

THE MESSENGER

November 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: WITH GRATITUDE

Pastor Calvin Hill

As autumn settles over our community and the colors of creation remind us of God's artistry, we enter this season with hearts that hold both gratitude and grief. In recent weeks, our church family has walked through loss, saying goodbye to beloved friends and family whose presence shaped our fellowship and love for one another. Grief always leaves a space that words cannot fill, yet even in sorrow the love of Christ binds us together. We are a community--a family shaped by compassion, prayer, and the quiet strength that comes from faith shared side by side in Christ.

Paul's words to the Thessalonians call us to "*Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.*" (1 Thess. 5:18) He doesn't ask us to be thankful for the pain we endure but to find gratitude even within it because God is still with us. When our hearts ache, Christ meets us there with mercy that heals and a hope that endures. The cross reminds us that death does not have the final word. Through the resurrection, we are promised that life continues in the presence of God and that those we have loved and lost now rest in His eternal peace.

In this Thanksgiving season, gratitude may feel quieter, but it is no less real. It is found in the caring words shared among family and friends, the meals prepared in love, the prayers whispered in faith, and the hope that anchors us when days grow

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PASTOR'S MESSAGE

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heavy. Every act of kindness, and every expression of love within our church family becomes a reflection of the risen Christ who walks with us and gives us strength to face tomorrow.

As we gather around our tables and in our worship, may we hold one another close and lift our eyes to the light that never fades. The future is bright for those whose hope is in Christ for He is making all things new. May this season remind us that even in tears, gratitude can grow; and through faith, new life always finds a way to begin again.

MEN'S BREAKFAST WITH PRAYER & DEVOTION

Saturday, November 1

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 and Jim Hutchinson will cook a breakfast for the men to enjoy during this time of fellowship.



ALL-CITY YOUTH GROUP MEETS

Submitted by Phyl Sundstrom

Three youth from our church joined about 150 youth and leaders at the NHS Commons on Wednesday, October 22. The 6th-12th graders enjoyed supper together and then moved to Crouch Auditorium for the program. This included contemporary Christian music, ice-breaker games and fellowship. Six students provided testimonials of their Faith journeys.

The event was non-denominational with youth from in and around Newcastle invited. The theme of the event was to “rally around the name of Jesus,” and the purpose was to “promote unity and community within the whole church here in Newcastle.” With the success of this event, plans may develop for another in the future, but no time frame has been set.



INVITATION SUNDAY

November 9

Invite an acquaintance or an friend to church on Sunday, November 9. Bring food to share during fellowship time.



CHOIR PERFORMS

The choir provided special music during the church service on Invitation Sunday, October 12. Pastor Hill played a traditional native flute. Also pictured are Carl Sundstrom and Jake Shook.



A HEART OF THANKSGIVING: THE 13TH MONTH OF GIVING

Submitted by Pastor Hill

As we enter November, a season filled with gratitude and reflection, I want to invite you to something special, what we call our 13th Month of Giving. Now, don't worry, this is not about obligation or pressure. It is simply an opportunity for those who can give a little extra this month, a way of saying "thank you" to God for His abundant blessings in our lives. Think of it as one more month's offering, offered with a thankful heart. Your gift helps our church continue the work God has called us to care for our community, supporting ministries, and sharing Christ's love to all. Every gift matters, and every act of generosity is a response to God's goodness. If you feel led, we hope you will join us in this season of thanksgiving, giving with joy and gratitude for all that God has done.

COMMUNITY THANKSGIVING DINNER



Thursday, November 27
FUMC Fellowship Hall
Beginning at noon

Volunteers at First United Methodist Church will be hosting a FREE Thanksgiving Day dinner for the community. Turkey, dressing, potatoes and gravy, and beverages will be provided. Additional food items are welcome to complete this feast.

Everyone is invited to join in this time of fun, food, and fellowship!

Happy Thanksgiving!





CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES

Submitted by Carl Sundstrom

Children's Sunday School lessons continue on the Golden Rule, based on the parables and actions of Jesus as examples for us to follow. Treat others the way you wish to be treated. Stories about excluding and including others were presented. Videos of the Parable of the Mustard Seed and the Prodigal Son were shown to reinforce the lessons from Children's Time as well.

A brief history of Hallowed Evening and All Saints Day was also presented in conjunction with Halloween.

Pictured at right: Children's Time Lay Speaker Sharon Roness shares a special message with the children during the worship service on Laity Sunday, October 19.

UMW MAKES PLANS

Submitted by Chris French

The United Methodist Women (UMW) met on Wednesday, October 1, with twelve women in attendance. Phyl Sundstrom gave the devotion prior to the meeting. At the meeting...

- The "Christmas in Wyoming" bazaar was discussed. Tickets for the grocery drawings are available for members to sell.
- The Operation Christmas Child project was discussed. Boxes to fill have been donated to our church. A collection tub will be available in the church narthex. UMW will pay \$10 per box for shipping.
- Pecan sales are going well. An order was placed on October 13.
- A donation of \$500 was made to Terry and Deb Mills to help with medical expenses.
- Members approved purchasing Christmas gifts of lap blankets for residents at Weston County Manor and Mondell Heights.
- Poppies have been purchased to distribute to church members on November 9 in honor of Veteran's Day.

All women of the church are invited to the next meeting on Wednesday, November 5, at 9:30am in the Fellowship Hall.





CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- 1: Men's Breakfast, 7am, Fellowship Hall
- 2: All Saints Sunday
- 4: Prayer Team Meeting, 9am, Church Parlor
- 4: Trustees Meeting, 6pm, Church Parlor
- 4: Choir Practice, 7pm, Sanctuary
- 5: Gigi's Closet Open, 9am-1pm
- 5: UMW Meeting, 9:30am, Fellowship Hall
- 9: Invitation Sunday (carry-in)
- 9: Operation Christmas Child Shoeboxes Due
- 9: Finance Committee Meeting, Noon
Church Parlor
- 9: Grief Support Group, 2-4pm, Church Parlor
- 11: Veteran's Day
- 11: Prayer Team Meeting, 9am, Church Parlor
- 11: Choir Practice, 7pm, Sanctuary
- 12: Gigi's Closet Open, 9am-1pm
- 18: Prayer Team Meeting, 9am, Church Parlor
- 18: Choir Practice, 7pm, Sanctuary
- 19: Gigi's Closet Open, 9am-1pm
- 19: Administrative Council Meeting, 6pm
Church Parlor
- 22: "Christmas in Wyoming" Bazaar, 9am-1pm
Fellowship Hall
- 23: Christ the King Sunday
- 23: Grief Support Group, 2-4pm, Church Parlor
- 25: Prayer Team Meeting, 9am, Church Parlor
- 27: Thanksgiving Day
- 27: Community Thanksgiving Dinner at
Noon in Fellowship Hall
- 30: First Sunday of Advent

BIRTHDAYS/ANNIVERSARIES*

- 1: Derek Malsam
- 2: *Harold & Dana Tysdal
*Geoff & Audrey Knight
*Chuck & Patricia Bartlett
- 5: Tim Bertsch
*Tyrel & Becky Owens
- 7: Carol Cargill
- 8: Lenora Sundstrom
Sally Hoover
Nicole Gregory
- 9: Sharon Roness
Nancy McFarland
Emmit Gregory
- 12: Jim Shelton
Tammy Johnson
- 17: Calvin Menz
- 22: *Dean & Tammy Johnson
- 24: Patricia Bartlett

CHURCH INFO

Office Hours:

8am-noon M-TH

Pastor Calvin Hill:

406-845-8135

rev.chill.dine@gmail.com

Administrative Assistant:

Audrey Knight

307-746-4119

fumc@fumcnewcastle.com

admin@fumcnewcastle.com

Web: www.fumcnewcastle.com

Facebook: @FUMCNewcastleWY

YouTube: Search for FUMC Newcastle WY

Radio: Sunday Service at 10am on KASL

