

# THE MESSENGER

April 2023

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

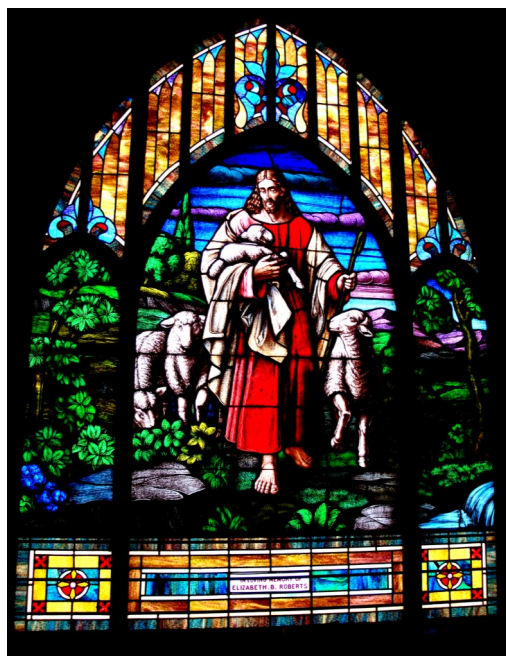
23 N. Seneca Avenue, P.O. Box 579

Newcastle, WY 82701

Office 307-746-4119

REVEREND CALVIN HILL

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



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## THE BEATITUDES

Matthew 5:1-10

The Beatitudes are a series of blessings declared by Jesus during His "*Sermon on the Mount.*" Jesus gives the encouraging promises of the Beatitudes, listing the values in life which will lead to prosperity and salvation.

Each of the beatitudes explains the blessings of following the teachings of Christ.

<sup>1</sup>Now when Jesus saw the crowds, he went up on a mountainside and sat down. His disciples came to him, <sup>2</sup>and he began to teach them.

He said:

<sup>3</sup>"Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

<sup>4</sup>Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

<sup>5</sup>Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

<sup>6</sup>Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

<sup>7</sup>Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy.

<sup>8</sup>Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

<sup>9</sup>Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

<sup>10</sup>Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven."

Blessed

## PASTOR'S MESSAGE

Greeting to you friends, family, and members First in Newcastle,

What a blessing it is to answer God's call to this congregation and with those blessings comes many hopes. Sheri and I are very blessed to hear such wonderful warm welcoming from members of 1st Church and community members of Newcastle.

Our arrival comes during the time of Lent, a season of reflection and sacrifice along with a time of celebrating life and promise. Moving always comes with sacrifices and time of significant reflection. Sheri and I kept asking one another "Do we really need that?" as we packed for the move. Our planning for the move had us sacrifice our personal desires over our needs. What we desired to keep over what we really needed was a struggle. I wanted to bring little nick-nacks that held no meaning, and Sheri kept throwing them out as she reminded me of the question "Do we really need that?" The struggle was real, well for me it was. But with grace, we have made it to Newcastle in good health.

The move reminds me of our time of Lent: Reflecting on what is most important and sacrificing what hinders our spiritual formation to celebrate life in the promises given through Christ. It is not always easy to let go of our desires; in fact, it is a sacrifice. But when we let go of those desires, what an accomplishment. A moment of celebration!

My hope is to take this time of Lent to reflect on where and how God is calling us as we move forward in celebrating this new journey. There will come times of sacrifices as we ask, "Do we really need that?" But the hope is to embrace celebrating life and promises coming.

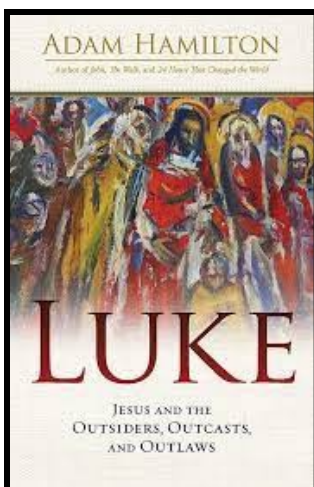
Blessings to you all during this Lent season.

Pastor Hill

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## ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL

April 23-May 28  
8:45-9:45 am in the Church Parlor



Luke: Jesus and the Outsiders, Outcasts, and Outlaws,  
by Adam Hamilton

"Jesus came to lift up the lowly." Trace the "first-century portrait of Jesus" as he ministered to many struggling people. "Jesus brought the good news of God's Kingdom to those who most needed to hear it...Through Luke's stories we find Jesus's care and compassion for all as he welcomes sinners and outcasts...we hear a hopeful and inspiring word for our lives today."

Copies of the book are available from Pastor Ron.

# CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES

Submitted by Carl Sundstrom



As shown in the picture above, Children's Time has returned to First United Methodist Church. "This is YOUR time"—Pastor Calvin Hill to the children of the church.

Eleven children received Pastor Hill's story about how he was led to the Christian Faith by his mother and grandmother. He explained the matriarchal tradition in Navajo culture, and he displayed a Navajo bowl woven from yucca and described how it was made.

In Sunday School, the children learned the story of Zacchaeus, who climbed a tree to see Jesus as he entered Jerusalem. Like Matthew, Zacchaeus was a tax collector and was rejected by the people, but Jesus included Zacchaeus in his ministry. The children colored pictures of Zacchaeus in the tree.

Sunday School attendance has increased steadily since Mrs. Sample has taken the lead with activities including prayer, instruction, campfire time and singing. Mrs. Sample has two girls who have volunteered to be helpers!

We celebrate that oftentimes the children want to stay in Sunday School and continue the activities after the church service has concluded!

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## EASTER LILIES

If you would like to donate a lily for Easter Sunday, please call the church office to have your name printed in the bulletin insert.



## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Volunteer are needed to help sort clothing and to work at Gigi's Closet on the second and fourth Wednesday of each month from 9:00-1:30. Volunteer by calling the church office with your name and phone number.

## **BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEET**

Submitted by Carl Sundstrom, Chair

The Board of Trustees had their monthly meeting on the 7th of March. Pastor Hill was welcomed to his first meeting with the committee, and Pastor Ron was thanked for his contributions and support for the last year and a half.

A brief overview of the committee's bylaws was presented. Bank balances were reported, along with outstanding bills. Payments for duct work supplies and the annual fire extinguisher inspection were approved.

Progress on parsonage repairs, upgrades and work still needed was presented. Miscellaneous expenditures were approved for the ongoing work.

A progress report on the projector repair and the state of spare projectors was presented. A report on Memorials was presented, detailing specified memorial and general memorial funds. The committee discussed the True Green contract and will make recommendations to UMW.

Alternatives to get the upgrade to the old main entrance and repairs of the soffits, gutters and fascia were discussed to get these projects moving early this spring.

The next Trustees' meeting will be April 4, 2023.

## **CHURCH WORK DAY**

All are invited to help spruce up the church grounds on Saturday, April 15, beginning at 9 am. The Trustees need help in repairing the damage to the lawn by the Gazebo from the sewer repair that was done in December, and doing a general spring cleaning of the church grounds. Bring rakes, shovels, and a willing attitude!



## **CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

- 2: Palm Sunday
- 4: Trustees Meeting, 6 pm
- 5: UMW Meeting, 9:30 am
- 6: Maundy Thursday Supper and Service, 6 pm
- 9: Easter Sunday
- 12: Gigi's Closet Open, 9 am-1:30 pm
- 12: Methodist Group, 5:30 pm at Newcastle Country Club
- 15: Trustees Work Day, 9 am
- 16: Baby Costa Card/Gift Shower (during fellowship time)
- 16: Finance Committee Meeting, 11:30 am in Parlor
- 19: Administrative Council Meeting, 6 pm in Parlor
- 23: Native American Ministries Sunday (special offering)
- 26: Gigi's Closet Open, 9 am-1:30 pm
- 28: Spring Benefit Luncheon, 11am-1pm, Fellowship Hall

## **MAUNDY THURSDAY SUPPER & SERVICE**

Pastor Hill invites everyone to join him on Maundy Thursday, April 6, at 6 pm in the Fellowship Hall for a soup supper with pie and ice cream. The service will include a devotional and hymn singing.

## UMW PROJECTS

Submitted by Chris French

United Methodist Women (UMW) were busy in March with several projects:

- Hosted 90th birthday party for JoAnn Fassbender
- Matched congregational special offering for the Ministerial Association (\$680.25)
- Encouraged participation in the “40 for Lent” campaign
- Distributed “Spring into Faith” bags to church members
- Matched congregational giving for Ash Wednesday (\$1,029) for UMCOR disaster relief in Turkey and Syria
- Hosted a Pastor Appreciation lunch for Ron and Bette Sample
- Contributed gift certificates to the Welcome Basket for Pastor Calvin and Sheri Hill

UMW will host a Spring Benefit Luncheon on Friday, April 28, for the benefit of WYO HELP.



## NEIGHBORS HELPING NEIGHBORS

The mission of WYO HELP is to improve the quality of life for people in need by empowering them to become more self-sufficient.

What does WYO HELP do? WYO HELP provides:

- Housing Support—Rent payments, utility payments, home repairs, etc.
- Emergency Services—Limited shelter in local hotels and emergency transportation
- Nutrition Support—Partnerships with state and local food pantries
- Health Support—Payment support for medical visits, dental visits, vision visits, funerals, prescriptions, and mental health

## CONGREGATION GIVES GENEROUSLY

Submitted by Chris French,  
Financial Secretary

Members of the FUMC congregation have generously supported local and global initiatives. The collection taken at the Ash Wednesday service was designated for UMCOR disaster relief in Turkey and Syria. The amount collected was \$1,029, which was matched by UMW. A total of \$2,058 was sent to UMCOR for this project.

The weekly special offering for March was designated for maintenance of the church and parsonage. Church members have generously donated \$2,026 to the Trustees for the important work they do in maintaining our church properties.

Blessings to everyone for giving so generously!

You are invited to a

## SPRING BENEFIT LUNCHEON



For



## WYO HELP

The mission of WYO HELP is to improve the quality of life for people in need by empowering them to become more self-sufficient. WYO HELP provides: Housing Support, Emergency Services, Nutrition Support, and Health Support

**Friday, April 28, 2023**

**FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

**23 N. Seneca**

**11 a.m. until 1:00 p.m.**

**(Cost: free-will donation)**



*Food donated by local churches.*



## NATIVE AMERICAN MINISTRIES SUNDAY

Native American Ministries Sunday serves to remind United Methodists of the gifts and contributions made by Native Americans to our society and in our communities. This special offering on April 23 is used to develop and strengthen Native American ministries in the annual conferences, and Native American rural, urban, reservation ministries and communities. It also provides scholarships for Native Americans attending United Methodist schools of theology.

### CHURCH INFO

Office Hours: 9 am-1 pm M-TH

Pastor Calvin Hill:  
406-845-8135  
rev.chill@fumcnewcastle.com

Administrative Assistant Julie Sharpes:  
307-746-4119  
fumc@fumcnewcastle.com

Web: [www.fumcnewcastle.com](http://www.fumcnewcastle.com)

Sunday Service is broadcast on KASL at 10 am.



### BIRTHDAYS/ANNIVERSARIES\*

- 1: Dana Tysdal
- 3: Minnie Quick
- 4: Todd Hoover
- 5: Dan Decker
- 9: Pam Bertsch
- 12: Anita Ottema
- 13: Carol Nicholls
- 16: Deb Smith  
Billie Jo McFarlin  
\*Jake & Sandi Shook
- 18: Lainey Hyatt
- 20: Cory Wackenbarth
- 23: Brooklyn McFarlin
- 24: Steve Engle
- 25: \*Wilbur & Norma Lease
- 26: Ron Sample

### WELCOME BABY COSTA

Congratulations to Melvin and Brooke Costa on the birth of their new baby boy, Wilbur Marion Costa, who arrived on March 23.



UMW is hosting a Baby Shower for the Costa family during fellowship on Sunday, April 16. Everyone is encouraged to bring a card and/or gift to welcome this new bundle of joy.

