October 2026

Volume 9 Issue 10

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 worship in the park to the controlled chaos of Junk Jaunt. I look back at September and really can't believe that it is already gone. But, there is so much going on in October that I am excited to jump into the next month of ministry.

This last month saw the return of the Junk Jaunt and it was an amazing success!! I want to thank Paula Rauert and Chyna Hayes for leading, and so many others for their amazing work to make Junk Jaunt a huge success. Without these amazing volunteers, it would not have been possible to have this event.

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. I hope you will take some time this month to reconnect with God. We have many opportunities for not only worship and fellowship, but small groups and Sunday school. I hope you will take advantage of them this coming month.

Our first Sunday of October will be World Communion Sunday. A day in which we as Christians join across denominational, regional, and global lines to share in the body and blood of Christ. I pray that you will join us and come to celebrate and experience the grace of God with all our brothers and sisters in Christ.

In the month of October, we will be continuing our Journey in Paul's letter to the Philippians and explore what it means to be shaped by the gospel. As we get into the busy season it is important for us to reconnect with Jesus, because he helps us to focus on what matters. Paul's writing challenges us over and over to think and be different. Faith is a journey, one worth walking with Jesus Christ. Even if Walking with Jesus is challenging, we put our whole trust in Christ and the grace that continues to bear out fruit in our lives.

I am excited for our second annual United Methodist Men's retreat. Our theme this year is *Faith for the Long Haul*. I am looking forward to a day of fellowship and deep faithful time spent praying and studying scripture. I hope to see double our attendance number from last year!

On October 18 will be a Sunday that is a little different than what we have done before. It will be Laity Sunday. The church does not work without the laity. While I have an important role to play it is the Lay members that do the daily discipling in our church and in our community. We will celebrate that ministry and welcome new members that Sunday. I hope you will join us for this special celebration of your ministry and witness.

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)

Meetings and Circles



Mon, Oct 5th
Trustee Meeting at 7:00 pm
Tues, Oct 6th
Ruth Circle Meeting at 1:30 pm
Mon, Oct 12th
Finance Committee Meeting at 5:30 pm
Church Council Meeting at 6:30 pm
Tues, Oct 13th
UMM Meeting at 6:30 pm
Mon, Oct 26th
Susanna Circle at 6:30 pm
Thurs, Oct 29th
Mom's Group at 6:30 pm.

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 5:00p.m.

Wear comfortable clothes & come and join us!



Our food pantry needs your help!

Please bring **nonperishable food items**. Canned goods, boxed meals, pasta, rice, peanut butter, cereal, and more. Every donation helps us feed families in our community and share God's love in a practical way. Drop off items **inside the church** or place them in the **Blessing Box** in the parking lot. Let's come together to make sure no one in our community goes hungry.



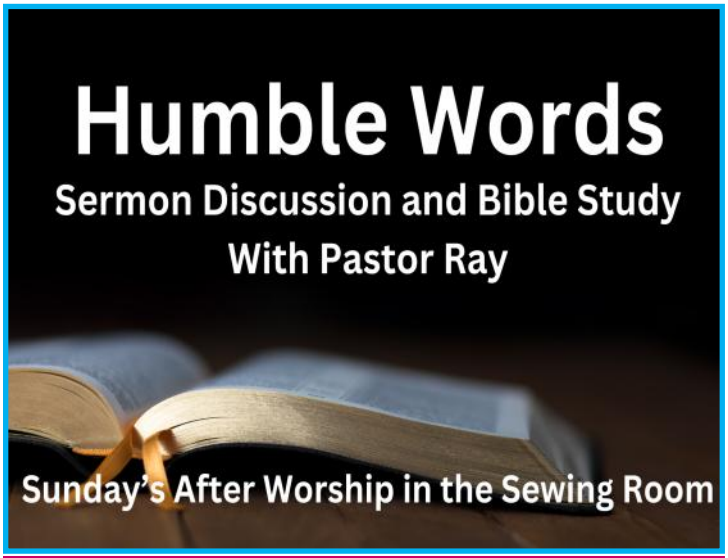
A Perk & A Prayer

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!!



Our Annual Church Conference will be
Sunday, November 1st
at 3:00 pm
Hastings First United Methodist Church, 614 N Hastings Ave, Hastings, NE, 68901



Mom's Group

Thursday, October 30th at 6:30 pm

Fellowship and Discussion.

Child care and meal provided!



OCTOBER Birthdays

4 - Marilyn Church
Margaret Ferguson
Tennille Lindgreen
5 - Carla Maurer
13 - Linda Schick
LeRoy Wells
16 - Ayden Kuebler
19 - Doyle Henke
19 - Michael Sorensen
22 - Glenda Vetter
24 - Denise Leigh
26 - Stacey Salpas
27 - Bill Mowinkel
30 - John Helms
31 - Carolyn Janssen



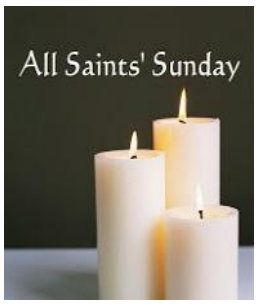


October Anniversaries

Larry and Nicole Lucas - October 1, 2011
DJ and Shantel Miles - October 4, 2008
Stephen and Chyna Hayes - October 9, 1970
Sam and Nance Reynolds - October 31, 1981

On All Saints Day, we **publicly remember and honor those who have passed away**. Celebrated on November 1st, 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 **office@firstfaithumcgi.org**



New Five-Week Bible Study: The Book of James

This fall, we're beginning a new five-week Bible study on the Epistle of James, a letter known for its honesty, clarity, and deep practicality. If you've ever wanted a study that speaks directly to everyday Christian living, James is the perfect place to start.

James doesn't waste words. He challenges us to grow in spiritual maturity, to align our actions with our faith, and to cultivate a life shaped by wisdom, compassion, and integrity. Over five weeks, we'll explore themes like perseverance, justice, speech, prayer, and what it truly means to be "doers of the word."

Each session will focus on a key passage:

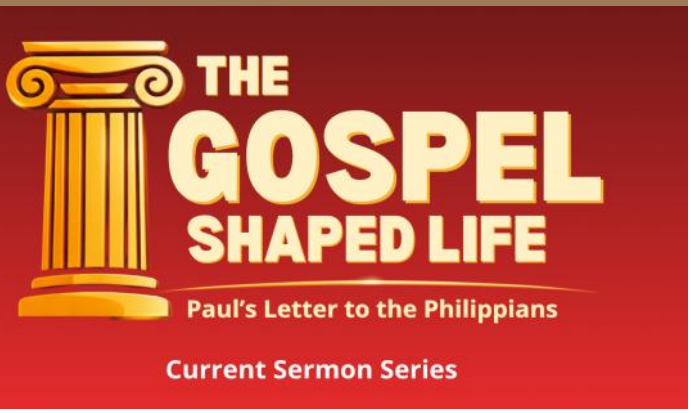
- **Week 1—October 1:** Trials and Maturity (James 1:1–18)
- **Week 2—October 15:** Hearing and Doing (James 1:19–27)
- **Week 3—October 22:** Faith and Works (James 2:1–17)
- **Week 4—October 29:** The Power of Words (James 3:1–12)
- **Week 5—November 5:** Patience and Prayer (James 5:7–20)

Whether you're new to Bible study or have been part of groups for years, this series will offer fresh insight and meaningful conversation.

We meet Thursdays at 1:00pm, and all are welcome. Bring your Bible, your curiosity, and your desire to grow in faith as we journey through this powerful epistle together.



Women's Coffee
Wednesdays @ 9:30 am
Starting September 30th



SPARC — SINGLE PEOPLE ACHIEVING REAL CHRISTIAN CONNECTIONS

"Chicken Noodle Dinner"
Calvary Lutheran Church
at 11:30 am
Saturday, October 17, 2026
The Calvary Lutheran Church
at Custer and 13th St.
Is serving a chicken noodle dinner on Saturday, October 17.
Attendees will meet at 11:30 am
at Calvary Lutheran to enjoy a nice meal.

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)!

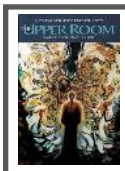
Monday, October 26th
7 to 9 p.m. at the church.

Bring a partner or we'll find you one!



Ladies' Sewing Group
October 13 and 27
at 9:30 a.m.

We meet at the church and all are welcome!



The Upper Room is a daily devotional magazine. The September-October 2026 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: $2.00

Large Print: $2.50



If you have not had the opportunity to check out the new Prayer Walk, please do so. It is located in the tree line on the north side of the church property. There new prayers up. Come check it out and take a few minutes to connect with God. Please feel free to take a cross at the end of the path.



Saturday, November 21st
8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Save the date Saturday November 21st. We will have our annual craft show and bake sale. Do you have a hidden talent? Do you love to bake? We need all who can participate making crafts, baking goods whatever it might be to make this fundraiser a success for the church. More information will be coming out. Please contact Dixie Codner or Carla Maurer if you have questions or want to help.

We will have:

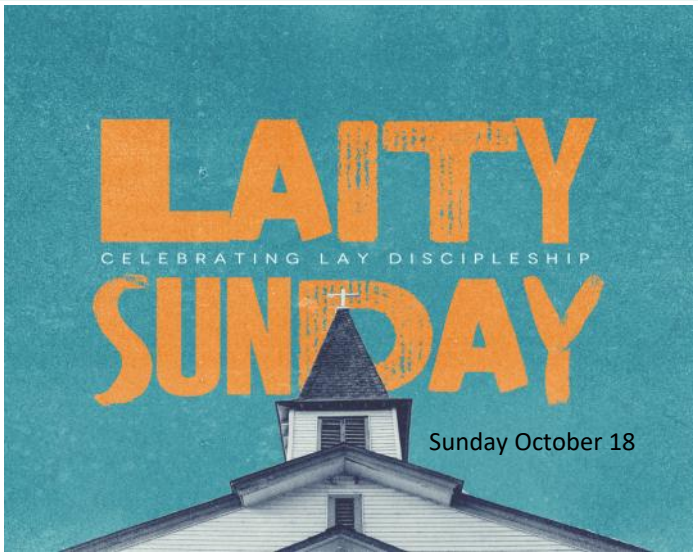
- Homemade noodles
- Fresh salsa
- Bake sale items
- Fresh greenery arrangements
- Quilted items and MANY homemade craft items for gifts and decorating your home.
- Reasonable prices!

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. Mary Jo will be posting what is needed and when the "making" will occur.
◊ Many people will be working throughout the weeks leading up to the craft fair, so look out for working days to come and help make crafts. Many of them will be made the week of the sale, and it is nice to have lots of helping hands.
◊ Help set up tables and items 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.





2026 JUNK JAUNT UPDATE

What a blessing this year's Junk Jaunt has been! From the earliest stages of planning to the last item packed away, our church family came together with incredible energy, creativity, and generosity. Thanks to your dedication, the event was a tremendous success.

To everyone who sorted, priced, carried, cleaned, greeted guests, baked treats, prayed faithfully, and shared a smile along the way, thank you. You generously gave your time, talents, and hearts, and your impact reached far beyond what could be measured. Whether you served every day or quietly supported the effort behind the scenes, your contribution made a meaningful difference. Throughout the event, we witnessed neighbors reconnecting, friendships growing, laughter being shared, and countless blessings unfolding. While the funds raised will help support our ministries and outreach efforts, one of the greatest gifts was the spirit of fellowship and community that you helped create.

We are deeply grateful for each of you and for the servant hearts you so faithfully shared. May God richly bless you for all you have done.

With heartfelt appreciation,

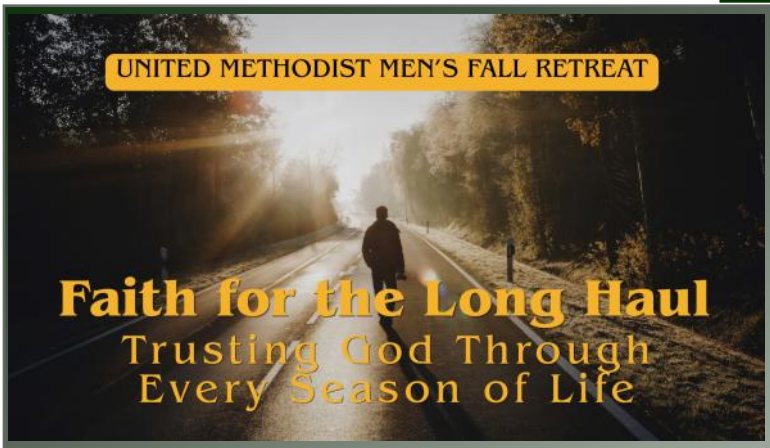
Your Church Leadership Team

Men's Blue Rock Shoot

On September 8 the United Methodist Men hosted their annual blue-rock shoot at Izaak Walton. It was a lovely cool evening sharing in fun and fellowship. Thanks to everyone who came out to shoot or watch.







United Methodist Men's Retreat

This fall, the United Methodist Men invite all men of the church and community to a meaningful day of fellowship, learning, and spiritual renewal at our annual retreat on Saturday, October 10, from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at Izaak Walton.

Our theme this year is "Faith for the Long Haul: Trusting God Through Every Season of Life." Together we'll explore how faith grows, stretches, deepens, and sustains us through the changing landscapes of our lives. Through seasons of strength and seasons of struggle, through clarity and uncertainty, through beginnings and endings.

Our guiding Scripture comes from Hebrews 11:1 (CEB): *"Faith is the reality of what we hope for, the proof of what we don't see."* This powerful verse reminds us that faith is not wishful thinking. Faith is a steady trust in God's presence and promises, even when the path ahead is not yet visible. Faith anchors us. Faith carries us. Faith shapes the legacy we leave behind.

Throughout the day, we'll engage in teaching sessions, small group conversations, prayer, and practical reflection on what it means to be faithful men of God in today's world. Whether you're new to the church, long-rooted in your faith, or somewhere in between, this retreat offers space to breathe, connect, and grow.

A light lunch will be provided. All men are welcome—bring a friend, neighbor, or family member. We look forward to a meaningful day together as we seek to trust God more deeply and walk faithfully in every season of life.

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:
office@firstfaithumcgi.org

Website:
http://firstfaithumcgi.org

Office Hours:
Mon-Fri 8:00-4:30
(Closed 12-1 pm - Lunch Hour)

Pastor: Rev. Wm. Ray Stone

New Steps Youth Group

October

Wednesday 7—Youth Group 7:00 to 8:15

Wednesday 14—Youth Group 7:00 to 8:15

Wednesday 21—Youth Group 7:00 to 8:15
Wednesday 28—No Youth Group



Youth at Play
&
Serving others



Article Deadline for November Newsletter: October 20, 2026