

THE MESSENGER

May 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: SAVOR GIFTS OF LIFE

Pastor Calvin Hill

As the days grow longer and the sun warms our days, we step into the rhythm of summer. My hope is the season will be a time to breathe deeply, rest fully, and embrace the beauty of God's creation around us. This season offers us a holy invitation to slow down and savor the simple gifts of life.

My grandmother would say, "Don't just open your ears to hear or your eyes to see, open your heart to a beautiful life God has given." So let us give thanks for the beauty that surrounds us.

We will give thanks to our graduates, whether from high school, college or other milestones. These are beloved members of our community, stepping into new chapters with courage and hope. We bless you all on your journey, trusting that God goes before you, stays by your side, and covets your heart.

Let us not forget our mothers, who we celebrate this month: you who nurture, guide, and give yourselves in countless ways. Your love shapes lives and your faithfulness blesses generations.

May you all be blessed in these warm summer days and may God go before you, stay by your side, and covet your hearts.

May we all remember, as we begin to step into the warmer and longer summer days, the words of Isaiah: *"The Lord will guide you always; he will satisfy your needs in a sun-scorched land and*

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PASTOR'S MESSAGE

(Continued)

will strengthen your frame. You will be like a well-watered garden, like a spring whose waters never fail." (Isaiah 58:11 NIV)

I pray that we continue to see the beauty God has blessed us with this summer, and may it be a time of renewal for every soul. May we all, with our graduates and mothers, walk boldly into futures with grace, wisdom, and joy.

HOLY THURSDAY MEAL



Our church members enjoyed a Seder meal at the Episcopal Church.



Easter
Sunrise
Service

NATIVE AMERICAN MINISTRIES SUNDAY

May 4

United Methodists are called to recognize and honor the gifts and contributions made by Native Americans to our society and church. The United Methodist Church acknowledges a gap in understanding Native American life and culture, while affirming the sacredness of Indigenous peoples, their languages, their unique identities and their contributions to the church and the world.

Contributions help develop and strengthen Native American ministries within each United Methodist annual conference and provide scholarships for Native Americans pursuing ordained or licensed ministry.



CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES

Submitted by Carl Sundstrom

Children's Sunday School continues to meet during worship, following Children's Time. The average attendance this month was 12 children per week.

The lessons this month included the story of Jesus and Zacchaeus, the tradition of sharing palm fronds on Palm Sunday, healing the paralyzed man and the resurrection story.

The children enjoyed an Easter egg hunt in the Sunday School classroom!

We were blessed to have the children pass out palms on Palm Sunday and continue to be blessed by our youth serving this congregation as acolytes and communion servers.



GRADUATE RECOGNITION: CALEB HOOVER



2025 High School Graduate
CALEB HOOVER

Son of Todd and Sally Hoover

Caleb has participated in FBLA (Future Business Leaders of America), National Honor Society, Student Council, Soccer, and Cross Country while in high school. He has also been a Regional Science Fair qualifier every year for his work with 3D printing.

The best advice Caleb ever received is to live life to the fullest because the four years of high school go by fast, and also don't lose sight of the goal.

After graduation, Caleb plans to work for Paulton Ranch for the summer then attend South Dakota School of Mines and Technology in Rapid City in the fall. He will be majoring in mechanical engineering.



UMYF ACTIVITIES

Submitted by Phyl Sundstrom

Several youth attended the Preacher in the Patch revival on Friday, April 11. It was held at the Weston County Fairgrounds Events Center and included a variety of Christian music, as well as a motivational message. Ron Evitt is the Preacher and has been sharing the gospel in various settings for over 30 years.

On Saturday, April 19, four youth and Sharon Fridley helped with the Easter Egg hunt at the golf course. They joined the Cambria and Church on the Hill youth groups to sort and décorate hundreds of eggs with Bible verse stickers, then scattered them in various areas for different age groups. Hundreds of kids and adults showed up for the 10 a.m. "hunt"!



Mother-Child Project



UMW (United Methodist Women) is sponsoring the Mother-Child Project, which benefits infants and toddlers who receive services from the Weston County Public Health Office. UMW encourages all women of our church to provide the much-needed supplies for this Mother-Child Project. Donations of the following supplies can be placed in the designated tub in the church narthex; financial donations can be sent to Vanita Epperson at P.O. Box 831 by May 31.

- Baby lotion
- Baby hair brush
- Bath toy
- Rattle
- Teething ring
- Plate w/spoon
- Age-appropriate book
- Childproofing kit
- Baby oil
- Baby wipes
- Bath temp toy
- Ring toy
- Sippy cup
- Stacking cups
- Unbreakable mirror
- Small stuffed animal
- Bath/hair wash
- Booties
- Medicine dropper
- Finger toothbrush
- Bib
- Stacking blocks
- Digital thermometer
- Security blanket

TRUSTEES MEET

Submitted by Carl Sundstrom

The Board of Trustees met April 1 with seven members in attendance. Items of business included:

- The new AV computer has been set up and is working well.
- Miscellaneous repairs to the ductwork throughout the building have been completed.
- The dishwasher at the parsonage has been replaced with a new one.
- The RAN Grant application continues to move forward. Additional information about the church facility was sent as requested.
- A final decision on combining the Building Fund with the Capital Improvement Fund will be made at the May meeting.
- The landscaping gravel in front of the church will be replaced this summer.
- Additional workdays for summer projects were discussed.

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

FAITH WALKS

Submitted by Jim Hutchinson



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 from 6:30-8:00pm beginning on June 2 at the Old Quarry Trails. Contact Jim Hutchinson (307-629-0810) or Sharon Fridley (605-517-2395) for more info.



GiGi's Closet
OPEN
Every Wednesday
9 am—1 pm

Gently Loved Clothing available for Babies to Adults!
All Free/No Cost for All | Come and See!
First United Methodist Church
23 N Seneca | 746-4119
Basement Entrance (by the gazebo)



2025 ANNUAL CONFERENCE

June 11-14
Highlands Ranch, CO

Dear Clergy and Laity of the Mountain Sky Conference of the United Methodist Church,

Grace and peace to you in the name of the One who names us, claims us and makes us whole!

I hereby call the regular session of the Mountain Sky Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church to meet **on June 11-14, 2025**, in Highlands Ranch, Colorado. We will be hosted by St. Andrew United Methodist Church, offering a beautiful setting to worship God, connect in new ways, and do the work of the annual conference.

Our theme this year is “Beloved, Belong, Becoming: On the Mountaintop with Jesus.” This theme draws from Psalm 121 (I will lift up my eyes to the hills from whence my help comes) and Luke 9:28-35 (the Transfiguration.) In the Mountain Sky Conference, we know that we are God’s Beloved, and that we do Belong. At the same time, God is calling us into a new vision of abundance and thriving, justice and mercy—a new Becoming.

We are blessed with amazing geography in our conference; indeed, scripture tells us of times when humans have encountered God on the mountaintop. Many seek out places in our conference with the hope of experiencing that same transcendence. These moments fill a longing to see God in our souls and fuel us, as individuals and as the church, for the work of co-creating with God the world God envisions.

Your attendance is always essential for building our covenant community, and even more so this year, because we will be voting on the ratification of four Constitutional Amendments, which the 2020/24 General Conference acted on. We are a body in which everyone has voice and agency. Your agency with respect to these amendments will be lived out through the votes of members of the annual conference as we consider these changes.

We will also be welcoming two special guests, Bishop Israel Pinit from the Davao Episcopal Area, Philippines Central Conference of the United Methodist Church, and Rev. Lisa Greenwood, President of Wesleyan Impact Partners. What a blessing to hear and learn from these two compelling speakers and leaders in our worldwide denomination! We’ll close with our ordination service and having spent this last week with our Board of Ordained Ministry and candidates, I could not be more hopeful and excited about the new leaders God has called forth.

You can find more about Annual Conference 2025 on the conference website, including opportunities to be in mission together as we begin, deadlines for submissions, registration and lodging information, and other opportunities for mealtime gathering and learning. Let us prepare our hearts and minds for this important time of gathering and holy conferencing. May God’s spirit guide us to be the people and church we are being called to be.

In hope and faith,

Bishop Kristin G. Stoneking

UMW MEETS

Submitted by Chris French

United Methodist Women (UMW) met April 2 with fourteen women in attendance. Sharon Roness gave the devotion prior to the meeting. Business items at the meeting included:

- An audit of the financial records had been completed and everything was found to be in order.
- UMW "Day of Giving" donations totaled \$285. It was decided to donate these funds to the Weston County Fire Protection District, the beneficiary of the Spring Benefit Luncheon.
- Items are still being collected for the "40 for Lent" Campaign.
- Final plans were made for annual Spring Benefit Luncheon to be held on Friday, April 25.
- Discussed mission projects and approved support for the following: UMCOR Sunday (\$500).
- After Easter and through the month of May, UMW will be collecting items for the Mother-Child project to benefit mothers/babies/toddlers served by the local Public Health office.

All women of the Church are invited to the next UMW meeting on Wednesday, May 7, at 9:30am in the Fellowship Hall.

SPRING BENEFIT LUNCHEON

Submitted by Chris French

United Methodist Women (UMW) hosted a Spring Benefit Luncheon on Friday, April 25, to raise funds for the Weston County Fire Protection District. Casseroles, salads, and desserts provided by UMW and members of several other churches in the community were served to over 100 people who attended this community event. Over \$2,600 was raised for this worthy cause. UMW is sincerely grateful to the individuals who provided food and to those who worked at this event.



SPECIAL OFFERING

The Finance Committee thanks everyone who donated generously to the recent special offering. A total of \$2,020 was collected for the UMCOR Sunday offering.



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- 1: National Day of Prayer
- 2: Friendship Day
- 3: Men's Breakfast, 7am, Fellowship Hall
- 4: Graduate Recognition
- 4: Native American Ministries Sunday
(special offering)
- 6: Prayer Team, 9:30am, Church Parlor
- 6: Trustees Meeting, 6pm, Church Parlor
- 6: Choir Practice, 7pm, Sanctuary
- 7: GiGi's Closet Open, 9am-1pm
- 7: UMW Meeting, 9:30am, Fellowship Hall
- 11: Mother's Day
- 12: Media Ministries Committee Meeting
6pm, Church Parlor
- 13: Prayer Team, 9:30am, Church Parlor
- 13: Choir Practice, 7pm, Sanctuary
- 14: GiGi's Closet Open, 9am-1pm
- 20: Prayer Team, 9:30am, Church Parlor
- 20: Choir Practice, 7pm, Sanctuary
- 21: GiGi's Closet Open, 9am-1pm
- 21: Administrative Council Meeting, 6pm
Church Parlor
- 26: Memorial Day
- 27: Prayer Team, 9:30am, Church Parlor
- 27: Choir Practice, 7pm, Sanctuary
- 28: GiGi's Closet Open, 9am-1pm

BIRTHDAYS/ANNIVERSARIES*

- 3: Gina Romano
- 4: Pat Townsend
Keaton Hampton
- 5: *Bart & Nicole Gregory
- 6: Harry Wilcomb
- 8: Norma Lease
- 9: Heidi Wood
- 11: Curtis Townsend
- 17: Maizy Owens
- 18: Mark Townsend
- 22: Marcia Romano
- 23: Lavonne Roberts
- 24: *Mark & Leslie Townsend
- 29: Robin Romano
- 30: Homer Hastings
*Gary & Brenda Clarke
- 31: *Ed & Bev Kiesling

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

