

# THE MESSENGER

November 2023

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

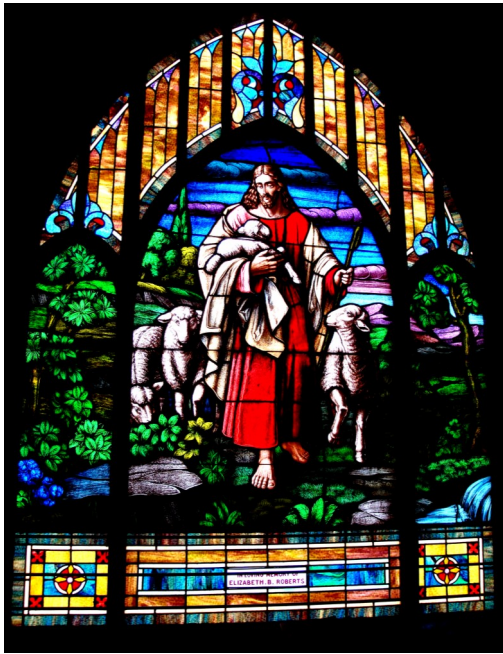
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REVEREND CALVIN HILL

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



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## WHAT GIFT CAN WE BRING?

Written by Jane Marshall

United Methodist Church Hymnal

What gift can we bring, what present, what token?  
What words can convey it, the joy of this day?  
When grateful we come, remembering, rejoicing,  
what song can we offer in honor and praise?

Give thanks for the past, for those who had vision,  
who planted and watered so dreams could  
come true.

Give thanks for the now, for study, for worship,  
for mission that bids us turn prayer into  
deed.

Give thanks for tomorrow, full of surprises,  
for knowing whatever tomorrow may bring,  
the Word is our promise always, forever,  
we rest in God's keeping and live in God's  
love.

This gift we now bring, this present, this token,  
these words can convey it, the joy of this  
day!

When grateful we come, remembering, rejoicing,  
this song we now offer in honor and praise!

† † †

Pastor Hill's sermon series for November will be  
based on the song *What Gift Can We Bring?*

November 5: Unwrapping Presents

November 12: Beneficiaries of Generosity and  
Visionaries

November 19: See the Home

November 26: Abundance Becomes Joyful

## PASTOR'S MESSAGE

Greetings Family and Friends of First United Methodist,

Wow! It's November already—the month of Thanksgiving when we gather around the table that is overflowing with turkey, stuffing, potatoes, pies, and all sorts of delicious food. The men are watching football, and the kids are enthralled watching parades for an all-around fun holiday event.

For many, however, Thanksgiving brings about much different emotions. It's a time of stress, anxiety, and depression. It reminds many of us of failures, losses, imperfections, and loneliness. Thanksgiving is not a thankful holiday for these people, yet they are part of our church and community. How are we to respond? What is it about this holiday or this time of year that causes these emotions?

I often think of these questions when preparing for the holiday seasons, and the main answer I come up with is at Jesus's baptism. Jesus heard a voice saying, "*You are my Son, the Beloved, with you I am well pleased.*" (Luke 3:22). I meditate on what God means to be Beloved, especially after reading Paul's words about believers, "*Now if we are children, then we are heirs—heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ...*" (Romans 8:17). Being Beloved means to be in union or be in communion. Most times we think union as marriage and communion as taking part in the Lord's Supper, which both ideas are correct outside the depths of theology. The ideas are also meaningless and empty to some.

However, we are people of Faith and theologically Beloved means to have communion with God. "Communio," from Latin, means "sharing" or "participation together." Sometimes, we think it's telling us to share or participate with one another in church activities. But if understood correctly, it really is meaning to share or participate together with God. It is a time to spend in solitude listening to God. What does it mean to be the Beloved children of God; and, moreover, to be co-heirs with Christ? Does spending time with God please God?

Paul also wrote, "*... if indeed we share in his sufferings in order that we may also share in his glory.*" (Romans 8:17). Wait! Did Jesus also have times of stress, anxiety, and depression? Yes, if we read the Gospels right, we do see Jesus in his human fullness. That means Jesus experienced weakness, disgracefulness, and suffering moments; but he was still called "Beloved" by God.

As the holiday seasons begin, my hope and prayer is that we spend time in meditation of what it means to be Beloved. Confidently, we can create a community of "sharing" and "participating together" so that the suffering recalled can reflect being "Beloved" of God, a true family, true "*co-heirs with Christ,*" and Beloved.

May God bless you all,

Pastor Calvin Hill



## CHURCH FAMILY GATHERING

Submitted by Judi Wackerbarth

The Church Family Gathering was attended by youth, seniors, and all ages between. We enjoyed an opening prayer by Pastor Hill, a nice dinner and many custom-made, yummy ice cream sundaes.

Then the Church Family GRATEFUL TREE was decorated with many colorful autumn leaves that we wrote things that we were each grateful for. The next activities were various games and painting pumpkins. We laughed, enjoyed fellowship, and had fun together.

Next time you are in the Fellowship Hall, please help yourself to a leaf or two and write what you are grateful for this harvest season and tape it to the tree.

The next Church Family gathering is Sunday, November 19, from 4:30-7:00pm. Please join in the fun and fellowship of our Church Family Gathering.



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## TRUSTEES COMPLETE PROJECTS

Submitted by Sharon Roness

Trustees' big news for October is that the church, the parsonage, and the parsonage garage all have new roofs. In addition, the attic insulation in the parsonage has been increased, a memorial tree has been planted on the church lawn, and only downspout installation remains of the church soffit and gutter repair project. We were able to handle these costs without drawing on a loan from the general fund, as we will shortly be receiving a retained depreciation check from Church Mutual. This will replenish our bank account with the money needed for our ongoing building maintenance projects.

During the roofing project, it was noted that the wooden shed formerly used to store lawnmower fuel is in bad condition and presents a fire hazard in its present location. Since it is no longer needed, the decision was made to offer it to any congregation member who would remove it before November 1.

In other action, we have approved adding seven new members to the church 501(c)(3) corporation board to replace members who have moved away or become otherwise inactive. The new members are Brenda Clarke, Betty Petranek, Carl Sundstrom, Deb Mills, Rosemary Schlup, Donna Sue Vorrath, and Audrey Knight.

*Your Holiday Shopping Starts at the*  
**"Christmas in Wyoming"**  
*First United Methodist Church*  
**Bazaar 2023**

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 18  
 23 N. SENECA

9 A.M.—1 P.M.  
 COFFEE BREAK @ 9:30 A.M.  
 SOUP LUNCH @ 11 A.M.—1 P.M.

Drawings  
 Homemade Christmas Gifts  
 Baked Goods  
 Pecans  
 HOLIDAY DECOR  
 Boxed Cards and Diapers

**New 2 You Shopping in Church Basement**






**QUILT RAFFLE**

"Scrappy Quilt"

Made by Lavonne Roberts

**TICKETS: \$1 each or 6 for \$5**

Tickets available from UMW members.

The winning ticket will be drawn on Saturday, November 18, at the "Christmas in Wyoming" Bazaar.



## UMW MEETS

Submitted by Chris French

The United Methodist Women (UMW) met on Wednesday, October 4, with fourteen women in attendance. Phyl Sundstrom gave the devotion before the business meeting. During the meeting, we:

- Set a new price for dishcloths: \$1.50 each or 4 for \$5.00
- Agreed to sponsor the Operation Christmas Child shoebox project for our church members
- Will honor our Veterans on Sunday, November 5, during Fellowship
- Donated \$150 to the local VFW for poppies to distribute at church on November 5
- Asked for volunteers to make cookies for the First Northern Bank open house on Friday, December 1
- Discussed the “Christmas in Wyoming” bazaar, which will be held on Saturday, November 18

## CHILDREN’S MINISTRIES

Sunday School children painted a gigantic Goliath, and they also made sling shots to shoot at the giant.



## QUIET DISCIPLE

Nominated by Lavonne Roberts and Sharon Roness



**Carl Sundstrom**

2023 Quiet Disciple

Carl is a true example of a quiet disciple. He is always alert to the needs of the church building—its lights, furnaces, grounds, trees. He keeps a lookout for anything that needs repair from electrical, plumbing, repairs to damaged walls, rebuilding kitchen cabinets for a new sanitizer, trimming trees for fire safety, general cleanup of the grounds Spring and Fall, replacing concrete, repairing doors, changing lights in the sanctuary. He does this not only at the church but also at our parsonage. Carl always shows up if there is any kind of problem. He has overseen the reroofing of the church as well as the parsonage. He and his fellow Trustees are always on top of repairing anything that needs repair. He keeps an eye on the temperature in the building, the lights and water, and seeing that the building is securely locked. In addition, Carl, along with Bette Sample and other volunteers, has been instrumental in helping our youth grow in their faith through children’s Sunday School.

## UNITED METHODIST STUDENT SUNDAY

United Methodist Student Day was the original Special Sunday founded by United Methodist Church Sunday Schools who collected offerings to help advance education for their children. The fund was originally established in 1872 as the Children's Fund. Today, United Methodist Student Day Sunday has the same purpose, calling upon the denomination to support their students as they prepare for life by adding knowledge to their faith.

Every year, General Board of Higher Education and Ministry awards an average of \$5.5 million in financial aid to United Methodist students. The offering taken on United Methodist Student Day is one opportunity to support these scholarships. Every dollar – **yes 100%** - received goes towards supporting and educating a new generation of principled Christian leaders for the church and the world. Supporting this Special Sunday is truly an investment in our future.

## SPECIAL OFFERING

For November, the weekly special offering is designated for the Benevolence Fund of the church.

The Finance Committee encourages everyone to give generously to this special offering.

## LOOKING AHEAD ...

December 1: Christmas Tea  
December 3: Advent Begins  
December 9: Kid's Shopping

## COMMUNITY THANKSGIVING DINNER



Thursday, November 23  
FUMC Fellowship Hall  
Beginning at noon

Volunteers at First United Methodist Church will be hosting a FREE Thanksgiving Day dinner for the community. Turkey, dressing, potatoes and gravy, and beverages will be provided. Additional food items are welcome to complete this feast.

Everyone is invited to join in this time of fun, food, and fellowship!

Happy Thanksgiving!

## 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](http://www.fumcnewcastle.com)

Facebook: @FUMCNewcastleWY

Radio: Sunday Service at  
10 am on KASL





## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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|---|---|
| <p>1: UMW Meeting, 9:30am, Fellowship Hall</p> <p>1: GiGi's Closet Open, 9am-1pm</p> <p>1: Adult Bible Study, 6pm, Church Parlor</p> <p>5: All Saints Day</p> <p>5: Veterans Appreciation during Fellowship</p> <p>5: Dedication of Memorial Tree</p> <p>5: Finance Committee Meeting, 11:30am Church Parlor</p> <p>7: Trustees Meeting, 6pm, Church Parlor</p> <p>8: GiGi's Closet Open, 9am-1pm</p> <p>8: Adult Bible Study, 6pm, Church Parlor</p> <p>9: Methodist Group, 5:30pm, Isabella's</p> <p>12: Church Family Ministries Committee Meeting, 11:30am, Fellowship Hall</p> <p>12: Setup for UMW Bazaar after Fellowship</p> <p>12: Operation Christmas Child Shoebox Collection</p> <p>13: Media Ministries Committee Meeting, 6pm, Church Parlor</p> <p>15: GiGi's Closet Open, 9am-1pm</p> <p>15: Administrative Council Meeting, 6pm Church Parlor</p> <p>18: "Christmas in Wyoming" Bazaar, 9am-1pm, Fellowship Hall</p> | <p>19: Potluck Dinner sponsored by Church Family Ministries Committee, 4:30-7:00pm, Fellowship Hall</p> <p>22: GiGi's Closet Open, 9am-1pm</p> <p>22: Adult Bible Study, 6pm, Church Parlor</p> <p>23: Community Thanksgiving Dinner, Noon Fellowship Hall</p> <p>26: Christ the King Sunday</p> <p>26: United Methodist Student Day Special Offering</p> <p>26: Hanging of the Greens after Church</p> <p>29: GiGi's Closet Open, 9am-1pm</p> <p>29: Adult Bible Study, 6pm, Church Parlor</p> |
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### BIRTHDAYS/ANNIVERSARIES\*

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|-----|--|
| 2:  | *Harold & Dana Tysdal                          |
| 5:  | Tim Bertsch                                    |
| 7:  | Carol Cargill<br>Kalyn Sims                    |
| 8:  | Lenora Sundstrom<br>Sally Hoover               |
| 9:  | Sharon Roness<br>Nancy McFarland<br>Ken Hunter |
| 12: | Jim Shelton<br>Tammy Johnson                   |
| 22: | *Dean and Tammy Johnson                        |