

THE MESSENGER

September 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.*



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PASTOR'S MESSAGE: STRUGGLING WITH CHANGE

Pastor Calvin Hill

I remember leaving home to go back to boarding school. As a child, my thoughts were all over the place. I wondered if anyone would accept me as I was. I wondered if I would be appreciated for who I was struggling to become. And I wondered if I could learn to fit into a new world without losing or completely annihilating my own identity. That struggle was very real, and my anxiety was high.

Sitting on the bus, or sometimes in my parents' car, on the way to a new school was a life-changing experience. I was young, uncertain, and stepping into a place that felt unfamiliar. But one day, before I left, my grandmother gave me a small bag of red dirt. She told me, "When you get to your dorm, put the dirt on the floor and rub it in. Your home will always be underneath you each morning." What an incredible assurance that was to me as a child. That little bag of dirt reminded me that even when everything around me changed, I did not have to forget where I came from. I still belonged somewhere. I still had a home beneath my feet.

As another school year begins, many of our children, grandchildren, teachers, and families are entering a season of change. Some are going to a new school for the first time. Some are beginning college, high school, and even middle school. Others are starting a new job, facing changes in their families, or simply trying to find their footing in this new season of life.

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PASTOR'S MESSAGE

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What can soften the uncertainty of change is the assumption that we are still known, appreciated, and accepted by God. Yes, God's presence does not leave us. He is beneath us, above us, and all around us. Isaiah reminds us: *"Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have summoned you by name; you are mine."* (Isaiah.43:1)

In this season, let us pay attention to those around us who may be struggling with change. Let us help them know that they are accepted, that they are not alone, and that we are available to walk with them through this new chapter. Sometimes the greatest gift we can offer is simply to remind someone: You still belong, you are still loved, and God is with you. But most of all, the red dirt is still beneath you; you still have a home amongst us.



On Sunday, September 6, during Fellowship Time, Pastor Hill will bless everyone in our community of faith for a successful school year. Afterwards, an Ice Cream Social will take place for those in attendance.

MEN'S BREAKFAST WITH PRAYER & DEVOTION

Saturday, September 5

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.



RELATIONAL CARE TEAM

Submitted by Jim Hutchinson

Missing someone who has generally been faithful in church attendance, news of an illness, or that lingering feeling of I wonder how they are doing. These are often the very subtle "God winks" that prompt me to make that call, knock on that door, or open a conversation. We all have these subtle thoughts in our minds as we live out our lives in a community of faith. Bringing hope, help, and a vision for what God can and will do among us. This embodies the spirit of our Relational Care Team. Five of us are listed below, but there are many of you that share in this spirit without even knowing it.

Continue to check in on one another. If you know of someone who needs a bit of encouragement through a contact and visit, please let one of our Relational Care Team members know.

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



*You don't have to
grieve alone.*

GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP

**SACRED CIRCLE
GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP**

Submitted by Pastor Marcia Romano

FUMC Newcastle in conjunction with Meridian Mortuary are offering the following sessions from 2-4pm in the Church Parlor:

September 13: Two Styles of Grieving—
Emotive/Cognitive

September 27: Complicated Grief and
Barriers to Healing

October 11: The Grief Process and
Secondary Losses

October 25: How Grieving Affects All
Aspects of Our Lives

November 8: Self-Care, Coping Methods,
Healing and Reinvestment in Life

November 22: Holidays, Birthdays,
Anniversaries and Coping Ideas

December 13: Spirituality and Core
Beliefs—Growing Through the Pain

December 27: Fears and Expectations/
Finding Supportive People and
Practices

January 10: Post Holiday Sharing and
Ritual of Healing

All sessions are facilitated by Pastor Marcia Romano, Vera Huber, Marina McIlvain, and Jim Hutchinson.

**OUR SHARED HOPE
FOR THE FUTURE**

Submitted by Pastor Hill

As we look toward the future of our church, we do so with gratitude for all that God has done through this congregation and with hope for what God still has in store for us. We recognize that many of us live on fixed or limited incomes, and we deeply appreciate the faithful giving and generosity that have sustained our church through the years.

At the same time, the costs of ministry continue to rise while our congregation and income have become smaller. We are not asking anyone to give beyond what they can reasonably afford. Rather we invite each person and family to prayerfully consider whether they might be able to increase their regular giving by even a small amount. A few extra dollars each week, when joined with the gifts of others, can make a meaningful difference. *"Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver."* (2 Corinthians 9:7)

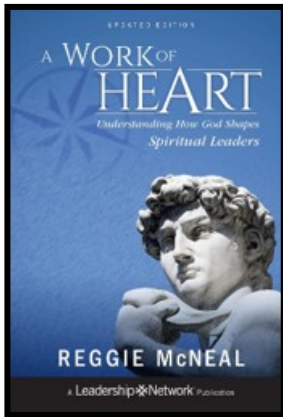
Our hope is not simply to keep the doors open, but to keep the ministry alive, to remain a church where people can worship, pray, care for one another, and serve our community. Together, according to our ability and with faith in God's provision, we can continue building the ministry here in Newcastle.

**PRAYER TEAM
CHAIR NEEDED**

If you are interested in being the chair of the Prayer Team/Prayer Chain, please contact Reverend Calvin Hill or Pastor Marcia Romano.

NEW ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL STUDY

Submitted by Pastor Calvin Hill



Adult Sunday School participants will begin a new study using the book, *A Work of Heart*, by Reggie McNeal.

In *A Work of Heart*, bestselling author and missional expert Reggie McNeal helps leaders reflect on the ways in which God is shaping them by letting us see God at work in the lives of four quintessential biblical leaders: Moses, David, Jesus, and Paul. McNeal identifies the formative influences upon these leaders, which he sees as God's ways of working in their lives: the same influences at work today forming leaders for ministry in our times. He explores the shaping influence of culture, call, community, conflict, and the commonplace.

The new study begins September 6, and books are available in the church office.

FAITH WALKS

Submitted by Jim Hutchinson

Our Monday evening Faith Walks will continue into the fall. I will be gone the first two Mondays in September, but participants are invited to gather at the Serenity Trail and carry on in the conversation. We've had a few other churches represented in the past months that have boosted our numbers, and it has been a wonderful opportunity to share the notes and thoughts generated from the Sunday sermons. There are often connections made between the sermons that we each engage in during our weekly services. Please join us on Monday evenings at 6:30pm.



UMW RESUMES MEETINGS

Submitted by Chris French

The officers of United Methodist Women (UMW) invite all women of the church to join them on Wednesday, September 2, at 9:30am in the church fellowship hall for their monthly meeting.

The meeting will include a time of sharing ideas for mission projects for UMW to consider. We will also be making plans for this year's "Christmas in Wyoming" bazaar, which will be held Saturday, November 21.



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)



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- 1: Prayer Team, 9:30am, Church Parlor
- 1: Relational Care Team Mtg., 10am
Church Parlor
- 1: Worship, Outreach & Welcome Mtg.
10am, Church Parlor
- 1: Methodist Singers Practice, 7pm
Sanctuary
- 1: Trustees Mtg., 6pm, Church Parlor
- 2: Gigi's Closet Open, 9am-1pm
- 2: UMW Mtg., 9:30am, Fellowship Hall
- 5: Men's Breakfast, 7am, Fellowship Hall
- 6: Blessing for Back to School and Ice
Cream Social during Fellowship
- 6: Finance Mtg., 11:30am, Church Parlor
- 6: Media Ministries Mtg., 11:30am
Fellowship Hall
- 7: Labor Day (Office Closed)
- 8: Prayer Team, 9:30am, Church Parlor
- 8: Methodist Singers Practice, 7pm
Sanctuary
- 9: Gigi's Closet Open, 9am-1 pm
- 13: Grief Support Group, 2-4pm
Church Parlor
- 15: Prayer Team, 9:30am, Church Parlor
- 15: Methodist Singers Practice, 7pm
Sanctuary
- 16: Gigi's Closet Open, 9am-1pm
- 16: Administrative Council Mtg., 6 pm
Church Parlor
- 22: First Day of Fall
- 22: Prayer Team, 9:30am, Church Parlor
- 22: Methodist Singers Practice, 7pm
Sanctuary
- 24: Gigi's Closet Open, 9am-1pm
- 27: Grief Support Group, 2-4pm
Church Parlor
- 29: Prayer Team, 9:30am, Church Parlor
- 29: Methodist Singers Practice, 7pm
Sanctuary
- 30: Gigi's Closet Open, 9am-1pm

BIRTHDAYS/ANNIVERSARIES*

- 3: Bart Gregory
- 6: Ava Malsam
- 9: Laura Oney
- 10: Vanita Epperson
- 12: Harvey Dummer
Marge Ruff
*Steve & Marge Ruff
- 13: *Calvin & Sheri Hill
- 15: Sophie Gray
- 22: Fletcher Hampton
- 23: Charlotte Sedgwick
- 24: Harry Roberts
*Todd & Sally Hoover
- 25: Phyl Sundstrom
- 27: Kelsey Wood
- 29: Stella Herrberg

CHURCH INFO

Office Hours:
8am-noon M-TH

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Radio: Sunday Service at 10am on KASL

