

THE MESSENGER

September 2025

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

23 N. Seneca Avenue, P.O. Box 579

Newcastle, WY 82701

Office 307-746-4119

REVEREND CALVIN HILL

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



PASTOR'S MESSAGE: CHANGING SEASONS

Pastor Calvin Hill

As the air begins to cool, the mornings grow crisp, and the fields around us show hints of harvest. September always carries a sense of turning from the busyness of summer into the slower rhythms of autumn. My grandmother used to say, "Think of this season like a field after the labor of planting and watering, finally it shows signs of fruit." In the same way, our lives often carry seasons where the quiet work of faith, prayer, and trust begin to show in small, beautiful ways.

The writer of Ecclesiastes reminds us, "*For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven.*" (Ecclesiastes 3:1) Like the fields and the season, God is faithful through every season and works. Just as the leaves know when to turn and the harvest ripens, our lives also move with the rhythm of the Spirit. Even when changes feel uncertain, the Spirit is the one who steadies our path and brings forth what has been planted within us. Yes, there are signs of fruit(s), and they may not be as large as we hope; but they are there!

So, as we step into this month, may we take time to notice the fruits and/or blessings around us. They may show in the cool evening walks, the laughter of children returning to school, or the faithful hands that bring in the harvest. Let us trust that God is shaping us, too; He will bring fruits in due time. This month, I invite us to breathe deeply, give thanks, and remember that God is always at work and turning each season into a gift of grace.

IN THIS ISSUE:

- Pastor's Message
- The Power of a Simple Invitation
- Blessings for the School Year
- Men's Breakfast w/Devotion
- Grief Support Group Sessions
- Adult Sunday School Begins
New Study
- Order Pecans Today
- Making Sense of Tithing
- Trustees Meet
- Children's Ministries
- Enjoying An Evening Under
the Stars
- UMW Resumes Meetings
- Birthdays & Anniversaries
- Church Information

THE POWER OF A SIMPLE INVITATION

Submitted by Pastor Hill

Last month, we read about how kind and simple words, "Come sit with me," can open the door for someone to experience church again, or the invitation could be their first time. This month, we want to remind you that you do not have to be perfect with words to invite someone. Living here in Newcastle, we notice when folks are going through hard times. Sometimes the most meaningful thing we can offer is simply to show up alongside them, and invite them to a place that offers comfort, truth, and family. You do not need to have all the answers, just an open compassionate heart.

YOU HAVE
THE POWER TO
CHANGE SOMEONE'S
LIFE THROUGH AN
Invitation.

MEN'S BREAKFAST WITH PRAYER & DEVOTION

Saturday, September 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.



BLESSINGS FOR THE SCHOOL YEAR

Sunday
September 14



School-age Children and Youth:

Bring any school items, such as backpacks, computers, athletic shoes, and even your favorite pencil to church on Sunday, September 14. Pastor Hill will bless you and your school items.

*You don't have to
grieve alone.*

GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP

GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP SESSIONS OFFERED

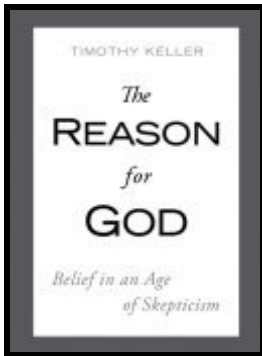
Submitted by Laura Oney

FUMC Newcastle in conjunction with Meridian Mortuary is offering Grief Support Group sessions the 2nd and 4th Sunday of each month through December 28.

Participants will meet in the Church Parlor from 2-4pm. Everyone in the community is invited to participate in this program. No church affiliation required. If you or someone you know is interested, please contact Laura at 307-941-0052.

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL BEGINS NEW STUDY

Submitted by Pastor Hill



Come join the Adult Sunday School class. Pastor Hill and Jim Hutchinson will engage participants in a six-week study using the book, *The Reason for God*, by Timothy Keller.

September 7, 14, 21
and
October 5, 12, 19

8:45-9:45am in the Church Parlor

Timothy Keller, the founding pastor of Redeemer Presbyterian Church in New York City, addresses the frequent doubts that skeptics, and even ardent believers, have about religion. Using literature, philosophy, real-life conversations, and potent reasoning, Keller explains how the belief in a Christian God is, in fact, a sound and rational one. To true believers he offers a solid platform on which to stand their ground against the backlash to religion created by the Age of Skepticism. And to skeptics, atheists, and agnostics, he provides a challenging argument for pursuing the reason for God.

SCHERMER
- PECANS -

ORDER PECANS TODAY!

Now is the time to place your order for fresh Georgia pecans and chocolates. These pecans and chocolates are great for your holiday baking and/or gift giving.

The following items are available at a cost of \$12 for each bag:

Fancy Mammoth Pecan Halves, 16 oz. bag
Chocolate Covered Pecans, 12 oz. bag
Dark Chocolate Covered Pecans, 12 oz. bag
Chocolate Pecan Clusters, 10 oz. bag

Place your order by calling or texting Chris French today at 746-5783. Orders will be available in November.

MAKING SENSE OF TITHING

Submitted by Pastor Hill

This time of year, when the hay is stacked high in the barn and the calves are strong, we are reminded that the work of our hands is always joined with the blessings of God. People in our community know what it means to rise early, put in an honest day's work, and trust that the harvest will come in due season. In much the same way, when we give our tithe, it is not about dollars and cents; it is about offering back to God, sharing of the sweat and blessings He has poured into us. Just like setting aside the first cut of hay for winter, tithing is a way of preparing God's house for the season ahead, knowing that God will provide more than enough.



TRUSTEES MEET

Submitted by Carl Sundstrom

The Board of Trustees met August 5. In attendance at the meeting were Carl Sundstrom, Lavonne Roberts, Adam McFarlin, Melvin Costa, Sharon Roness, and Betty Petranek.

Lavonne offered an opening prayer; Carl offered a motivational thought.

We received a letter from our insurance company requiring the installation of smoke detectors, installation of additional exit signs, and upgrading of existing exit signs. We were given two weeks to complete the requirements. Adam, Jake, and Carl installed the smoke alarms, and Carl upgraded the exit signs in the basement. The Trustees hired 21 Electric to install the exit/egress lighting on the main floor. Sharon documented the locations of all the required devices, and Adam wrote the required inspection policy and procedures. The installation was approved by the State Fire Marshall, and all documentation was sent to the insurance company before the deadline. Carl wishes to thank our Board of Trustees for rallying to accomplish this difficult feat!

We are continuing to work on the RAN Grant. An additional Zoom meeting was held the last week of August; more information will be forthcoming.

The Trustees will be making some additional changes to comply with the recommendations of the Fire Marshall as follows:

- 1) The door knobs in vestibules and Fellowship Hall will be changed to push-to-open actuators.
- 2) Penetrations in the firewalls of the furnace room will be repaired.
- 3) Maximum occupancy signs for the Sanctuary and Fellowship Hall will be posted.
- 4) Frying food on the stove tops is prohibited until a fire suppression system is installed in the hoods. Signs will be posted adjacent to the stoves. Installation of the required hood will also necessitate replacing the kitchen fire extinguisher with a Type K extinguisher.

Considerable discussion followed the report that the church has been granted funds to install the TV system we have been developing. Subsequent information requires us to install the system as we accepted grants specifically for that purpose.

The next meeting will be held at 6pm in the Church Parlor on September 9.

Melvin offered a closing prayer. The meeting adjourned at 8:30pm.

CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES

Submitted by Carl Sundstrom

Children's Sunday School continued to meet throughout the summer.

Currently, lessons parallel the growth of personal faith with growing plants from seeds. Seeds need water and sunlight and earth to grow just as faith needs prayer and Bible study and church to grow.

Weeds can crowd out desirable plants just like anger and distractions can crowd out growth in faith.



ENJOYING AN EVENING UNDER THE STARS

Text Submitted by Phyl Sundstrom

Photos Submitted by Jim Hutchinson, Sharon Fridley, and Pastor Hill

Over 20 people gathered at Sharon Fridley's ranch on Friday, August 22, for "An Evening Under the Stars." Inspired by Jim Hutchinson's stargazing interest, all enjoyed his program, Pastor Hill's description of a celestial Navajo legend, lots of fellowship, and great food, including Sheri Hill's traditional fry bread. Thanks to all who made this event happen!



UMW RESUMES MEETINGS

Submitted by Chris French

The officers of United Methodist Women (UMW) invite all women of the church to join them on Wednesday, September 3, at 9:30 am in the church fellowship hall for their monthly meeting.

The meeting will include a time of sharing ideas for mission projects for UMW to consider. We will also be making plans for this year's "Christmas in Wyoming" bazaar, which will be held Saturday, November 22.





CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- 1: Labor Day (Office Closed)
- 2: Prayer Team, 9:30am, Church Parlor
- 2: Choir Practice, 7pm, Sanctuary
- 3: Gigi's Closet Open, 9am-1pm
- 3: UMW Meeting, 9:30am, Fellowship Hall
- 6: Men's Breakfast, 7am, Fellowship Hall
- 8: Media Ministries Meeting, 6pm
Church Parlor
- 9: Prayer Team, 9:30am, Church Parlor
- 9: Trustees Meeting, 6pm, Church Parlor
- 9: Choir Practice, 7pm, Sanctuary
- 10: Gigi's Closet Open, 9am-1 pm
- 14: School Blessing (During Worship)
- 14: Finance Committee Meeting, 11:30am
Church Parlor
- 14: Grief Support Group, 2-4pm
Church Parlor
- 16: Prayer Team, 9:30am, Church Parlor
- 16: Choir Practice, 7pm, Sanctuary
- 17: Gigi's Closet Open, 9am-1pm
- 17: Administrative Council Meeting, 6 pm
Church Parlor
- 23: Prayer Team, 9:30am, Church Parlor
- 23: Choir Practice, 7pm, Sanctuary
- 24: Gigi's Closet Open, 9am-1pm
- 28: Grief Support Group, 2-4pm
Church Parlor
- 30: Prayer Team, 9:30am, Church Parlor

BIRTHDAYS/ANNIVERSARIES*

- 3: Bart Gregory
- 6: Ava Malsam
- 9: Laura Oney
- 10: Vanita Epperson
- 12: Harvey Dummer
Marge Ruff
*Steve & Marge Ruff
- 13: *Calvin & Sheri Hill
- 15: Sophie Gray
- 20: Peggy Johnson
- 22: Fletcher Hampton
- 23: Charlotte Sedgwick
- 24: Harry Roberts
*Todd & Sally Hoover
- 25: Phyl Sundstrom
- 27: Kelsey Wood
- 29: Stella Herrberg

CHURCH INFO

Office Hours:

8am-noon M-TH

Pastor Calvin Hill:

406-845-8135

rev.chill.dine@gmail.com

Administrative Assistant:

Audrey Knight

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YouTube: Search for FUMC Newcastle WY

Radio: Sunday Service at 10am on KASL

