



A publication of First-Faith United Methodist

MESSENGER

Grace, mercy and Peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord. I am so excited about all the amazing things happening here at First-Faith! After Easter Sunday and all the work leading up to Holy Week, there can sometimes feel like a let down after the big day. It's like, how can anything after this get any better? But, this year has been a completely different feel.

Easter and the celebration of the risen Christ has given way to some very exciting Sunday's with new members, confirmations, and baptisms. It has been so great to see the good news changing lives in our church! All these things are evidence of the work of the Holy Spirit in this church and in our community.

The month of May is always so busy. It truly is an exciting time that heralds the coming of summer and time spent enjoying the outdoors. One of the amazing things in May is graduation. The first Sunday in May we will be recognizing our high school seniors. This special group of young people have worked hard to get to this point and I am so proud of them. I hope you will join us as we celebrate and pray for them as they set off on new adventures in the world.

We are continuing in May with our worship series entitled Risen. That title seems so fitting for all the ways in which this church continues to rise to the challenges that we face and how we rise to meet the needs of community through outreach and service.

We have amazing ministries and volunteers who continue to work hard and put their faith into action. I am so proud of this work and of this congregation's willingness and desire to be a light of hope for this community. As we go through May, I hope that you will continue to worship with us as we get ever closer to the church's birthday on Pentecost Sunday, May 28th.

This month I am looking forward to attending the Festival of Homiletics in Minneapolis, as well as having a short vacation with my wife Natalie. It has been a very tough year for us, with her working and living in Lincoln for school. But, I have been so blessed by the love and kindness of so many in this congregation who have made the stress easier. I especially wish to lift up the Staff Parish Relations Committee for their care, and for Emily and Chyna who are always offering a supportive ear.

Thank you again for being a strong and engaged church family. I am reminded each day how blessed that I am to serve you and the people of Grand Island. If you are traveling this month, I hope that you will be safe. Peace and blessings to you.

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)!



Sunday,
May 14th

Meetings and Circles

Mon, May 1st

Trustees Meeting at 7:00 pm

Tues, May 2nd

Ruth Circle at 1:30 pm

Thurs, May 4th

Worship Committee Meeting at 6:30 pm

Mon, May 8th

Finance Committee Mtg. at 5:30 pm

Church Council Meeting at 6:30 pm

Tues, May 9th

UWF Executive Board Meeting at 1:30 pm

UMM Meeting at 6:30 pm

Mon, May 22nd - Susanna Circle at 6:30 pm

Tues, May 23rd - Friendship Circle at 1:30 pm

Thurs, May 25th - SPRC Meeting at 1:00 pm



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!!

Ladies' Sewing Group
May 9 and 23
at 9:30 a.m.

We meet at the church and all are welcome!



Memorial Day
Remember and Honor

The Church Office will be closed on Friday, May 26th,
and Memorial Day, May 29th.



MEN'S COFFEE TIME

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

1-Day Vacation Bible School
July 23rd from 10:45 am-1:00 pm

SAVE THE DATE!

Right after church, we'll have an opening time, Bible Story, songs, games, crafts and lunch.



Look for more information in the June Newsletter.



I just wanted to say "thank you" for the beautiful flowers, fun gifts, cookies, plants, gift cards and so many words of appreciation that I received for Administrative Assistant Day on April 26th. You all made me feel so loved and part of your family here at First-Faith. You have made me feel so welcome here and I truly value the friendships that I have made. Thank you for making me feel so special!

Emily Baldino



Happy Birthday!

- 3 - Sharon Sorensen
- 8 - Carroll Harrod
Peggy Helms
- 9 - Bode Albers
Jacob Albers
- 10 - Sue Routh
- 14 - Mildred Beck
June Christensen

- 14 - Jan Mohrman
- 21 - Ron Ammerman
Joyce McKinny
- 22 - Clyde Church
- 26 - Eli Borer
Trish Ross
- 30 - Eli Ford
- 31 - Tom Grim

- Christian and Tyrene Hisey - May 14, 2016*
- Rich and LaVonne Catron - May 15, 1971*
- Terry and Melanie Sheen - May 15, 1982*
- Bill and Vicki Shottenkirk - May 26, 1979*
- Duane and Kim Coates - May 26, 1985*



We could feel your prayers and love during the loss of my sister, Patty. Thank you beloved church family.

Sharon (and Floyd) Sorensen

Thanks to everyone for the prayers after my knee surgery. Recovery is going as expected and I hope to be back in church soon.

Mary Jo Mowinkel



We extend our sincere sympathies to the family and friends of:

Merna Clayton

12-27-28 to 3-31-23

Member at Faith and then

First-Faith since 1972.



We want to give a BIG shout out to Carla Maurer who was able to get two practically new desks for the church office and the Children's Director's office. She even helped deliver them and they are amazing!

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.

Step Aerobics

Every Monday, Tuesday and Thursday at 5:15 p.m.

There will be no classes on Memorial Day, May 29.

Wear comfortable clothes & come and join us!



MAUNDY THURSDAY SERVICE

During Holy Week we hosted an Agape Meal (Love Feast) for our congregation and Trinity UMC. We had a wonderful attendance of 65 People for this special Maundy Thursday Service on April 6th. A small meal was served while we joined in Christian fellowship and shared in Holy Communion.

A big thanks to our staff and volunteers who made this such a meaningful event.





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 Wednesdays, May 10 and 24, from 9 to 11:30 a.m.

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

Questions? Call Sharon Sorensen at 308-382-7543.



Graduation SUNDAY

Come and join us on Sunday, May 7th, at 9:30 a.m. as we honor our high school graduates!

Eli Ford
Jama Morrison
Macey Salpas

Be sure and stay afterwards for some delicious cake!!

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED



CONCESSION STAND

GRAND ISLAND LITTLE LEAGUE GAMES

The new season begins on Monday, May 1st! 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 for 7 weeks. Mondays and Wednesdays we would need you from 5:45 to 8:30 p.m. and on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 5:45 to 7:15 p.m. If you would like to help, please sign up in the narthex or call the church office at 308-384-5620.



Join us for a graduation celebration in honor of **Macey Salpas** Grand Island Senior High

Saturday, May 6th, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at First-Faith United Methodist Church

Refreshments and donuts will be served.

HELPING ONE ANOTHER

If you would like to sell or give something away, please call or email the church office at: firstfaithumc@gmail.com

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

FOR SALE: Full-size mattress and box spring with metal frame. \$250 OBO. Includes all bedding: cotton and flannel sheet sets, blanket and dust ruffle. Must see to appreciate. Call Jim or Judy Bliss at 308-384-5963. Would be great for a spare bedroom or for a college student.

You are all invited to attend the Graduation Party for

Eli Ford
Grand Island Senior High

Saturday, May 13th,
From 2:00 to 4:00 p.m.
at First-Faith UMC




Our next Lunch Bunch Potluck will be on Wednesday, May 10th, 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!!!



The greatest gift we can give to others is our prayers.

The Prayer Wheel is a longtime church ministry. Praying for our church

family, our community, and others - whether locally or globally - is both a privilege and a responsibility. Many have shared that they have felt the prayers that were offered on their behalf.

Our Prayer Wheel is sent out via email and currently goes out to approximately 65 people. Would you like to be part of this important ministry? If you are interested in receiving the prayer requests via email, please let Melanie Sheen know and she can add you to the contact list.

Also, if you want the Prayer Wheel started for a concern, you can contact Mel via text (308) 379-0799 or send directly to the Church Prayer Wheel email address at

prayerwheelffumc@gmail.com.

Thank you for considering to be part of this important and vital ministry.



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

**Monday, May 22nd
7 to 9 p.m. at church.
Bring a partner or
we'll find you one!**

Men's Fellowship and Cornhole

Even if you've never played before, come on out and join us for some fun!

We'll be playing every Thursday night at 7:30 pm, in the church sanctuary. Please enter through the kitchen door.



Trustee's Ministry

Definition: Effective Trustees will function as Christian stewards of property God has entrusted to the congregation.

Here are a few things that the Trustees have been working on in the past few months:

- 1 - Sponsored and worked at the All-Church Work Day on April 1st. Thank you to everyone who came to help!
- 2 - Checked sprinklers and fixed a few of them.
- 3 - Had Myers Heating and Air come out . They serviced the church heaters and replaced two inducer motors and a heat exchanger.
- 4 - Worked with the Grand Island Little League to play games on our ball fields in May and June.
- 5 - Our former lawn serviceman, Kelly, retired last year. The Trustees obtained estimates from other companies and hired Premier Lawns to do the work. They started on April 19th.
- 6 - They also obtained estimates for a snow removal service. The new company that was hired is Spartan Snow Services.
- 7 - A lift was brought in and the Trustees cleaned the ceiling fans in the sanctuary and adjusted the platform lights.
- 8 - They are working on a concrete pathway and pad where an engraved, cement bench will be placed in memory of Jerry Brand. It will be in the Prayer Walk nearest to Independence.
- 9 - In the church parking lot, they had Gottlob Asphalt come on April 24th, to fill in the deep cracks in the asphalt.
- 10 - They helped move the two old desks out to the garage and bring the new ones in.

Thank you SO much to our Trustees who do so much work around the church that sometimes we don't even know about!



**All single adults are invited for
PLANT SHOPPING AND LUNCH**

Saturday, May 20th

Meet at the church at 10 a.m.

Bring a flower pot with you and we will go shopping for plants. Afterwards, we will go back to the church to put the plants in your pot. Then, we will decide where we want to go for lunch. Everyone is responsible for their own costs.

Please RSVP to the church office at 308-384-5620 by Wednesday, May 17th, so we know how many to plan for.

See you there!



PALM SUNDAY

They took palm branches and went out to meet him, shouting, "Hosanna!"

"Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!"

"Blessed is the king of Israel!"

John 12:13



**PARTNERS IN EDUCATION WITH ENGLEMAN
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**



Workday
May 11th at 8:30 a.m.
If interested, or if you have
questions, please call Glenda
Vetter at 308-383-1716.



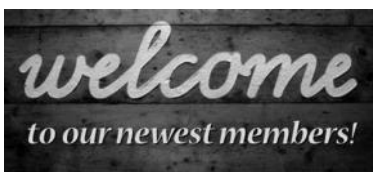
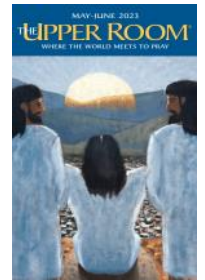
Handbell Choir Practice
Every Wednesday at 6:00 p.m.

Choir Practice
Every Wednesday at 7:00 p.m.
Come and join us!

**THE UPPER ROOM
DAILY DEVOTIONAL**

Pick up your copy of the May/June 2023
issue in the narthex!

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



April 23, 2023
LaVerne and Judy Jensen
Rob and Denise Leigh
Beverly Gallaway



**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 "wrapping up" our theme for the year (Fully
Rely on God) in preparation for a new theme beginning
in September.



American Red Cross Blood Drive!
Friday, May 12th, from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

**Whether you've donated before or it will be your first time,
please consider signing up!**

May is Trauma Awareness Month. The blood already on hospital shelves is what helps
in an emergency. The Red Cross depends on the generosity of volunteers to ensure blood products are available at
a moment's notice.

Type O donors are especially needed right now. Type O positive is the most common blood type, and type O
negative can be received by patients of all blood types. It's important to ensure a steady supply of these critical
blood types.

Here are some ways that you can schedule your appointment:

- * There is a sign-up sheet in the lobby area at church on Sunday mornings and during the week.
- * Call the church office at 308-384-5620 and Emily will help you.
- * Go online to redcrossblood.org and click on **Donate Blood**.
- * Download the American Red Cross Blood Donor app and make an
appointment on the app (see picture of app that you can search for)!



Blood Donor

Please share our blood drive with family and friends and let's have another great turnout from First-Faith!

You must be at least 17-years-old, weigh at least 110 lbs. and be in generally good health.
All donors will receive a \$10 e-gift card to a merchant of their choice.

Summer time, summer time...the PERFECT time to go to Church CAMP!

There are SO many camp opportunities available for children of all ages to experience fun in the sun while learning about the love of Jesus. We have camp scholarships available that cover all or part of

HOMeward TRAIL
BIBLE CAMP

Proclaiming Christ in Central Nebraska



the fees for these camps.

Be sure to check out the information on the bulletin board in the narthex and ask Chyna or Pastor Ray about funding provided by our church and its many

groups who support the youth here. We hope you will consider these options for your children this summer.



Let's go CAMPING!!



Eleven adults and youth helped make our Easter Egg Hunt a successful community outreach where children heard the Easter story, sang an active song about "He Arose" and found LOTS of eggs!

APRIL 8, 2023





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

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Permit #22
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

New Steps Youth News for May and beyond!

We have started our new unit titled "Go Fishing". It is a 4-week unit about answering God's call and figuring out what that might look like for kids today.

New Steps Youth will be meeting on two Wednesdays in May:

May 3: Bible lesson

May 10: Bible lesson and pizza! This is our last weekly meeting for the summer.

On Sunday, May 7, we will be celebrating our three graduating seniors! Eli, Jama and Macey will be recognized during the church service at 9:30 a.m. Please stay for cake to provide your support for these youth who have grown up in our congregation.

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, 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, Kubb 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.

Article Deadline for June Newsletter: May 22, 2023