

THE MESSENGER

March 2026

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

23 N. Seneca Avenue

Newcastle, WY 82701

Office 307-746-4119

REVEREND CALVIN HILL

Our mission statement: *Passion for Christ, Compassion for all.*



PASTOR'S MESSAGE: A TIME OF RENEWAL

Pastor Calvin Hill

At the beginning of March, we are still in the early weeks of Lent. It is a time to return, not to guilt or obligation, but to a relationship with God and with one another. The journey reminds us that renewal begins when we turn our hearts back toward the One who never turns away from us.

Joel reads, “*Return to the Lord your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love.*” (Joel 2:13) This passage teaches that God’s covenant is relational. When relationships are restored, life is renewed.

I want to encourage you during this Lent season to pause and ask:

Where is God inviting healing in my relationship?

Where has resentment replaced understanding?

Where do I need to offer forgiveness or seek peace?

How can I practice love more intentionally?

Renewal does not happen all at once. It grows through small gestures and small faithful steps like prayer, acts of kindness, and reconciliation where wrong was done. These small faithful steps renew trust in God’s grace, not only in us but to those who we witness to.

As we journey through Lent together, may Christ renew our hearts and revitalize our community so that we may reflect God’s love more clearly. Let us remember, hope grows where relationships are

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PASTOR'S MESSAGE

(Continued)

healed. It resists discouragement and instead embraces the quiet work God is already doing among us. Renewal often is unseen, like seeds beneath the soil. With time, care, and faith, a new life emerges.

May this season of Lent be a time of deep faith, renewed covenant, and spiritual revitalization for you and for all who seek inspiration and new life.

Peace and love to you this Lent season.

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

The World Day of Prayer is an international ecumenical Christian laywomen's initiative. Its motto is "Informed Prayer and Prayerful Action," and is celebrated annually in over 170 countries on the first Friday in March. Join together to pray on March 6; pray especially for peace around the world.



MEN'S BREAKFAST WITH PRAYER & DEVOTION

Saturday, March 7

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.

INVITATION SUNDAY March 8

Invite an acquaintance or a friend to church on Sunday, March 8. Bring food to share during fellowship time.



If you would like to designate an Easter Lily in honor or memory of a family member or friend to be displayed at the church for Easter Sunday, please call the church office (746-4119) no later than Monday, March 30.

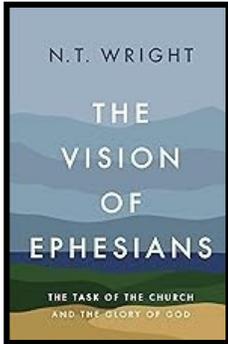
A donation is made for the Easter Lily, and the names will be listed in the Sunday bulletin. Checks are made payable to FUMC with the word "flowers" in the memo line. Donations are used to help maintain the church yard.

SPECIAL OFFERING

A weekly special offering will be collected each Sunday in March for the replacement of the front doors of the church. The members of Trustees Committee oversee the maintenance of and improvements to our church properties. Let's all give generously to financially support the all-important work the Trustees do for our church.

NEW ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL STUDY

Submitted by Pastor Calvin Hill



Adult Sunday School participants will begin a new study using the book, *The Vision of Ephesians*, by N.T. Wright.

In *The Vision of Ephesians*, well-known New Testament scholar N.T. Wright offers an accessible introduction that opens the text in a way that helps what may seem dense and allusive become clear, fresh, challenging, and encouraging. Wright works through the letter in nine sections, exploring both apocalyptic insights and bracing challenges for the church, whether in the first century or the twenty-first.

The new study begins March 8, and books are available in the church office.

CHURCH YOUTH MAKE AND DELIVER VALENTINES; UMYF INVITED TO ALL-CITY YOUTH EVENT

Submitted by Phyl Sundstrom

On Friday, February 13, eight youth and three adults delivered valentines to residents of Weston County Manor and Mondell Heights. For three weeks, the Sunday school class devoted time and creativity to making lots of valentines, enough to contribute to a city project as well as to deliver over 100 as a group.



Photo Captions:

Top Photo: Leslie Sedgwick, Donna Sanchez, Jaxson Sanchez, Charlotte Sedgwick (residents were playing bingo)

Bottom Photo: Grayson Dickey, Hadley Del a Rosa, Sophie Gray, Ayonna Hunter, Nolan Costa, Nash Mefford

The next All-City Youth Event will be held on Wednesday, March 11, at 6 pm. Members of UMYF are invited to attend and to bring a friend; supper is included, followed by a multi-media music event in Crouch Auditorium. Call Sharon Fridley (605-517-2395) or Phyl Sundstrom (941-1251) for more information.

CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES

Submitted by Carl Sundstrom

Letting your light shine by making Valentines, Valentines, Valentines!

Our Sunday School kids had a lesson on "Making Your Light Shine." Various activities that we can do to make our lights shine were discussed as well as Jesus being the Light of the World. Making valentines was one of the ways suggested.

For three weeks the kids made valentines—LOTS of valentines. Bette Sample gave generously of time and materials to this project as well. We did not count, but we estimate they made about 200 of them!

Several of the older students volunteered to distribute the valentines we made to the Manor and Mondell Heights! That mission was quickly organized and carried out February 13 with wonderful parental support. Thanks to all who gave of their time and transportation. The rest of the valentines were delivered to Ellen Butts for inclusion in the gift bags that were delivered throughout the community.

Lenten studies will talk about the temptation of Jesus and "fasting" or giving up something for Lent, such as giving up something that keeps you from getting closer to God.

FUN ON THE ICE!

Submitted by Phyl Sundstrom

Pastor Hill and five youth enjoyed skating and playing ice hockey at the Newcastle skating rink on Sunday, February 1, at 2 pm. UMYF leaders served cocoa and cookies to everyone at the rink that day. We hope this is becoming an annual event!



Pictured above: Josiah Popma, Liam Gregory, and Pastor Hill.

UMW "DAY OF GIVING"

March 23

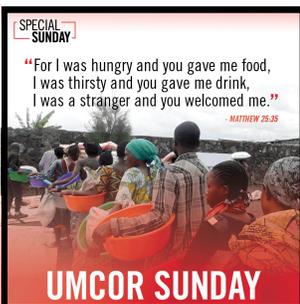
"Day of Giving" is an opportunity for our church family to gather together in faith to thank God for the continued grace shown to United Methodist Women (UMW).

You are invited to show your appreciation for God's **Grace in Abundance** with a generous financial gift to UMW. Your gift will support the mission work UMW does in our church, in our community, and in the world.

Make checks to UMW with "Day of Giving" in the memo line.

UMCOR SUNDAY OFFERING

March 22



The UMCOR Sunday offering underwrites UMCOR's administrative costs. This offering allows UMCOR to use 100% of all funds given to humanitarian response and recovery efforts for communities in need. These gifts ensure UMCOR can respond swiftly to disasters around the world and as a source of hope and healing for those left most vulnerable.

Make checks payable to FUMC and write UMCOR in the memo line.

TRUSTEES CONTINUE PROJECTS

Submitted by Carl Sundstrom

The Board of Trustees met Tuesday, February 3, with eight members in attendance. Items discussed included:

- TVs are installed and programming and testing with the computer has begun.
- New office chairs for the pastor and administrative assistant have arrived.
- Push-to-open door actuators for Fellowship Hall and the exit vestibules on either side of the sanctuary have been ordered and will be installed when they arrive.
- Trustees are ordering a replacement door mat for the front door.
- Trustees have asked 21Electric to submit a bid to light the cross.
- Curry Garage Door Company will be contacted to replace the broken spring on the parsonage garage door. Carl and Melvin will inspect the window with the broken spring and determine how to repair/replace it.
- A wireless microphone will be ordered for Pastor Marsha.
- A telescoping high-reach pole has been ordered for the monthly smoke detector testing.

The Trustees will meet again on Tuesday, March 3, at 6pm in the Parlor.

UMW PLANS SPRING PROJECTS

Submitted by Chris French

The United Methodist Women (UMW) met on Wednesday, February 4, with fourteen women in attendance. Phyl Sundstrom gave the devotion prior to the business meeting.

UMW will host a Spring Benefit Luncheon on Friday, April 24, from 11am-1pm. Area churches will provide salads and desserts; UMW members will provide casseroles. The beneficiary will be the WCSD#1 Aquatic Center.

UMW is promoting the "40 for Lent" campaign for B.R.E.A.D. A \$400 donation to this project was approved. A collection tub is located in the church narthex for food donations.



A project to show support for local teachers was presented. Members approved the project; items will be purchased for the gift bags. A date to assemble and deliver the gift bags will be decided at the March meeting.

All women of the Church are invited to the next UMW meeting on Wednesday, March 4, at 9:30am in the Fellowship Hall.

LOOKING

AHEAD ...

- April 2: Holy Thursday Seder Meal, 6pm, Episcopal Church
- April 3: Good Friday Service, 3pm, FUMC
- April 5: Easter Sunrise Service 6:30am, Greenwood Cemetery followed by breakfast in Fellowship Hall
- April 24: Spring Benefit Luncheon, 11am-1pm



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- 1: Media Ministries Meeting, 11:30am
Church Parlor
- 3: Prayer Team, 9:30am, Church Parlor
- 3: Trustees Meeting, 6pm, Church Parlor
- 3: FUMC Singers, 7pm, Sanctuary
- 4: GiGi's Closet Open, 9am-1pm
- 4: UMW Meeting, 9:30am, Fellowship Hall
- 7: Men's Breakfast, 7am, Fellowship Hall
- 8: Invitation Sunday (carry-in)
- 8: Newcastle Bell Choir Performance
(during Church Service)
- 10: Prayer Team, 9:30am, Church Parlor
- 10: FUMC Singers, 7pm, Sanctuary
- 11: GiGi's Closet Open, 9am-1pm
- 11: All-City Youth Event, 6pm
- 15: Finance Committee Meeting, 11:30am
Church Parlor
- 17: Prayer Team, 9:30am, Church Parlor
- 17: FUMC Singers, 7pm, Sanctuary
- 18: GiGi's Closet Open, 9am-1pm
- 18: Administrative Council Meeting, 6pm,
Church Parlor
- 22: UMCOR Sunday (special offering)
- 23: UMW "Day of Giving"
- 24: Prayer Team, 9:30am, Church Parlor
- 24: FUMC Singers, 7pm, Sanctuary
- 25: GiGi's Closet Open, 9am-1pm
- 29: Palm Sunday

BIRTHDAYS/ANNIVERSARIES*

- 1: Sheri Hill
- 2: Norma Shelton
Cathy Aldrich
- 3: Kelly Wood
- 6: Gabe Hoover
Kimber McIlvain
- 8: Sarah Gregory
- 11: Lisa Darlington
- 17: Frances VanBuren
Mary Ragland
- 18: Glenn Riggs
- 21: Lynda Russell
- 23: Wilbur Costa
*Harvey and Kathy Dummer
- 24: Jeane Sack
- 30: Audrey Knight

CHURCH INFO

Office Hours: 8 am-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

