



A publication of First-Faith United Methodist Church

THE MESSENGER

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. I hope that you have all weathered the extreme cold and snow of February. I have had the pleasure of purchasing my first ever snow blower (which I thought I would never do) and have gotten pretty good at keeping the driveway at the parsonage cleared. Like me, I know many of you are looking forward to warming temperatures and more sunny days as we draw closer to spring time.

The month of March is the continuation of the season of Lent that began in February. It is the forty days that we spend seeking to connect with God as we journey with Jesus to the Cross and to the joyous glory of Easter morning.

Our worship series during Lent is focusing on spiritual practices that seek to draw us closer to God and to each other. For many, the season of Lent can pass by without even a second thought. It may seem hard during all that is going on to take this time to focus on spiritual practices like reading scripture, meditating, praying, and service. I feel that we have been gifted this time by God to seek a deeper relationship of wholeness and peace that can only be found in loving God.

Theologian Thomas Merton says, “There are so many Christians who do not realize what possibilities God has placed in the life of Christian perfection—what possibilities for joy in knowledge and love of Him.” I hope that you will take on a spiritual practice for Lent and see how that helps in your relationship with God.

One of the practices that we will be discussing during Lent is the practice of service. Serving others is at the core of our Christian identity and part of our mandate from Christ. Sunday, March 14th, is UMCOR Sunday. UMCOR is the United Methodist Committee on Relief, and yet they are anything but a typical committee. They are a program by the General Board of Global Ministries acting when disaster strikes around the globe. UMCOR acts as the hands and feet of Christ’s church, moving towards the most vulnerable in their time of need. Helping people in their darkest days doesn’t have to be something “they” do, it can be something “we” do. I hope that you will give generously on UMCOR Sunday so that we, along with our United Methodist congregations around the globe, can share compassionate relief during devastation. Until then, let’s be praying for the volunteers, the lives they touch, and for hearts to be moved.

I give God thanks for your continued support and generosity as God’s people. You are constantly in my prayers for your faithful work, love and steadfast hope.

Peace and Blessings,

Pastor Ray



March Calendar

- Mon, March 1st** - Aerobics, 5:15p
- Tues, March 2nd** - Aerobics, 5:15p
- Wed, March 3rd** - A Perk & A Prayer, 7 to 9a
New Steps Youth, 7:00p
- Thurs, March 4th** - Aerobics, 5:15p
- Sun, March 7th** - Worship, 9:30a - Communion
Sunday School (3 years to 12th grade), 10:30a
Confirmation Class, 4:00p
- Mon, March 8th** - Aerobics, 5:15p
Finance Team, 5:30p
Church Council, 6:30p
- Tues, March 9th** - Sewing Group, 9:30a
UMW Executive Board Meeting, 1:30p
Aerobics, 5:15p
- Wed, March 10th** - A Perk & A Prayer, 7 to 9a
- Thurs, March 11th** - Aerobics, 5:15p
Worship Committee Meeting, 6:30 p
- Sun, March 14th - Daylight Saving Time Begins**
Worship, 9:30a
Sunday School (3 years to 12th grade), 10:30a
Confirmation Class, 4:00p
- Mon, March 15th** - Aerobics, 5:15p
Trustees, 7:00p
- Tues, March 16th** - Aerobics, 5:15p
- Wed, March 17th** - A Perk & A Prayer, 7:00a
New Steps Youth, 7:00p
- Thurs, March 18th** - Education Partnership, 8:30a
Aerobics, 5:15p
- Sat. March 20th** - Laity Summit (virtual), 9a - 3p
- Sun, March 21st** - Worship, 9:30a - Communion
Sunday School (3 years to 12th grade), 10:30a
Confirmation Class, 4:00p
- Mon, March 22nd** - Aerobics, 5:15p
Susanna Circle, 6:30p
- Tues, March 23rd** - Sewing Group, 9:30a
Aerobics, 5:15p
- Wed, March 24th** - A Perk & A Prayer, 7 to 9a
New Steps Youth, 7:00p
- Thurs, March 25th** - Staff Parish Meeting, 1:00p
Aerobics, 5:15p

- Sun, March 28th - PALM SUNDAY** - Worship, 9:30a
Sunday School (3 years to 12th grade), 10:30a
Confirmation Class, 4:00p
- Mon, March 29th** - Aerobics, 5:15p
Trustees, 7:00p
- Tues, March 30th** - Aerobics, 5:15p
- Wed, March 31st** - A Perk & A Prayer, 7:00a
New Steps Youth, 7:00p



If you are a lay servant or laity discerning a call to leadership, we are having our 2nd Annual Laity Summit on Saturday, March 20th, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. online. The overall theme is "Building a New Normal". The keynote speaker is Junius Dotson, General Secretary for Discipleship Ministries. There will be worship, workshops and networking!

If you would like to register, go to <https://www.greatplainsumc.org/laity-summit>.



**Palm Sunday
Service
March 28th @
9:30 a.m.**

Education Partnership: Our upcoming workday is on **March 18 at 8:30am**. We will be working at First-Faith. Please contact Glenda at 383-1716 for more information.



Happy Birthday!

3/4 Addison Glos
 3/6 Jeffrey Roby
 3/10 Shylea Campos
 3/12 Alice Gray
 3/13 Josh Jefferies
 3/14 Cole Salpas
 3/15 Cheryl Henke
 3/16 Scott Reynoldson
 3/17 Caden Butler

3/17 Larry Cast
 Betty Cornish
 Ray Harp
 Evan Kleint
 3/19 Duane Coates
 3/20 Jerome Boltz
 3/25 Jean Jensen
 3/30 Linda Bogus
 Larry Coates



Jerry & Barb Dunning
March 11, 2000
Travis & Tina Kleint
March 21, 2009
Matt & Susan Albers
March 27, 1999



Happy 50th Anniversary!
Bruce and Sharon Kleint
March 7, 1971



The UMW (United Methodist Women's) Executive Board will be meeting at the church on **Tuesday, March 9th, at 1:30 p.m.**

See you there!



We would like to thank everyone at First-Faith this past year for everyone's prayers and concerns while Mary Jo's Mom, Lois, was going through chemo and

then at her passing. In addition, we are so comforted by the outpouring of support and prayers for Bill's brother, Dan, as he returns to better health following complications of COVID-19. Our church family means so much to us.

Bill and Mary Jo Mowinkel

Remember to pick up your copy of the **March-April Upper Room Devotional**. They are available in the narthex. The regular print is \$1.00 and the large print is \$1.50.



Sunday, March 14th! Remember to set your clocks forward one hour!!



A Perk & A Prayer will be available each Wednesday morning in March from 7 to 9 o'clock (weather

permitting). Hope to see you there!

Sewing Group

March 9 and 23 @ 9:30 a.m.

We meet at the church. Please wear your mask and keep socially distanced.





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

Return Service Requested

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Worship Schedule

Sunday

9:30am with Fellowship
Time and Sunday School
to follow at 10:30 am

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 News

New Steps Youth will be meeting in person, in the Fireside Room, at FFUMC on the following dates:

- March 3:** Bible Lesson- Isaiah, Part One
(Drawing for \$20 Attendance prize!!-must be present to win)
- March 5:** World Day of Prayer
- March 10: NO YOUTH GROUP - Spring Break**
- March 17:** GAME NIGHT
Happy Saint Patrick's Day (be sure to wear green!)
- March 24:** Bible Lesson- Isaiah, Part Two
- March 31:** Bible Lesson- Micah

**Please plan to attend
the Easter Services with your family!**
April 1st at 7:00 pm - Maundy Thursday Service
April 2nd at 7:00 pm - Good Friday Service
April 4th at 9:30 am - Easter Service

The youth created their own **Tower of Babel** out of spaghetti and mini marshmallows...no talking allowed!



Article Deadline for April Newsletter: March 19, 2021