claussen Road

July 21st: At the home of Rocky and Stacey Salpas, 1722 Rainbow Road

August 4th: At the home of Ray and Natalie Stone, 4214 Capital Avenue

New Steps Youth are looking for YOU!! If you will be in the 6th grade this fall through a senior in high school, come and join us for Bible and Barbeque this summer on the dates listed above. At the Hayes' house, we will be having a dunk tank to add to the backyard fun and Bible lesson. At the Salpas', we'll be swimming! At the Stones', we will be playing some interesting yard games. Come and see what it's all about!

Our youth room is almost complete. We will be hanging our LED lights and putting the finishing touches on to the feature wall so it will all be ready for our Sunday School kickoff on September 12!

Plan on coming to help with the VBS Sunday event on July 11 from 10:30 am - 1:00 pm. If you WILL be here to help, please let Chyna know so you will be counted for lunch preparations. Watch for information in August to help with city clean-up before the State Fair.

If you have any questions, feel free to call Chyna at 308-390-2352.

Article Deadline for August Newsletter: July 22, 2021