

THE MESSENGER

April 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: DRAW CLOSER TO GOD

Pastor Calvin Hill

April ties us to Lenten season, a moment to reflect, renew, and seek God. I want to encourage you in this season to pause and draw closer to God, even during our busy and uncertain world. You may be carrying worries about family, work, or the state of our nation. If so, you are not alone. But through prayer, fasting, and acts of kindness, we are reminded of how God consistently brings hope, healing, and renewals in ways we may not yet see.

Matthew 11:28 states, *"Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest."* No matter what this journey brings, Christ's love is steady, and His sacrifice reminds us that we are never without grace.

During this year's Lenten pilgrimage, we have been studying on how to practice compassion and be encouraging to those who are difficult to engage with, especially in a time that often feels divided. My hope and prayer is that we take the opportunity to be a reflection of Christ's love through kindness, forgiveness, and generosity by reaching out to a neighbor in need, offering words of encouragement, or simply choosing patience in a difficult moment or conversation.

Paul writes, *"Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience."* (Colossians 3:12) Let us accept this challenge to live Paul's words out, not just during

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PASTOR'S MESSAGE

(Continued)

Lent but in our daily lives so that others may see Christ through our daily practices. The challenge is all about renewal and seeking God in all places.

My pilgrimage is that we would all feel God's peace in a real personal way. Easter is coming to remind us that darkness never has the final word rather light does. As John writes, *"In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world."* (John 16:33) So let us walk in faith, encouraging one another and trusting God to make all things new—a new beginning, a new relationship, and a new heart that is filled with compassion. So, let us resurrect into this new life this coming year.



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 Wednesday, April 16.

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.



ATTENTION YOUTH!

UMYF (United Methodist Youth Fellowship) is transitioning to monthly activities; stay tuned to hear what develops for April.



Blessed



Photos: Sharon Fridley invited youth to share activity ideas and special snacks during Fellowship Time.

CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES

Submitted by Carl Sundstrom

Children's Sunday School continues to meet during worship following Children's Time. The average attendance in March was 11 children each week.

The lessons in March included the story of Jesus and Zacchaeus, the despised tax collector whom Jesus befriended as an example of how we should treat each other; Jesus healing the paralyzed man; the story of Saint Patrick selling everything he owned and becoming a missionary to bring Christianity to Ireland; and the story of the Prodigal Son.

As shown in the photo, the children shared songs with the congregation during Children's Time.



ALL ARE INVITED!



HOLY THURSDAY
April 17

6pm

Episcopal Church
Haddis Hall

Call the Church office (746-4119) by
April 6 to RSVP for this meal.

WORSHIP & WELCOME

Submitted by Maxine Groner

There have been many happenings in our church recently with the reception of new members and several baptisms. The Adult Sunday School and the Children's Sunday School are both amazing! All look forward to being a part of these enrichment programs.

All are invited to participate in the Easter activities this month: Holy Thursday meal, Good Friday Service, Easter Sunrise Service and Breakfast, and Easter Sunday Service.



GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE

Friday, April 18
3pm

**First United
Methodist Church**

Communion and Meditation



EASTER SUNRISE SERVICE AND BREAKFAST

**Sunday, April 20
Greenwood Cemetery
and FUMC Fellowship Hall
6:30-8:30am**

Begin your Easter celebration at the Sunrise Service. Bring your own chair and blanket. Then enjoy a delicious breakfast and time of fellowship in the Fellowship Hall.



CHURCH SCHOLARSHIP

Submitted by Phyl Sundstrom

The First UMC, Newcastle scholarship deadline for this fall semester is May 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 First UMC, Newcastle.

UMW SUPPORTS OTHERS

Submitted by Chris French

United Methodist Women (UMW) met March 5 with ten women in attendance. Maxine Groneer gave the devotion prior to the meeting.

Action taken at the meeting included:

- Promotion of the "40 for Lent" campaign for B.R.E.A.D. with a collection tub in the narthex and an informative Sunday bulletin insert.
- Selected Weston County Fire Protection District as the beneficiary for the Spring Benefit Luncheon on Friday, April 25. UMW members signed up to bring casseroles. Area churches have been contacted to bring salads and desserts.
- Promotion of the UMW "Day of Giving" on Sunday, March 23.
- Approved a donation of \$150 to the UMW Legacy 150 Fund and \$1,000 to WCSD#1 to help reduce school lunch debt.

All women of the church are invited to the next UMW meeting on Wednesday, April 2, at 9:30am in the Fellowship Hall.



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!

TRUSTEES WORK ON PROJECTS

Submitted by Carl Sundstrom

The Board of Trustees met March 3 with six members in attendance. Items of business included:

- The front door has been repaired. (See picture of Jake Shook, Melvin Costa, and Carl Sundstrom repairing the door.)
- The sanctuary thermostat programming has been corrected.
- Miscellaneous duct repairs are in progress.
- The RAN Grant application continues to move forward. Sharon and Carl participated in a Zoom meeting about automated building controls. The system presented is too expensive with too little return for our use, but it has similar advantages to the system proposed by PRHC of Gillette at a significantly lower cost.
- There was considerable discussion concerning moving the Building Fund into the Capital Improvement Fund. The Trustees are seeking the source of the money in the Building Fund.
- The Trustees agreed to pay for a new AV computer and required peripherals with undesignated memorials. The new laptop has been purchased; Sharon is setting it up for our use. Research continues for the selection of the TV's.
- Repairing an air leak in the chancel was discussed. Carl has been monitoring a reported water leak in the storeroom but has not found any water/moisture in the area, even after the recent rapid snow melt.



The next Trustees meeting will be Tuesday, April 1, at 6pm in the Church Parlor.

You are invited to a

SPRING BENEFIT LUNCHEON



to raise funds
for



**WESTON COUNTY
FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT**

Friday, April 25, 2025

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

23 N. Seneca

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

(Cost: free-will donation)



Food donated by local churches

A PREACHER in the PATCH AND FRIENDS EVENT

April 10-April 13

7pm

Weston County Events Center



Contemporary Christian program with
music performances by live bands

Free Admission † All Ages Welcome



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1: Prayer Team, 9am, Church Parlor | 16: Administrative Council Meeting, 6pm
Church Parlor |
| 1: Trustees Meeting, 6pm, Church Parlor | 17: Holy Thursday Seder Meal, 6pm
Episcopal Church |
| 2: GiGi's Closet Open, 9am-1pm | 18: Good Friday Service, 3pm, FUMC |
| 2: UMW Meeting, 9:30am, Fellowship Hall | 20: Easter Sunday |
| 2: Lent Study, 6pm, Church Parlor | 20: Easter Sunrise Service, 6:30am
Greenwood Cemetery followed
by breakfast in Fellowship Hall |
| 5: Men's Breakfast, 7am, Fellowship Hall | 22: Prayer Team, 9am, Church Parlor |
| 8: Prayer Team, 9am, Church Parlor | 23: Administrative Professionals Day |
| 9: GiGi's Closet Open, 9am-1pm | 23: GiGi's Closet Open, 9am-1pm |
| 9: Lent Study, 6pm, Church Parlor | 25: UMW Spring Benefit Luncheon
11am-1pm, Fellowship Hall |
| 10- Preacher in the Patch Events, 7pm | 27: Fellowship Feast after Sunday Service |
| 13: Weston County Events Center | 29: Prayer Team, 9am, Church Parlor |
| 13: Palm Sunday | 30: GiGi's Closet Open, 9am-1pm |
| 13: Finance Committee Meeting
11:30am, Church Parlor | |
| 15: Prayer Team, 9am, Church Parlor | |
| 16: 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

Administrative Assistant:
Audrey Knight
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YouTube: Search for FUMC Newcastle WY

Radio: Sunday Service at 10am on KASL

