

# THE MESSENGER

April 2024

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.*



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## PASTOR'S MESSAGE: THE LIGHT

Pastor Calvin Hill

One April fool's day when I was about 13 years old, my older brothers took me out to hunt jack rabbits. We drove out into the desert where only sage brush was stretching for miles, not a house in sight; and it began to get dark. As we drove, my brothers told a lot of April fool's jokes; and being way out in the desert, the oldest said, "Oh no, we are out of gas!" Suddenly, I thought, "How are we going to get home, and who is going to know we are way out here in sage brush country?" It got dark fast, and I was not too sure if he was joking!

Oh no, he was not joking; we ran out of gas. We started backtracking quickly; and it seemed the faster we walked, the darker it got. In fact, it was pitch black with no house in sight; we also were not sure if the path we were on was the road. We held hands so we would not lose one another.

We came over this mound, and in the distance was light. Not sure if it was a house, but we headed for it. We got there, and our father was there asking if that family might have seen us. What a good feeling we had knowing that our father was out looking for his sons; and at the light, father was there.

Many times, though life is enjoyable and entertaining, our adventures or desires can lead to dark chapters. Fear, uncertainty, and anxiety set in. We try backtracking; we look for family or community. Even more, we want Gods' guidance.

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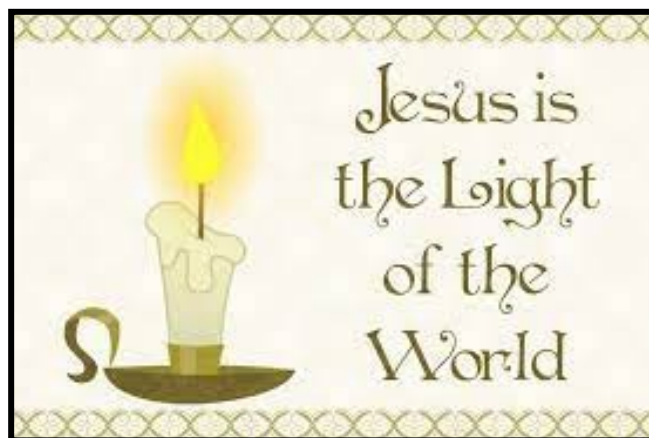
## PASTOR'S MESSAGE

(Continued)

John 8:12 says, *"I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness but will have the light of life."*

In his darkest moments, Jesus went to the garden to pray. He kept going to the Synagogue, the Temple, to worship and fellowship. He stayed on the mission God called him to. Did he suffer? Was he betrayed? Did he feel alone? Of course; but, he became our guiding light.

So, if we follow his example, we will find the light. Will it be easy? No! But if we keep following, we will overcome. The more we engage with Christ, the more enlightenment happens. We will find moments on a peak; and, in the distance, we will find the light. We will also find God looking for us.



## CHURCH SCHOLARSHIP

Submitted by Phyl Sundstrom

The First UMC, Newcastle scholarship deadline for fall semester 2024 is May 1, 2024. Application materials are available in the church office or from Phyl Sundstrom (941-1251) and Chris French (746-5783).

The \$500 scholarship is available to applicants pursuing a degree in human service. Applicants must have completed one year of education beyond high school and must be members of or affiliated with First UMC, Newcastle.

You are invited to a

## SPRING BENEFIT LUNCHEON



to raise funds



for

**WESTON COUNTY HEALTH SERVICES  
FOUNDATION—SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM**

**Friday, April 19, 2024**

**FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

**23 N. Seneca**

**11 a.m. until 1:00 p.m.**

**(Cost: free-will donation)**



*Food donated by local churches*

## WORSHIP & WELCOME

Submitted by Maxine Groner

We are so fortunate to have Pastor Hill and Pastor Ron Sample serving our church. They show us what respect and caring are all about. They both love what they do for our church.

The Welcome Committee has had Caroline Zerst, Gene Baldwin, and Glenn Riggs taking turns greeting attendees and handing out bulletins for Sunday services. If you would like to help, please contact Maxine.

God Bless You!

# CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES

Submitted by Carl Sundstrom

Children's Sunday School continues each Sunday. The younger children have reviewed the story of Zacchaeus as part of the Easter Story. Continuing activities include The Lord's Prayer, singing and the "campfire" with pretend s'mores! Yum!

## The FIRST COMMUNION!

The eleven- and twelve-year olds have been studying the mysteries of Eucharist or Holy Communion. They are following a syllabus and have covered the Last Supper; The symbolism of the bread and wine; Communion as a gift from God, assuring forgiveness and everlasting life; and Communion as the Great Thanksgiving.

Future classes include Communion as a memorial to Christ; an invitation to the Holy Spirit; oneness with Christ and all Christians; and Communion as becoming the image of Christ. The culmination of the class will be a First Communion Celebration on Sunday, April 7. The congregation will share communion for the first time with these youth who have been invited by Pastor Hill to serve the elements!



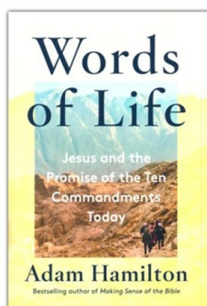
The Children's Sunday School appreciates the growing support from the congregation as well as the contributions to our worship the youth are making. They have passed out palms, continue to serve as acolytes and bell ringers and have provided many, many decorations for Fellowship Hall from their lesson activities.



Blessed

# NEW ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL STUDY

Submitted by Pastor Ron Sample



Adult Sunday School participants will engage in a six-week study using the book, *Words of Life*, by Adam Hamilton.

April 21 - May 26

8:45-9:45am  
Church Parlor

Nearly everyone has heard of the Ten Commandments, the list of "thou-shalt-nots" found in the Bible. Jesus saw these commandments not as onerous burdens, but as guideposts to help us experience a good and beautiful life. These ten ancient "words" were given to us by a loving God who longed to set safe boundaries, create order out of chaos, help communities live peacefully, and protect us--often from ourselves.

In this book of Scripture and inspiration, bestselling author Adam Hamilton brings modern eyes to the most important set of ethics in history. He considers the commandments in their historical context, considering the meaning of each commandment in Hebrew, unpacking how Jesus reinterpreted them, and showing how every thou-shalt-not was intended to point to a life-giving "thou shalt." He also explores how the latest research in science and psychology illuminates these commandments, rightly understood, as a way of ordering one's life beautifully in the present day. In a culture marked by workaholicism, materialism, and social media-driven envy, God has given us a time-tested path that leads to gratitude, confidence, and peace.

A landmark work from one of our most trusted biblical thinkers, *Words of Life* is an inspiring, thought-provoking read for anyone seeking to live a meaningful and joyful life.

## NATIVE AMERICAN MINISTRIES SUNDAY

April 14

This Special Sunday is a denomination-wide celebration designed to raise awareness and remind United Methodists of the gifts and contributions made by Native Americans to our society. A gap in knowledge exists in The United Methodist Church, in congregations and other United Methodist entities, relative to comprehending concepts of Native American life, cultures, languages, spirit, values, contemporary issues, and such. We affirm the sacredness of indigenous people, their languages, cultures, and gifts to the church and the world.

**25%**  
of your donation  
funds scholarships  
for Native Americans

**25%**  
of your donation  
funds outreach and  
ministry grants

**50%**  
of your donation  
remains in the local  
Annual Conference

**NATIVE AMERICAN  
MINISTRIES SUNDAY**

We affirm Native Americans and their contributions  
to society and The United Methodist Church

An offering is taken on this Special Sunday to support vital ministries and churches in the Native American communities. The offering allows The United Methodist Church to partner with existing native ministries to develop new programs on behalf of Native Americans.

# **TRUSTEES MAKE PROGRESS ON PROJECTS**

Submitted by Carl Sundstrom

The Board of Trustees met March 5, 2024. Present were Melvin Costa, Rev. Calvin Hill, Adam McFarlin, Betty Petranek representing SPRC, Lavonne Roberts, Sharon Roness, Jake Shook and Carl Sundstrom.

Sharon reported that Church Mutual added water and hail coverage to our insurance policy effective January 1, 2024, at an annual cost of \$1,602, with a 5% deductible for those hazards and an option to buy down the deductible for approximately \$1,000 per \$10,000. Later, a proposal was received from Liberty Mutual to replace the Church Mutual policy with a 1% water/hail deductible for \$12,568 per year, but its liability provisions do not appear to meet Conference standards. Dierdre McGee was consulted and suggested asking if they would offer property coverage only. No answer has been received to that question to date. At the end of February, Pamela Keeser of Church Mutual notified us that she is submitting property coverage applications to two more companies; we supplied the information she needed to complete these applications. Meanwhile, we do have complete coverage with Church Mutual but with the 5% water/hail deductible.

Work is progressing on the basement Sunday School rooms. The firewall in the youth room has been painted but needs calking. Modifying the shelves to accommodate a TV to stream Christian programs for class discussion has been proposed. Flooring in the classroom has been completed and the walls painted. Furniture moving and vinyl baseboard installation and miscellaneous painting is left.

Summit Plumbing & Heating expects to have their plumbing and heating work completed by our next meeting.

Carl met with Howard Bogue to discuss moving the lighting controls presently in the youth room and will be reporting to the committee on relocating the stage lighting controls.

The ceramic tiles for the parsonage basement arrived at CLT, and the work has been scheduled with the Hills.

Discussions were held on several projects including additional heating upgrades, installation of televisions in the Children's Sunday School classrooms, and Internet security.

The requirements of Paragraph 258 of the Book of Discipline were discussed in detail, and the consensus of everyone present is that the church needs to establish its own policy on contracting and employment as soon as possible.

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## **SPECIAL OFFERING**

The Finance Committee thanks everyone who donated generously to the UMCOR (United Methodist Committee on Relief) Sunday offering. A total of \$1,130 was collected for this special United Methodist Church offering. Additionally, the UMW (United Methodist Women) matched \$1,000 of the congregational giving. Therefore, FUMC-Newcastle will send \$2,130 to UMCOR.

## **UMW STAYS ACTIVE**

Submitted by Chris French

United Methodist Women (UMW) met March 6 with fourteen women in attendance. JoAnn Fassbender gave the devotion prior to the meeting. Action taken at the meeting included:

- Signed Easter cards for church members
- Finalized details for the annual Spring Benefit Luncheon to be held on Friday, April 19
- Discussed mission projects and approved support for the following: Serving Our Lord Ministries (\$250); Haiti Water Filter Project (\$300)
- Members volunteered to provide items for the Maundy Thursday Soup & Pie Supper and for the breakfast on Easter Sunday
- Members volunteered to provide cookies for the reception following the funeral for Susan Jones
- Members approved a Mother-Child project to benefit mothers/babies/toddlers served by the local Public Health office

On March 23, members of UMW provided and served refreshments following the funeral for Minnie Quick. All women of the Church are invited to the next UMW meeting on Wednesday, April 3, at 9:30am in the Fellowship Hall.

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# **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 April 30.

- 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



## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- 2: Trustees Meeting, 6pm, Church Parlor
- 3: UMW Meeting, 9:30am, Fellowship Hall
- 6: GiGi's Closet Open, 9am-1pm
- 7: First Communion for Youth
- 8: Media Ministries Committee Meeting  
6pm, Church Parlor
- 10: GiGi's Closet Open, 9am-1pm
- 14: Native American Ministries Sunday  
(special offering)
- 14: Finance Committee Meeting  
11:30am, Church Parlor
- 14: Grief Support Meeting  
2pm, Church Parlor
- 17: GiGi's Closet Open, 9am-1pm
- 17: Administrative Council Meeting, 6pm  
Church Parlor
- 19: UMW Spring Benefit Luncheon  
11am-1pm, Fellowship Hall
- 21: Fellowship Feast
- 24: GiGi's Closet Open, 9am-1pm

## BIRTHDAYS/ANNIVERSARIES\*

- 1: Dana Tysdal
- 4: Todd Hoover
- 5: Dan Decker
- 9: Ashley Malsam  
Pam Bertsch
- 13: Carol Nicholls
- 16: Deb Smith  
Billie Jo McFarlin  
\*Jake & Sandi Shook
- 20: Cory Wackerbarth
- 21: \*Steve & Denette Price
- 22: Max Bartlett
- 23: Brooklyn McFarlin
- 24: Steve Engle
- 25: \*Wilbur & Norma Lease
- 26: Ron Sample

## CHURCH INFO

Office Hours: 8am-noon M-TH

Pastor Calvin Hill:  
406-845-8135  
rev.chill.dine@gmail.com

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Audrey Knight  
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fumc@fumcnewcastle.com  
admin@fumcnewcastle.com

Web: [www.fumcnewcastle.com](http://www.fumcnewcastle.com)

Facebook: @FUMCNewcastleWY

Radio: Sunday Service at  
10am on KASL

