

# THE MESSENGER

August 2025

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.*



## PASTOR'S MESSAGE: CARING HEARTS

Pastor Calvin Hill

As August rolls in, many of us might feel the weight and hot warm days of the season. The long days of summer are slowly turning towards fall, and our ranching and family times will turn to the works of harvesting. For others, it's back-to-school season and signs that time keeps moving, sometimes faster than we would like.

In this season, I find words from Jesus, "Do not be afraid, little flock..." (*Luke 12:32*) reminding a small church community that He knows what it's like to care for a little flock. He knows that even small communities can carry deep faith, powerful witnesses, and immense love.

At times, in a small town it is easy to feel like we do not have the resources or the reach of bigger cities. But, in the passage of Luke, Jesus does not measure our worth by size or numbers. He looks at the heart, and I have witnessed so many caring hearts in our community and church.

Let the caring hearts be a part of our harvesting as we move into the last stretch of summer. I want to encourage all to breathe deeply, take a Sabbath moment, and receive the harvest—whether that's a quiet evening on the porch, a prayer lifted during chores, or a walk along the prairie. God is with us here! In the quiet, in the dust, even during work, our place to rest is still here where we can receive the harvest.

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## PASTOR'S MESSAGE

(Continued)

Let us continue to care for one another, to check in with neighbors, and to pray for the kids and teachers preparing for a new school year. Let us remember that we are not forgotten. We may be a little flock, but we are beloved.

## A PLACE FOR NEIGHBORS

Submitted by Pastor Hill

In a small town like ours, word travels best through kindness and conversation. If our church has been a blessing to you, a place of peace and hope, or a place to breathe, consider inviting a neighbor, friend, or co-worker to join you some Sunday. You don't have to preach or persuade, just extend a welcome. Sometimes all it takes is knowing someone saved them a seat.

## CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES

Submitted by Carl Sundstrom

Children's Sunday School will continue to meet throughout the summer.

Currently, lessons parallel the growth of personal faith with growing plants from seeds. A video from a series about faith is presented each week, followed by planting actual seeds and talking about what makes plants and faith grow.

A video of The Parable of the Sower was presented and we talked about



what it meant; we also discussed how faith needs prayer, the Word of God, and practice to grow just like plants need sunshine, water and soil to grow.



## GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP SESSIONS PLANNED

Submitted by Laura Oney

FUMC Newcastle in conjunction with Meridian Mortuary will be offering a Grief Support Group. This will be a 10-week structured program beginning August 10 and continuing the 2nd and 4th Sunday of each month through December 28.

Participants will meet in the Church Parlor from 2-4pm. Each session will include:

- Gathering and Introductions
- Educational topic of the day
- Sharing
- Group Activity
- Prayer
- Refreshments

Everyone in the community is invited to participate in this program. No church affiliation required. If you or someone you know is interested, please contact Laura at 307-941-0052 for more information and/or to register.

## A NOTE OF THANKS

Thank you, Tanner Lenardson, for volunteering to mow the church lawn. Tanner is donating this service even though his business is mowing lawns. We appreciate your time and efforts!

*FUMC Trustees*

## **FAITH WALKS CONCLUDE**

Submitted by Jim Hutchinson

The series of Faith Walks in June and early July were an enjoyable time to reflect on the Sunday morning sermons and share applications we see in our own lives. It was a delightful small group experience engaging the Word proclaimed and nature. Future events are under consideration; and with any ministry outreach, a period of evaluation to find ways to enhance the experience is in order.

Please contact Jim Hutchinson (307-629-0810) with your suggestions.



Pictured above: Jim, Aaron, Cory, Phyl, Sharla, Kara, Judi, and Taylor.

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## **TRUSTEES MEET**

Submitted by Carl Sundstrom

The Board of Trustees met July 1. Present were Carl Sundstrom, Lavonne Roberts, Adam McFarlin, and Jake Shook.

The Trustees thank Aaron Logan for mowing the church lawn. Aaron volunteered to help while preparing their house for sale and preparing to move to Boise, Idaho. We also wish to thank Tanner Lenardson for volunteering to pick up this task.

Carl reported on the RAN Grant progress. The report was somewhat of a disappointment as it did not address our specific needs.

The Trustees have purchased a 10-foot ladder for maintenance purposes.

J&J Sprinkler Repair has made additional corrections to the sprinkler system.

The project to replace the landscaping gravel has been completed. We are grateful to all who helped in many ways to complete this project, as well as the UMW for suggesting and financing this upgrade to our church.

The Trustees are paying  $\frac{1}{2}$  of the insurance premium for optional coverage to reduce wind and hail coverage this year. This coverage reduces our co-pay from approximately \$54,000 to \$5,000.

The Trustees are continuing to work on defining what constitutes a "large expenditure" which will require approval by a Church or Charge Conference. Trustees will discuss this with the Finance Committee to get their input.

The next meeting will be held at 6pm in the Church Parlor on August 5.

## AN EVENING UNDER THE STARS

Submitted by Jim Hutchinson

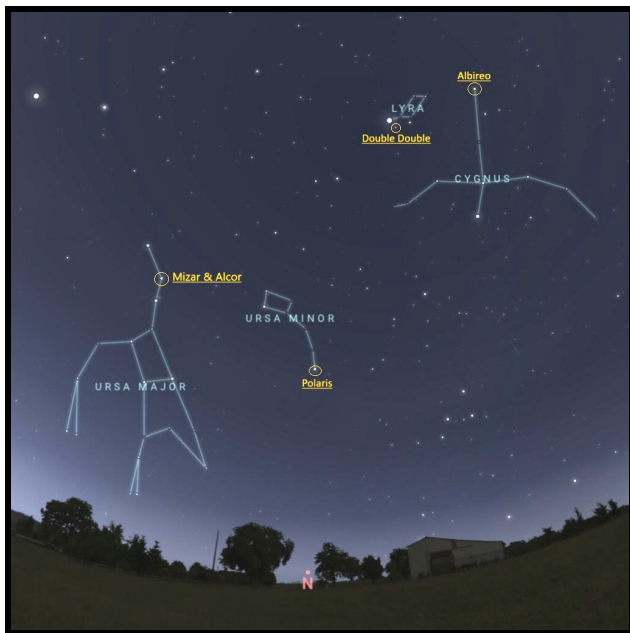


Photo courtesy of NASA Science

### STARGAZING EVENT

Friday, August 22

8-10pm

Sharon Fridley Ranch  
25407 Dewey Road,  
(12 miles East on Hwy. 16)

All are invited for a time of fellowship, food, and stargazing.

Bring a lawn chair, a light jacket, and a favorite snack or dessert to share. Drinks will be provided.

Contact Audrey at the Church office (746-4119) if you plan to participate in the Stargazing Event. Carpooling will be available.

## FINANCIAL CHALLENGES

Submitted by Pastor Hill

As we head into the last part of 2025, we know folks are feeling the pinch financially—groceries cost more, fuel is not cheap, and it is taking more just to get by. Our church is feeling the pinch, too. But we have also seen what makes a small-town church strong: people pitching in, helping out, and doing what they can. The Bible says, "A generous person will be enriched, and one who gives water will get water." (*Proverbs 11:25*) Around this community, we understand that if you take care of the water well, it will take care of you. If you are able, we invite you to give a little extra each month—not out of pressure, but out of the same blessing and grace that has carried this church for generations.



### PROJECTOR OPERATORS NEEDED

Submitted by Sharon Roness

Can you turn on a PC? Have you ever run a PowerPoint presentation? If so, can you commit to operating the projector during just one Sunday per month? The presentation will be already prepared so all you will have to do is start up the program and projector and click on the slides as the service progresses. The hope is to have at least four regular operators plus several who can step in as needed. If you can help, please contact Sharon Roness at 307-365-8585 to set up a time for your personal orientation.

## LOOKING AHEAD ...

United Methodist Women (UMW) will meet at 9:30am in the Fellowship Hall on Wednesday, September 3. All women of the church are invited to attend the monthly meetings.

# August

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- 2: Men's Breakfast, 7am, Fellowship Hall
- 5: Prayer Team, 9:30am, Church Parlor
- 5: Trustees Meeting, 6 pm, Church Parlor
- 5: Choir Practice, 7pm, Sanctuary
- 6: Gigi's Closet Open, 9 am-1pm
- 10: Finance Committee Meeting, 11:30 am  
Church Parlor
- 10: Grief Support Group, 2-4pm  
Church Parlor
- 12: Prayer Team, 9:30am, Church Parlor
- 12: Choir Practice, 7pm, Sanctuary
- 13: Gigi's Closet Open, 9 am-1 pm
- 19: Prayer Team, 9:30am, Church Parlor
- 19: Choir Practice, 7pm, Sanctuary
- 20: Gigi's Closet Open, 9 am-1pm
- 20: Administrative Council Meeting, 6 pm  
Church Parlor
- 22: Stargazing Event, "An Evening Under  
the Stars," 8pm, Fridley Ranch
- 24: Grief Support Group, 2-4pm  
Church Parlor
- 26: Prayer Team, 9:30am, Church Parlor
- 26: Choir Practice, 7pm, Sanctuary
- 27: Gigi's Closet Open, 9 am-1pm

## BIRTHDAYS/ANNIVERSARIES\*

- 1: Betty Petranek
- 2: Amanda Sharpes
- 3: \*Harry & Elaine Wilcomb
- 5: Christina Cote  
Dan Fouch
- 6: Dee Taylor  
\*Glenn & Caroline Zerbst
- 12: Oscar Costa
- 14: Jaxon Sanchez
- 17: Eli Hoover
- 19: \*Carl & Phyl Sundstrom
- 21: Brooke Costa
- 23: Maxine Groner
- 25: Gene Baldwin
- 27: Gideon Dixon  
Jake Shook
- 31: \*Cory & Judi Wackenbarth

## CHURCH INFO

### Office Hours:

8am-noon M-TH

### Pastor Calvin Hill:

406-845-8135

rev.chill.dine@gmail.com

### Administrative Assistant:

Audrey Knight

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Facebook: @FUMCNewcastleWY

YouTube: Search for FUMC Newcastle WY

Radio: Sunday Service at 10am on KASL

