THE MESSENGER

October 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.*



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PASTOR'S MESSAGE: DEALING WITH CHANGE

Pastor Calvin Hill

Every season brings change. October reminds us of that. The leaves change, days grow shorter, and the earth prepares for winter. Change is not always easy, but change is often where new life begins. Isaiah writes: *"See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs forth; do you not perceive it?"* (Isaiah 43:19)

The same is true for the church as we look toward the future. We sometimes wonder what the church will look like in the years ahead. We may ask the question, *"How can we keep things the way they have always been?"* The better question would be, *"What new things might God be growing among us?"*

God's future does not require us to forget the past. We carry forward the faith, sacrifices, prayers, and love of those who came before us. The past gives opportunity to plant something new for those who will come after us. My grandma used to say, *"The season will teach you, if you listen."*

Growing means being willing to listen, to learn, to welcome the new, to build deeper relationships, and sometimes to let go of things that no longer help us fulfill God's mission. The challenge of change is real, but so is the hope.

God is not finished with us. There are still people in Newcastle who need hope, community, compassion, and a place to encounter God's grace

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PASTOR'S MESSAGE

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and love. Perhaps God is calling us to become something new and not simply to preserve a church building, but to become a church that brings new life to our community.

So, as we enter this new season, let us not be afraid of what is changing. Let us ask *"God what are You growing in us and how can we join You?"* The future is not something we wait for; we actively engage with it. And by God's grace, we help grow it.



SACRED CIRCLE GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP

Submitted by Pastor Marcia Romano

Participants in the Sacred Circle Grief Support Group will meet from 2-4pm in the Church Parlor on the following dates in October:

- Sunday, October 4
- Sunday, October 11
- Sunday, October 25

MEN'S BREAKFAST WITH PRAYER & DEVOTION

Saturday, October 3

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.



Enjoy breakfast during this time of fellowship.

SCHOLARSHIP NEWS

Submitted by Phyl Sundstrom

The First UMC, Newcastle scholarship deadline for spring semester 2027 is November 1, 2026. Application materials are available in the church office or from Phyl Sundstrom (941-1251) and Chris French (746-5783).

The $1000 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. The scholarship is awarded in $500 per semester payments.

Congratulations to Julie Sharpes for receiving the First UMC, Newcastle scholarship for the 2026-27 school year. Julie is a student at the University of Wyoming, majoring in Pre-Med/ Physiology.

TRUNK OR TREAT EVENT

Submitted by Betty Petranek

Our church will participate in the community Trunk or Treat Event on Friday, October 30, from 4:30-6:30 pm in downtown Newcastle.

A basket for donations of candy for this event is located in the narthex.

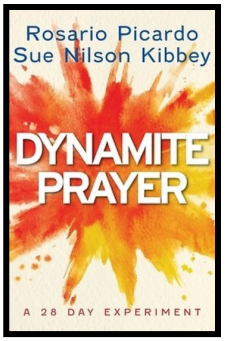
Volunteers are needed to pass out candy that night!





What Is the Dynamite Prayer Experiment?

Dynamite Prayer: A 28 Day Experiment, by the Rev. Dr. Sue Nilson Kibbey and the Rev. Dr. Rosario "Roz" Picardo, is a guide to developing a daily practice of breakthrough prayer. (Books are available in the church office.)



Each day offers a brief Scripture meditation, reflection questions, a prayer, and a word or phrase to carry throughout the day.

The practice encourages us to move beyond prayers centered only on problems and become more open to new possibilities through the Holy Spirit.

For Mountain Sky, the book becomes the foundation for a shared 28-day journey from **October 4–31.** For more information and to register, visit https://www.mtnskyumc.org/dynamite-prayer.

A WHISPERING PRAYER

Submitted by Reverend Hill

God make your love visible through us, in our kindness, our listening, our service, and our care for others.

Let Newcastle know us by our beliefs and how we love. Give us grace to grow, courage to change, and wisdom to follow where You are leading.

Make your favor rest upon us, not for our glory but that Your grace may flow through us to our families, community, and one another. Amen

CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES

Submitted by Carl Sundstrom

We've moved! Children's Sunday School is meeting in the back of Fellowship Hall to facilitate having a second adult for the class. We pray that our new arrangement will help the future generations of our church to grow in God's promise and love!

Topics included Jesus walking on water and Peter's faith, or lack thereof. We also revisited the Story of the Good Samaritan as the UMC topic for children last week was helping others.



Submitted by Pastor Marcia Romano

FUMC is asking everyone in our congregation to join together for prayers for our church. This is an informal and spontaneous type of prayer focused on the vitality and mission of our church.

Please pray daily. Our Father said when groups of two or three are gathered in His Name, the prayers will be heard. Individual prayers are welcome; but if you meet a fellow Methodist on the sidewalk, in the grocery store, or at a park, take a moment for prayer.

A shared prayer is a powerful message sent to God. If we all participate, not only will it strengthen our daily prayer life, but it will strengthen our capacity as Christians to focus on our church, its parishioners in relationship to each other, and our relationship with the larger community as well. This is taking the church beyond the sanctuary.

Let's practice this through Advent, and see what the power of collective prayer can do!

The prayer could be something like this:

Gracious and Loving God, we come before you today asking guidance and blessings upon the First United Methodist Church of Newcastle, its leadership, its congregation, and its mission. We ask the Holy Spirit to lead us in the work you want us to do. We ask that Christ shine His love and compassion upon us; and that you, God, provide a path for each of us to help your people. These things we pray in Jesus's Name.
Amen

TRUSTEES FOCUS ON PROJECTS

Submitted by Carl Sundstrom

The Trustees have had a busy summer! Projects we have focused on include:

- Finalizing the details for lighting the cross.
- Replacing the faded, discolored plexiglass with tempered glass over the stained glass windows on the front of the church. This project was funded by a bequeathment from Joann Fassbender.
- Continuing work on repairing the fire walls in the furnace room.
- Changing he outside door locks on the church, and implementing a new system to register the recipients of the keys. (We wish to thank the donor who very generously supported facilitating this project!)
- Working on the installation of a closed-circuit security camera system as part of our review of the church's security needs.
- Investigating sponsoring CPR classes for those members of the church and community who wish to take the course. If you are interested, please contact Audrey in the office as there will be a charge for the course; the number of attendees will determine the final cost per person.



SHOEBOX PROJECT

Submitted by Phyl Sundstrom

Members of First UMC, Newcastle are invited to participate in Operation Christmas Child by helping to fill shoeboxes for distribution around the world. In October, a tub will be available in the narthex for donations. In November, members of UMW will gather 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, suggestions, and age groups will be available on info sheets by the donation tub or in the church office. Monetary donations are also welcome and will be used to purchase items for filling the shoeboxes. Donations need to be received by Sunday, November 1. 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), Linda Miller (307-421-5546), or Chris French (746-5783). A big thank you, in advance, to all who contribute items and/or funds for the OCC shoebox project. After filling 45 shoeboxes last year, we have set a goal of 50 shoeboxes for 2026!

ACTION TASK FORCE MEETS

Submitted by Pastor Marcia Romano

The first meeting of the FUMC Action Task Force met on Wednesday, September 16, with 11 people present. A comprehensive resource list was identified, and linkage to a local web-site and monthly updating measures has been offered. Visioning and brainstorming ideas began for local churches, community schools, and organizations with shared opportunities to make positive impacts, to meet real needs, and to solve problems to build stronger communities of faith, schools, helping organizations, and to better assist individuals in need.

The next meeting will be held Tuesday, October 13, from 9-11am in the Fellowship Hall. The focus will be building on the visioning process. All members/attendees of our church are invited and most welcome to join this group; interest from the local community is growing daily. For more information, please contact Pastor Romano or Reverend Dr. Hill.

Looking Ahead ...

Sunday, November 1: Daylight Savings Time Ends

Sunday November 1: All Saints Sunday

Wednesday, November 11: Veteran's Day

Saturday, November 21: "Christmas in Wyoming" Bazaar

Thursday, November 26: Thanksgiving Dinner

"CHRISTMAS IN WYOMING" BAZAAR

Your holiday shopping starts at the "Christmas in Wyoming" bazaar, which will be held Saturday, November 21. 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 20. Baked goods should be at the church no later than 8:30am on Saturday, November 21. Don't forget to bring two pies—one for the baked goods table and one for coffee break/lunch time.

SCHERMER PECANS

ORDER PECANS TODAY!

Now is the time to place your order for fresh Georgia pecans and chocolates. These pecans and chocolates are great for your holiday baking and/or gift giving.

The following items are available at a cost of $15 for each bag:

Fancy Mammoth Pecan Halves
16 oz. bag
Milk Chocolate Covered Pecans
12 oz. bag
Dark Chocolate Covered Pecans
12 oz. bag
Chocolate Pecan Clusters
10 oz. bag

Place your order by calling or texting Chris French before October 10 at 746-5783. Items will be available in mid-November.

UMW HELPS OTHERS

Submitted by Chris French

The United Methodist Women (UMW) met Wednesday, September 2, with eight women in attendance. Denette Price gave the devotion prior to the business meeting. At the meeting, decisions were made to:

- Donate $1,500 to Totes of Hope
- Donate $700 to B.R.E.A.D.
- Donate balance of 2025 Flower Fund ($1,200+) to the church general fund
- Donate a case of water and a case of hydration drink for emergency use (items purchased by Linda and Rick Miller)
- Make preparations for "Christmas in Wyoming" Bazaar, November 21
- Take orders for fresh Georgia pecans and chocolate treats
- Sponsor the Operation Christmas Child Shoebox project

UMW will meet Wednesday, October 7, at 9:30am in the Fellowship Hall. All women of the church are invited to attend this meeting.



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

3: Men's Breakfast, 7am, Fellowship Hall

4: World Communion Sunday

4: Media Ministries Meeting, 11:30am
Fellowship Hall

4: Grief Support Group, 2-4pm
Church Parlor

6: Worship & Outreach Meeting, 10am
Church Parlor

6: Trustees Meeting, 6pm, Church Parlor

6: Methodist Singers, 7pm, Sanctuary

7: Gigi's Closet Open, 9am-1 pm

7: UMW Meeting, 9:30am, Fellowship Hall

11: Grief Support Group, 2-4pm
Church Parlor

13: Action Task Force, 9am, Fellowship Hall

14: Gigi's Closet Open, 9am-1pm

18: Laity Sunday

18: Finance Committee Meeting, 11:30am
Church Parlor

19: Relational Care Team, 11am
Church Parlor

20: Methodist Singers, 7pm, Sanctuary

21: Gigi's Closet Open, 9am-1pm

21: Administrative Council Meeting, 6pm
Church Parlor

25: Reformation Sunday

25: Grief Support Group, 2-4pm
Church Parlor

27: Methodist Singers, 7pm, Sanctuary

28: Gigi's Closet Open, 9am-1pm

30: Trunk or Treat, 4:30-6:30pm, Downtown

BIRTHDAYS/ANNIVERSARIES*

1: 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: Sharon Fridley

26: Jenny Jones

28: Julie Domina

29: Reverend Calvin Hill

30: *Harry & Lavonne Roberts

CHURCH INFO

Office Hours:
8am-noon M-TH

open hearts
open minds
open doors

Pastor Calvin Hill:
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Radio: Sunday Service at 10am on KASL