



## Worship Schedule

### Sundays

In-Person & Online 10:50 am  
[www.facebook.com/fumcomaha](http://www.facebook.com/fumcomaha)

### Taizé Worship

Canceled until further notice

### Pastor

Rev. Morita Truman

### Pastoral Intern

Maddi Baugous

### Receive "Connect" by E-Mail

E-mail Lorraine in the church office,  
[Lorraine.Dalziel@fumcomaha.org](mailto:Lorraine.Dalziel@fumcomaha.org) with  
your e-mail address and you will begin  
receiving the newsletter by e-mail.

### Church Office Hours

8:30 am - 4:00 pm Monday - Thursday  
Friday and Saturday closed

*"We are a United Methodist congregation of all sexual orientations and gender identities making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. We stand in solidarity with Reconciling Ministry Network working against injustice and discrimination through peace and justice."*



Rev. Morita Truman

## THINK ON THESE THINGS

*Philippians 4:8*

At staff meeting this past week I looked around the table and said "It's Advent. How can it be Advent already?" I am still adjusting to the fact that five months have passed since we started our time together. And here we are, preparing for the first season of the church year.

I was 5 years old when my maternal grandfather died on Christmas Day. I still remember as the family gathered for the funeral an organist was playing Christmas music. The tune we know as "What Child is This?" was emanating

from an instrument I could not see. As our worship team began to think about the journey through Advent, we turned to that question, "*what child is this?*" We focused on 4 key elements about Jesus that speak to the relationship we seek to understand and yes, at times emulate. Sometimes the answers come through instruments we don't always see clearly or immediately.

Throughout Advent we will all consider that question. We will be asked to think of how we are influenced by a child who was transient who sometimes did not know where he would sleep at night. We will think of Jesus as a healer beyond the physical considerations. The challenges of the word "Savior." Finally Jesus as teacher who taught new ways to live and be in the world. On December 24, we see Jesus as incarnation – and each of us as incarnation of God in the world.

The question of 'what child is this' is not only about the One we celebrate at Christmas. We are, each of us, children of God who consider that question about our own lives – what child of God is this and what gifts do we have to share in the world?

I am praying we share in a holy and meaningful Advent season together. I am on the journey with you.

*Morita*

*First United Methodist Church*  
**Christmas Eve** *Worship Services*

7020 Cass Street | Omaha, Ne 68132  
[www.fumcomaha.org](http://www.fumcomaha.org) | 402.556.6262

**Friday, Dec. 24**  
**5:30 pm | 9:00 pm**

First  
United  
Methodist  
Church



# Welcoming



Maddi Baugous, Pastoral Intern

## Advent

In this time of Advent as we wait in expectation of a child, I simply thought I would share a poem I wrote for all the children of any age. Hear these words today:

You, O Child, are beloved.  
You, O Child, are wonderful.  
You, O Child, are fabulous.  
You, O Child, are worthy.  
You, O Child, are beautiful.  
You, O Child, are marvelous.  
Never lose your spark.

For you are the Light of the World.

Amen.

*Maddi*

## Blue Christmas

December 21, 6:00 pm

Mead Chapel

A time to name our grief in the midst of this festive time and open ourselves up to God's healing grace.



## SUNDAY SCHOOL FUN

We have exciting plans for our Sunday School Advent classes—from November 28th through December 19th—to celebrate the gift of children in God's realm!

Every Sunday following the Advent lesson, each child will have a choice of craft to complete. The finished crafts will be ornaments for our classroom Christmas tree. At the end of our final Sunday School class of the Advent season, we will invite parents to our classroom to view the children's decorated tree.

At 9:30 a.m. every Sunday morning, we will meet parents and children in the Gathering Place, after which the teachers and kids will move to Room 208 for our important learning and fun. At 10:35, we will bring the children back to the Gathering Place to return them to their parents.

Fran and the teachers have been enjoying our classes with only a few children each week. But both the children and teachers miss all our friends we haven't seen in a long time. Learning how to live in God's way is so much more dynamic and meaningful for children when they experience the lessons along with their friends.

We all wear masks throughout our meeting time. All of our teachers have been vaccinated!

We look forward to seeing all our Sunday School friends!

If you have any questions about Sunday School, please contact our Children's Ministry Coordinator Fran Sillau at

[Fran.Sillau@fumcomaha.org](mailto:Fran.Sillau@fumcomaha.org).





# Supporting



October was full of wonderful celebrations at Rainbow Factory Preschool! Students were able to safely Trick or Treat in the hallways of FUMC thanks to the wonderful church staff. As you can see, students were elated to receive treats from Pastor Morita Truman and Marie Meyers! Throughout October,

curriculum centered around Harvest, Fall, Feelings, and Halloween! As you can imagine, our Imaginative Play centers were a focal point this month with additional costumes

and set ups that guided creative social play. Throughout October, we ran a Virtual Fundraising Campaign that earned us around \$5,000! We are blown away and blessed by all the financial support from our community and FUMC. Thank you for seeing what we do as important work and helping us meet ends during such an uncertain time in education.



Questions? Contact: Allie Skoog at [Allie.Skoog@fumcomaha.org](mailto:Allie.Skoog@fumcomaha.org)

PERIOD PRODUCT DRIVE

## END THE STIGMA

PERIOD PRODUCTS  
ARE A NECESSITY.  
NOT A LUXURY.

Now through December 21st we are collecting period products such as; pads, panty liners and tampons! Donations can be dropped off in the Gathering Place on Sundays or at the church office! The products will be donated to Omaha organizations on Wednesday, December 22nd.

If you'd like to volunteer to help deliver products or have any questions, please contact [Lorraine.Dalziel@fumcomaha.org](mailto:Lorraine.Dalziel@fumcomaha.org) or 402.556.6262!

## Holiday Piano Soiree

with Mark Kurtz



Reservations are \$25 per person and can be made in the Gathering Place on Sunday mornings or by calling the church office at 402.556.6262

All proceeds support the First UMC Omaha's music program.

The Bloomfield Forum  
9804 Nicholas St.

Friday, December 17 | 7:30pm

Saturday, December 18 | 10:30am

Sunday, December 19 | 3:30pm

## Adult Learning Tour

Face-To-Face

with Black History Tour

July 10-17, 2022

Route: The BVM Tour 2022 will depart from Omaha and move through the following cities: Memphis, Jackson, Birmingham, Selma, Montgomery, Tuskegee, and Atlanta.

## Reserve Your Seat

Contact Tour Creator, Preston Love, Jr,

at [prestonlovejr@gmail.com](mailto:prestonlovejr@gmail.com)

or 402-812-3324 today!



## Volunteers Needed:

- \*Greeters
- \*Wedding Assistants
- \*Front Desk Volunteers

Call 402.556.6262 if interested



# Acting

## Eco Team News

### Thirteen "whys" LED By The Light Campaign



Deb and Neal Ratzlaff with grandchildren

The climate crisis can be overwhelming to think about! We are all more than aware that the stakes are high as carbon emissions continue to climb globally. What to do? What to do?

Well, we can start in our own "backyard" as it were. First UMC has an ambitious *Sustainability Master Plan* that gives us steps to take to reduce our carbon emissions and strengthen our culture of creation care. We are continuing to build on improvements that have been made over the past years.



The Eco Team has launched the **LED By The Light Campaign** with a goal of replacing all convertible lighting units to LED by raising \$25,000 by Earth Day, April 22, 2022. LEDs emit very little heat. In comparison, incandescent bulbs release 90% of their energy as heat. LED lights typically last much longer than other lighting types. A good quality LED bulb can last 3 to 5 times longer than a CFL and 30 times longer than an incandescent bulb.

Leading by example, members of the Eco Team have personally pledged \$7,300 towards the \$25,000 goal. We are inviting members of the congregation to give in honor of loved ones, for birthdays, holidays, and other special occasions. The average cost for a commercial grade LED unit is between \$150 and \$180. Gifts in any amount will make a difference! Make checks to First UMC and write in the memo: Eco Team/LED and drop off at the office.

Eco team members Deb and Neal Ratzlaff share these words about why they are giving:

*When considering where to gift monetary resources, we usually look for conservation or education projects. Neal, the nature enthusiast, and Deb, the retired teacher, have seen many deserving conservation or education projects go underfunded while acquisition, buildings, maintenance, or facilities projects usually find funding. The "LED by the Light" Campaign is different for us.*

*We have thirteen "whys". Their names are: Will, Sophia, Ruby, Jonny, Colette, Eli, Alena, Ray, Michael, John, Hallie, Kennedy, and Atticus. We give in their honor and for their future.*

*"We do not inherit the earth from our ancestors; we borrow it from our children." Chief Seattle*

## Holiday Fair Used Book Sale

Books are being accepted now

Please place books in the north end of Room 112.



**Volunteers are needed** to set-up Friday, December 3 and to sell during the fair, December 4 and 5, and also to box books not sold after 1:00 pm on Sunday.

*If you are interested in volunteering, or have any questions,*

Please contact Joan Pruett,  
402-697-1541

## Cookie Bakers Needed

**UMW Holiday Fair**, December 4 and 5

It's time to think about which family cookie recipes you'd like to share with us by baking a few dozen tea-sized cookies. Elves are also needed to box the cookies, **Thursday, December 2, 9:00 - 11:00 am in Room 111.**

*Please deliver the cookies (labeled UMW), to Room 111 by Wednesday, December 1, by 4 pm so they can be boxed the next day.*

Please contact Liz Boyer,  
[lboyer9@cox.net](mailto:lboyer9@cox.net)

**Thank you!**



# PEAT

Thank you to everyone who attended the 2021 PEAT Forum "Minimum Wage and Its Impact on Omaha Housing". We appreciate your involvement. We wanted to provide the congregation with some links for more information or for those who couldn't attend.

Meredith Dillon from Front Porch Investments provided a snapshot of the study about housing in the Omaha Metro. Here is the link to the complete study:

<https://omahafoundation.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/Housing-Affordability-Assessment-of-Needs-Priorities.pdf>

Here's the link for the nonprofit she works for: <https://omahafoundation.org/about/supporting-organizations-and-affiliates/front-porch-investments/?fbclid=IwAR0NtmpJWvZ-1oa5bfQUeDD9mhbcQmqCOKi9XfPoMWVxmOWbH7C3d4tVdD4>

Here's the link for getting involved in the Raise the Wage Nebraska petition drive:

<https://neappleseed.org/blog/35943>

If you would like to work with PEAT contact Lynne Elwood, [lelwood2@gmail.com](mailto:lelwood2@gmail.com) or 402-980-9043.

## MOVIE GROUP

Tuesday, December 14, 6 pm | via ZOOM!

*The Muppets Christmas Carol*

Email Bonnie Wallace  
at [bonniwallace59@gmail.com](mailto:bonniwallace59@gmail.com)

for more info and to  
receive ZOOM link!

## THAT TIME OF YEAR

Saturday, December 11th at 7:05 p.m

Omaha's only LGBTQ+ community choir, the River City Mixed Chorus (RCMC), is excited to announce that they are finally back to rehearsing and preparing for their 38th performance season. RCMC's first concert, entitled *That Time of Year*, will be a unique celebration of the holiday season at the historic Orpheum Theater on Saturday, December 11th at 7:05 p.m. The 110+ member Chorus is delighted to get back to singing for audiences and sharing their mission of creating exceptional musical experiences that support diversity, inspire change, and empower communities!

Tickets for this performance can be purchased through Ticket Omaha, at 402.345.0606 or [TICKETOMAHA.com](https://TICKETOMAHA.com), or by visiting RCMC's newly designed website at [RCMC.org](https://RCMC.org). If you have any questions about the Chorus, please send an email to [marketing@rcmc.org](mailto:marketing@rcmc.org).

## UMW Christmas Tea

Saturday,

December 4th | 2:00PM

Join us as we gather for  
light refreshments.  
Tickets are \$15 a person  
and prepaid  
reservations are  
required. Please contact  
Emo Whitten at  
402-905-2420



**Youth  
Group  
Chili  
Cook Off**



Sunday, December 5

12:00 - 1:00 pm, the Commons

Please contact

[Chris.Marshall@fumcomaha.org](mailto:Chris.Marshall@fumcomaha.org)

for more information on entering your special  
chili in the Cook Off.



# Inspiring

## Please remember in prayer these members of Our Church Family

**For Continued Healing:** Roger & Joanne Burns, Joan and Lloyd Byerhof, Gordy Fredrickson, Roger Freeman, Ella Gerber, Charlie Harper, Roger Klug, Chad McBride, Roberta Miller, Marvin and Suzanne Morgan, Mike Niemants, Bud Phillips, Marlys Richardson, Eleanor Ruge, Barb Winfield.

**Sympathies to:** *Juanita Edwards whose daughter, Sharon Tesnohldek and to the family of Mary Ellen Shuler who transitioned to new life.*

## Submit your prayer requests to:

Lynne Elwood at [lelwood2@gmail.com](mailto:lelwood2@gmail.com) or call the church office at 402-556-6262 x1001.

Please follow these brief guidelines when submitting a request for the Prayer Chain:

- For yourself: Give a brief statement of the need - illness, grief, crisis.
- For others: Use names without describing the need. Give the first or full name and relationship - friend, brother/sister, spouse/partner, parent, child, etc.
- Get permission from the person to be listed on the Prayer Chain before contacting Lynne or the

## PASTORAL CARE

If you are in need of support or pastoral care, please reach out to

**Rev. Morita Truman** at [morita.truman@fumcomaha.org](mailto:morita.truman@fumcomaha.org) or call 402.556.6262 (Monday-Thursday 8:30 am - 3:00 pm).

You can also email Lynne Elwood at [lelwood2@gmail.com](mailto:lelwood2@gmail.com) to be added to our prayer chain.

**We are here for you!**



## COMPOST AT FUMC

We **don't** accept any bags (plastic or compostable), animal products (except eggshells), or plastics. We **do** accept plant matter, coffee grounds, limited paper (like coffee filters, or napkins.)

Bring your food waste in a small bucket, like an ice cream container, and dump it into one of the orange buckets by the dumpster on the northeast corner of the FUMC building. Add your compost to a bucket that is not yet full and be sure to put the lid on to keep out the varmints.

**What an easy way to lessen the carbon impact we have on the environment!**



## Opportunities to stay connected each week:

**Sundays: 10:50 am Worship** - In-person Service! Following most recent CDC guidelines, masks are encouraged while you are in the building. The service will also be streamed live and available on Facebook after the service ends!

You do NOT need a Facebook account to view the videos.

Please go to [www.facebook.com/FUMComaha/](https://www.facebook.com/FUMComaha/) to view Facebook videos, and go to [www.facebook.com/fumcomaha/videos/](https://www.facebook.com/fumcomaha/videos/) to view our archived videos at any time!

**Tuesday & Thursday: Devotionals** – Join our Pastoral Intern, Maddi Baugous on Tuesdays & Thursdays LIVE at 9:00 am, [www.facebook.com/FUMComaha/](https://www.facebook.com/FUMComaha/) as we share in a time to center our hearts and uplift our spirits together. Videos will also be available to view after the live stream has ended.

**We invite you to join us in-person or online. We welcome all!**

# Challenging

## Giving

We want to encourage all to continue their spiritual practice of giving during this time. Because we give, the church is able to continue our support for local food pantries. Because we give, we are able to care for our Rainbow Factory and continue to provide preschool. Because we give, we continue to be a presence in the community and provide several online opportunities to keep our faith community engaged. Because we give, we continue to support our local artists to participate in worship. We understand financial circumstances may have changed for individuals recently, and we are sensitive to those changes. For those able to participate in financial giving, you may support your community of faith in these ways:



**Mail your check to the church: 7020 Cass Street, Omaha, NE 68132**

On our website: [www.fumcomaha.org/giving](http://www.fumcomaha.org/giving), On our Facebook page: [www.facebook.com/fumcomaha](https://www.facebook.com/fumcomaha)

We give thanks for the continued generosity of our faithful members and friends. If you have questions regarding your giving, please contact our Finance Director, Noni Cambridge, at [Noni.Cambridge@fumcomaha.org](mailto:Noni.Cambridge@fumcomaha.org)

All church giving for 2021 should be dropped off by 4:00 on December 30 or if mailed, must be post-marked by January 8. After that it will be credited to 2022.

## FUMC Finance News

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### FUMC Finance Report

Carol Beaty, FUMC Finance Chair

Our stewardship theme this year is Building a Culture of Generosity. Thanks to so many of you who have already returned your pledge cards for 2022. The finance team is currently developing the budget for 2022 which will be presented to the Church Council at the January meeting.

Here is the FUMC monthly report to the congregation written on Nov 12, 2021.

Average monthly pledges needed to meet our budget of \$625,000 in pledge income = \$52,083

Jan 2021 pledges - \$83,029 (some members paid entire year)

13.28% of annual budgeted pledges received

Feb 2021 pledges - \$63,170 - 23.39% of annual budgeted pledges received

March 2021 pledges - \$74,069 - 35.24% of annual budgeted pledges received

April 2021 pledges - \$37,208 - 41.20% of annual budgeted pledges received

May 2021 pledges - \$47,333 - 48.77% of annual budgeted pledges received

June 2021 pledges - \$44,974 - 55.97% of annual budgeted pledges received

July 2021 pledges - \$37,653 - 61.99% of annual budgeted pledges received

August 2021 pledges - \$60,430.67 - 71.66% of annual budgeted pledges received

September 2021 pledges - \$36,466.67 - 77.49% of annual budgeted pledges received

October 2021 pledges - \$42,830.67 - 84.35% of annual budgeted pledges received

**Thanks to everyone who is paying or exceeding their pledges. It is greatly appreciated.**

As of October 31, 2021, our total income is 82.53% of what we budgeted. Our expenses are 79.49% of what we budgeted. It is expected we would be at 83.3% at this time of year. We are in good shape with both our income and expenses.

A copy of the church budget approved by the Church Council is available upon request. Please notify Carol Beaty or the church office if you would like a copy.



Return Service Requested

### **Costs, Complications and Consequences of the Voter Restriction Amendment**

Members of FUMC have already been approached to sign a petition to change our Nebraska Constitution to require voters to present a government-issued ID to cast a ballot. The Salt and Light team is working with Civic Nebraska to educate the community about the costs, complications and consequences of this voter restriction amendment.

Nebraska was born during an argument over voting rights. As a result, it has arguably the clearest and most powerful language of any state Constitution about ensuring our elections are free and fair, without unnecessary hindrances: *All elections shall be free; and there shall be no hindrance or impediment to the right of a qualified voter to exercise the elective franchise.* This clear, fundamental right is now in clear danger. We can say confidently that Nebraska's elections are secure and efficient, and there is no evidence of voter impersonation anywhere in our state, ever. (Source: Civic Nebraska)

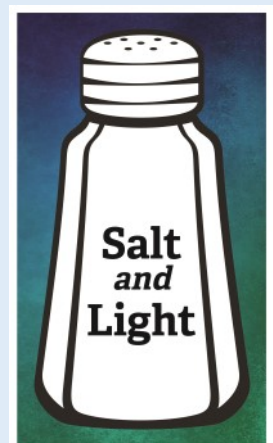
Changing our state's Constitution is a big deal with long lasting consequences. Election officials have publicly stated that our elections in 2020 ran smoothly. The only thing a constitutional amendment would do is restrict voting.

Part of our United Methodist discipleship includes being active participants in political systems.

Our United Methodist Social Principles state: *The strength of a political system depends upon the full and willing participation of its citizens. The church should continually exert a strong ethical influence upon the state, supporting policies and programs deemed to be just and opposing policies and programs that are unjust.*

Learn more about the Decline to Sign campaign supported by Civic Nebraska, Black Votes Matter, the League of Women Voters and the ACLU of Nebraska. Answers to frequently asked questions can be found at:

<https://www.civiclebraska.org/20210907-faq-nebraska-voter-restriction/>





# Alternative Christmas Mall 2021

We will once again have the opportunity to make thoughtful purchases at the FUMC Alternative Christmas Mall. Please consider making donations to these social justice organizations as gifts. Stop by our table in the Gathering Place on the first 3 Sundays in December. Fill out this form, total the amounts and make one check to the church. FUMC will distribute the donations on your behalf. We will have information on each of the options as well as cards you can give to your loved ones.

The Urban Abbey will be bringing their fair-trade items and books, and the Nebraskans for Peace: Palestinian Rights Task Force will be there with olive oil and other items from the holy land.

**Gifts That  
Make A  
Difference**

**December 5, 12 & 19** – Please mark your selections from the following list:

## Together Omaha

\_\_\_\_\_ \$30.00 for one visit to the food pantry, plus nutrition and wellness consultation  
\_\_\_\_\_ \$80.00 to support one year of street outreach care and supplies for a family \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Other

## The Big Garden

\_\_\_\_\_ \$20.00 to help buy seeds and seedlings for community gardens in low-income neighborhoods \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Other  
\_\_\_\_\_ \$35.00 to build one raised bed \_\_\_\_\_ \$50.00 to pay for one day of garden programming

## Clair Cares Food Pantry

\_\_\_\_\_ \$15.00 to help stock the pantry \_\_\_\_\_ \$30.00 to help stock the pantry \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Other

## Living Hope Pantry/Outreach

\_\_\_\_\_ \$15.00 to help stock the pantry \_\_\_\_\_ \$30.00 to help stock the pantry \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Other

## LED by the Light Campaign (FUMC)

\_\_\_\_\_ \$40.00 ¼ of a light unit \_\_\_\_\_ \$75.00 ½ of a light unit \_\_\_\_\_ \$150.00 one commercial LED unit \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Other

## Immigrant Legal Center

\_\_\_\_\_ \$35.00 covers one legal consultation \_\_\_\_\_ \$50.00 to help an immigrant take a step closer to U.S. citizenship  
\_\_\_\_\_ \$70.00 will provide 2 hours of prep for an Attorney to represent infants and children in Immigration Court \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Other

## Tender Loving Kindness: Helping Isolated Seniors

\_\_\_\_\_ \$25.00 \_\_\_\_\_ \$50.00 \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Other

## Omaha Area Sanctuary Network

\_\_\_\_\_ \$50 toward basic needs and utilities \_\_\_\_\_ \$100 for a week of groceries \_\_\_\_\_ \$200 for monthly legal fees \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Other

## Visiting Nurse Association (VNA)

\_\_\_\_\_ \$25.00 Parenting Support \_\_\_\_\_ \$50.00 Nurse visit at Homeless Shelter  
\_\_\_\_\_ \$40.00 Vaccine Clinics \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Other

## Rainbow Factory Preschool

\_\_\_\_\_ \$20.00 for classroom supplies \_\_\_\_\_ \$40.00 for art supplies \_\_\_\_\_ \$60.00 for field trip expenses \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Other

## The Union for Contemporary Art

\_\_\_\_\_ \$25.00 to purchase art supplies for free creative experiences for North Omaha Youth  
\_\_\_\_\_ \$40.00 to support and foster the work of artists that promote positive social change  
\_\_\_\_\_ \$60.00 to help support quality theater performances in our space in North Omaha \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Other

## NOAH (North Omaha Area Health)

\_\_\_\_\_ \$25.00 \_\_\_\_\_ \$50.00 \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Other

## Black and Pink: Supporting formerly incarcerated LGBTQ+ people

\_\_\_\_\_ \$25.00 \_\_\_\_\_ \$50.00 \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Other

**TOTAL ALTERNATIVE MALL SHOPPING BILL \$ \_\_\_\_\_**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

**Please write one check to FUMC for the total amount and bring to the table in the Gathering Place or mail to the church by December 24.**

*Thank you for keeping the true meaning of Christmas in your heart this season!*