

THE MESSENGER

September 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.*



PASTOR'S MESSAGE: MOVING FORWARD

Pastor Calvin Hill

The season of fall brings a sense of harvest, renewal, and a fresh start as the season begins to shift. Yep, school is a time to refocus on goals, embrace new opportunities, and let go of what no longer serves us. The changing weather can inspire growth or the start of new projects. As summer fades, it's a reminder that change is natural and often brings new energy and perspectives. Take this month to reflect, set intentions, and move forward with optimism and purpose.

In training horses, I recognized the smallest changes and rewarded the horses for their effort. Harvesting the goals can sometimes be difficult; often, we do not see the changes as a fresh start or an opportunity of letting go.

God said to Noah, "*I establish my covenant with you, that never again shall all flesh be cut off by the waters of a flood, and never again shall there be a flood to destroy the earth.*" (Gen. 9:11) After the floodwaters receded, Noah with his family emerged from the Ark stepping into a renewed world and a covenant with God. This moment in Noah's life marked a new beginning for all humanity, a fresh start with God and God's new covenant.

Noah and his family differently and defiantly dealt with patience, faith, and hopes of new beginnings after a long 40 days of rain, trials, and waiting for

(Continued on next page)

IN THIS ISSUE:

- Pastor's Message
- Special Offering
- Plug Into the Power of Prayer
- Welcome & Worship
- A Passing ...
- Children's & Youth Ministries
- Adult Sunday School Begins
New Study
- Grandparent's Day
- UMW Resumes Meetings
- Trustees Meeting—Minutes
- Calendar of Events
- Birthdays & Anniversaries
- Church Information

PASTOR'S MESSAGE

(Continued)

God. Sending out a crow and a dove seemed unfortunate with all the floodwaters surrounding the Ark. But optimistically Noah tested once more and sent out a dove, which never returned.

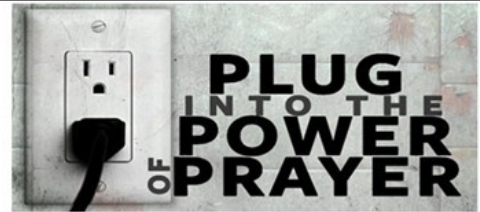
Sometimes the floodwaters of life seem overwhelming to a point that we almost never refocus our goals or embrace new opportunities. We do not always see the smallest changes, nor do we let go of these overwhelming environments.

I am encouraged to see September as a transitional month, mirroring the concept of leaving behind what was, embracing the present, and moving forward with renewed purpose like Noah and his family. This month has opportunity to take small steps into a new phase of hope, enjoyments, and a great trust in God's promising covenant that God will hold back the floodwaters.

SPECIAL OFFERING

The Finance Committee thanks everyone who donated generously to the weekly special offering in August, which was designated for Children's Sunday School. A total of \$645 was collected for this vital ministry of our church.

The weekly special offering for September is designated for Adult Sunday School. Prayerfully consider your contribution to the special offering this month.



First United Methodist Church Parlor
23 N Seneca 746-4119
9:00AM Every Tuesday

ALL are invited to come together for prayer—
for those in need of healing, those
experiencing difficult times, concerns, for joys
Let us be a reflection of God's
goodness and grace!
Join us or call the office with your requests!

WELCOME & WORSHIP

Submitted by Maxine Groner

Our summer attendance is not like we would like it to be, but we are happy to see new faces. There is quite a bit happening with family gatherings and celebrations. Our two ministers are the best, and they are willing to help where they can. Bless Caroline for always handing out the bulletins.

Carl and the children helping with communion are a blessing! They enjoy taking part in the worship service. The fellowship teams do a great job providing snacks following the service.

We look forward to welcoming back those people who have been unable to attend the past few months.

A PASSING ...

Joyce Plants, widow of Rev. Dick Plants, former pastor of FUMC Newcastle, passed away on August 13, 2024. Cards may be sent to her daughter:

Bonnie Horton
12425 Beverly
Overland Park, KS 66209

The church still uses the altar vestments and Christmas ornaments made by Joyce.

CHILDREN'S AND YOUTH MINISTRIES

Submitted by Carl Sundstrom

Children's Sunday School continues to draw our youth and children to church. The story of Jesus curing the paralyzed man was completed, and we have moved into the Old Testament again with the story of how Rebecca was chosen to be a wife for Isaac, Abraham's son.

The backstories of three more hymns, "How Great Thou Art," "Holy, Holy, Holy," and "He Leadeth Me, Oh Blessed Thought" have been presented. "He Leadeth Me, Oh Blessed Thought," like many of our hymns, was written in a time of great trouble and turmoil by Joseph Henry Gilmore in the midst of the Civil War and set to music soon after. Gilmore did not know it had been published (by his wife) until he saw it in a hymnal some years later.

The inspiration for the hymn came from the 23rd Psalm which we are learning: "He leadeth me beside the still waters." The youth joined the congregation for the singing of this hymn at the end of the worship service.

Phyl Sundstrom is organizing a youth group and has solicited assistance. Planning is underway with the date of the first meeting still to be determined.



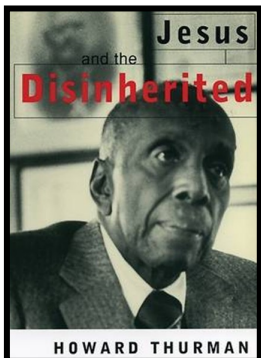
Sunday School children enjoy Children's Time during the church service with Pastor LuAnn.



Youth serve as acolytes during the church service.

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL BEGINS NEW STUDY

Submitted by Pastor Ron Sample



Come join the Adult Sunday School class. Participants will engage in a six-week study using the book, *Jesus and the Disinherited*, by Howard Thurman.

September 8-October 13

8:45-9:45am
Church Parlor

GRANDPARENT'S DAY—WHY WE CELEBRATE THIS SPECIAL DAY

Submitted by Elaine Wilcomb

Marian McQuade was an advocate for the rights of senior citizens and hoped to establish a national day that would honor grandparents. Throughout the 1970s, McQuade raised awareness about senior citizens.

In 1970, Marion McQuade began a campaign in her home state of West Virginia to establish a special day of recognition for grandparents. Through her efforts, she reached out to the civic, business, faith, and political leaders and began the campaign for Grandparent's Day. She passed away at 91 years age. Marian and her husband raised fifteen children and boasted forty-three grandchildren.

In 1978, President Jimmy Carter declared the first Sunday after Labor Day to be National Grandparent's Day. Each year, the President of the United States issues a proclamation to keep the tradition going.

Grandparent's Day has both an official flower and a song. The official flower is the forget-me-not, which may symbolize love and respect, and the song is "A Song for Grandma and Grandpa," by Johnny Prill.



Grandparent's Day is always celebrated on the first Sunday after Labor Day. In 2024, that's Sunday, September 8! While we honor our grandparents daily, take an extra moment to appreciate all the joy and wisdom that grandparents bring or have brought to our lives.

See you in Church on Sunday, September 8! There just might be a Special Surprise!



UMW RESUMES MEETINGS

The officers of United Methodist Women (UMW) invite all women of the church to join them on Wednesday, September 4, at 9:30 am in the church fellowship hall for their monthly meeting.

Bring ideas for mission projects for UMW to consider. Also bring ideas for the "Christmas in Wyoming" bazaar.

Looking forward to getting together again.

Chris French, UMW President



TRUSTEES MINUTES—AUGUST MEETING

Submitted by Carl Sundstom

The Board of Trustees met August 6, 2024. Present: Carl Sundstrom, Lavonne Roberts, Sharon Roness, Adam Mc Farlin, Melvin Costa and Betty Petranek.

Sharon offered an opening prayer.

Carl reported on financial transactions. Minutes were read and approved with two changes.

Old Business:

- Carl reported that he has found a person to light the cross. He will inspect the project soon. One of the parishioners has offered to pay for this project.
- Adam is still working on the cross and flame for the old doors. Carl will research the best way to replace the doors and put together a cost estimate.
- HVAC repairs report – Carl has talked to Richard Cisneros, a certified HVAC engineer. He outlined plans to renovate the Sanctuary and Fellowship Hall HVAC system. The new plan will eliminate operating noise and leaking through the ceiling, reduce fire hazard, and extend the life of the system.

New Business:

- The Emergency Shelter Policy draft was discussed. Carl reviewed it with Gilbert Nelson, who approved it. Rev. Hill noted the liability clause was not needed, and it was removed. Adam moved to approve the draft. Sharon seconded. Motion passed. The Emergency Shelter Policy will be presented to Ad Council on August 21.
- Revisions to the Rental Policy were discussed, including increases to room charges, Betty thought these had been done by a policy change in the past. Discussion on the increases was tabled until clarification was made. The committee decided that church equipment is not to be removed from the church except for church events, and then it is to be returned to its proper place immediately after the event. This will be added to the church policy manual. Sharon moved to accept the changes. Melvin seconded. Motion passed.
- Finance Committee requested committees present their budget requests in September. Sharon motioned to request \$7,500, the same amount as last year. Adam seconded. Motion passed.
- Election of officers was tabled.
- In October of 2025, Microsoft will no longer support Windows 10. The consensus of the Trustees is to replace the projector, the laptop that controls the projector, and possibly purchase a new projector program. Sharon will discuss this with the Media Committee and seek their recommendation.
- Carl suggested that we purchase “Reserved” drapes for pews for weddings, funerals and similar events. Carl will check with Graphic Design. Lavonne moved to buy these. Sharon seconded. Motion passed.
- Carl presented a list of supplies needed to make a permanent fix to the sprinkler system. Adam moved to purchase these materials. Melvin seconded. Motion passed. Adam will check pricing and report to the committee.

The next meeting will be September 3, 2024, at 6:00pm in the Church Parlor.

Melvin offered a closing prayer. Meeting adjourned at 7:16pm.



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- 1: Blessing of the Backpacks
- 3: Prayer Team Meeting, 9am
Church Parlor
- 3: Trustees Meeting, 6pm, Church Parlor
- 4: UMW Meeting, 9:30 am
Fellowship Hall
- 4: Gigi's Closet Open, 9am-1pm
- 8: Adult Sunday School Resumes, 8:45am
Church Parlor
- 8: Grandparent's Day
- 8: Finance Committee Meeting, 11:30 am
Church Parlor
- 10: Prayer Team Meeting, 9am
Church Parlor
- 11: Gigi's Closet Open, 9am-1pm
- 17: Prayer Team Meeting, 9am
Church Parlor
- 18: Gigi's Closet Open, 9am-1pm
- 18: Administrative Council Meeting, 6pm
Church Parlor
- 24: Prayer Team Meeting, 9am
Church Parlor
- 25: Gigi's Closet Open, 9am-1pm

BIRTHDAYS/ANNIVERSARIES*

- 6: Ava Malsam
- 9: Laura Oney
- 10: Vanita Epperson
- 12: Harvey Dummer
Marge Ruff
- 13: *Calvin & Sheri Hill
*Steve & Marge Ruff
- 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

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Radio: Sunday Service at 10am on KASL

