



A publication of First-Faith United Methodist

MESSENGER

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. Brothers and Sisters in Christ, I hope and pray that this newsletter finds you well and moving towards the Spirit of the Holidays. November always seems to be a month of change and a month of frenetic energy. But I hope that as we inch ever closer to thanksgiving and the start of the advent season you will take time to be thankful to God for all the blessings that have been poured out in our lives in the last year.

I was blessed in October to join the clergy of the Great Plains Conference in Kearney for our annual meeting. The theme of the gathering was *Resolve to Love*. We were tasked with keeping the love of God central to who we are, what we do, how we view others, and how we show up in the world. During one of our table discussions, a fellow pastor shared a modern proverb. "If you want to go fast, go alone; if you want to go far, go together?"

When we allow the love of God to mold and shape us, and recognize that transformative work in others, it brings us closer together and allows us as the church to do more and go further than we ever thought possible. We have made it to this time because of the faithful love of those that have come before us.

On the first Sunday of November we will remember all the saints and those who have died this year. It is important that we remember the saints who have blessed us with their time, love, faith, and devotion. Their witness to each of us has created the foundation that we continue to build upon as Brothers and Sisters in Christ.

It is because of their faithful witness that we have been blessed with the resources and the means to be a vital congregation in Grand Island. Those that have gone before us have paved the way for this church and even for us and our faith journeys. I hope you will join us as we remember and celebrate the lives of those saints who have gone before us.

November is also the start of our stewardship campaign. When we work together, when we give together, we make a great impact. Each year since 2020, First Faith has seen an increase in giving and an increase of those who make a pledge to give. The desire of our leadership team is that more people will step up this year so that we can continue to grow and journey further together. Building a solid foundation allows us to withstand the trials that come our way and gives us the power to discover endless possibilities for the work of God in our world.

You will be receiving a letter in the mail that will outline the purpose and the call for us to make a commitment to giving what we can. On November 26, we will be celebrating our commitment Sunday where we will bring our estimate of giving cards and celebrate the blessings and commitments made. We will also be Hanging the Greens that Sunday after worship to prepare for the season of Advent, as we wait for the birth of Jesus.

As always, I am humbled and grateful to be your pastor. May the love of God, through the power of the Holy Spirit, give you strength through the Thanksgiving holiday, so that we may come together to worship and give all praise and thanks to God.

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)!

Please plan on staying after church on Sunday, November 26th, to help get our church ready for the Christmas Season. Advent begins December 3rd! We will have "task" cards ready so jobs will be easy to identify and complete. This usually takes about 30 minutes if we have lots of help! Of course there will be coffee, hot chocolate and cookies available. The youth will try to have everything down from the loft area and ready to go.



Come and help make this an easy and fun time for all of us!

Meetings and Circles

Mon, Nov 6th

Trustee Mtg at 7:00 pm

Mon, Nov 13th

Finance Committee Meeting at 5:30 pm

Church Council Meeting at 6:30 pm

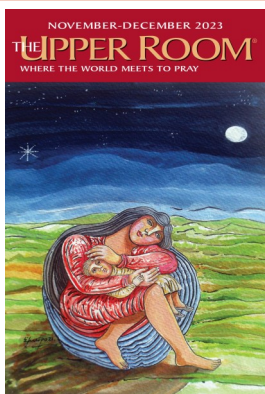
Tues, Nov 14th - UMM Meeting at 6:30 pm

Mon, Nov 27th - Susanna Circle at 6:30 pm

Thurs, Nov 30th - SPRC Meeting at 1:00 pm



Sunday, November 5th



The Upper Room is a daily devotional magazine. The November-December 2023 issue is available in the narthex at the church. The daily meditations are written by readers of the magazine and others interested in sharing their faith experiences through writing.

Suggested donation amounts:

Regular Print: \$1.50

Large Print: \$2.00



Our Annual Church Conference will be on

Sunday, November 19th

at 3 o'clock in the afternoon

at Trinity United Methodist Church

All members are encouraged to attend.

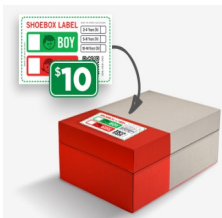
OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD SHOEBOXES



There is still time to make a shoebox. They are shipped outside of the United States and given to children who are affected by war, poverty, natural disaster, famine and disease to share the good news of Jesus Christ with them! All you need to do is select a gender and age group: Boy or girl and the

available ages are 2-4, 5-9, or 10-14.

For gift ideas, pick up a flyer in the narthex or go to samaritanpurse.org. You can use a regular shoebox or purchase a plastic Samaritan's Purse shoebox from Hobby Lobby, Dollar Tree or Walmart. A donation of \$10 per box is critical to cover shipping and handling. You can give online at samaritanpurse.org or make a check out to Samaritan's Purse. We will need the filled boxes brought to the church by Sunday, November 12th.



A Perk & A Prayer

Every Wednesday morning, 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.



Handbell Choir Practice
On Wednesdays at 6:00 p.m.
November 1, 8, 29 (6-6:30 pm)

Choir Practice on Wednesdays at 7:00 p.m. on Nov. 1, 8 and 29 (6:30-7 pm)
Come and join us!



1 - Rod Clausen
 3 - Kay Clarke
 5 - Beth Newberry
 8 - Jim Bliss
 9 - Mike Sautter
 10 - Lane Borer

13 - Beverly Cast
 Kate Spencer
 16 - Donna Preisendorf
 17 - Alek Kuebler
 19 - Marylou Harp
 Joyce Lind
 Mark Maurer

20 - Gayle Clayton
 23 - Roberta Nansel
 Cody Pennell
 25 - Tyson Lucas
 26 - Alan Hess
 Louise Zimmerman
 27 - Stacey Kleint



NOVEMBER WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

Larry and Beverly Cast - November 9, 1963

Les and Betty Cornish - November 9, 1969

Charlie Ponc and Glenda Vetter - November 24, 1979

DeWayne and Linda Schick - November 29, 1968



The church office will be closed for Thanksgiving on November 23rd and 24th.


HELPING ONE ANOTHER

NEEDED FOR CRAFT FAIR:

Tide Pods empty containers; 66 oz.; 76 pacs (see picture). Please bring them to the church office. Need as soon as possible!



VOLUNTEER SERVICE OPPORTUNITY:

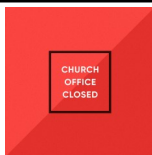
 Our church, along with 4 other churches, help serve dinner to those in need at the Salvation Army 9 times per year. We are in need of some volunteers that would be willing to help. It would be from 4:45 to 6:15 p.m. on a Thursday night. Our dates for 2024 are Feb. 1, March 7, April 18, May 23, June 27, Aug. 1, Sept. 5, Oct. 17 and Nov. 21. If you can help, please call the church office and let Emily know or write the date(s) you are available on the attendance sheet on Sunday morning. We will need 2 to 3 people for each date. Thank you!



Thank you so much to everyone who came out to donate blood for the American Red Cross on October 6th. We had 14 donors and they collected

14 units of blood which will help 42 people in need.

The church office will be closed on Friday, November 10th.



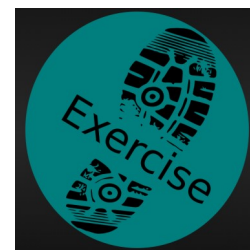
EXERCISE CLASSES

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.
 No classes Thanksgiving Week.

Step Aerobics
 Every Monday, Tuesday and Thursday at 5:15 p.m.
 There will be no aerobics on Thanksgiving Day.

Wear comfortable clothes & come and join us!



A great big thank you to Jim and Judy Bliss, Larry Coates, Stephen Hayes and Hunter Brewer for helping us make horse-radish to sell at the Craft and Bake Sale. would have taken us several days without all of your help.

Doyle and Cheryl Henke



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, November 2nd, 16th and 30th, at 8:30 a.m. If you have questions, please contact Glenda Vetter at 308-383-1716.

Ladies' Sewing Group

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

We meet at the church and all are welcome!



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 (except for Thanksgiving), at 7:30 pm, in the church sanctuary.

Please enter through the kitchen door.

MEN'S COFFEE TIME

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



Join us for Pitch (a card game)!

Monday, November 27th
7 to 9 p.m. at the church.

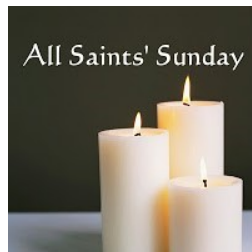
Bring a partner or we'll find you



On All Saints Day, we publicly remember and honor those who have passed away.

Celebrated on November 5th, we will light candles, ring bells of remembrance, and call the names of those who were lost in the previous year as a way of honoring the impact their lives have had on us.

If you have loved ones who have passed away this year, and would like to have them remembered, please send us their name, birthdate, the date they passed away and a picture (if you have one) to firstfaithumc@gmail.com.



**Saturday, November 18th
8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.**

Mark your calendars to come and shop at our Craft Fair!

We will have:

- Homemade noodles
- Fresh salsa
- Bake sale items
- Fresh greenery arrangements
- Quilted items and MANY homemade craft items for gifts and decorating your home.
- Reasonable prices!

This is a BIG annual fundraiser venture for our church and we are looking forward to another successful event this year.

There are MANY ways you can help make this event a success. Check out the following options:

- ◇ Hand make and donate craft items to sell
- ◇ Bake items to sell at the bake sale (we will price them for you!)
- ◇ Help make fresh greenery arrangements the week of the Craft Fair.
- ◇ Help set up the day before the sale.
- ◇ Help work the day of the sale.
- ◇ Help clean up after the sale.

Sign-up sheets are in the narthex.

FOOD PANTRY MINISTRY

Did you ever wonder where the food goes that you donate in the basket in the narthex? We have a new shelf in the back storage room that is perfect for cans and boxes.

Thank you so much for all of your donations and we can always use more!



VETERAN'S DAY - November 11th



FIRST-FAITH UNITED MEN'S MINISTRY
FALL PANCAKE FEED

Wednesday, November 29th, from 5 to 7 p.m.



Ticket prices include pancakes, sausage and a beverage and are available from Doyle Henke, Bob Trosper, Stephen Hayes, Duane Coates and Floyd Sorensen or at the door.

Adults: \$8.00 each

Children 5+: \$5.00 each (under 5 eat free)

Family: \$15.00

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, November 8th, 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!

Friendsgiving at Perkins
Saturday, November 18th
106 Wilmar Ave., Grand Island



If you are single, we would love to have you join us at Perkins at 11 a.m. for our Annual Friendsgiving Lunch.

Please RSVP to the church office by Wednesday, November 15th, so that we know how many to plan for. Everyone is responsible for their own costs.



OCTOBER

PASTOR APPRECIATION MONTH

On Sunday, October 8th, the SPRC and Fellowship Time Hosts, Rob and Denise Leigh and the Salpas Family, helped with a special recognition for Pastor Ray.



A delicious cake was served along with punch, mints and nuts! Thanks to all who stayed to honor Pastor Ray and enjoy fellowship time with us!

WE HAVE NEW LIGHTS! THANK YOU!!

We wanted to say a BIG thank you to Doyle and Cheryl Henke for providing brand new LED lights for our Sunday School rooms, nursery and back hallway. They look amazing and will save on electricity costs, too. And, the buzzing noise is gone!

Doyle and Dan Welsh have been working hard on getting them installed for the church.



UWF ANNUAL WORLD THANK OFFERING



United Women in Faith

The United Women In Faith Circles will be having their Annual World Thank Offering and Dessert

Get-Together on Tuesday, November 7th, at 6:30 p.m. at the church.

Desserts will be provided and we will have a short program as well.



We look forward to seeing you there!



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. - November 8th only

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

**JOIN US FOR A
NEW WORSHIP
SERIES!**

GREATER
than

The whole is greater than the sum of its parts. – *Aristotle*

One aspect of growing as a disciple of Jesus Christ means that we are committed to responding to God's wonderful generosity. Being generous is about aligning our priorities with God's priorities, aligning our hearts with God's heart. We grow in that generosity as part of our individual spirituality, we also grow in generosity within our faith community as the body of Christ.

The disciples in the book of Acts understood the power of community and growing together in discipleship. What they discovered living and growing together is that together is greater than alone. Generosity is greater than storing up. And thriving is greater than survival.

November 5: We > Me—Acts 2:14-18

If you want to go quickly, go alone. If you want to go far, go together.

November 12: Investment > Quick Fix—Matthew 7:24-27

When we build a solid foundation, instead of going for the quick fix, we can withstand the trials that will come our way.

November 19: Abundance > Comfort—Malachi 3:7-12

When we recognize all we have as a gift from God, we can give out of our abundance, rather than trying to keep ourselves comfortable.

November 26: Possibility > Status Quo—John 14:11-14

Whether or not we like the way things are, we tend to default to the status quo. Leaning on Christ, we have the power to discover endless possibilities.

We are also offering two short term studies (3 meetings) for this worship series that are being held at Floyd and Sharon Sorensen's home Tuesday's at 7:00pm and at Pastor Ray's parsonage Sunday's at 4:00pm. If you are interested, sign up in the narthex or contact the hosts for more information.

We hope you will join us during the month of November for this series as we consider all that God has shared with us and what it means to live a life that is *Greater Than*.

FALL FESTIVAL



Thank you Doyle and Cheryl Henke for opening up your backyard for us. Doyle dug quite the fire pit in his backyard! It was amazing!! And Josh Igo loved his burnt marshmallows !



Thank you to Warren and Randi Pennell and Tom Schroeder for leading us in singing around the campfire!



It was a little cold outside but we enjoyed lots of delicious food together and cooked our hot dogs and marshmallows over the open fire.



Make plans to join us next year!





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



The youth will be meeting on the following Wednesdays in November:

- Nov. 1: Snack and Bible lesson
- Nov. 8: Snack and Bible lesson
- Nov. 15: Game Night and Drawing for Attendance Prize (\$20)!

Clay has been our medium as we have learned about the creation story in Genesis. We have a new "timeline" in our room to help us keep track of the lineage in the Bible as we learn. The youth have been making three tic-tac-toe games to be sold at our church's Craft Fair! They have also been writing care notes to send to our members not able to attend church. Cleaning up the Prayer Path and updating the street sign have been two of our service projects.

Be sure to touch base with Chyna on Sunday mornings, after the morning worship service, for a short Bible message and prayer in our Youth Room.



- Addison's friend
- Addison Olos
- Emily Sorensen
- Cole Salpas
- Greyson Underwood



Carving pumpkins, making popcorn balls and getting our craft ready for the craft show made for a fun youth group!!

Article Deadline for December Newsletter: November 15, 2023