



A publication of First-Faith United Methodist Church

# THE MESSENGER

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. The month of May is now upon us and I am so excited! May is always a busy month with so many graduations, holidays and other celebrations to be experienced. It truly is an exciting time that heralds the coming of summer and time spent enjoying time outdoors. I know that I am looking forward to some vacation time with my wife and some time visiting friends and family that I have not seen in what seems like ages.

As we edge closer to summer, First-Faith has continued to move ever closer to “back to normal” here at the church. With the summer time coming, many of the ministries and activities that we haven’t seen in so long are returning. Chair yoga, Refresh, and even the little league is back. It is a good sign to see so many people being vaccinated and now able to return to the activities that they love. Your patience and your support throughout this pandemic have been a blessing to not only this church, but to our whole community.

Over the last month our worship series has been exploring what it means to be Easter People, to live the witness of Jesus’s resurrection. When I create a worship series, I never really know how it is going to not only affect the congregation, but myself. But this series has left a mark on me, because I see more clearly that living as Easter People requires us to be bearers of God’s message of hope for the whole world. I feel that this last year First-Faith has been a beacon of hope for our members and our community. We have shown that when we work together, take precautions, and seek to care for each other, that we can glimpse the transformed world that God is calling us to be.

At the end of this month we will celebrate Pentecost, the churches birthday. The Day when the Holy Spirit descended upon the disciples and the church was formed. I think that after this Pandemic, the celebration of Pentecost has a new meaning for those of us who have missed church, missed our families and friends and the fellowship that we share. Pentecost for us this year will not only be a celebration of the birth of the church, but the persistence of the Holy Spirit at work in and through Jesus’ Easter People. The Holy Spirit drives us even through the difficulties and hardships that we face, reminding us that we are never alone and that God is with us.

I pray that we will see you all soon at worship or in action with the many ministries of this congregation as we seek to live as Easter People.

Peace and Blessings, *Pastor Ray*

**SAVE THE DATE: July 11th for Summer VBS Day 10:30 am - 1 pm  
4-year-olds thru 5th grade - Lunch provided**

# Worship

## Every Sunday:

Worship Service (in person and online on our Facebook page), 9:30 am  
Sunday School for All Ages, 10:30 am



## Meetings and Circles

- Tues, May 4th** - Ruth Circle, 1:30 pm  
at Sharon Sorensen's home,  
1717 W. Charles St. in Grand Island
- Mon, May 10th** - Finance Team, 5:30 pm  
Church Council, 6:30 pm
- Tues, May 11th** - UMW Meeting, 1:30 pm
- Mon, May 17th** - Trustees, 7:00 pm
- Thurs, May 20th** - Staff Parish Meeting, 1 pm
- Mon, May 24th** - Susanna Circle, 6:30 pm



Five of our youth were confirmed on Sunday, April 25th. We are so proud of you!



Left to right: Cole Salpas, Gayle Clayton, Cody Pennell, Pastor Ray, Alek Kuebler, and Emily Sorensen



## May 9th

### HABITAT FOR HUMANITY QUILT

This house was built in partnership with Career Pathways Institute - 11th and 12th graders from GISH. The recipients of this home and a hand made quilt from our ladies' sewing group are Renaldo and Yesenia Rodriguez and their two children.

The dedication was on Saturday, March 27th, and the quilt was delivered to them the following week.

Thank you so much to our ladies for the beautiful quilt!



The Church Office will be closed on Monday, May 31st, in observance of Memorial Day.

### Education Partnership:

Our upcoming workday is on **May 13th at 8:30am**. We will be working at First-Faith. Please contact Glenda at 308-383-1716 for more information.





5/3 Sharon Sorensen  
 5/8 Carroll Harrod  
 Peggy Helms  
 5/9 Bode Albers  
 Jacob Albers  
 5/10 Sue Routh  
 5/11 Kyle Payne  
 5/14 Jan Mohrman  
 5/20 Tami Johnson

5/21 Ron Ammerman  
 Joyce McKinny  
 5/22 Clyde Church  
 5/26 Eli Borer  
 Trish Ross  
 5/29 Tyler Kolar  
 5/30 Eli Ford  
 5/31 Tom Grim  
 Jarod Kolar

*Happy Anniversary* WEDDING



*Christian and Tyrene Hisey - May 14, 2016*  
*Rich and LaVonne Catron - May 15, 1971*  
*Terry and Melanie Sheen - May 15, 1982*  
*Duane and Kim Coates - May 26, 1985*

Thank you so much for your generous donations to the following non-profit organizations during the past month. Here are the totals:  
 UMCOR - \$725.00  
 Habitat for Humanity - \$1,365.00  
 Native American Ministries - \$207.00



If you receive a text, email or phone call saying that it is from Rev. Ray Stone, and they are asking for money or a gift card, it is NOT from Pastor Ray! He would never ask you for money. If you are unsure, please call the church office to double check.

Thank you for the birthday wishes



Thank you so much for the beautiful cards I received for my birthday. I REALLY appreciated it!  
 Marise Hopkins

*We'll be back in June and we love kids!*

Parents: Do you, or someone you know, need time to work on a project, run errands or just take a break?

Refresh

We have **free quality childcare** available, for ages 6 and under, the second and fourth Wednesdays of the month. Our next dates are **June 9th and 23rd** from 9:00 a.m.-11:30 a.m. Please feel free to invite friends and family to use this service. If you have questions, please contact the office or call Sharon Sorensen directly at 308-382-7543.

**Ladies' Sewing Group**  
**May 11 and 25**  
**9:30 a.m.**



We meet at the church and all are welcome!



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



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

**CHAIR YOGA**

is returning on May 4th! Sessions will be held on Tuesdays and Thursdays, at 10:30 a.m. ,and an evening session will be 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!



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

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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 Group

**May 5** - Snack Shack Help at 5:30 p.m.

**May 12** - Game and Pizza Night at 7:00 p.m. (last meeting of the year)

New Steps Youth have been busy getting our 10 attending youth settled into the new youth room. It's AWESOME! Come and see!! Thanks to Dee Johnson for finding us the perfect rug, it is turning into a cozy and fun place to gather. We are hoping to do some personalizing and painting on one wall this summer. Then we will be ready to hang our LED lights! Thank you to our congregation family for your support through prayers and donations.

Youth will be meeting on May 5 at a different time. We will meet from 5:30-7:30 pm and help all evening in the snack shack for the T-Ball games at First-Faith UMC! I am hoping we will also have youth that volunteer to help in the snack shack during ball games in addition to that night. Please come for all or part of that evening to get a "taste" of how fun it is to work in the snack shack.

May 12 will be our last regular youth meeting for the school year. We will have a game night, pizza and make some plans for this summer and next year. Our meeting will be at the regular time of 7:00-8:15 p.m.

Mark your summer calendars! We will be having Bible 'n BBQ on June 9, June 23, July 7 and August 4. This will be from 6:30-8:00 p.m. and include a meal, game and Bible lesson. I will let you know the locations for our Bible 'n BBQ at a later date.

New Steps Youth Group is open to any 6-12 grader who would like to participate. If you have any questions, contact Chyna Hayes at 308-390-2352.

**Article Deadline for June Newsletter: May 21, 2021**