

THE MESSENGER

October 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: LIGHT OF THE WORLD

Pastor Calvin Hill

The days are getting shorter. By the time evening comes, many of us are surprised at how quickly the sun slips below the horizon. It reminds me of a fall evening years ago when the power was not connected to our homes. The house grew darker and darker, every familiar space seemed strange. I found myself fumbling through shadows until a candle or lantern was lit. Suddenly, out of the darkness came resemblance of the rooms, direction, and peaceful comforts of home. In John, Jesus said,

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

October has a way of teaching us about light. The world reminds us of how the seasons shift, yet light still shines. Jesus tells us that he is the light of the world. His promise is not that there will be darkness, but that we will not have to walk through it alone. His light brings hope, vision, and the assurance that God is leading us forward.

As a church, this season invites us to lean into that light. It is easy to look around and see uncertainty with the challenges of the present moment. But Jesus calls us to see something more—like autumn's fading light prepares the ground for winter rest that brings natural fertilization and spring renewal. Fading light is how God is preparing us for future growth. Sometimes when light dims, we are unable to see the complete working of

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PASTOR'S MESSAGE

(Continued)

God. As we look to the future, sometimes dimness is God's way of preparing.

So, let's walk together until we find that candle or lantern, since we are called to be a beacon. Let's shine for Christ in our community. Let's shine with love, acts of kindness, and lift those in need of our prayers. Let's take every step of our ministry as the light of this world, dim and bright. Let's keep shining Christ to all we possibly can. In Him, we find not just enough light for today but hope for all that is to come.

CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES

Submitted by Carl Sundstrom

The current theme for Children's Sunday School is the Golden Rule. Weekly lessons are based on the parables and actions of Jesus that exemplified the Golden Rule.

The story of the Good Samaritan and Zaccheus have been shared and discussed.

Future lessons will be based on Feeding the 5,000, healing the sick, and other topics.



MEN'S BREAKFAST WITH PRAYER & DEVOTION

Saturday, October 4

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.



WELCOME & WORSHIP

Submitted by Maxine Groner

The days tell us that summer is leaving us and fall is moving in. We were blessed with a beautiful spring and summer. Our church members take advantage of being with their families, and we are happy to greet them when they come back.

It is nice to see the older children taking part in some of the activities. Keep your eyes open for what they plan to do. It's very exciting!

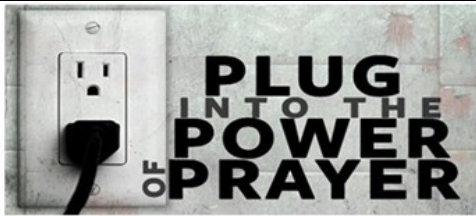
We are happy that Marcia Romano is not only preaching, but she helps with the music, too.

We should all help where needed when we can.

INVITATION SUNDAY and CHURCH CHARGE CONFERENCE October 12

Invite a friend or an acquaintance to church on Sunday, October 12. Bring food to share during fellowship time. Then plan to participate in the Church Charge Conference at 1pm.

Words from Pastor Hill: Evangelism doesn't have to be loud. Often, the most powerful witness comes from how we live day to day. When people see grace in how we treat others, peace in how we carry ourselves, or hope in how we face hardship, people notice. If someone asks what helps you get through the week, be honest: "My faith, my church, and the fellowship we have helps." That kind of quiet faith speaks volumes.



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!

YOUTH GROUP MEETS

Submitted by Phyl Sundstrom

The Newcastle First United Methodist Church youth group, UMYF, met on Sunday, September 14, to discuss upcoming plans and to organize a youth group t-shirt order.

An All-City Youth Group team of adults is forming with the first gathering of students on Wednesday, October 22, from 6-8pm at Newcastle High School. The goal is to “rally around the name of Jesus and foster a sense of unity and togetherness within the student body, no matter the denomination.”

Youth in grades 6-12 are welcome; we will meet at the church at 5:30pm on Wednesday, October 22, so we can go to the high school together. Please contact Phyl Sundstrom at 307-941-1251 or Sharon Fridley at 605-517-2395 with any questions.



UMW MAKES DONATIONS

Submitted by Chris French

The United Methodist Women (UMW) met on Wednesday, September 3, with twelve women in attendance. Maxine Groner gave the devotion before the business meeting. During the meeting, we:

- Approved the following donations:
\$1,500 to Totes of Hope to purchase blankets for kids, \$700 to B.R.E.A.D. for Thanksgiving and Christmas baskets, \$1,000 from the Flower Fund to the church's General Fund, \$500 to purchase three streetlights for a village in Zambia
- Discussed the “Christmas in Wyoming” bazaar, which will be held Saturday, November 22 (NOTE: We will not have a New2You booth this year.)
- Agreed to sponsor the Operation Christmas Child Shoebox project (see related article)
- Approved the selling of fresh Georgia pecans and chocolate treats

All women of the church are invited to the next UMW meeting, which will be held on Wednesday, October 1, at 9:30am in the Fellowship Hall.

SCHOLARSHIP AVAILABLE

Submitted by Phyl Sundstrom

The Newcastle First United Methodist Church scholarship deadline for spring semester 2026 is November 1, 2025. 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, Newcastle First United Methodist Church.

TRUSTEES MEET

Submitted by Carl Sundstrom

The Board of Trustees met September 9. In attendance at the meeting were Reverend Hill, Carl Sundstrom, Lavonne Roberts, Adam McFarlin, Melvin Costa, and Sharon Roness.

Reverend Hill offered the opening prayer. Carl offered a motivational thought from Albert Einstein: "The definition of insanity is doing the same thing the same way and expecting different results."

The August minutes were corrected and approved. Carl gave a financial report.

Sharon and Carl from Trustees along with Reverend Hill and Betty Petranek attended a very important Zoom meeting concerning the amount this church will commit as its share of the co-pay requirement for the RAN Grant. The required 20% matching funds for the proposed \$45,000 grant will be approximately \$9,000. The improvements to be funded by the grant are estimated to reduce our energy consumption (and, by extension, electrical and natural gas expenses) by 50%, year in and year out. Additionally, replacing inoperative windows, upgrading light fixtures, plus a furnace and water heater that are nearing the end of their expected service life are included in the grant.

Replacing the failed light bulb in Fellowship Hall did not fix the problem with the 73-year-old fixture, an indication that those fixtures need to be replaced. Funds are available for this work as well as upgrading all fluorescent lighting to LED's through the RAN Grant, if the requirement for matching funds is met.

The Trustees will pay 21 Electric \$1,976.76 for exit/egress sign installation in addition to approximately \$1,600 already paid for materials. This upgrade was mandated by the insurance company with a deadline that did not allow for normal budgeting adjustments. It was noted that our savings is at the threshold we have established for contingencies such as furnace replacement or other emergencies which could potentially limit the Trustees activities for the remainder of the budget cycle, such as the installation of a sprinkler head for the problem area in the center of the lawn.

Temporary signs meeting the Fire Marshall's requirements have been posted. Replacement door actuators and fire wall repair in the furnace room need to be completed. The Fire Marshall has been very helpful with identifying approved replacement door actuators. The Trustees completed the required monthly tests of the smoke alarms and exit/egress lights after their meeting; all functioned normally.

In response to the Finance Committee's request, the Trustees proposed \$7,500 for the 2026 Trustees maintenance budget.

Invitation Sunday was discussed.

A work day for installing the new mailbox was set for Saturday, September 27, starting at 9am. The annual work day to inspect and clean the gutters was set for Saturday, October 4, at 9am, weather permitting, with Saturday, October 11, at 9am as an alternative date.

The next Trustee meeting will be held Tuesday, October 7, at 6pm in the Parlor.

Melvin offered a closing prayer. Meeting adjourned at 8pm.

"CHRISTMAS IN WYOMING" BAZAAR

Your holiday shopping starts at the "Christmas in Wyoming" bazaar, which will be held Saturday, November 22. Doors open at 9am. Coffee break begins at 9:30am with a soup lunch starting at 11am. Check out the variety of items offered at each booth: Christmas Booth, Sewing Booth, Plant Booth, and Baked Goods Table. Pecans, greeting cards, and dishcloths will be available for sale, a silent auction will be held on a variety of items, and tickets can be purchased for a drawing to win a \$100 shopping spree at Woody's Food Center and a \$100 shopping spree at Decker's Market.

Contributions to the various booths should be brought to the church no later than Friday, November 21. Baked goods should be at the church no later than 8:30am on Saturday, November 22. Don't forget to bring two pies—one for the baked goods table and one for coffee break/lunch time.

SHOEBOX PROJECT

Submitted by Phyl Sundstrom



Members of Newcastle First United Methodist Church are invited to participate in Operation Christmas Child this year by helping to fill shoeboxes for distribution around the world. A donation tub will be available in the church narthex from Sunday, October 19, until Sunday, November 9. On Monday, November 10, members of UMW will gather at 9am in Fellowship Hall to put together the shoeboxes, using the items donated.

We are asking people to donate items such as school supplies, socks and underwear, toothbrushes and toys or games. Specific guidelines and age groups will be available on info sheets in the donation tub or in the church office. Monetary donations are also welcome and will be used to purchase items for filling the shoeboxes. The United Methodist Women will contribute to this project by providing the suggested \$10 shipping per shoebox.

Questions? Ask project leaders Phyl Sundstrom (941-1251), Judi Wackerbarth (406-580-8017) or Chris French (746-5783). A big thank you, in advance, to all who contribute items and/or funds for the OCC shoebox project.

TRUNK OR TREAT EVENT

Submitted by Betty Petranek

The First United Methodist Church will participate in the community Trunk or Treat Event on Friday, October 31, from 4-6 pm in downtown Newcastle.

We will be collecting donations of candy for this event. There will be a basket in the narthex at the church for the donations.

Please plan to join in the fun of passing out candy that night!





CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- 1: Gigi's Closet Open, 9am-1pm
- 1: UMW Meeting, 9:30am, Fellowship Hall
- 4: Men's Breakfast, 7am, Fellowship Hall
- 4: Trustees Work Day, 9am
- 5: World Communion Sunday
- 6: Media Ministries Meeting, 6pm, Church Parlor
- 7: Prayer Team, 9:30am, Church Parlor
- 7: Trustees Meeting, 6pm, Church Parlor
- 7: Choir Practice, 7pm, Sanctuary
- 8: Gigi's Closet Open, 9am-1 pm
- 12: Invitation Sunday (carry-in)
- 12: Church Charge Conference, 1pm
- 12: Grief Support Group, 2-4pm Church Parlor
- 14: Prayer Team, 9:30am, Church Parlor
- 14: Choir Practice, 7pm, Sanctuary
- 15: Gigi's Closet Open, 9am-1pm
- 15: Administrative Council Meeting, 6 pm Church Parlor
- 21: Prayer Team, 9:30am, Church Parlor
- 21: Choir Practice, 7pm, Sanctuary
- 22: Gigi's Closet Open, 9am-1pm
- 22: All-City Youth Group Meeting, 6-8pm Newcastle High School
- 26: Grief Support Group, 2-4pm Church Parlor
- 28: Prayer Team, 9:30am, Church Parlor
- 28: Choir Practice, 7pm, Sanctuary
- 29: Gigi's Closet Open, 9am-1pm
- 31: Trunk or Treat, 4-6pm, Main Street

BIRTHDAYS/ANNIVERSARIES*

- 1: Becky Owens
Harold Tysdal
*Jim & Norma Shelton
- 2: Alonzo Costa
Izador Costa
- 4: Jaimie Gray
- 5: Jim Hutchinson
- 7: David Kiesling
*Mike & Nancy McFarland
*Wayne & Laura Oney
- 8: Becky Decker
- 12: Chris French
- 13: Kathy Townsend
Braylon Gregory
- 15: Rosemary Richardson
- 20: Bette Sample
- 21: Ed Kiesling
- 23: Melvin Costa
- 24: *Bill & Lynda Russell
- 25: Sharon Fridley
Terry Mills
- 26: Jenny Jones
- 28: Julie Domina
- 29: Reverend Calvin Hill
- 30: *Harry & Lavonne Roberts

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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Facebook: @FUMCNewcastleWY

YouTube: Search for FUMC Newcastle WY

Radio: Sunday Service at 10am on KASL

