

THE MESSENGER

August 2026

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: SEASON OF CHANGES

Pastor Calvin Hill

As August rolls around the Black Hills, most of us can tell that summer is beginning to turn. The days fluctuate from hot, warm, and cooler evenings. The mornings feel different, as though creation seems to prepare for the shortened daylight.

Grandma used to say, *"Mother earth is preparing her bed; she's laying another blanket on her. She does it slowly. So be quiet, walk carefully, peacefully, and you'll see the change is good."*

Life is much the same. We all go through seasons of change. We plant, harvest, and feast. Sometimes we do it without notice, and there are times when we recognize the changes. Ecclesiastes 3:1 says, *"For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven."*

There are times we welcome the change, and sometimes we hold on to what we know because the next season is uncertain. But after enough years of living, we begin to understand that we cannot stop the seasons from changing. We can only decide how we will walk through them. The God who comforts creation is faithful in her change and will be faithful in our times of changes that are coming.

As August leads us toward another season, perhaps it is worth asking: *"What am I being called to let go of? How will it be my blanket of comfort? And what is God preparing me to receive quietly and care-*

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PASTOR'S MESSAGE

(Continued)

fully?" We may not know what the next season will bring; however, we can trust God, who has carried us through every season before. We just need to walk peacefully, as a blanket covering us with God's presence.

We see the grass has changed, the days are getting shorter, and life does continue its steady turning. But through it all, God remains faithful.

So, grab a neighbor's hand and let's walk quietly, peacefully, and carefully into this season of changes. You might just be their blanket.



FAITH WALKS

Submitted by Jim Hutchinson

Oh how windy and hot the past several weeks have been, but the Faith Walks small group continues to meet on Mondays at 6:30 at the Serenity Trailhead. Our group has occasionally been expanded by those from other churches in our Newcastle Faith Community. The richness this brings to our conversations along the trail is wonderful. It is amazing to see how God is working in all our churches in the area.

Please join us with your sermon notes, questions or just general conversation around faith with friends.



GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP SESSIONS PLANNED

Submitted by Pastor Marcia Romano

FUMC Newcastle in conjunction with Meridian Mortuary will be offering a Grief Support Group. This will be a 10-week structured program.

Participants will meet in the Church Parlor from 2-4pm. Each session will include:

- Gathering and Introductions
- Educational topic of the day
- Sharing
- Group Activity
- Prayer
- Refreshments

Everyone in the community is invited to participate in this program. No church affiliation required. If you or someone you know is interested, please contact Pastor Marcia Romano at 307-629-0155 for more information and/or to register.



RELATIONAL CARE TEAM

Submitted by Jim Hutchinson

The Relational Care Team has been active throughout the past few months with visitation to those in our church and community who need prayer or just a visit to bring a little joy to their day.

The role of the Relational Care Team is outreach to our community to provide assistance through prayer and making resources available around counseling, grief groups, and food insecurity. Further needs of pastoral care are referred to Rev. Dr. Hill and Pastor Romano from this team. Our referrals typically come through the prayer chain group or through casual conversations during church fellowship time or in the community at large.

At any time, if you just need someone to stop by for a visit or express a need, please reach out to our team.

Team Member contacts:

Jim Hutchinson: 307-629-0810

Linda Miller: 307-421-5546

Rosemary Richardson: 307-941-1547

Steve Ruff: 612-559-6905

Donna Sanchez: 307-941-2908

LOOKING AHEAD ...

United Methodist Women (UMW) will meet at 9:30am in the Fellowship Hall on Wednesday, September 2. All women of the church are invited to attend the monthly meetings.

The Church will host an Ice Cream Social on Sunday, September 6, during Fellowship Time to celebrate a successful school year. NOTE: Rev. Dr. Hill will be at the school meeting to bless all for a new school year.

AN EVENING UNDER THE STARS

Submitted by Jim Hutchinson

The summer night skies have been a little cloudy the past month but we are hoping for a change in that coming in August.



Events in August to enjoy in the night sky with friends and family: The Perseid's Meteor Shower will peak in the late evening hours of August 12th coinciding with the new moon. This will make for ideal conditions to see up to 100 meteors per hour. There will also be a partial solar eclipse visible on the 12th from around 1:00pm - 2:00 pm. Remember your protective eye-wear for this event. The latter part of the month will treat us to a Deep Partial Lunar Eclipse on the night of the 27th and going past the midnight hour into the 28th. During this event the moon will dim and take on a reddish-orange hue.

Plans are coming together for an evening under the stars. Due to weather conditions and dark sky access, the time and location are yet to be determined. Updates for this event will be provided during announcement time in the Sunday morning services.



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- 2: Media Ministries Committee Meeting
11:30am, Fellowship Hall
- 3: Faith Walk, 6:30pm, Serenity Trail
- 4: Prayer Team, 9:30am, Church Parlor
- 4 Trustees Meeting, 6pm, Church Parlor
- 5: GiGi's Closet Open, 9am-1pm
- 9: Finance Committee Meeting, 11:30am
Church Parlor
- 10: Worship, Welcome & Outreach Meeting
10am, Church Parlor
- 10: Faith Walk, 6:30pm, Serenity Trail
- 11: Prayer Team, 9:30am, Church Parlor
- 12: GiGi's Closet Open, 9am-1pm
- 17: Faith Walk, 6:30pm, Serenity Trail
- 18: Prayer Team, 9:30am, Church Parlor
- 19: GiGi's Closet Open, 9am-1pm
- 19: Administrative Council Meeting
6pm, Church Parlor
- 24: Relational Care Team Meeting, 11am
Church Parlor
- 24: Faith Walk, 6:30pm, Serenity Trail
- 25: Prayer Team, 9:30am, Church Parlor
- 26: GiGi's Closet Open, 9am-1pm
- 31: Faith Walk, 6:30pm, Serenity Trail

BIRTHDAYS/ANNIVERSARIES*

- 1: Betty Petranek
- 2: Amanda Sharpes
- 3: *Harry & Elaine Wilcomb
- 5: Christina Cote
Dan Fouch
- 6: Dee Taylor
*Glenn & Caroline Zerbst
- 12: Oscar Costa
- 14: Jaxon Sanchez
- 17: Eli Hoover
- 19: *Carl & Phyl Sundstrom
- 21: Brooke Costa
- 22: Maxine Groner
- 27: Jake Shook
- 31: *Cory & Judi Wackerbarth

CHURCH INFO

Office Hours:
8am-noon M-TH

Pastor Calvin Hill:
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YouTube: Search for FUMC Newcastle WY

Radio: Sunday Service at 10am on KASL

