

# THE MESSENGER

June 2026

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

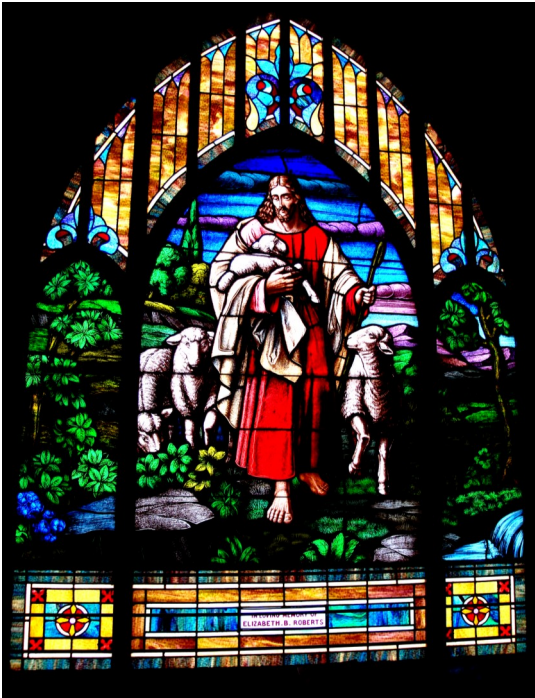
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REVEREND CALVIN HILL

Our mission statement: *Passion for Christ, Compassion for all.*



## PASTOR'S MESSAGE: REFLECT ON GOD'S CREATIONS

Pastor Calvin Hill

As summer begins, the world around us comes alive with beautiful colors, warmth, and growth. June offers us a beautiful opportunity to reflect on the goodness of God's creations and the gift of being fully present in life.

In his Sermon on the Mount, Jesus said: "*Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they neither toil nor spin... Yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like one of these.*" (Matthew 6:28-29)

These long, green, and blooming days remind us that creation herself is a witness to the goodness of God. Scripture tells us that creation declares the glory of God's beauty, offering seasons of sacred testimony.

Too often life moves quickly. We hurry from responsibility to responsibility, carry worries about tomorrow while forgetting to notice the beautiful gifts of today. Yet Jesus points us toward the lilies of the field and the birds of the air as teachers of faith, beauty, and holy presence. Creation does not rust to prove her worth; she just simply lives within the harmony God has given.

There is something deeply spiritual about learning to pause long enough to notice the wind moving through the trees, hearing children laughing, smelling the rain, or seeing the sunrise over the Black Hills.

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## PASTOR'S MESSAGE

(Continued)

These moments are not distractions, rather they are invitations into faith. In many ways, creation teaches us how to live.

As we enter this summer season, pause and reclaim the joy of being fully present with God. Slow down, just enough to recognize God's handy work all around us. Let the beauty of creation inspire us to live with gratefulness, harmony, and hope.

May the beauty of these summer days bring a sacred reminder that life itself is a gift from God.

## MEN'S BREAKFAST WITH PRAYER & DEVOTION

Saturday, June 6

All men of the church are invited to a breakfast with prayer and devotion on the first Saturday of each month in the Fellowship Hall at 7am.

Reverend Hill will cook a breakfast for the men to enjoy during this time of fellowship.



## PASTORAL CELEBRATION



Reverend Doctor Calvin Hill and wife Sheri were recognized with a musical celebration and cake on May 10.

Navajo musicians performed special music during the church service on May 10 in honor of Pastor Hill receiving his doctoral degree.

Singer Robinson Jonesy from Shiprock, New Mexico, sang songs in Navajo and English. He has had no professional training; he just sings from his heart. Pianist Michelle Talley from Cortez, Colorado, does not read music; she has an ear for the rhythm of the song. She listens for the tone of each singer and plays in the key of their voice.



# CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES

Submitted by Carl Sundstrom

Two bible stories were taught this month: Part two of the story of Joseph and the Coat of Many Colors focused on forgiveness. Joseph forgave his brothers for their earlier cruelty to him and sent food so they would not starve!

May 24: Jesus told the Disciples his work on earth was finished and then ascended into Heaven. Then a great wind came up and blew the Holy Spirit into the Disciples who preached with tongues of fire and all the nations understood what they said! We celebrate Pentecost as the beginning of the Christian Church. The flame on our Methodist Cross and Flame came from this occurrence.

We were blessed to have the grandparents of the Costa children share Children's Sunday School with us on May 24.

Pictured at right: Pastor Hill shares a special message with two youngsters during the church service on May 10.



## UMW MEETS

Submitted by Chris French

United Methodist Women (UMW) met May 6 with eight women in attendance. At the meeting ...

- It was reported that \$3,467 was raised at the Spring Benefit Luncheon for the WCSD#1 Aquatic Center.
- Members continued discussion on the use of JoAnn Fassbender's memorial monies.
- A donation of \$300 was approved to help Karlie Washburn with medical expenses.

All women of the Church are invited to the next UMW meeting on Wednesday, September 2, at 9:30am in the Fellowship Hall.



Looking for a place to express your thoughts and glean from the thoughts of others on the sermon of the week? Come join those pondering life through a lens of faith on a series of faith walks, which will be held on Mondays beginning at 6:30pm at Serenity Trail. Contact Jim Hutchinson (307-629-0810) for more information.

# TRUSTEES DISCUSS PROJECTS

Submitted by Carl Sundstrom

The Board of Trustees met May 5 with eight members in attendance. Items of business included:

- The selection of a new front door mat was confirmed, and it will be ordered soon. Also, a secure storage cabinet will be ordered soon.
- The security system was tabled last month pending input from the conference, which has not yet been received. Pastor Marcia is the liaison with the conference security team for this project. The Trustees have designated funds for installation of a more secure system and may pursue a grant if more funding is necessary.
- Chuck reported on his contact with the Newcastle Fire Department to start first aid classes as part of enhanced security. Opening the classes as a community outreach for the church continues to have the support of the committee. Apparently, some classes have been conducted in the community recently. There is a possibility that the instructors will charge to conduct the classes, but no specific information has been provided yet.
- Pastor Hill confirmed that the Trustees need not take further action regarding changes to the Methodists Helping Methodists policy revisions.
- Adam will continue working on acquiring a replacement exterior door at the Gigi's Closet entrance.
- The Trustees approved requests to assign the Smith and Epperson memorials to the fund for replacing the front doors of the church. Lavonne will handle the details.
- Materials for lighting the cross are on order. Work will be scheduled when they arrive.
- The Trustees approved continuing the use of the church basement as an emergency storm shelter by agreement with Weston County Emergency Management.
- One of the classrooms in the basement has been designated for use as a nursery on Sunday mornings. *PLEASE NOTE: Toys and other items placed in that room are to be left there for that purpose!*
- Renovations to the chancel area were discussed because our growing worship team needs more space! What a great problem to work on a solution for!

The next Trustees meeting will be Tuesday, June 9, at 6pm in the Church Parlor.

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## R.A.N. GRANT APPROVED

Submitted by Carl Sundstrom

The Trustees have recently received word that our RAN Grant application has been approved in full! This is the culmination of many hours of work by the Trustees with a special "Thank you" to Audrey for her diligence in getting multiple requests for information answered in a timely and professional manner! The various projects in the application are awaiting the next funding cycle from the U. S. Department of Energy.

## SPECIAL OFFERING

A special offering will be taken during the month of June to raise funds for the church benevolence fund. This fund is used by the Pastor to provide financial assistance to individuals in our church and in our community.

The Finance Committee encourages everyone to donate generously to this worthy cause. A special collection basket will be located at the back of the sanctuary. Donations can also be sent to the church office.



## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- 1: Faith Walk, 6:30pm, Serenity Trail
- 2: Prayer Team, 9:30am, Church Parlor
- 4: GiGi's Closet Open, 9am-1pm
- 6: Men's Breakfast, 7am, Fellowship Hall
- 7: Media Ministries Committee Meeting  
11:30am, Fellowship Hall
- 8: Faith Walk, 6:30pm, Serenity Trail
- 9: Prayer Team, 9:30am, Church Parlor
- 9: Relational Care Team Meeting  
10am, Fellowship Hall
- 9: Trustees Meeting, 6pm, Church Parlor
- 10: GiGi's Closet Open, 9am-1pm
- 10-
- 13: Mountain Sky Annual Conference  
Billings, Montana
- 14: Finance Committee Meeting, 11:30am  
Church Parlor
- 15: Faith Walk, 6:30pm, Serenity Trail
- 16: Prayer Team, 9:30am, Church Parlor
- 17: GiGi's Closet Open, 9am-1pm
- 17: Administrative Council Meeting, 6pm  
Church Parlor
- 21: Father's Day (Root Beer Floats served  
during Fellowship)
- 22: Faith Walk, 6:30pm, Serenity Trail
- 23: Prayer Team, 9:30am, Church Parlor
- 24: GiGi's Closet Open, 9am-1pm
- 29: Faith Walk, 6:30pm, Serenity Trail
- 30: Prayer Team, 9:30am, Church Parlor

## BIRTHDAYS/ANNIVERSARIES\*

- 1: \*Steve & Kathleen Engle
- 2: Chuck Bartlett
- 4: John Daum
- 7: Lucy Bartlett
- 9: Kathy Dummer  
\*Jim & Lisa Darlington
- 11: \*Herb & Chris French
- 12: Tony Lenardson
- 13: Michele Smith
- 14: Wilbur Lease  
Deb Mills
- 15: Denette Price
- 16: \*Derek & Ashley Malsam
- 22: Conner Owens
- 26: Carl Sundstrom
- 27: Nikki Bartlett  
Donna Sanchez
- 28: Caleb Hoover
- 29: Tyrel Owens
- 30: \*Tony & Kara Lenardson

## CHURCH INFO

Office Hours: 8am-noon  
M-TH

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YouTube: Search for FUMC Newcastle WY

Radio: Sunday Service at 10am on KASL

