

THE MESSENGER

January and February 2023

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

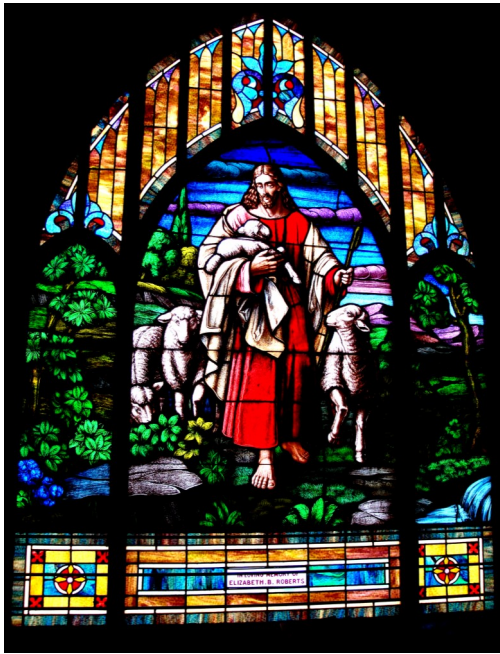
23 N. Seneca Avenue, P.O. Box 579

NEWCASTLE, WY 82701

Office 307-746-4119

PASTOR RON SAMPLE

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



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CHURCH INFO

Office Hours: 8 am-noon M-TH
Email: fumc@fumcnewcastle.com
Web: www.fumcnewcastle.com

NEW YEAR'S BLESSING

At this the beginning of a new year, let us ...

Take time to think - thoughts are the source of power.

Take time to play - play is the secret to perpetual youth.

Take time to read - reading is the fountain of wisdom.

Take time to pray - prayer can be the rock of strength in time to trouble.

Take time to love - loving is what makes living worthwhile.

Take time to be friendly - friendships give life a delicious flavor.

Take time to laugh - laughter is the music of the soul.

Take time to give - any day of the year is too short for selfishness.

Take time to do your work well - pride in your work, no matter what it is, nourishes the ego and the spirit.

Take time to show appreciation - thanks is the frosting on the cake of life.

May God be with you through the new year and fill your life with comfort, love, and cheer. May the days ahead hold many blessings for you.



PASTOR'S MESSAGE

Greetings,

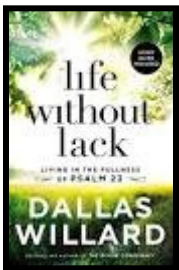
How blessed we are to ring in another year 2023. God has given us his son and now he dwells among us. As we read in the first chapter of John, verse 14, "And the word became flesh and dwelt among us, full of grace and truth; we have beheld his glory, glory as of the only son from the Father." Because of this, we sing "Joy to the World." We will hear the story of the wise men who followed the star that led them to the new born King to bring their precious gifts to Him. They gave their best to the babe in the manger. Epiphany provides us an opportunity to give our best to Him also. God gave us his best, his only begotten son, and we want to respond with joy.

Epiphany season ends with the transfiguration of our Lord, and Ash Wednesday signals the beginning of Lent, the time we contemplate the sacrifice Jesus makes for us. What wonderful things we have to look forward to as a congregation as we center our lives on the word of God, full of grace and truth; He now dwells among us!

Pastor Ron

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL

January and February
8:45 am
Church Parlor



Life Without Lack—Living in the Fullness of Psalm 23 by Dallas Willard.

This book will reveal the secret to enjoying God's presence and becoming utterly caught up in His abundant generosity. Learn the secret of living with contentment, peace, and security.

The individual verses of the psalm will be examined for deeper understanding and for application to daily living.

FINANCE COMMITTEE UPDATE

The Finance Committee has recently reorganized; the following individuals currently serve on the committee:

- Steve Ruff, Chair
- Deb Mills, Treasurer
- Chris French, Financial Secretary
- Rod Petranek, Accounts Payable
- Jake Shook, Trustees Representative
- Marge Ruff, Member-at-Large

Members of the Finance Committee encourage you to prayerfully consider an increase of your financial support to the church for the good works our committees and/or groups (Trustees, Outreach, Gigi's Closet, United Methodist Women) do for our church, our community and beyond.

TRUSTEES RECAP 2022

Submitted by Carl Sundstrom

Two years ago, the Board of Trustees made accumulating a contingency fund for emergency repairs one of its top priorities. We are proud to report that goal has been accomplished! The members of the committee have contributed hundreds of hours of their own time doing routine repairs and maintenance instead of hiring contractors to do the work so this fund could be established without requesting money from the general budget!

In addition, the Trustees have accomplished several other significant tasks:

- Facilitated the replacement of the sanitizer in the kitchen. Work included repairing the structure and decking of the floor under the cabinet, repairing the wall behind the sanitizer, and repairing ductwork and wiring below and behind the sanitizer. The water supply was upgraded to include an emergency shut off. A new electrical circuit with GFCI protection and emergency disconnect was installed in accordance with the National Electrical Code requirements.
- The sidewalk outside the north basement entrance was demolished and replaced to facilitate repair of the door and make it functional again, as well as more weather tight.
- Trees along the back of the church were trimmed to prevent leaves accumulating in the gutters
- General cleanup of the grounds was accomplished in the springtime.
- Fire evacuation routes were posted in each room and hallway of the church.
- Additional fire extinguishers were added in accordance with NFPA recommendations.
- Ceiling tiles and light fixtures in the parlor were repaired.
- The chandeliers in the Sanctuary were re-lamped to provide consistent coloration and better illumination.
- The program for the Sanctuary projector was upgraded.
- The exteriors of the parsonage and parsonage garage were re-stained.
- Overgrown shrubbery was trimmed back to facilitate sidewalk use and snow removal.
- Dakota Greens was contracted to plant the Memorial Tree in front of the church. This will be accomplished in the spring when the weather becomes suitable.
- A contractor has been selected to replace the roof on the parsonage and church buildings. Work will commence when the weather permits this coming spring. Negotiations are ongoing to repair the eaves, facias, soffits and gutters on the church building.



OUTREACH PROJECTS

Submitted by Betty Petranek

Fun was had by all who participated in the Kid's Christmas Shopping event, held Saturday, December 10! Church and community elves assisted 96 children in the morning and 18 Amish community members in the afternoon with their gift selection and wrapping. Many thanks to our many volunteers who made this such a successful event!

Looking ahead to the new year, volunteers from our church are needed to help with the Shrove Tuesday Pancake Feed. The Episcopal Church will be hosting this event on Tuesday, February 21, from 5-7 pm. Check the Sunday bulletins for more information on this community event.

UMW: ALL ABOUT MISSIONS

Submitted by Chris French

United Methodist Women (UMW) focused on mission projects within our church, our community, our country, and our world in 2022. Using the money were raised at the “Christmas in Wyoming” bazaar, profits from pecan sales, and very generous donations received throughout the year (including funeral services), UMW financially supported the following:

Church pledge	2400.00	Totes of Hope	1500.00
Trustees (security system)	1425.00	Faith Bags for church members	465.54
Sanitizer (purchase & installation)	5050.00	Mother-Child Project	330.00
UMCOR (disaster relief & Ukraine)	3500.00	VFW (poppies)	150.00
Ministerial Association	165.00	Christmas Gifts (Manor & Mondell)	78.95

At its January meeting, UMW will discuss mission projects for 2023. Share your ideas with any of the UMW officers: Chris French, President; Phyl Sundstrom, Vice-President, Lavonne Roberts, Secretary; Vanita Epperson, Treasurer.

FORTY DAY CHALLENGE

Wondering what to give up for Lent?

Take the challenge....."GIVE UP AND GIVE TO"

For each day of Lent, “give up” a non-perishable item to benefit the B.R.E.A.D. Office.

One item per day for forty days = forty items!

(you can even donate your chocolate)

This challenge is issued to individuals, groups and organizations, kids, Churches.



Non-perishable food items: canned goods, Macaroni Cheese, pasta, crackers, soup and soup mixes, peanut butter, jelly, cereal, breakfast bars, etc.

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



Take donated items to the B.R.E.A.D. office located at 627 Pine Street.
B.R.E.A.D. hours: 9:30 am—1:00 pm, Monday-Thursday.

Mail financial donations to PO Box 384, Newcastle, WY 82701

Contact B.R.E.A.D. at 746-3542 to donate food and/or volunteer.





GiGi's Closet

! OPEN !

**2nd & 4th Wednesday of each Month
9:00am—1:00pm**

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)

****Current Needs: Children's Clothing and Winter Clothing****

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

JANUARY

- 1: Epiphany Sunday
- 3: Trustees Meeting, 6 pm
- 4: UMW Meeting, 9:30 am
- 11: Gigi's Closet Open, 9 am 1:30 pm
- 11: Methodist Group, 5:30 pm at Pizza Barn
- 15: Human Relations Day (special offering)
- 15: Finance Committee Meeting, 11:30 am in parlor
- 18: Administrative Council Meeting, 6 pm in parlor
- 25: Gigi's Closet Open, 9 am 1:30 pm

FEBRUARY

- 1: UMW Meeting, 9:30 am
- 7: Trustees Meeting, 6 pm
- 8: Gigi's Closet Open, 9 am 1:30 pm
- 8: Methodist Group, 5:30 pm at Pizza Barn
- 12: Finance Committee Meeting, 11:30 am in parlor
- 15: Administrative Council Meeting, 6 pm in parlor
- 21: Shrove Tuesday Pancake Feed at Episcopal Church, 5-7 pm
- 22: Gigi's Closet Open, 9 am 1:30 pm
- 22: Ash Wednesday Service, 7 pm



BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

JANUARY 2

Shirley Borgialli

JANUARY 5

Steve Ruff

JANUARY 9

Anna Logan

JANUARY 10

Herb French

JANUARY 14

Hunter McFarlin

JANUARY 15

Tom Crum

JANUARY 19

Dean Johnson

JANUARY 22

Sandi Shook

Caroline Zerbst

JANUARY 26

Myra Shaw

FEBRUARY 5

Leroy Dummer

FEBRUARY 13

Richard Epperson

FEBRUARY 15

Matthew Parsons

FEBRUARY 21

Irene Tunnell

FEBRUARY 23

Don McColley

FEBRUARY 27

Noah Parsons

Rod Petranek

FEBRUARY 28

Judy Anderson

Bill Russell



SPECIAL OFFERINGS

A special offering will be taken on Sunday, January 15, for Human Relations Day, one of six church-wide Special Sundays with offerings of The United Methodist Church. Human Relations Day calls United Methodists to recognize the right of all God's children in realizing their potential as human beings in relationship with one another. The infographic to the left shows how the money collected will be distributed.

The Finance Committee has designated the weekly special offerings of our church for January and February to support the important work of the local Ministerial Association which assists community members in need. Loose change, bills and checks are welcome. May you give generously to support these initiatives!