



A publication of First-Faith United Methodist

# 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. Natalie and I are also taking a vacation this summer and we pray for safe travels for everyone. 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.

For summer I am departing from the weekly lectionary and instead focusing on some areas that we do not normally study. Our worship series for June is entitled *Heroes of the Faith* and will explore four Old Testament women. Heroes do not just belong in comic books and blockbuster movies. We have them in real life too – people whose courage, strength, and resilience we can look up to as models for our own lives. In this summer series, we will meet four outstanding heroes from our faith story. Their readiness to listen to God's voice in their lives, and act on it, inspires us to do the same.

This last year we had a wonderful Bible study on Paul's letter to the Romans. It inspired me to turn this into a five-week sermon series for the month of July. Romans is such an important letter that outlines the problem of sin in our lives and how our faith in Jesus brings us back into right relationship with both God and each other. I hope that you will find this series as enriching and helpful in your life.

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 was blessed to attend the Festival of Homiletics in Minneapolis at the end of May. One of the preacher's messages really spoke to my heart. Her message was that while we may preach about the transformative love of God, the message will fall flat unless our congregations know that we (the pastor) love them.

I want you all to know that I do love you. I am so proud to be your pastor, and humbled that you have allowed me to walk alongside you in your lives. I would not be the pastor that I am without your love and prayers, your grace, and your trust. Thank you for all that you have done for me and for all that you continue to do to help build the Kingdom of God.

At the start of June, I and Duane Coates (your lay member to annual conference) will attend this year's Great Plains Annual Conference in LaVista, NE. Our theme this year is *Clay in the Hands of Our Creator*. This has been a challenging two years and the goal of this conference is to give us a time to lament and mourn the losses and pain of churches and clergy leaving as well as focusing on what God is calling us to do in the future. I hope that you will join us in prayer for all clergy and laity that will be traveling and for the work of the Holy Spirit in guiding our leaders into this new future.

May the love of God, the peace of Christ, and the power of the Holy Spirit be with you this summer. My prayers are with you always.

*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)!

### A Perk & A Prayer



Every Wednesday morning, weather permitting, from 7 to 9 a.m., you can drive in to the church parking lot and get a free cup of coffee and lots of smiles. If you have a prayer request, someone will be there to pray with you.

**HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE!!**

### Meetings and Circles

#### Mon, June 5th

Trustees Meeting at 7:00 pm

#### Tues, June 6th - 1:30 pm

Ruth Circle at the church

#### Mon, June 12th

Finance Committee Meeting at 5:30 pm

Church Council Meeting at 6:30 pm

#### Tues, June 13th - UMM Meeting at 6:30 pm

#### Thurs, June 22nd - SPRC Meeting at 1:00 pm

#### Mon, June 26th - Susanna Circle at 6:30 pm

#### Tues, July 11th -Ruth Circle Dines Out, at 12:30 pm

#### Tues, July 18th - UWF Exec Bd Mtg at 1:30 pm

#### Wed, July 25th - Women's Coffee and Donuts at George Park at 9:30 am



# Vacation Bible School

**When and Where?** Sunday, July 23rd from 10:45 a.m. to 1:15 p.m. here at First-Faith

**What?** Our theme for VBS this summer is Food Truck Party! We will be adapting this to read Food "Trunk" Party! Our Bible stories will be from Matthew and John. Children will learn the stories of Daniel and his friends choosing healthy foods from God to eat and Jesus feeding the 5,000. Participants will go home with an apron, a prayer to say before meals and some fun crafts. We'll also be having a few cars in the parking lot, with their trunks open, with some different treats and activities having to do with the theme.

**Who?** VBS is for children ages 4 years to 5th grade. Be sure to invite your neighbors, grandchildren and friends to attend. It will be helpful for planning if you register those attending before **July 19th**. There is **NO COST** to attend! Lunch will be provided.

**Why?** Please plan on having your child participate in this fun, fellowship and learning experience!



**JUNE**

- 1 - Pam Flynn
- 4 - Eric Luplow
- 5 - Nance Reynolds
- 9 - Brett Forsman
- 11 - Jim Bogus
- 14 - Sam Reynolds
- 26 - Dona Hawk

- 26 - Geri Hoagland  
Gordon Bigger
- 27 - Amelia Nicolaus
- 29 - Gloria Craven
- 30 - Jodi Awtry  
Daryl Glos

**JULY**

- 1 - Joanne Kondy
- 2 - Melanie Sheen
- 3 - Charlie Ponec
- 6 - Kim Coates
- 7 - Gena Hess  
DJ Miles
- 9 - Chyna Hayes

- 11 - Heather Ford  
Stacie Forsman
- 13 - Barb Dunning  
Robert Bigger
- 23 - Mike Novosad  
Doug Ferguson  
Macey Salpas

- 25 - Leah Borer
- 27 - Dale Beckman
- 29 - Ken Ross
- 30 - Donna Schwartz
- 31 - Les Cornish  
Devin Borer

**JUNE**

- LaVerne and Judy Jensen - June 4, 1967*
- LeRoy and Jan Wells - June 8, 1958*
- Ken and Trish Ross - June 8, 1969*
- Ted and Julie Berggren - June 9, 1990*
- Ron and Dorothy Ammerman - June 25, 1961*

- Alan and Gena Hess - June 25, 1977*
- Michael and Anna Sorensen - June 25, 1994*
- Dale and Geri Hoagland - June 27, 1959*
- Bryan and Pam Flynn - June 29, 1996*

**JULY**

- Clyde and Marilyn Church - July 6, 1968*
- Brett and Stacie Forsman - July 13, 2013*
- Jim and Judy Bliss - July 14, 1968*
- Terry and Michelle Carlson - July 14, 1984*
- Bob and Deb Trosper - July 15, 2000*
- Gordon and Sharon Bigger - July 26, 1959*
- Gene and Kate Spencer - July 29, 1961*



**WOMEN'S EXERCISE CLASSES**

**Strong Women**  
Every Monday and Wednesday at 3:00 p.m.

**Chair Yoga**  
Every Tuesday and Thursday at 10:30 a.m. and 6:30 p.m.  
No class on June 1st at 6:30 p.m.

**Step Aerobics**  
Every Monday, Tuesday and Thursday at 5:15 p.m.  
No class on July 3, 6, 17, 18 or 20.

There will be no classes on July 4, 2023.

**Wear comfortable clothes & come and join us!**



"Thank you so much for the phone calls, concerns, cards, food and chauffeurs to physical therapy. It was so reassuring to have willing people help me during my recovery from shoulder surgery."

*With great appreciation,  
Jean Chesnut*



**MEN'S COFFEE TIME**

Come and join us every Tuesday at 9 a.m. for some coffee and great fellowship at the church!





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! They will have fun during play time, reading, having a snack and making a craft. Here is a picture of the craft they made for Mother's Day.

**We will be open on Wednesdays from 9 to 11:30 a.m. - June 14 & 28, July 12 & 26**

Please feel free to invite friends and family to use this service.



### ANNUAL STEAK FEED

Wednesday, July 19th, at 6:00 p.m.  
at First-Faith UMC

Everyone is invited to join the United Methodist Men for our annual Steak Feed! Tickets are \$15.00 each and can be purchased from Bob Trospen, Doyle Henke, Duane Coates, Doug Ferguson or Stephen Hayes. This includes a big, juicy steak and a beverage.

Bring your favorite side dish or dessert to share and your own table setting.

Come and enjoy the fellowship, games and entertainment after the meal.



**HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE!**

AMERICAN RED CROSS



**BLOOD DRIVE**

Thank you so much to everyone who volunteered to come in and donate blood to the American Red Cross on Friday, May 12th.

We were able to collect 15 units which will help provide blood to 45 patients.

Thank you so much for truly making a difference!

The next blood drive is scheduled for October 6th.

## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED



### GRAND ISLAND LITTLE LEAGUE GAMES

Every year, we sell snacks and beverages to the teams to be a blessing to our community.

With that, we will need lots of volunteers to help in the Snack Shack Mondays through Thursdays thru June 21st. Mondays and Wednesdays we would need you from 5:45 to 8:30 p.m. and on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 5:45 to 7:30 p.m. If you would like to help, please sign up in the narthex or call the church office at 308-384-5620.

## HELPING ONE ANOTHER

If you would like to sell or give something away, please call or email the church office at:

[firstfaithumc@gmail.com](mailto:firstfaithumc@gmail.com)

List your name, phone number, a brief description of the item and the price you are asking and we will put it in the next month's newsletter.

**FREE:** GE Electric Roaster; black. Call Dixie Codner at 308-380-8868 if interested.

**LOST AND FOUND:** A pair of brown sunglasses were found in the Fireside Room at the church. Please call the church office at 308-384-5620 to claim.



Since Emily will be on vacation from June 12 to 23, the church office will be closed on June 16th and 23rd.

Also, due to the Independence Day holiday on Tuesday, July 4th, the office will be closed on that day as well.

## UPCOMING WOMEN'S EVENTS

### Coffee in the Park:

Save the date for Tuesday, July 25th, at 9:30 a.m. at George Park. All women are invited to come out and share in some great fellowship time. Bring your own beverage of choice and donuts will be provided.



### Summer Ladies' Night Out:



Tuesday, August 1st, at 6:00 p.m. All ladies are cordially invited to our Annual Salad Supper at the church. You do not need to bring anything as the United Women in Faith Ladies will be bringing the salads.

We will be playing Bingo (with prizes!!!) so come for a great evening of food, fellowship and fun!



### LUNCH AT THE VAULT

Saturday, June 17th

Meet at the church at 10:30 a.m. We will carpool to Cairo and have lunch at The Vault and we might do some shopping

before returning home. Everyone is responsible for their own costs.

Please RSVP to the church office by Wednesday, June 14th, so that we know how many to expect.



Saturday, June 24th: Stuhr Museum's "Crash! The Great Depression in the Heartland" exhibit. Cost is \$13 each. Meet at the museum's lobby at 10:00 a.m. We will have lunch at the museum's bistro. RSVP to the church office by June 21st.

Saturday, July 22nd  
Chautauqua at Stuhr Museum. More details later.

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

Mondays, June 26 and July 21  
7 to 9 p.m. at church.

Bring a partner or we'll find you one!



### June Sermon Series

Follow along as we study the lives of four Old Testament women who are Heroes of the Faith

Deborah—Judges 4:4-11, 5:1-9; Rahab—Joshua 2:1-14

Ruth—Ruth 1:1-18; Esther—Esther 3:13, 4:13-17

### Men's Fellowship and Cornhole

Due to the baseball games, we will not be playing cornhole during the month of June. We'll start back up on Thursday night, July 6th, at 7:30 pm, in the church sanctuary.

Please enter through the kitchen door.



### Ladies' Sewing Group

June 13 and 27  
July 11 and 25  
at 9:30 a.m.

We meet at the church and all are welcome!



Our Lunch Bunch Potlucks will be on Wednesday, June 14th and July 12th, at 12 noon. It will be at the church and everyone is welcome! Bring a dish to share and then join in the fun afterwards as we play RUMMIKUB!!!







### SUMMER MUSIC!

Do you like to sing modern, contemporary praise music? Do you play the guitar, bass, drums, keyboard, etc.?

Randi Pennell will be leading our Summer Praise Team. Practices are every Wednesday, at the church, at 6:00 p.m.

Also, if you would like to sing a solo, duet, trio or play an instrument for special music during the Sunday morning worship service, please let Randi know (308-920-0462).



### Bible Time for Kids will continue throughout the summer!

Please plan on attending church each week with your child/children to be sure they have the opportunity to participate in all the activities each Sunday offers.

We will be continuing our theme for the year (Fully Rely on God), learning more Bible verses and singing. We will begin a new theme on August 13 when 3rd graders receive their Bible, backpacks are blessed, and the school year begins!



*Congratulations to Nick and Sadi Looney on the baptism of their daughter, Layne Marie Looney*

*Sunday, May 14th, 2023  
Birthdate: March 18, 2023*



Thank you to all of those that helped at Engleman on Thursdays. The teachers have expressed their appreciation for preparing teaching materials. Thank you to those of you that have donated clothing, tote bags, and notebooks.

They can always use pants for when children have accidents of all kinds. This summer, as you are going through clothes to prepare for next school year to see what has been outgrown, please set aside any gently used pants and sweats for boys or girls. They can use sizes 4 to 12. You can put them in the basket in the foyer any time. They will be delivered when school starts in August. We will continue this program for the next school year.



### Great Plains Annual Conference 2023

There have been a lot of changes since clergy and laity filed into the La Vista Conference Center for last year's Great Plains Annual Conference session.

And those will be reflected in this year's annual conference, which meets in person June 7-10 at the same conference center west of Omaha.

Most of the conference business, including voting on the disaffiliations of 155 churches from the conference, will take place at a special online session May 31.

"A number of the largely technical items can just be considered quickly with members voting from the comfort of their own homes," said Scott Brewer, Director of Administration and Interim Chief of Staff. "That gives us time for more generative content and conversations when we meet face-to-face."

Having the vote early and away from the in-person location also saves the disaffiliating churches hours of travel to the Omaha suburb just for one vote, he added.

The in-person conference will kick off the following week and will be a much-needed time together for the Great Plains Conference. The focus for this conference will be on the losses that have happened and the future of the church. This will also be the first Annual Conference for Bishop David Wilson. Please be in prayer for the safe travels of all the clergy and laity that will be coming to La Vista. Please also pray for Pastor Ray and our lay member to the conference, Duane Coates.



## CONGRATULATIONS!

We celebrated our high school graduates on Sunday, May 7th. Congratulations to Macey Salpas, Jama Morrison and Eli Ford.

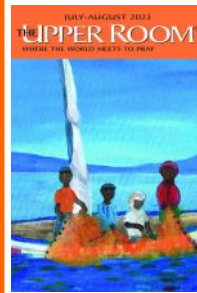
Macey and Eli were the recipients of the Daberkow Scholarship Award and received \$500 each to go towards their college expenses next year.

We are so excited to see what the Lord has planned for all of our graduates. Please keep them in your prayers.



Thank you to all who were able to attend my graduation party. It meant a lot to me. I appreciate your kindness and am so thankful to have such amazing people in my life. I appreciate your continued support as I start this new journey.

Macey Salpas



## THE UPPER ROOM DAILY DEVOTIONAL

Pick up your copy of the July/August 2023 issue in the narthex!

Suggested donation amounts:

Regular Print: \$1.50

Large Print: \$2.00

We were very fortunate to receive three confirmands on April 30th! Addison Glos, Greyson Underwood and Ayden Kuebler have been actively participating in our congregation and have completed their course of study with Pastor Ray. Please continue to pray for our youth as they grow and learn in their Christian faith.



## MARK YOUR CALENDARS!



The Junk Jaunt at First-Faith United Methodist Church will be held on Friday, September 22nd (8:00 am-4:00 pm) and Saturday, September 23rd (8:00 am-2:00 pm). There will be many opportunities to volunteer in lots of different ways, so please consider helping. United Methodist Men will have lunch for sale and we will serve free coffee both days. We will need people to price, organize ahead of time, work the sale dates at the church (in whatever way you are able), clean up after it is over, and **to donate items to sell.**

PLEASE bring your sale items to church starting July 9th. We will **NOT BE ACCEPTING CLOTHING.** Please make sure your items are clean and in good repair.

For more information contact Deb Trosper at 308-379-5753.





First-Faith United Methodist Church  
 4190 W Capital Ave  
 Grand Island, NE 68803  
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 U.S. Postage  
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 Grand Island, NE

**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](mailto:firstfaithumc@gmail.com)

Website:  
<http://firstfaithumc.org>

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

Pastor: Rev. Wm. Ray Stone



# New Steps Youth Group



**Come and join us for Bible and BBQ in June and July!**

We will meet on the following dates from 6:30-8:00 pm for Bible and BBQ. A meal will be provided at each meeting plus activities and a Bible lesson. Youth going into 6th-12th grade are welcome to attend. Friends are welcome too! Please let Chyna know each week if you will be attending so our hosts know how many to prepare for.

- June 7: We will meet at FFUMC at 6:00 pm (time change for this night only), help work the concession stand, eat a meal furnished by Susanna Circle, and clean up the Prayer Path.
- June 21: We will meet at Pastor Ray and Natalie Stone's home at 4214 W. Capital Ave.-- YARD GAMES!
- July 12: We will meet at Stephen and Chyna Hayes' home at 4316 Claussen Rd.-- Dunk tank, Kube game and Fire pit s'mores!
- July 26: We will meet at Salpas' home at 1722 Rainbow Rd.-- Swimming!

The youth will be meeting on a Wednesday, in early August, and will be joining the VIM team to pick up litter in Grand Island in preparation for the Nebraska State Fair.

Don't forget to get your child/youth registered for church camp this summer! Scholarships are available.

