The MESSENGER

A Publication of First Faith United Methodist

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. Brothers and Sisters in Christ, I hope this newsletter finds you well and entering the Spirit of the holidays. November often brings change and a rush of activity. As we move closer to Thanksgiving and the start of Advent, please take time to give thanks to God for the blessings poured into our lives this year.

As we head into this November, I would like to encourage you to stay focused on the blessings that are continually being poured out on us. These last few weeks I have felt a sense of dread creeping into my daily life. After some prayer and reflection, it was obvious that the anxiety of election season, the constant barrage of advertisement had started to take a toll.

The Great Plains Conference has had a theme for the year, “Serve Joyfully.” It is hard to be joyful when every news story every commercial, phone call, and even text message is telling you that the sky is falling. Our desire to divide on political lines has caused us immeasurable harm in our ability to relate to each other and to serve one another.

In our most recent sermon series on Philippians, the apostle Paul urged the church in Philippi to “stand firm in the Lord,” and “Let you gentleness show in your treatment of all people.” In the face of anxious times our families, our loved ones, friends, coworkers, and neighbors are looking for kindness and hope to show in our world. I pray that we can be that presence. I urge each of you to pray daily and put your trust and hope in Jesus Christ knowing that in him we may find a peace that will lead us deeper into faithful witness in our community.

It is faithful witnesses who have carried the faith that have helped and guided us in our lives. On the first Sunday of November we will remember all the saints and those who have died this year. We honor the people whose time, love, faith, and devotion shaped our congregation and our lives and laid the foundation we continue to build upon as Brothers and Sisters in Christ. Their witness sustains us and calls us to faithful, joyful service.

November also begins our stewardship campaign, Connected. This series is more than a stewardship campaign. It is an invitation to grow as disciples of Jesus Christ. Throughout this three week series we will reflect on three simple but life-changing truths: Life is a gift. Everyone matters and belongs. We are blessed to become a blessing.

Together these themes remind us that stewardship is about much more than financial support. Stewardship is about recognizing God's generosity, strengthening relationships, discovering purpose, and participating more fully in God's mission.

Throughout the series you will be invited to worship, participate in a small group, hear stories of lives transformed, and prayerfully consider how God is inviting you to grow. I hope every member and friend of our congregation will join us for this meaningful journey.

You will receive a letter by mail outlining the purpose of the campaign and how to make a pledge. On November 22 we will celebrate Commitment Sunday when we bring our estimate of giving cards and give thanks for the commitments made. After worship that day we will Hang the Greens to prepare for Advent as we await the birth of Jesus.

I am humbled and grateful to continue to serve as your pastor. I am grateful for your continued love and support. I especially want to thank you all for your many cards and gifts for pastor appreciation Sunday. You truly made me feel loved.
May the love of God and the power of the Holy Spirit strengthen you through the Thanksgiving season so we may gather in worship and offer praise and thanks to God.

Pastor Ray

Upcoming Activities



Crafting

You are invited to join us to work on crafts for the upcoming Craft Fair:
Tuesday's November 3rd, 10th, & 17th at 9:30 am.

All Supplies will be furnished. No sewing involved. Come join in the Fellowship.
Any questions call Karleen Beckman at (308)390-9473



Noodle Making

Wednesday November 4th, 2026, at 9:00 am in the Church Kitchen
Sign-up Sheet on The Table Of Opportunity in the church lobby.

Contact: Mary Jo Mowinkel at (402)540-3713 With Any Questions



United Methodist Ment Pancake Feed

Wednesday, November 11th, 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



SPARCC Friendsgiving at Perkins

Saturday, November 14th - Perkins: 106 Wilmar Ave., Grand Island

If you are single, we would love to have you join us at Perkins at 11:30 a.m. for our Annual Friendsgiving Lunch. Please RSVP to the church office by Wednesday, November 12th. Everyone is responsible for their own costs.



Pitch Night

Join us for Pitch (a card game)
Monday, November 30th 7 to 9 p.m. at the church.
Bring a partner or we'll find you one!

Craft Fair and Bake Sale



Date: Saturday, November 21, 2026
Time: 8:00 AM to 3:00 PM

First Faith United Methodist Church
4190 W. Capital Avenue
Grand Island, NE 68803

Cozy Christmas Craft & Bake Sale

Browse a wonderful selection of handcrafted gifts, seasonal décor, baked goods, candies, and unique treasures made with care by local crafters and bakers. Whether you're getting a jump on your Christmas shopping or simply looking for a fun holiday outing, there's something for everyone to enjoy!
Bring your family, bring your friends, and celebrate the joy of the season with us. We look forward to seeing you there!

Birthdays



1 - Rod Clausen
17 - Mark Maurer
8 - Jim Bliss
19 - Joyce Lind
10 - Lane Borer
20 - Gayle Clayton
13 - Kate Spencer
23 - Cody Pennell
16 - Donna Preisendorf
25 - Tyson Lucas
17 - Alek Kuebler
27 - Stacey Kleint

Anniversaries



NOVEMBER WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES
Les and Betty Cornish - November 9, 1969
Charlie Ponec and Glenda Vetter - November 24, 1979
DeWayne and Linda Schick - November 29, 1968

United Methodist Men Retreat



Held on October 10th, 8 men gathered at Izaak Walton for the second annual Event. UMM is looking forward to next year and building on this years success.

Meetings & Circles

Mon, Nov 2nd
Trustee Meeting at 7:00 pm
Tues, Nov 3rd
Ruth Circle at 6:30 pm
Mon, Nov 9th
Church Finance at 5:30 pm
Council Meeting at 6:30 pm
Tues, Nov. 10th
UMM Meeting at 6:30 pm
Mon, Nov 23rd
Susanna Circle at 6:30 pm

First Faith
United Methodist Church

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4190 W Capital Ave
Grand Island NE, 68803

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Website:
firstfaithumcgi.org

Office Hours:
Mon - Fri 8:00 - 4:30

Pastor:
Rev. Ray Stone

New Steps Youth

November 4, Wednesday 7:00pm-8:15pm - Youth Group
November 11, Wednesday - UMM Pancake Feed, No Youth
November 18, Wednesday 7:00pm-8:15pm - Youth Group
Novembeer 25, Wednesday - Thanksgiving Break, No Youth