

THE MESSENGER

February 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.*



THE LOVE OF CHRIST

Pastor Calvin Hill

The month of February often turns our attention to love. Yet for many, this season carries mixed emotions of joy, gratitude, loneliness, grief, and longing. The good news of the gospel is that Christian love is not built on romance or perfection but on Christ.

John reminds us, *“We love because He first loved us.”* (1 John 4:19) Before we ever reach towards God, God has already reached toward us. In Jesus, we meet a love that draws near to the weary, strong, the overlooked, and the broken. He gives a love that is not shaped by condition but by grace.

Christ’s love also gives birth to hope because he has experienced suffering and death; yet he lives where our stories within him never closed. We are never abandoned; His love tells us we belong to a long-lasting relationship. In him, hope tells us that God is still at work among us.

So, what might love look like in our life together? It may be as simple and holy as listening, forgiveness, patience, prayerfully living, and faithful presence. In a world that measures love by feeling or gifting, the church is called to practice a deeper love within the steady-shaped love of Christ—one that bears one another’s burdens. This kind of love is so deep that it moves us into a sibling-type relationship where we are willing to care as Christ cares for each one of us.

(Continued on next page)

IN THIS ISSUE:

- Pastor’s Message
- Men’s Breakfast and Devotion
- New Mailing Address
- Super Bowl Party
- Youth Group Plans Ice Hockey Fun
- Children’s Ministries
- Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper
- Ash Wednesday Service
- Plug Into the Power of Prayer
- UMW: All About Missions
- “40 for Lent” Campaign
- Trustees Meet
- GiGi’s Closet
- Looking Ahead ...
- Calendar of Events
- Birthdays & Anniversaries
- Church Information

THE LOVE OF CHRIST

(Continued)

As we move through this month, may we remember the love of Christ, as richly as it dwells among us—not only in words, but in the way we walk together as siblings. As family, as a church, we are called to be a living witness where love has taken flesh and made a home among us. May we, then, continue to abide in that love, so that

our life together becomes a quiet but powerful sign of grace in this month known to many as “The month of Love.”



MEN'S BREAKFAST WITH PRAYER & DEVOTION

Saturday, February 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.



ATTENTION!

NEW MAILING ADDRESS

Our church has a new mailing address:

First United Methodist Church
23 N. Seneca
Newcastle, WY 82701



SUPER BOWL PARTY

Sunday, February 8
4pm in Fellowship Hall

Cheer for your favorite team with friends and family.

Bring your favorite game snack to share and also bring your favorite board game.



YOUTH GROUP PLANS ICE HOCKEY FUN, ANTICIPATES ALL-CITY EVENT

Submitted by Phyl Sundstrom

Pastor Hill will be playing ice hockey again at the Newcastle skating rink on Sunday, February 1, at 2 pm! Youth in grades 6-12 are encouraged to attend. Their friends are encouraged to attend, and adults are also welcome! Cost for rink use and renting skates will be paid by the youth group; cocoa and cookies will be provided. We are looking forward to another fun time on the ice.

The next All-City Youth event is planned for Wednesday, March 11, at 6 pm. Three youth from our church enjoyed the event in October. Over 150 attended; a meal in the NHS Commons was followed by a multi-media music event in Crouch Auditorium. Our youth and adult leaders wore the new youth group T-shirts. All youth in grades 6-12 are welcome. More details to follow in the March newsletter and on the church bulletin board. Questions? Want a T-shirt? Call Sharon Fridley (605-517-2395) or Phyl Sundstrom (941-1251).

CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES

Submitted by Carl Sundstrom

Imagine riding a camel. Only imagine riding a camel from Seattle, Washington, or Chicago, Illinois, to Newcastle—With NO roads, NO convenience stores, NO motels, NO bathrooms, for maybe as long as a year! The kids were asked to imagine that trip as it would be roughly the equivalent of the journey the Magi took to worship Jesus! Then they had to evade Harrod and spend that much time going home. The Epiphany lesson.

The baptism of Jesus was next, with talk about immersion, or sprinkling water and how what baptism means is more important than the way it's done. Cleansing of sins, dedication to following Jesus for life.

The children are again making Valentine cards for members of the community, under the tutelage of Bette Sample. A BIG Thank You to Bette!

All children are welcome to join us for activities in the Sunday School room downstairs.

Children's Sunday School wishes to thank Pat Townsend for donating a First Aid Kit to replace the one that went missing! (When you need a Band-Aid in Sunday School, you need it NOW!)



Bette Sample assists Sunday School children with making Valentine cards for members of the community.

SHROVE TUESDAY PANCAKE SUPPER

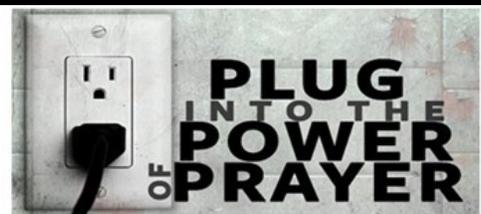


February 17
5-7pm
Episcopal Church
Haddis Hall



Ash Wednesday marks the start of Lent, a period of time leading up to Easter morning, where we observe six weeks or 40 days of fasting, self-sacrificing, prayer, and almsgiving. It is also a time of professing devotion to God.

You are invited to begin your journey of Lent at the Ash Wednesday Service on February 18, beginning at 6pm in the church sanctuary.



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!

UMW: ALL ABOUT MISSIONS

Submitted by Chris French

The United Methodist Women (UMW) focused on mission projects within our church, our community, our country, and our world in 2025. Using the money raised at the “Christmas in Wyoming” bazaar, profits from pecan sales, and very generous donations received throughout the year, UMW financially supported the following:

| | |
|---|----------|
| Church Pledge | 2,400.00 |
| UMCOR Sunday | 500.00 |
| UMCOR Disaster Relief | 1,000.00 |
| Ministerial Association | 145.00 |
| “40 for Lent” Campaign | 400.00 |
| Mother-Child Project (+75 items) | 205.00 |
| Totes of Hope | 1,500.00 |
| United Women in Faith Legacy Fund | 150.00 |
| B.R.E.A.D. | 700.00 |
| UMW Day of Giving Funds to WC Fire Protection | 285.00 |
| WCSD#1 Student Meal Debt | 1,000.00 |
| WCSD#1 Bookmobile | 300.00 |
| Solar Street Lights in Africa | 500.00 |
| VFW (poppies) | 150.00 |
| Terry Mills (medical expenses) | 500.00 |
| Operation Christmas Child Shoebox postage | 200.00 |
| Senior Gifts (Mondell & Manor) | 689.00 |
| Kid’s Shopping | 100.00 |
| Pastor/Staff Gifts | 500.00 |

At our meeting on January 7, the women discussed and approved several mission projects for 2026. Additional projects will be considered throughout the year. UMW will meet again on Wednesday, February 4, beginning at 9:30am in the Fellowship Hall.

"40 for Lent" Campaign

For each day of Lent, “give up” a non-perishable item to benefit the B.R.E.A.D. office.
One item each day for forty days = 40 items!



All individuals, groups/organizations, and churches are encouraged to participate in this campaign.



ITEMS TO DONATE:

Non-perishable items: canned goods, pasta, crackers, soup, peanut butter, jelly, cereal, breakfast bars, cake/cookie mixes, dish soap, laundry soap, etc.

Personal items: toothbrushes, toothpaste, deodorant, soap, combs, hair brushes, shampoo, tissues, toilet paper, women’s personal hygiene products, etc.



Put donated items in collection box in church narthex or take to the B.R.E.A.D. office located at 627 Pine Street.

B.R.E.A.D. hours: 9:30 am—12:45 pm, Monday-Thursday.

Mail financial donations to 629 Pine Street, Box 12, Newcastle, WY 82701



TRUSTEES MEET

Submitted by Carl Sundstrom

The Board of Trustees met January 6, with the following members present: Carl Sundstrom, Lavonne Roberts, Adam McFarlin, Sharon Roness, Melvin Costa, and Chuck Bartlett. Chuck Bartlett was welcomed as the newest board member. We look forward to Chuck's input with the ongoing work of the committee!

The base for the new mailbox has been constructed, and the mailbox is in place. A BIG thanks to Adam McFarlin who donated his time and the materials for the base; he also assembled and installed the mailbox!

New office chairs have been purchased for the pastor and administrative assistant. We appreciate the work they continue to do for our congregation!

21 Electric has been contacted to install cabling and power supplies for the new audio-visual installation. Jake and Carl made an access to the crawlspace below the chancel. The special splitter and receivers are ordered, so we hope to have the new audio/video system up and running very soon!

Considerations for updating the Church's Endowment Fund were presented and discussed. No action was taken as the Endowment Committee has not had the opportunity to make a recommendation.

Smoke alarms and exit/egress lights were tested; all functioned normally.

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



GiGi's Closet

OPEN
Every Wednesday
9 am—1 pm

Gently Loved Clothing available for Babies to Adults!
All Free/No Cost for All | Come and See!
First United Methodist Church
23 N Seneca | 746-4119
Basement Entrance (by the gazebo)

LOOKING AHEAD ...

March 8: Invitation Sunday (Invite a friend to church; carry-in for Fellowship Time)

March 8: Newcastle Bell Choir performs during Church

March 11: All-City Youth Event, 6pm, Newcastle High School



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- 1: MYF Ice Skating Party, 2pm
- 2: Media Ministries, 6pm, Church Parlor
- 3: Prayer Team, 9am, Church Parlor
- 3: Trustees Meeting, 6pm, Church Parlor
- 3: Choir Practice, 6pm, Sanctuary
- 4: GiGi's Closet Open, 9am-1pm
- 4: UMW Meeting, 9:30am, Fellowship Hall
- 7: Men's Breakfast and Devotion, 7am
Fellowship Hall
- 8: Finance Committee Meeting, 11:30am
Church Parlor
- 8: Super Bowl Party, 4pm, Fellowship Hall
- 10: Prayer Team, 9am, Church Parlor
- 10: Choir Practice, 6pm, Sanctuary
- 11: GiGi's Closet Open, 9am-1pm
- 11: Administrative Council Meeting, 6pm
Church Parlor
- 14: Valentine's Day
- 15: Transfiguration Sunday
- 17: Prayer Team, 9am, Church Parlor
- 17: Shrove Tuesday Pancake Feed 5-7pm
Episcopal Church
- 18: GiGi's Closet Open, 9am-1pm
- 18: Ash Wednesday Service, 7pm
- 22: First Sunday of Lent
- 24: Prayer Team, 9am, Church Parlor
- 25: GiGi's Closet Open, 9am-1pm

BIRTHDAYS/ANNIVERSARIES*

- 5: Leroy Dummer
- 13: Richard Epperson
- 14: Ann Cottrell
Irma Fouch
- 21: Irene Tunnell
- 22: Lucas Hunter
- 24: Liam Gregory
- 25: Allyssa Hunter
- 26: Nolan Costa
- 27: Rod Petranek
- 28: Judy Anderson

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

