



A publication of First-Faith United Methodist

THE MESSENGER

Grace and peace to you in the name of our Lord, Jesus Christ! I am so happy for the amazing ways that God is moving and working in this church and in our community. This last month has been a wild ride of celebrations and Junk Jaunt and all the other things that we normally do. We are getting later into fall and I know that I am excited for what we have planned in the months to come.

As I mentioned the month of September was a month of both celebration and a month of tremendous work. We celebrated the ten-year anniversary of the merger of First and Faith and I am so blessed that I got to be a part of that amazing day. I was so grateful for the work of the planning committee that helped to make that Sunday so special. I am also so thankful for Rev. Fowler and Rev. Kenyon-Anderson for writing to the congregation. It was great to hear of their time and memories serving the wonderful people of First-Faith.

As your pastor it is a pleasure and an honor to be a part of your history. It has been a blessing and an honor to be your pastor and I am so proud of this congregation. I am proud of the legacy and faithfulness of both First and Faith and am proud of the congregation that you have become. I cannot wait to see how God continues to use this congregation into the future for the Kingdom of God.

This last month also saw the return of the Junk Jaunt and it was an amazing success, earning over \$5,700! I want to thank Deb Trospen and Paula Rauert for Co-Chairing and a huge thanks to all the amazing volunteers that made this Junk Jaunt the best that we've had. It would not have been possible to have this event without the help of people volunteering and people bringing items to sell.

As we put a bow on September and move into October, I am reminded of how busy this time of year can be. Fall is also a time that reminds me of time spent with friends and family. It is also the time that we start to get geared up for all the hustle and business of the holidays. October stands as this last gasp before we plunge deep into the holiday season and get stressed out.

We have so many things that start to pull at our time and our energies, but we are still called to be faithful even in the busy times. Our worship series in October is called *Tested* and we will be looking at some of the tough questions that Jesus had to deal with in the last days of his earthly ministry, and what they say about us and our faithfulness. I am excited about this series and I hope that you will join us as we read through Matthew's Gospel.

On October 1st we will celebrate with all Christians World Communion Sunday. On this ecumenical Sunday, we all come to the table of Jesus Christ as a reminder of our bond as Christians. With so many denominations, and theological ideas about communion, we may not always agree about everything. Yet, on this Sunday we all come to the table to remind us that we all serve and are loved by Jesus Christ. I hope you will join us to celebrate this sacrament and means of grace.

Last month I shared in the newsletter some of our financial struggles during the summer. While we have made some good progress towards meeting our financial obligations, we still need to keep up the good work. All of First-Faith's vital ministries depend on your generosity through faithful giving. I pray that as we commit ourselves to God's call in our lives we can continue to build upon the great foundation of love and devotion that this church has created and see us through this challenge.

I am continually blessed to be your pastor and friend. I look forward to this next month and to the great things we have planned. I hope you will join us and continue to grow in faith, love and community.

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)!

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.

HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE!!

Meetings and Circles



Mon, Oct 2nd

Trustee Mtg at 7:00 pm

Tues, Oct 3rd

Ruth Circle meets at the church at 1:30 pm

Mon, Oct 9th

Finance Committee Meeting at 5:30 pm
Church Council Meeting at 6:30 pm

Tues, Oct 10th

UWF Executive Board Mtg. at 1:30 pm
UMM Meeting at 6:30 pm

Mon, Oct 23rd - Susanna Circle at 6:30 pm

Thurs, Oct 26th - SPRC Meeting at 1:00 pm

Handbell Choir Practice

On Wednesdays at 6:00 p.m.

Choir Practice

On Wednesdays at 7:00 p.m.

Come and join us!

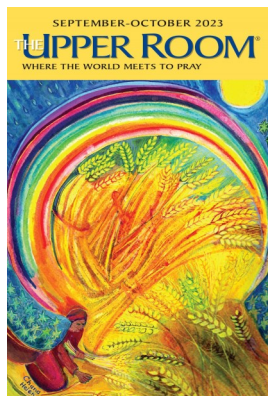


Our Annual Church Conference will be on

Sunday, November 19th

at 3 o'clock in the afternoon

at Trinity United Methodist Church



The Upper Room is a daily devotional magazine. The September-October 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

American Red Cross Blood Drive at First-Faith

Friday, October 6th

11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Sign up today!!!

It's not too late to donate! The Red Cross is in desperate need of blood donors.

For an appointment, please contact Emily in the church office at 308-384-5620 or firstfaithumc@gmail.com

OR

Go online to redcrossblood.org (use sponsor code **gi first united**)

Download the **Blood Donor American Red Cross** app on your smart phone.

Donors will receive a \$15 e-gift card to the merchant of your choice!



American Red Cross
Together, we can save a life



We will be participating in Operation Christmas Child again this year. Please select who you would like to make a shoebox of gifts for: Boy or girl and the available ages are 2-4, 5-9, or 10-14 (see insert for ideas).

You can purchase a plastic Samaritan's Purse shoebox from Chyna for \$2 each. 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.

2022: 9.3 million shoeboxes were collected.



OCTOBER

3 - Connie Lif
 4 - Marilyn Church
 Margaret Ferguson
 Tennille Lindgreen
 5 - Carla Maurer
 13 - Linda Schick
 LeRoy Wells

19 - Michael Sorensen
 22 - Glenda Vetter
 24 - Mickie Bumann
 Denise Leigh
 26 - Stacey Salpas
 27 - Bill Mowinkel
 30 - John Helms



HAPPY
 WEDDING
 ANNIVERSARY



OCTOBER

Larry and Nicole Lucas - October 1, 2011
DJ and Shantel Miles - October 4, 2008
Mike and Sheila Sautter - October 7, 1983
Don and Penny Shultz - October 8, 1961
Stephen and Chyna Hayes - October 9, 1970
Sam and Nance Reynolds - October 31, 1981



We extend our sincere sympathies to the family and friends of:
Jane Frances Mitchell
January 9, 1934 to
September 5, 2023
Member since
September 29, 1996

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 by October 31st.



SEWING SERVICE AVAILABLE: Light hemming and alterations. Call Cheryl Arrowsmith at 308-675-5313.

If you would like to sell, give something away or have a service to provide, please call or email the church office at:

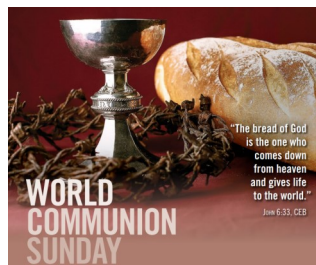
308-384-5620 or firstfaithumc@gmail.com

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

WORLD COMMUNION SPECIAL OFFERING SUNDAY, OCTOBER 1ST

In 2022, you gave over \$457 thousand to provide racial and ethnic students with scholarships, grants, mentoring and training for leadership development. Your donation provided scholarships for undergraduate or graduate level studies for both international and U.S. students. Your generosity allows those unable to afford an education to become leaders who embody the mission of The United Methodist Church.

Donation checks should be made out to First-Faith UMC and write "World Communion Sunday" in the memo section.



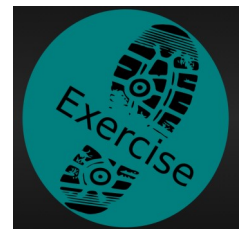
WOMEN'S EXERCISE CLASSES

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.
 No classes on October 10 and 12.

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

Wear comfortable clothes & come and join us!





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, October 19, at 8:30 a.m. If you have questions, please contact Glenda Vetter at 308-383-1716.

Ladies' Sewing Group

October 10 and 24
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, 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, October 30th
7 to 9 p.m. at the church.

Bring a partner or we'll find you one!

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, October 11th, 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!



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 craft items to sell
- ◇ Bake items to sell at the bake sale (we will price them for you!)
- ◇ Help make noodles to sell. Deb Grim will be posting what is needed and when the "making" will occur.
- ◇ Chyna will be making the greenery items. She is always looking for someone to help or if you want to learn, just let her know! If you have evergreen trees on your property and would be willing to supply fresh greenery, please get in touch with her. The arrangements will be made the week of the sale, so greenery will be cut during that week to ensure fresh arrangements.
- ◇ Help set up the day before the sale.
- ◇ Help work the day of the sale.
- ◇ Help clean up after the sale.

Watch for "opportunity" sign-up sheets in the narthex.

Lillian May was a long-time organist and musician at Faith UMC. After she passed away in 1999, her husband started the Lillian May Endowment Fund on October 1, 2001.

It was specifically established to benefit the church music program for piano lessons for any church member or regular attendee (child or adult), the needs of the choir and repair and maintenance of the piano.

Maynard May hoped that with the training of musicians, they would use their skills to provide ongoing music ministries of the church.

If you have a love for music, and want to learn more by taking lessons, this may be the perfect opportunity for you!

If you are interested in applying for a 2024 scholarship, fill out the application in the narthex and submit to the church office by December 3rd.

SUMMER CAMP UPDATE



Even though summer is officially over the Lucas family would like to thank all those that contributed to our ability to experience summer camp at Camp Fontanelle.

Abigail and I again enjoyed a parent/child camp. This year we stayed two whole nights and we had a great time with worship, swimming, and interacting with animals. Abigail's favorite part was the s'mores at campfire worship. My favorite part was the fellowship with other parents.

Tyson attended the Last Campers on Earth camp. It is based on a book about pre-teens trying to survive on their own. In that theme they participated in a scavenger food hunt, where they had a campfire at the end and whatever they found along the way is what they had for supper.

They also built a treehouse which you can see pictured. His favorite part of camp was building a fire from scratch. Thank you again for all the support for our family and the ability to attend these camps to gain these experiences.



The Lucas Family

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

**Miletta Vista Winery Restaurant
St. Paul, Nebraska**

Saturday, October 14th

Experience breathtaking views and world class foods. They take pride in using fresh, natural ingredients and homemade dressings. They also use local and fresh produce as much as possible, to support local farmers.
Meet at the church at 10:30 a.m. to carpool.

Please RSVP to the church office by Wednesday, October 11th, so that we know how many to expect.



Fall Festival

Come and join us for our Fall Festival at Doyle & Cheryl Henke's home

3200 W. Chapman Rd., Grand Island

Saturday, October 14th, at 4 pm

We will be playing corn hole, ladder ball and bobbing for apples. Bring your family's favorite yard games for some friendly competition. Hot dogs, chips, water, s'mores, plates and utensils will be provided! Bring a side dish (if you want) and a chair and settle in for some good harvest fun!

GAMES!

FOOD!

SING AROUND THE CAMPFIRE!

Please RSVP to Emily in the church office at 308-384-5620 to let her know how many are coming so that we will have enough food for everyone.



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 7:00 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!



Kindness Care Bags

Just a reminder that we are gathering supplies to put together some Kindness Care Bags. These bags will be available for any of us to keep in our vehicles to distribute to people in need that we may see while we're out and about. By getting involved in this ministry, we will have a tangible way of contributing needed items to those we encounter on a daily basis in our community.

Come and help put the Kindness Bags together after church on Sunday, October 22nd!

Here are some suggestions for contributions if you choose to participate:

- | | |
|---------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Wet wipes | Beef sticks |
| Band-Aids | Hand sanitizer |
| Hotel-size bath soap | Socks |
| Granola Bars | Gift cards to Wendy's or McDonald's |
| Toothbrush/Toothpaste | Hard candy |
| Bottled water | Trail mix |
| Cash (to buy these items) | |

The items should be in travel-size small containers/servings so that they can be put into gallon-size Ziploc bags. The items may be brought to church and placed into the large basket in Chyna's Office. If you have any questions, contact Amelia Nicolaus at 402-690-3516 for more information.



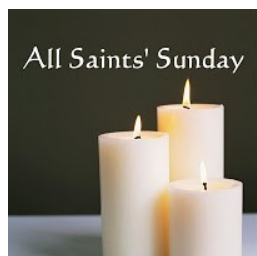
Our Refresh "Grandmas" would love to give you a break. We provide FREE quality childcare for ages 6 and under. If you need a few hours to get things done, bring your little ones by the church and our ladies will take great care of them! They will have fun during play time, reading, having a snack and making a craft.

We will be open on Wednesdays from 9 to 11:30 a.m. - October 11 and 25

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

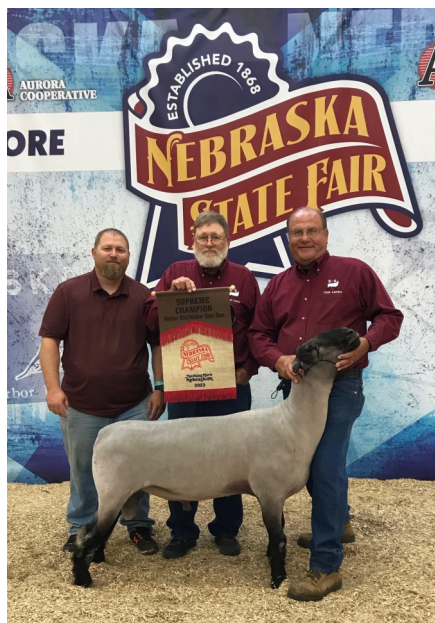
On All Saints Day, we **publicly remember and honor those who have passed away**. Celebrated on November 5th, we will light candles, ring bells of remembrance, and call the names of those who were lost in the previous year as a way of honoring the impact their lives have had on us.

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.



All Saints' Sunday

State Fair News



Congratulations to First-Faith member Bill Mowinkel whose Black Face Ram was Champion and Supreme Champion at the 2023 State Fair Wether Dam Ram Show!

2023 JUNK JAUNT UPDATE

How much did we raise?
\$5,746.31
Thank you everyone for all of your hard work!



First-Faith 10-Year Celebration

On September 10, 2023, First-Faith celebrated the ten-year anniversary of the merger of First and Faith churches. A special thanks to the Rev. Dr. Charles Murithi, our District Superintendent, for preaching and a special thanks to the planning committee, Larry Coates, Sharon Bigger, Geri Hoagland, Melanie Sheen, and Chyna Hayes, for all of their work for making the day possible.

In late 2012 and early 2013 there were discussions by both First and Faith congregations about the idea for a merger. Both congregations quickly realized the advantages of such a merger. Under the Leadership of Rev. Chad Boling and Rev. Matt Fowler, the old Faith building was sold, and the congregations came together at First UMC for Easter of 2013.

For the next 8 months the congregations worked together to create a new congregation. They worked through the legal and structural changes that would allow them to thrive and be stronger and better together. There were many challenges, but the church continued ahead, certain of God's call. On the very first Sunday of 2014 we finally worshiped together for the first time as First-Faith United Methodist Church.

Over the last ten years, the members of First-Faith have built a strong, engaged, worshiping congregation with a mind towards mission and building a strong faith community for all people. Many of the ministries from First and Faith carried over to this new congregation. But the work was not done yet. Since the merger First-Faith has continued to grow its witness and ministries in the community.

Under the leadership of Rev. Matt Fowler, Rev. Trudy Kenyon-Anderson, and Rev. Ray Stone, First-Faith has continued to be a vital and important part of the Grand Island community. The last ten years have not been easy. This congregation has had its challenges, merger woes, pandemics, lock downs, but has also persevered and is equipped for the future.



October Worship Series



I can remember the very first time I met my wife's grandparents. We were still in high school and I was invited over for a dinner and the moment I showed up, it was like I was under a microscope. Her grandfather asked me about my interests and hobbies and her grandmother kept an eye on me to make sure I had manners and behaved respectfully. The whole dinner felt like one giant test to see if I was worthy enough to date their granddaughter.

Tests come in many shapes and forms. Jesus is shown in scripture to teach and test his followers in their many conversations. Jesus was also tested by the religious leaders and experts of his day. Much like many of the people that had heard about Jesus, they wanted to know more about him and how his teachings would affect them and the status quo of the time.

Our sermon series in the month of October is entitled *Tested*. Each week we'll be reading a passage from Matthew's Gospel about the testing that Jesus encountered after he entered Jerusalem but before his arrest and crucifixion. As we move through Jesus' short time in Jerusalem, we will see that while the religious leaders were interested in testing Jesus, it is Jesus who ultimately sees through their testing and challenges us to see our own short-comings and calls us to a deeper relationship with God. Join us in October for Tested.



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

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

- Oct. 4: We will be changing the street sign and picking up litter around our church yard before going in for a snack and a Bible lesson.
- Oct. 11: Snack and Bible lesson
- Oct. 18: We will be changing the signs in the Prayer Path and cleaning it up before going in for a snack and Bible lesson.
- Oct. 25: This will be a game night with pumpkin carving and making popcorn balls!

Friends are ALWAYS welcome!

Also, plan on attending the Fall Festival with your family at the Henke's on Saturday, October 14th, at 4 pm, with your family!

19th Annual Coat Giveaway

**Thursday, October 26th, from 10:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.
 St. Leo's Catholic Church, 2420 S. Blaine in Grand Island**

There is a HUGE need of coats for those who cannot afford them in our community. We are in need of coat donations of any size. Children's coats from Size 2T to 10-12 and adult coats 2X and up are needed the most. They can be new or gently used. We also need donations of hats and gloves.



Donations should be dropped off at St. Leo's, Hy-Vee or U-Save Pharmacy (at 13th & Webb) from October 2nd through the 25th. This event would not be possible without God and the coat donations from the community. Thank you!

Article Deadline for November Newsletter: October 23, 2023