



THE MESSENGER

A publication of First-Faith United Methodist Church

Newest Servants in Worship Take Acolyte Training

Four of our younger worshippers joined Roxie Lehman for training February 23.



Moving toward the right from Roxie: Addison Glos, Kaydence Welsh, Greyson Underwood, and Sebastian Erington. They were all attentive as they learned the significance of the Light, how to use the candlelighters, and how to assist in serving Communion. When you see them serving, be sure to share a word of encouragement.



First-Faith Expands Transportation Ministry

Have an open seat in your vehicle Sunday mornings? Or are you in need of a ride? A handful of families have been providing transportation to several of our members who would otherwise not be able to join us in worship. There are others who

would like a ride, at least once a month. If you would like to be a part of this ministry, please let Pastor Trudy know or contact the office. We are also seeking a coordinator to help bring some structure to this ministry. How is God calling you?

Survey Results Being Compiled

We've had a great response to our recent *positional survey*. In fact, they are still trickling in. Our Church Council heard a preliminary report on Feb. 10, with a final report expected March 9 to Council and then posted in the next issue of *The Messenger*. Let us continue to discern God's will for our congregation together.



Jesus teaches us, "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few" (Luke 10:2). Readiness 360 is a tool provided by our Great Plains Conference to assist in determining our readiness to work in

God's harvest. This digital survey will begin soon and continue through the month. It explores many aspects of our ministries. A link to the survey will be sent out to our email list for those able to take it at their leisure while computer assistance will be provided following worship for those needing assistance. We are hoping for a significant level of participation to provide the best feedback.

UMC Partners with Outreach



Pick up an invitation to share

Have you noticed the new banners at the corner? These banners along with 500 matching invite cards were free of charge to us due to a denominational partnership with Outreach, Inc. First-Faith is one of 400 churches throughout the nation that benefited from this offer. The items are intended as invitational tools for Easter. Please plan to pick up a few cards from the counter in the entranceway to share with friends, co-workers, and neighbors as you invite them to worship.

WORSHIP HIGHLIGHTS

Servants in Worship



3/1 Clyde & Marilyn Church and
Alan & Gena Hess
3/8 Dale & Karleen Beckman, Ken Ross,
and Roxie Lehman
3/15 Gordon & Sharon Bigger, Sue Routh,
and Vicki Shottenkirk
3/22 Alan & Gena Hess and
Bill & Mary Jo Mowinkel
3/29 Youth



3/1 Clyde & Marilyn Church
3/8 Karleen Beckman and Barb Dunning
3/15 Gordon & Sharon Bigger
3/22 Kay Clarke and Gena Hess
3/29 Youth



3/1 Sharon Sorensen and Renee Harp
3/8 Kris Coates and Heather Welsh
3/15 Jessica Igo and Marilyn Church
3/22 Gloria Craven
3/29 Cheryl Henke and Deb Trosper



3/1 Chyna Hayes
3/8 Kay Clarke
3/15 Larry Coates
3/22 Susan Albers
3/29 Youth



3/1 Jim & Judy Bliss and
Sue Routh
3/8 Bruce & Sharon Kleint and
Warren & Randi Pennell
3/15 Jean Chesnut and Leola Harlow
3/22 Clyde & Marilyn Church and
Rich & Joyce McKinny
3/29 Mike & Susan Welsh and
Carla Maurer



3/1 Jodi Awtry
3/8 Randi Pennell
3/15 Julie Berggren
3/22 Linda Bogus
3/29 Linda Bogus



3/1 Addison Glos
3/8 Sebastian Erington
3/15 Gordon Bigger
3/22 Roxie Lehman
3/29 Youth



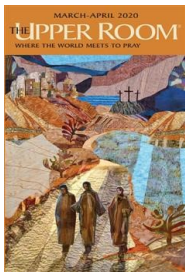
3/1 Shantel Miles and Glenda Vetter
3/8 Lori Bendixen and Duane Johnson
3/15 Cindy Hemmann and Glenda Vetter
3/22 Tennille Lingreen and
Vicki Shottenkirk
3/29 Tennille Lindgreen and Glenda Vetter



3/1 Clyde Church
3/8 Ken Ross
3/15 Jerry Brand
3/22 Alan Hess
3/29 Stephen Hayes

Are you connecting with God Daily?

Remember to pick up your copy
of the March/April Upper Room
Devotional



Available in the Narthex
Regular Print \$1
Large Print \$1.50

Blood Pressure Checks

Sunday, March 15th before and
after Worship service. Sponsored
by the Healthy Congregations
Ministry Action Team.



We are stacking the chairs in the
sanctuary and fellowship hall on
Sundays after Worship. Please
stay and help if you are able or
stack a few before you leave.
(chairs are stacked 4 high)



Many hands make light work.



Worship Attendance - January

5th - 95 12th - 93
19th - 96 26th - 88

When asked why people don't attend worship, a surprisingly
high number stated that they weren't invited.

Who's waiting to be invited?

WORSHIP AND OTHER GATHERING HIGHLIGHTS

The
Season
of
Lent



We approach the season of Lent with an emphasis on personal investigation, and contrition - the intentional work of seeking a change of heart and action. Reflection and change take hard work. **Lent can be like a boot camp for the soul**, a restart in a focused area. Join us for this new worship series.

3/1 - On this first Sunday of Lent, Pastor Trudy preaches on Psalm 32 and Matthew 4:1-11, "The Need for Change." Like Jesus, we face temptation as we discern what God really wants for us. The choir will sing and we will celebrate the Lord's Supper.

3/8 - On this second Sunday of Lent, Pastor Trudy's message is "Reset." Genesis 12:1-4a and John 3:1-17 provide the texts as we consider that spiritual rebirth means a new start. No more of the same old same old.

3/15 - This Lenten Sunday, third in our worship series "Boot Camp for the Soul," leads us to consider the need to "Hydrate" our souls. Pastor Trudy's message is based on Exodus 17:1-7 and John 4:5-42, reminding us that living water sustains us on our journey. The Chancel Choir will sing and the Children's Noisy Can collection will go toward Camp Fontanelle's presentation on 3/29.

3/22 - We have entered the second half of the Lenten Season. 1 Samuel 16:1-13 and John 9: 1-41 are our focus texts as Pastor Trudy's sermon "Redefined" teaches us that when Jesus touches us, we, too, are more than we appear to be. What is that? The Bell Choir will ring out their anthem.



3/29 - Connecting with our "Boot Camp for the Soul" Worship Series, this fifth Sunday, our traditional Youth Sunday, welcomes Jane Van Horn, Communications Coordinator for Camp Fontanelle. Her message, "Embracing the Challenge," will invite us to think and want to take action to make a difference.



Pastor Trudy will be attending the National Fresh Expressions Conf.

Pastor Cat Love with the Cairo/Boelus United Methodist Churches will be on call for any urgent pastoral needs from **March 28 - April 4**. Please feel free to reach out to Pastor Cat on her cell at (785) 341-4730.

Ministry Action Team & Council Meetings

Monday, March 9th - Finance Team, 5:30 pm

Monday, March 9th - Church Council, 6:30 pm

Monday, March 16th - Safety Ministry Action Team, 6:00 pm

Monday, March 16th - Trustees, 7:00 pm

Monday, March 23rd - Staff Parish Relations Ministry Team, 1:00 pm

Thursday, March 26th - Worship Team, 6:30 pm

Circles & Meetings

United Methodist Women

March 3rd- Joy Circle, 1:30 pm

Host: Vera Thiem

March 3rd - Ruth Circle, 1:30 pm,

Host: Peggy Helms

Lesson: Deb Trosper

March 10th - UMW Executive Board, 1:30 pm

March 23rd - Susanna Circle,

5:45 pm - Social; 6:15 pm - Meeting

March 24th - Friendship Circle, 1:30 pm

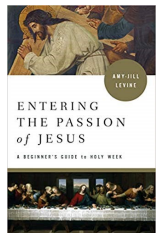
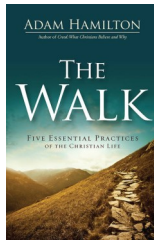
United Methodist Men

Tuesday, March 10th - 7:00 pm



STUDY & GROW IN GOD'S WORD

Beginning March 1st, the Fireside Class, led by Larry Coates will begin a study of "The Walk" written by Adam Hamilton. This DVD-based study covers five essential spiritual practices rooted in Jesus' own walk with God. The sessions include: Worship and Prayers, Study, Service, Giving, and Sharing. This class is open to all interested youth and adults.

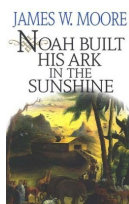


Jesus' final days were full of risk. Every move he made was filled with anticipation, danger, and the potential for great loss or great reward. Jesus risked his reputation when he entered Jerusalem in a victory parade. He risked his life when he dared to teach in the Temple. His followers risked everything when they left behind their homes, or anointed him with costly perfume. Discover the risks we take as we read and re-read these stories, finding new meanings and new challenges. Join Pastor Trudy's Sunday School class beginning March 8 as we study Amy-Jill Levine's *Entering the Passion: A Beginner's Guide to Holy Week*. **This six-week class will run 3/8 - 4/19** (not meeting Easter Sunday) and is open to all interested youth and adults.

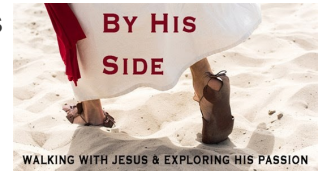
Are you looking for a group to join?

Do you like to read?

The Women's Book Study group meets on Wednesdays at 1:30 pm. They are continuing to read, "Noah Built His Ark in the Sunshine" by James W. Moore. All women are welcome to join.



Bishop Ruben Saenz Jr. is inviting the people of the Great Plains Conference to join him on a reflective retreat about Jesus' love and sacrifice during Lent via Facebook, an experience the bishop has titled "By His Side."



Starting Ash Wednesday, Feb. 26, the conference will post a verse and theme for reflection and pose a question via its Facebook page by 5 a.m. each morning. The bishop encourages participants to read the scripture and reflect using the lectio divina process, which has six steps, as shared in the book "Song of the Seed: The Monastic Way of Tending the Soul," by Marcina Wiederkehr:

1. **Preparation:** Take time to unclutter our mind and unify our heart with God's heart.
2. **Reflective Reading:** This is the first reading of the day's scripture and focus word. Read with the ear of our heart, contemplatively, slowly, and whenever possible, aloud.
3. **Contemplation:** This is a time for a patient waiting. It is not a prayer time, but a time to listen for God to speak to us.
4. **Meditation:** Read the scripture again. Listen to the text as it speaks.
5. **Prayer:** We can use words to express praise, repentance, thanksgiving, or petition for God's grace and mercy. Be open to how the Spirit may lead you to pray.
6. **Journaling:** Journaling happens at the end of your day. Write down your reflections on both the question and theme of the day. Please share your reflection in some form on the Great Plains Conference Facebook thread.



We welcome new voices for our Choir. If you can sing our hymns at church, you have the ability to join us. We practice on Wednesdays and we sing two Sundays of the month. Practices for this season end mid-May.



CONNECTION OPPORTUNITIES, THANK YOU'S, ODDS & ENDS



Dear Friends,
We asked, and you came through.
Thank you for your donation of \$12 to
Hope Harbor. There are many great
causes in our community, and it means a lot to us
that you chose to support our mission.

Sincerely,
Liz Mayfield, Executive Director

Dear Friends in Mission,
Thank you! Through your financial
support you are serving within a vital
network of interactive relationships in
the U.S. and in more than 60 countries in which
UMCOR and partnering agencies engage in direct
ministry to persons in need.

Grace and Peace,
Thomas G. Kemper, General Secretary
Roland Fernandes, COO and General Treasurer



Education Partnership

Be a part of our partnership with **Engleman
Elementary**, with bi-monthly workdays scheduled
through the school year. Upcoming workdays are
March 5th & 19th, 8:30-11:00 a.m.

If interested, please let Glenda
know at church or call her at
383-1716 by the Sunday
preceding the workday.



Join us for Pitch!

March 30th, 7:00-9:00 pm

The last Monday night of the month!
Bring a partner or we'll find you one!
It's just plain, good ole fun!

Lunch Bunch

Wednesday, March 11th.

The monthly potluck dinner starts at 12 pm.

Hope to see you there!
Everyone is welcome to join.



The annual VIM mission trip will be
April 27-May 1.

Plan A: We will be working on
flood damaged homes from last
spring provided there is work to be done across the
state. We are finding out that many homes are still
not ready to be complete, either by choice and/or
fear of spring flooding this year. At this time we do
not have a definite location and are still waiting to
hear back from disaster coordinators and case
workers. They may have work for a day or two, but
not the entire week.

Plan B: We will stay locally like we did 2
years ago and help church members who could use
an extra hand around their home. Member projects
will be prioritized by skills available by volunteers
and the time available if disaster projects have been
identified. Applications are due by **Sunday,
March 22nd** and are available from the
church office or contact Carla Maurer at
308-383-2553.

Mark your calendars for **Saturday, May 30th** for
Habitat for Humanity workday. Watch for sign-up
sheets in early May for food and workers.

Susanna Circle is going to have
S'more kits & trail mix on



March 29th for a free will
donation. The proceeds will go to
provide scholarships for camp.



Our Refresh "Grandmas" would love to give
you a break. We provide **free quality
childcare** on the second and fourth
Wednesdays of the month. Our next dates
are **March 11th & 25th, 9:00-11:30 am.**

We welcome new kids
any time. If you have
any questions, please
contact the office or call
Sharon Sorensen
directly (382-7543)



New Steps Youth Group Wednesday Meetings



New Steps Youth Group is on Wednesdays from 7-8:15 pm. All 6-12th graders are welcome and encouraged to bring a friend!

New Steps Youth Group will continue to explore from the text The 13 Most Important Bible Lessons for Teenagers. The topics for this month will be:

March 4: "The Human Journey"

March 11: spring break NO YOUTH GROUP MEETING

March 18: "Why Does Life Hurt?"

March 25: "Family of Faith"

Come and join us for snacks, conversation, service projects and Bible study!

Bible and BBQ dates for this summer will be:



June 10 and 24

July 8 and 22

Please consider hosting the Youth for one of these dates!

Chyna and Stephen already have the July 8 date reserved!

March Sunday School ~ Rock On Kindness

It is hard to believe that March is here! We have 4 great lessons coming up "Stories of Great Faith" including Daniel and the Lion's Den and Noah's Ark. Each Sunday we read from the Bible, make a craft, sing a song, and pray. We would love for you to join us. On the 5th Sunday in March, on March 29th, we are planning a special Sunday School lesson & treat, Dirt cups, (rocks included) which you can eat! Hope to see you there!



The youth will be continuing the Lenten theme, "Boot-camp for the Soul". Please join the New Steps Youth on Sunday, March 29, as we welcome our guest speaker, Jane A. Van Horn. Jane is the Communications Coordinator for Camp Fontanelle. Jane creates publications, does the marketing, is the summer registrar and manages the kitchen during the summer and is lead cook during the off-season! Jane has been involved with the camp for 20 years and employed at the camp since 2013. This dynamic, busy woman will be preaching on the topic, "Embracing the Challenge". Her message will make you think, make you want to act, and make you want to make a difference. There will be a special collection at the end of the service for Camp Fontanelle. Below is an additional giving opportunity for Camp Fontanelle. There will be a basket in Chyna's office for your contributions. Their kitchen is in need of the following items:

Measuring cups
Measuring spoons,
Tea towels,
Heat resistant rubber spatulas (all different sizes)
Half sheet baking pans
Knives (paring, bread, chef's)
K-cups for a Keurig
Bar towels for cleaning
Wire whisks

Parents and Youth:

Be making plans to attend church camp this summer. There are many **scholarships available** so everyone has the opportunity to go. On March 29 a representative from Camp Fontanelle will be speaking about their facility during church. There are also many other camp sites in Nebraska for youth. Contact Chyna, or the church office, or see the links below for more information.



There are 3 **United Methodist camps** in Nebraska. Camp Fontanelle is north of Fremont, Camp Comeca is south of Cozad, and Camp Norwesca is south of Chadron. Check out their websites.

<http://campcomeca.com/>
<http://www.campfontanelle.com/>
<https://norwesca.org/>

Hey kids, come on down!

Toddlers through 5th grade...Join Chyna during Children's Time each Sunday morning. We have a story related to Pastor Trudy's lesson and a prayer. This is a great time to experience the Bible on a level just for you!





3/1 Jim Narber
 3/4 Addison Glos
 3/5 Dylan Brehm
 3/6 Kelli Patterson
 Jeffrey Roby
 3/9 Madyson Ciemndzolowski
 3/10 Shylea Campos
 3/12 Alice Gray
 3/13 Cole Bauer
 Josh Jefferies
 Gavin Knotts

3/14 Cole Salpas
 3/15 Cheryl Henke
 3/16 Scott Reynoldson
 Norman Stelk
 3/17 Caden Butler
 Larry Cast
 Betty Cornish
 Ray Harp
 Evan Kleint
 Mike Shadwinkel
 3/19 Duane Coates
 3/20 Jerome Boltz
 3/25 Jean Jensen
 3/30 Linda Bogus
 Larry Coates



3/4/2009 Shawn & Joyce Flagle (11)
 3/7/1971 Bruce & Sharon Kleint (49)
 3/11/2000 Jerry & Barb Dunning (20)
 3/12/1983 Don & Donna Preisendorf (37)
 3/21/2009 Travis & Tina Kleint (11)
 3/27/1999 Matt & Susan Albers (21)



***Want to be part of an
 amazing singles
 community?***

Consider SPARCC!

Upcoming Events:

March 14

3:00 - 5:00 pm - Games at First-Faith
 Bring your choice of beverage and a St. Patrick's
 Day inspired shareable snack if you desire
 Feel free to bring a game you enjoy
 There is no charge for this event

March 28

6:00 pm - Dine at Pam's Pub and Grub
 2848 S. Locust St
 Please RSVP by March 25th
 This is a self-pay event

Creative Missions



Sewing Group

March 10th & 24th @ 9:00 a.m.

Craft Group

March 17th @ 9:00 a.m.



**Are you looking for a
 place to serve?**

Do you love children?



We are in need of someone
 to help in the nursery on the fourth Sunday of each
 month. If you would like to help with this monthly
 ministry, please talk to Pastor Trudy, Sharon
 Sorensen, or call the office.

Join us for Exercise Classes

Step Aerobics

Mondays, Tuesdays, and Thursdays
 @ 5:15 pm



Chair Yoga

Tuesdays and Thursdays
 @ 10:30 am and 6:00 pm
 (The 6:00 pm class meets on
 Tuesdays only)



NO CHAIR YOGA ON MARCH 10TH & 12TH

Strong Women

Mondays and Wednesdays
 @ 3:30 pm

Call the church office for more
 information 384-5620





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

Return Service Requested

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Grand Island, NE

Worship Schedule

Sunday

9:30am with Fellowship
Time and Sunday School
to follow at 10:45am

Office Phone:

(308) 384-5620

Office Email:

firstfaithumc@gmail.com

Website: [http://](http://firstfaithumc.org/wordpress/)

firstfaithumc.org/
wordpress/

Office Hours:

Mon-Fri 8:00-4:30
(Closed for Lunch Hour)

Pastor: Rev. Dr. Trudy
Kenyon Anderson



Palm Sunday - April 5th @ 9:30 a.m.



**Maundy Thursday Service @ 7:00 p.m.
at Trinity UMC 511 N Elm**



**Good Friday Service - April 10th @ 7:00 p.m.
First-Faith UMC**



Easter Sunday Service - April 12th @ 9:30 a.m.

Article Deadline for April/May Newsletter: March 20, 2020