



A publication of First-Faith United Methodist Church

# MESSENGER

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. Brothers and Sisters, we have arrived at summer. I know that for many, this is a season that you will be going on vacations or to visit friends and family that you have longed to see since the start of the pandemic. Natalie and I are also taking a vacation in June, to see family and friends in Wichita, and look forward to seeing them again.

This summer brings with it a new excitement as well. I am looking forward to the return of the Refresh program and the vibrancy of having children here in the church, as well as the wonderful volunteers who make this ministry happen.

Along with ministries, our trustees have been busy on a project that has been in the works for some time. I announced at worship that the church will be removing the tree line that is on the North side of the church property. The last several years have seen skyrocketing costs of trimming and maintaining the trees in that line. With many of the trees dying or starting to die it seemed the ideal time to remove them. The trees that make up the prayer walk will not be touched, and that area will continue to be used for that wonderful outreach.

The Administrative Council of the church has already created a group that is looking at different ideas for ground cover and other plants that will go where the tree line is now. They already have some wonderful ideas and I look forward to seeing what that area can become in the future.

There is so much that is continuing to happen here at First-Faith and I am so happy with where we are going as a congregation. I know that while this may be a season of vacation and relaxation, summer sports and camps, I pray that you will still take the time to continue to look to your faith and your relationship with God. Maintaining our relationship with God and cultivating strong spiritual habits are important all the time, but even more so when we may be focused on other things.

I hope that you will take time to come and worship with us this summer and join us in fellowship. On Pentecost Sunday, we worshiped without masks for the first time. It was wonderful to see everyone's faces and to hear the strong and faithful singing as we lifted our voices in praise to God. You are still encouraged to wear a mask, but they are not mandatory in our worship setting any longer.

May God continue to bless and keep you, that we may come together again to praise Jesus Christ! My prayers for safe travel to all of you that will be traveling this month for vacations and other trips. God bless you all.

Peace and Blessings,

*Pastor Ray*



**Every Sunday**

Worship Service at 9:30 a.m.

Join us in person or online on our Facebook page!



**Meetings and Circles**

- Tues, June 1st** - Ruth Circle, 1:30 pm  
At the home of Marise Hopkins  
2807 W. Faidley Ave., Apt. 118, in Grand Island
- Mon, June 14th** - Finance Team, 5:30 pm  
Church Council, 6:30 pm
- Mon, June 21st** - Trustees, 7:00 pm
- Thurs, June 24th** - Staff Parish Meeting, 1 pm
- Mon, June 28th** - Susanna Circle, 6:30 pm



...is starting back up this month! This is 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 June 9 and 23 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.

**SALVATION ARMY VOLUNTEERS**

**NEEDED!** Would you help serve dinner either on June 17, July 1, November 18 or December 16 from 4:45 to 6:15 p.m. Two people are needed for each date and you must be 16 or older. Please call Emily at 308-384-5620 or email her at the church to sign up! You will leave with a good feeling that you have helped to "feed the hungry".



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

**Ladies' Sewing Group  
June 8 and 22  
9:30 a.m.**

We meet at the church and all are welcome!



**HABITAT FOR HUMANITY METHODIST FAITH BUILD DAY  
May 22, 2021**

The All Faith Build for Habitat for Humanity brought out 16 very hard-working individuals from First-Faith and Trinity United Methodist Churches. It turned out to be a beautiful day to pour concrete, paint, put up dry wall, cleanup around the area being developed and spread dirt around the foundation where it will soon become the yard around the home being built. \$1,940 was contributed to the All Faiths Build between the giving opportunities from both churches. Thank you to Carla Maurer for her time and effort in coordinating this event!



6/1 Pam Flynn  
 6/2 Brenda Bandt  
 6/4 Eric Luplow  
 6/5 Nance Reynolds  
 6/6 Vera Thiem  
 6/9 Brett Forsman  
 6/11 Jim Bogus  
 6/14 Sam Reynolds

6/26 Gordon Bigger  
 Dona Hawk  
 Geri Hoagland  
 Justin Kleint  
 6/27 Sarah Ramos  
 6/29 Gloria Craven  
 6/30 Jodi Awtry  
 Daryl Glos

Happy  
 Birthday!



*LeRoy and Jan Wells - June 8, 1958*  
*Ken and Trish Ross - June 8, 1969*  
*Ted and Julie Berggren - June 9, 1990*  
*Terry and Janet Enck - June 15, 1974*  
*Dwaine and Carol Kubicek - June 15, 2015*  
*Ron and Dorothy Ammerman - June 25, 1961*  
*Michael and Anna Sorensen - June 25, 1994*  
*Alan and Gena Hess - June 25, 1977*  
*Dale and Geri Hoagland - June 27, 1959*  
*Bryan and Pam Flynn - June 29, 1996*



Thank you to all those who have been helping with the **Educational Partnership Ministry**, on Thursdays, for Engleman Elementary School this year. The teachers and

staff really appreciated everything you did!

“We would like to thank everyone for the cards, prayers and expressions of sympathy shown following the passing of Rocky’s dad. Your support at this difficult time was very much appreciated and a great comfort to us. We feel very blessed to have such a wonderful church family.

**Rocky, Stacey, Tyler, Macey and Cole Salpas**

Thank you, church family, for thinking of me during my surgery and recuperation and for the cards, phone calls and food. And especially for your prayers! I am recuperating well and feel better each day! Hope to see you at church soon!

**Barb Dunning**

## STRONG WOMEN



Are you interested in starting the Strong Women’s exercise class again? This class includes weights from 1 to 5 lbs. and you would need to bring them with you. If you have questions, or would like to come to the class, please call Barb Wiczorek at 308-382-2428. We are thinking of meeting on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays either in the mornings or at 3:30 p.m. Let Barb know what time is best for you.



**Women’s Step-AEROBICS**  
 5:15-6:15 p.m.  
 Every Monday,  
 Tuesday and  
 Thursday

## CHAIR YOGA

...returned in May! We’ve had a great group of ladies joining us but there is still room for more!!



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. The day of the week for the evening class is subject to change.

Remember to wear comfortable clothing!

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

**SPARCC - STUHR MUSEUM  
 Sunday, June 6th**

Bring your own brown bag lunch!  
 We will dine at 12:30 p.m. at the picnic tables across from the Stuhr building. The Stuhr Museum is on the Nebraska Passport this year so,

if interested, you may pick up your passport there. Please RSVP to Lacey Follmer at 402-432-9300, with your phone number, in case we need to move the event due to weather conditions.

**PEACE WITH JUSTICE SUNDAY OFFERING  
 Sunday, June 6th**

How do your gifts support Peace with Justice efforts? Our Social Principles call us to love our enemies, seek justice and serve as reconcilers of conflict. We insist that the first moral duty of all nations is to work together to resolve by peaceful means every dispute that arises between or among them. Each Annual Conference has a Peace with Justice Coordinator developing local social justice ministries. Fifty percent of the offering remains in your annual conference to support this ministry.

Just a note to let you know that there will not be any Sunday School classes meeting for the summer (June, July and August). We will resume with our Fall Kick-Off Day on September 12th.



**HAPPY  
 FATHER'S  
 DAY!**

*June 20, 2021*



**Reception for Pastor Ray and Natalie**

On June 27th, we will be hosting a reception during fellowship time after church to officially welcome Ray and Natalie on their 1-year anniversary with our congregation. Please plan on staying after church that Sunday

for cake and coffee to greet the Stone family. First-Faith United Methodist Church is a very welcoming community of worshippers and we want to make sure Pastor Ray and Natalie know we are glad they are here!

**Join us for Pitch!**



*Monday, June 28th,  
 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!



## STAFF VACATIONS

Pastor Ray and Natalie will be on vacation from June 7-13. If you need anything during this time, feel free to call Chyna Hayes at 308-390-2352.

Then, the next week, our Administrative Assistant, Emily, will be on vacation from June 14 to 18. During this week, a volunteer will be in the church office each day from 9 a.m. to 12 noon and then Pastor Ray will be there in the afternoons.



## SPECIAL SPEAKER ON SUNDAY, JUNE 13TH



While Pastor Ray and Natalie are on vacation, we will have a special speaker. Her name is Maddi Baugous and she is a Pastoral Intern at First UMC in Omaha and went to seminary with Pastor Ray. She grew up in Lincoln, Nebraska and graduated from Nebraska Wesleyan University. In May of 2020, she graduated from Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary with her MDiv. She has worked with and served as Co-Director of Micah Corps where she developed a passion for social justice and encouraging college students in their faith and justice work. Maddi is passionate about the Hebrew Bible, especially the Prophets, and how they can be used for justice in the world. In her free time, she loves journaling and playing board games with friends.

### 2021 Maynard & Lillian May Music Scholarships

This fund was started in 2001 in honor of Lillian, who was a longtime organist and musician here at our church. It is to be used for the benefit of the church music program. Two scholarships were received and approved by the Finance Committee for Meghan and Cody Pennell. They were each granted \$450 for piano lessons this year. The money is paid directly to their piano teacher. Congratulations!



**Pushpay**

Over the past few months, we have discovered that the church is paying some incredibly high fees to use the Pushpay online giving services. The Finance Committee approved to end our contract and, as of June 30th, our account will be closed and will no longer be accessible. By ending our contract, 100% of all donations will now go to the First-Faith UMC.

We apologize for any inconvenience but wanted to let you know some different ways that you can make donations to the church:

1. Place your donation in the offering plate on Sunday mornings.
2. Mail a check to the church and it will be deposited the following Sunday after we receive it.
3. Set up an online payment to First-Faith United Methodist Church on your personal banking website. Your bank will then mail a computerized check to the church at no charge.

Thank you and please let us know if you have any questions.



A year ago, we launched our Church Directory App. If you haven't downloaded it yet, follow the simple steps below:

- Go to the App Store, search for *Instant Church Directory* and download the FREE app.
- You will use your email address listed in the directory to CREATE A



LOGIN the first time you use the app. If you are not listed in the directory, or, if you have trouble logging into the app, please contact the church office.

- This is a great resource tool that allows you to get to know our church family better!
- If your picture is not in the directory, email your picture to Emily at [firstfaithumc@gmail.com](mailto:firstfaithumc@gmail.com).



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

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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://firstfaithumcgi.org>

### Office Hours:

Mon-Fri 8:00-4:30

(Closed for Lunch Hour)

**Pastor:** Rev. Wm. Ray Stone



# New Steps Youth Group

New Steps Youth Group will be meeting for Bible and Barbeque from 6:30-8:00 pm this summer on the following dates and at these locations. Plan to attend an evening of games, food and a Bible lesson if you will be in 6th grade-12th grade. Call Chyna Hayes at 308-390-2352 for more information.

## DATES

**June 9th:** Meet at church (meal provided by Susanna Circle). We will finish painting the youth room!

**June 23rd:** At the home of Rocky and Stacey Salpas, 1722 Rainbow Road

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

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



**Article Deadline for July Newsletter: June 23, 2021**