



A publication of First-Faith United Methodist

# THE MESSENGER

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. I hope that you have all weathered the month of February and the many exciting events at the church. I know that after such a short month of excitement, it couldn't possibly get busier. But, with Easter at the end of March, it is going to be an exciting month at First-Faith.

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 series for Lent is called *Orient Our Lives*. The season of Lent is a journey. We may not all start in the same place in this journey, but we all end in the same place. We always arrive to the empty tomb on Easter morning. This month we will continue with our series as we seek to orient our lives to Christ and to God's mission in our Lenten journey. Each Week I will be teaching a Bible study after worship. You are all welcome to come as we explore the text used for the sermon that week and discuss our journey's through Lent together.

In the busy (and sometimes chaotic) moments of February, I was reminded of just how amazing this congregation is. I was grateful for all the volunteers that helped with the soup supper, and even the Men's Valentine banquet. The people who have stepped up into new roles at the church and those just coming into the church for the first time.

The zeal and passion that this congregation has for being the loving community of Christ is so evident in everything that you do. I had many comments from people from outside the church that shared their thankfulness for our hospitality and the for the love that we have shown. You have blessed me with the opportunity to serve you and walk alongside you through joys and sorrows. I am truly blessed by your love, care, and by your hearts for mission.

I hope that as we come to the end of the season of Lent, you will join us for Holy week when we will be sharing worship with our Brothers and Sisters from Trinity United Methodist. Maundy Thursday will be hosted by us at First-Faith and Good Friday will be held at Trinity. You are invited to each of these services at 7:00 p.m. as we contemplate and remember the sacrifice that Jesus made for us on the cross of Calvary.

Then, on Sunday, March 31st, we will celebrate the resurrection of Christ as we celebrate Easter. This is a time of great joy and excitement. I hope that you will invite your friends and family to join us on that very special Sunday. I hope to see you at Easter and the days that follow. May the grace of the Lord Jesus be with you as we look forward to new and wonderful days ahead.

*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)!



**Lenten Bible Study**  
**March 3, 10, 17 and 24**  
**Sunday Mornings at 10:30 a.m.**

Join Pastor Ray each Sunday, after church, to explore the lectionary passage for that week and discover what way God is calling us to orient our lives for today. Lent is a perfect way to build up spiritual practices that help us grow in our faith. In the Bible study, you will have weekly readings and then we will come together for group reflection on our Lenten journey. Beginners to the Bible are welcome in this low stress discussion group.  
We hope you will join us!

**Meetings and Circles**



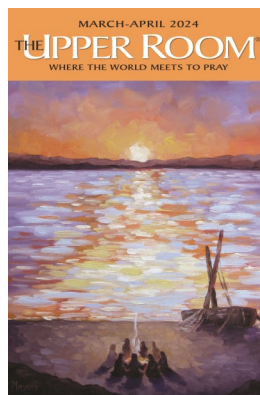
- Mon, Mar 4** - Trustees Mtg at 7 pm
- Tues, Mar 5** - Ruth Circle at Karleen Beckman's house at 1:30 pm
- Mon, Mar 11** - Finance Committee Mtg at 5:30 pm  
Church Council Mtg at 6:30 pm
- Tues, Mar 12** -UWF Executive Board Mtg at 1:30 pm  
UMM Meeting at 6:30 pm
- Mon, Mar 25** - Susanna Circle meets at 6:30 pm



**MARCH 10TH**

For more than 80 years, United Methodists have ensured that resources from the United Methodist Committee on Relief are available in

times of crisis. UMCOR Sunday donations cover UMCOR's operation costs, so that 100% of donations received in response to emergency appeals go directly to communities in need. We will be taking a special offering for UMCOR on Sunday, March 10th.



**THE UPPER ROOM**  
**DAILY DEVOTIONAL**

Pick up your copy of the March/ April 2024 issue in the narthex!

Suggested donation amounts:  
Regular Print: \$1.50  
Large Print: \$2.00

**SAVE THE DATE**  
**for the next American Red Cross Blood Drive at First-Faith!**  
**Friday, May 10th, from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.**  
**Whether you've donated before or it will be your first time, please consider signing up next month.**



Come and help get our church looking nice for our Easter Services!

**Saturday, March 2nd, from 9 a.m. to 12 noon**

We will have coffee ready for you and Pastor Ray will provide the donuts!!

If you can, bring cleaning supplies, cleaning cloths, buckets, Swiffer dusters, gloves, rakes, leaf blower, garden cutters, vacuum with upholstery attachment . We will be washing windows inside and out, vacuuming sanctuary chairs, cleaning florescent light covers and doing a little bit of work outside. NOTE: The carpets will be cleaned on March 8th! Thank you.



4 - Addison Glos  
 6 - Linda Saylor  
 12 - Alice Gray  
 13 - Josh Igo  
 14 - Cole Salpas  
 15 - Cheryl Henke  
 17 - Larry Cast  
 Betty Cornish

19 - Duane Coates  
 20 - Jerome Boltz  
 Wain Codner  
 25 - Harlow Nicolaus-Sosa  
 29 - Blake Forsman  
 30 - Linda Bogus  
 Larry Coates

**MARCH WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES**

*Bruce and Sharon Kleint - March 7, 1971*  
*Jerry and Barb Dunning - March 11, 2000*  
*Don and Donna Preisendorf - March 12, 1983*  
*Matt and Susan Albers - March 27, 1999*



**Ladies' Sewing Group**

**March 12 and 26  
 at 9:30 a.m.**



We meet at the church and all are welcome!



The church office will be closed on the following Fridays:

**March 1st**

**March 8th**

If you need anything during this time, please feel free to call Pastor Ray. Thank you.

**Director of Children and Youth**

At First-Faith we have been grateful for Chyna's many years of service. As she prepares to retire this Spring, the Staff Parrish Committee is searching for our next Director of Children and Youth.

- Position to be filled – June 2024
- Anticipated Time Commitment: 10-15 hours a week
- Hourly wage commensurate with experience \$13-\$15 per hour

**Please Contact Pastor Ray for full Job Description.**

**WHAT IS LUNCH BUNCH?**



It's a monthly gathering of old and new friends. We gather to share a potluck meal (bring a dish to share) and have lots of good conversation. Then, we play a game or cards.

Come and join us on  
**Wednesday, March 13th, at 12 noon**  
 Then, save the date on your calendar for the second Wednesday of every month.

It will be at the church and everyone is welcome!

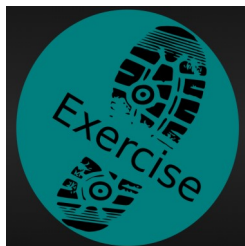
**EXERCISE CLASSES**

**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.  
 There will be no evening class on March 28th.

**Step Aerobics**  
 Every Monday, Tuesday and Thursday at 5:00 p.m.

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



**Men's Fellowship and Cornhole**



Come on out and join us for some fun! We'll be playing every Thursday night at 7:30 pm in the church sanctuary. We will not be playing on March 28th.

Please enter through the kitchen door.





**Daylight Saving Time**  
SPRING FORWARD

**SUNDAY, MARCH 10th**

**Set all of your clocks ahead one hour!**

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

**Let's have lunch together!**  
**Saturday, March 16th, at 11:30 am**

**Pizza Ranch**  
**1016 N. Diers Ave., Grand Island**

If you are single, we would love to have you join us!

Please RSVP to the church office by Wednesday, March 13th, so that we know how many to plan for.



**PARTNERS IN EDUCATION WITH ENGLEMAN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**



We would love to have you join us in this ministry. This month, we will meet at Engleman on Thursdays, March 14th and 28th, at 8:30 a.m. If you have questions, please contact Glenda Vetter at 308-383-1716.

**Easter Celebration**  
**March 31 at 9:30 am**

In Person or on Facebook



### Maundy Thursday

Maundy Thursday is an alternate name for Holy Thursday. The English word "Maundy" comes from the Latin *mandatum*, which means "commandment."

As recorded in John's gospel, on his last night before his betrayal and arrest, Jesus washed the feet of his disciples and then gave them a new commandment to love one another as he had loved them (John 13:34).

While John's gospel does not record the institution of the Lord's Supper among the events of this night, the other gospels do. This is why Christians have traditionally celebrated Holy communion on this night. Please join us on March 28 for our service at 7:00.



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

**Monday, March 25th**  
**7 to 9 p.m. at the church.**

*Bring a partner or we'll find you one!*

### MEN'S COFFEE TIME

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



### HOLY WEEK

**MARCH 24 - PALM SUNDAY**  
**MARCH 28 - MAUNDY THURSDAY**  
7:00 PM @ FIRST FAITH UMC  
**MARCH 29 - GOOD FRIDAY**  
7:00 PM @ TRINITY UMC





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.

**We will be open on Wednesday from 9 to 11:30 a.m. - March 13 and 27**

Please feel free to invite friends and family to use this service.  
Questions? Call Sharon Sorensen at 308-382-7543.



### Easter Egg Hunt

We will be hosting an egg hunt on March 30 at 10:00 am. We will need the help of the congregation, especially donations of candy and eggs for the hunt.

Please be sure that the eggs are 2 – 2.5 inches and that the candy is wrapped and small enough to fit in eggs. You can drop them off Sunday mornings or during the week. We will need all donations by March 20. We will be packing Eggs that night with the help of the New Steps Youth Group. If you have any questions, please contact Pastor Ray.

### UMM VALENTINE’S BANQUET UPDATE

**The banquet held on Feb. 18th, had 48 guests. We were blessed with wonderful music from “the Monotones”, accompanied by Linda Bogus. Special thanks to Kent Stutheit for singing “Bless Us All” as the close of the night. Everyone went home with blessings of full stomachs and high spirits. Thank you to everyone that made the night so special.**





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 - Sunday School and  
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 12-1 pm - Lunch Hour)

Pastor: Rev. Wm. Ray Stone



## New Steps Youth Group

**We will be meeting on the following Wednesdays in the month of March:**

- 3/6 Spring Break - No Youth Group meeting
- 3/13 Snack and Bible Lesson
- 3/20 Snack and Bible Lesson
- 3/27 Snack and game night!



We will help fill Easter eggs March 20th to prepare for the egg hunt. The church egg hunt will be on Saturday, March 30th, at 10:00 a.m. and we will need you to come and hide the eggs at 9 a.m. before the hunt.

Youth should plan on helping and participating during Palm Sunday's palm procession on March 24th and all of the services during Holy week.

A BIG THANK YOU goes to the Salpas family and all of the parents and youth who made our Super Bowl Sub fundraiser a success! We will be sending a donation check for \$239 to Willow Rising to support their local efforts for our community needs.

**Article Deadline for March Newsletter: March 22, 2024**