



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! April has been a busy month. I admit that I thought, with Easter in the rear-view mirror of March and all the hectic work of May a month away, that April would be an easy month. I thought it would be a time to collect ourselves and recover from the excitement of Holy Week and the celebration of Easter, but I was wrong.

April has had some challenges. The funerals of longtime members and some additional professional work have made April busier than I expected. But, even in the busyness of the month I have been so blessed by the amazing work of so many volunteers and leaders that have stepped up to help in so many ways.

Life as your Pastor continues to be a joy and blessing. As I said, the month of May is always so busy. I love May because it is a time of year that heralds the coming of summer and time spent enjoying time outdoors with family and friends.

One of the amazing things in May is graduation. The first Sunday in May we will be recognizing our high school seniors Bode and Jacob Albers. These special 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.

Our second Sunday in May will be Mother's Day. I hope that you will join us as we celebrate all the women and mothering figures in our lives on this special day.

On the third Sunday of May, we will celebrate Pentecost. This Sunday is the day in which we celebrate the birth of the church and the descending of the Holy Spirit upon the disciples. I encourage you to wear red. We will also welcome new members to the church. It is so fitting to welcome them to the church on such a wonderful Sunday!

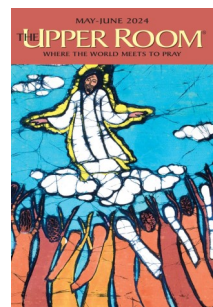
On our last Sunday of May, we will be celebrating the amazing ministry work of Chyna Hayes, as she retires from her role as Children and Youth Minister. Our church, our children, and our community have been blessed with Chyna's steadfast devotion, hard work, and unwavering love. Please join us as we thank God for her work and bless her for what God has planned for her.

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. I look forward to an exciting month and a wonderful and joyous summer. If you are traveling this month, I hope that you will be safe. May God bless and keep you until we meet again. 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)!



**THE UPPER ROOM
 DAILY DEVOTIONAL**

Pick up your copy of the May-June 2024
 issue in the narthex!

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

Meetings and Circles



- Mon, May 6** - Trustees Mtg at 7 pm
- Tues, May 7** - Ruth Circle meets at 1:30 pm
- Mon, May 13** - Finance Committee Mtg at 5:30 pm
 Church Council Mtg at 6:30 pm
- Tues, May 14** -UWF Executive Board Mtg at 1:30 pm
 UMM Meeting at 6:30 pm
- Mon, May 20** - Susanna Circle at 6:30 pm
- Thurs, May 23** - SPRC Meeting at 5:30 pm

Chyna's Retirement Celebration



On Sunday, May 26th, we will celebrate the ministry and amazing work of Chyna Hayes as Children and Youth Minister. Chyna has

been serving almost six years with the children and youth of First Faith. She was initially going to only work a year when Pastor Trudy first asked her to step into the role, but she found a wonderful calling in church work. Since then she has been a devoted employee, teacher, colleague, and pastor to countless people. Her passion for the children and youth of First Faith is evident any time you see her at work. She has touched so many lives and continues to play an active part in the lives of the young adults who have grown up with her. Please join the congregation of First Faith in celebrating Chyna's hard work and help thank her for her years of service during worship.



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

Choir Practice
 Every Wednesday at 7:00 p.m.

Come and join us May 1, 8 and 15!

Choir and Handbell Director: Randi Pennell

HEROES NEEDED NOW

Schedule now: RedCrossBlood.org

AMERICAN RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE

Please join us here at the church!

Friday, May 10, 2024
11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

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

- You can make an appointment by:
- Signing up in the narthex
 - Calling Emily at the church office
 - Visiting RedCrossBlood.org and clicking on "Donate Blood".
 - Using the American Red Cross Blood Donor App



We need at least 15 more people to make our drive successful so please share with family and friends! Each donor will receive an eCoupon from Sport Clips for a free haircut and also a \$10 e-gift card to a merchant of your choice. Thank you :)



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

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

MAY WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

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



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



Bill Shottenkirk
August 11, 1956 -
February 20, 2024

Alice M. Gray
March 12, 1952 -
March 23, 2024



Kay Clarke
November 3, 1950 -
April 5, 2024



Thank you SO much for the beautiful flowers that were delivered last Monday for Administrative Asst. Day. They are beautiful and I definitely wasn't expecting them (I thought The Upper Room devotionals had finally arrived!). I am honored to work for such amazing people who love God and serve Him daily! *Emily*



Ladies' Sewing Group

May 14 and 28
at 9:30 a.m.

We meet at the church and all are welcome!

EXERCISE CLASSES

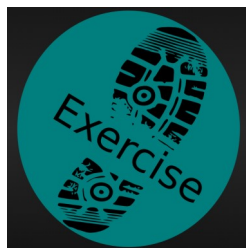
Strong Women
 Every Monday and Wednesday at 3:00 p.m.

Chair Yoga
 Every Tuesday and Thursday at 10:30 a.m. and 6:30 p.m.

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

There will not be exercise classes on Memorial Day.

Wear comfortable clothes & come and join us!



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 month, 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

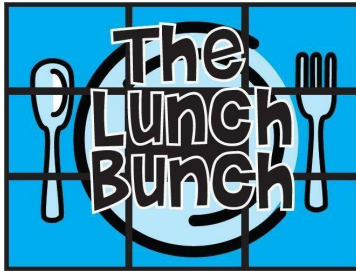
Please contact Pastor Ray for full Job Description.



The Church Office will be closed on Friday, May 24th, and Monday, May 27th for Memorial Day and Staff Away Time.

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.

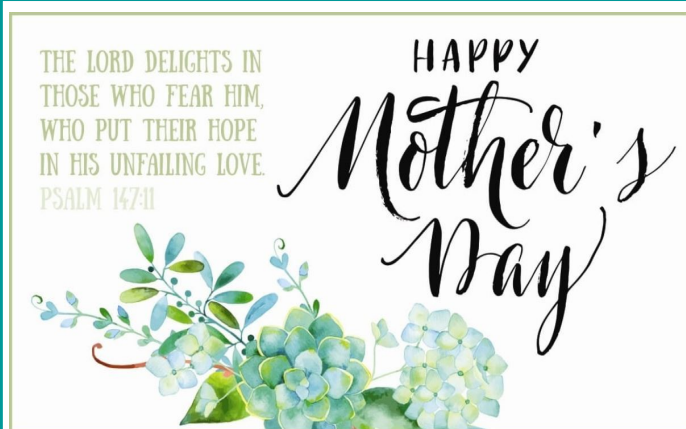


Come and join us on **Wednesday, May 8th, at 12 noon**

Then, save the date on your calendar for the second Wednesday of every month.

MEN'S COFFEE TIME

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



May 10, 2024

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

Springtime is here so we will be having a "pot" party at the church! **Saturday, May 18th, at 11:30 am**
Let's go plant and flower shopping together. Just bring a flower pot in which to plant your posies!

BYOL - Bring Your Own Lunch!

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

Please RSVP to the church office by **Wednesday, May 15th**, so that we know how many to plan for.

Come and join us on **Sunday, May 5th, at 9:30 a.m.** as we honor our high school graduates! Be sure and stay afterwards for some delicious cake!!



Jacob Albers

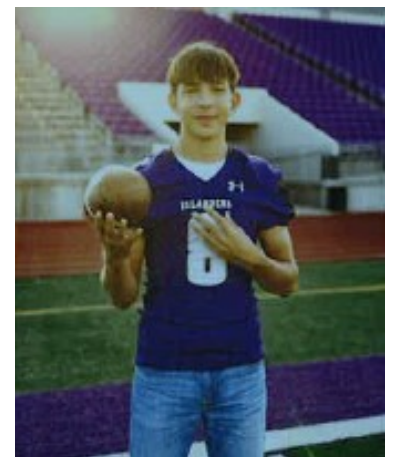
Graduating from GISH and played Football and Baseball. He was a 3 year football varsity letter winner and a 4 year academic letter winner. This year, he had an internship with Ols-son as a Laboratory Intern. Jake is involved in National Honor

Society and named was an Academic Aristocrat. He enjoys fishing, hunting, and loves dogs. Jacob will be attending UNL, no major decided yet.

Bode Albers

Graduating from GISH and played Football, Basketball, and Golf. He was a football varsity captain this year, 4 year academic letter winner and an AP Scholar with Distinction. Bode is in-

involved in National Honor Society and was named an Academic Aristocrat. He enjoys golf, chess, and playing cards. He used to come to pitch night with Grandpa Rich at First Faith! Bode has accepted an appointment at the United States Airforce Academy in Colorado Springs and is interested in studying engineering.





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. - May 8 and 22

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



A Perk & A Prayer

Come by and see us on Wednesday mornings, 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!!

GRAND ISLAND LITTLE LEAGUE GAMES



The new season begins on Monday, May 6th!

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 about 7 weeks.

The volunteer hours are from approximately 5:45 to 8:30 p.m. depending on the game schedule. If you would like to help, sign up sheets are in the narthex or you can call the church office at 308-384-5620.

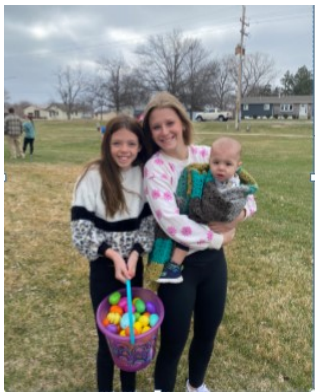
PARTNERS IN EDUCATION WITH ENGLEMAN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

We would love to have you join us in this ministry. This month, we will meet at Engleman on Thursday, May 9th only, at 8:30 a.m. If you have questions, please contact Glenda Vetter at 308-383-1716.



**EASTER EGG HUNT UPDATE
March 30, 2024**

Thank you to all who donated eggs, sweet treats, came to help fill the eggs and helped on the day of the hunt. We were able to fill 1,500 Easter eggs with your donations! There were about 40 children who attended. Chyna shared the Easter Story with the kids and Randi led the kids in singing *Up From the Grave He Arose*. It was cool and cloudy but it didn't dampen anyone's spirits.



Josh Igo





First-Faith United Methodist Church
 4190 W Capital Ave
 Grand Island, NE 68803
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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 finishing our lessons on how we read the Bible by looking at Luke and John and we'll be having a retirement party for Chyna on May 8th. We hope to see you all there!

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

May 1: Bible lesson on Luke.

May 8: Bible lesson, Attendance Drawing, and pizza party for Chyna! This is our last weekly meeting for the spring.

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. **June 12 & 26—July 10 & 24.**

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 Pastor Ray know each week if you will be attending so our hosts know how many to prepare for.



1-Day Vacation Bible School

July 28th 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.

Article Deadline for June Newsletter: May 17, 2024