



Worship Schedule

Sundays

8:30 & 10:50 am In-Person

(10:30 am service streamed)

www.facebook.com/fumcomaha

Taizé Worship

Saturday, May 7

5:00 pm, Mead Chapel

Pastor

Rev. Morita Truman

Pastoral Intern

Maddi Baugous

Receive "Connect"

E-mail Lorraine in the church office, Lorraine.Dalziel@fumcomaha.org with your address and you will begin receiving the newsletter by e-mail or snail mail. If you know of someone who would like to receive our newsletter, let us know.

Church Office Hours

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

"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 all who work against injustice and discrimination through peace and justice."



THINK ON THESE THINGS

Philippians 4:8

A few thoughts...Easter is accomplished! Thank you to all who participated, attended, prepared, and worked to ensure a successful and spiritual Holy Week for First Omaha. Experiencing my first at First was an honor and a blessing. Once again, I was reminded there are no 'insignificant details,' because everything

matters and even though we know the story we tell it over and over again like it's the first time – because for someone it is.

We move now into the season after Easter. In 40 days, we experience Ascension Day and in 50 days we will celebrate Pentecost. Celebrations of our youth, our women, our love, and our heritage will take place in the month of May. Our hearts will be strangely warmed.

It is important for us to remember the church didn't start and stop on Easter Sunday. Jesus told the disciples to go and share the good news, to love and feed his sheep. We prepare for that in worship; worship that in word, music, fellowship, and prayer, prepares us to go, to be, to do, in the name of the Christ.

In other recent events: on April 19, the called session of the Church Conference approved a compensation package for Maddi Baugous, the final step before she can be appointed to First as associate pastor on July 1. We expect that exciting announcement to come from the cabinet room very soon.

On May 1 a splinter group is planning to depart the United Methodist Church. ***Change is never easy.*** It is imperative we know who we are, the message we share, the meaning of the good news for all. Easter prepares us for that – and it is our task as people of God through the ministries of this church and beyond to share the love of Christ in the world.

So much is happening – I invite you to read this newsletter carefully, peruse the attached photos from Holy Week and Easter, and be thankful that this church continues to march bravely forward as an Easter people. I'm glad to be on the journey with you,

Morita



Inspiring



Maddi Baugous, Pastoral Intern

It's Official

When I was writing last month's newsletter, it was not official about where my appointment starting July 1st would be. But now it's official, I will be appointed to First United Methodist Omaha (aka, staying right here!) as the associate pastor. I will also be entering into the Transition into Ministry (TiM) program. This program is specific for those under 35 years old, who have their Master of Divinity, and are certified candidates. This program also comes with requirements for mentorship from both the pastor and lay members. The additional mentorship and requirements of the program will work in conjunction with my ordination process. Starting July 1st I will be a licensed local pastor, however I will be going before the Board of Ordained Ministry in 2023 to be commissioned as provisional elder. There is a lot of United Methodist jargon

around all this, but in short, I will be staying at First UMC for another two years. After the two years I will be appointed as a solo pastor at another church in the Great Plains Conference. This is a unique opportunity for churches because it allows young clergy to work in various settings and get experience before going out on their own in a church. I am excited to stay at First and also to develop my ministerial skills over the next few years. I'm also grateful for all of you who have supported me along the way for the last few years. It is exciting for me to move forward within my own call to serve the United Methodist church in different ways. If you have any questions about all this, I'll be happy to answer them. Know this: for the next two years, I'm going to develop my gifts and graces and serve here at First Church in ways that bring new life and hope for all people. Hope you'll join me along in this journey.

In loving-kindness,

Maddi

Enjoy fellowship with friends
and enjoy some...



**Coffee
& Donuts!!!!**



THEY'RE BACK.....
Join us in The Commons
every Sunday between
services.

If you are interested in volunteering to serve
coffee, please contact Cass.Opal@fumcomaha.org.

A WORD ABOUT MASKS

In rapidly changing circumstances, a federal judge recently struck down the mask mandate as we have understood it for the last two years. You may be excited about that, others who live with pre-existing conditions may have reservations.

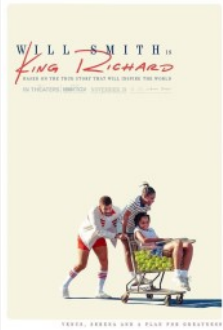
The church has tried to be consistent with the recommendations from the CDC and that has not always been easy. Currently our standards for worship are that masks are recommended for vulnerable persons, for those not vaccinated, and for those with exposures or who are waiting on test results. Our building continues to have areas that are mask mandated – specifically the areas near the Rainbow Factory preschool which maintains its policy as set forth at the beginning of the year.

We continue to monitor cases and hospitalizations and will remain vigilant to ensure safety for all who worship in and enter our building.

Welcoming

MOVIE GROUP

Tuesday, May 10 , 6 pm, via ZOOM!



KING RICHARD

Optional dinner before Zoom meeting at local restaurant, email for info.

Email Bonnie Wallace at bonniwallace59@gmail.com

for more info and to receive ZOOM link!

PASTORAL CARE

If you are in need of support or pastoral care, please reach out to Rev. Morita Truman at

morita.truman@fumcomaha.org

or call 402.556.6262 (Monday -Thursday 8:30 am - 3:00 pm) or her cell, 785-332-4827

You can also email

Lynne Elwood at

lelwood2@gmail.com

to be added to our prayer chain.



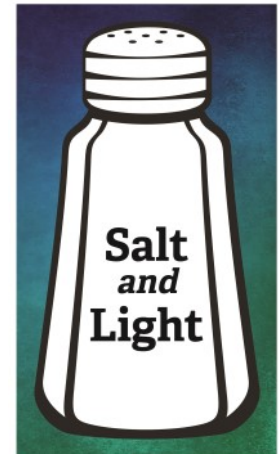
We are here for you!

Legislative Action

Earlier this spring, the Salt and Light Team held a forum to provide information on the proposed use of federal ARPA funds (American Rescue Plan Act). A portion of these funds were identified to assist areas of the communities of North and South Omaha which were particularly hit hard by the pandemic. The good news is that this funding assistance passed in the Legislature.

A second bill of interest to many was LB773 which would have allowed Nebraskans to conceal and carry firearms with a permit, training, or background checks. LB773 would have reversed current Nebraska law requiring background checks, training regarding firearms, and a permit. LB 773 failed. Current laws regarding carrying a concealed weapon will remain in place.

Kudos to all who participated in the democratic process this year by contacting state senators and following the legislature's activities. Wednesday, April 20 marked the last day of the 2022 session.



Memorial Service for
ROBERTA MILLER
Wednesday
May 11, 3:00 pm
the Sanctuary



**Thank you to
all who have
supported
Rainbow
Factory.**



**We truly appreciate the
continued support from the
FUMC community!**

Questions? Contact:
Allie Skoog at Alexandria.Skoog@gmail.com

Challenging

Please remember in prayer these members of Our Church Family

For Continued Healing: Joanne Burns, Gordy Fredrickson, Charlie Harper, Chad McBride, Marvin and Suzanne Morgan, Bud Phillips, Marlys Richardson, Barb Winfield.

Sympathies to: Sympathies to the family of Roberta Miller who transitioned to new life on April 17, 2022, Noni Cambridge, whose Aunt transitioned to new life, and Lucy Wood, whose brother, Floyd Domer transitioned to new life on April 28, 2022.

Submit your prayer requests to: Lynne Elwood at lelwood2@gmail.com or call the church office at 402-556-6262.

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 church.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

♦ Greeters

♦ Wedding Assistants

♦ Front Desk Receptionist

If interested in volunteering at FUMC, please contact our office at 402-556-6262.

United Women in Faith (The new name for United Methodist Women) will meet **Thursday, May 5th at 10:00a.m. in Room 112.** The program will be Sewing for Babies. Terri Mahoney will give the devotions. Refreshments will be provided by Lola Mullins and Emogene Whitten. All are welcome to attend.

TAIZÉ PRAYER SERVICE

Saturday, May 7, 2022 | 5:00pm | Mead Chapel

You are invited to our monthly Taizé Prayer service on the first Saturday of each month at 5:00 p.m. in Mead Chapel.

Perhaps the most distinctive character in the service is the music. Led by Mark Kurtz, the songs are simple, brief and meditative with words which are repeated several times. This allows the music to penetrate deeply as a way of listening to the Divine Presence. The service also includes short readings, spoken prayers, a period of silence and the use of candles adding to the meditative aspect of the service.

The service is about 40 minutes in length. Use either door 9 or 11 to enter the chapel.



Do you have an extra car in your driveway or garage? Or know someone who does?

If it's collecting dust and patiently waiting for a new home, the Immigration and Refugee Team is ready to help.

We know some families that would be thrilled to meet your vehicle!

Contact Teri Drymalski @ 605-366-0110 or Teri.drymalski@gmail.com to learn more.



Election 2022 Protection

Civic Nebraska is recruiting volunteers to monitor elections and polling places. The goal is to have 75 volunteers for the May 10 primary election. All volunteers will participate in a brief virtual training via Zoom (75 minutes). Training dates are April 20, 26 or 28. To get more information or volunteer click below to go to Civic Nebraska.

Sign Up to Protect Our Elections!

<https://bit.ly/FUMC2022ElectionProtection>

Missouri River District

Great Plains Missouri River District is looking for volunteers (ushers, greeters, door openers, clean-up crews, etc.) for the Annual Conference Planning Hospitality Team. Our own music director, Mark Kurtz is leading the music for the memorial service on Thursday night at 7:30 pm. If you are interested in volunteering, please use this link to sign up <https://bit.ly/FUMCAAnnualConferenceVolunteers>

The Good Place Faith Study

Join us for this four week discussion on the afterlife and morals from the show "The Good Place" There will be spoilers!

**Sundays starting
May 1 at 9:30am**



Email maddi.baugous@fumcomaha.org
for more information



Voting Reminder

Participate in the
Primary Election
on **May 10**

Voting is a right and a responsibility.

Primary elections set the stage for
November ballot choices

Polls are open from 8 am to 8 pm

Has your polling place changed?

Confirm your polling place at
<https://bit.ly/FUMCDCPollingPlace>

COMPOST AT FUMC

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!

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.)



Clair Cares Food Pantry

Volunteers Needed!

For Information on Volunteering,
Contact Judy Prenzler at prenzler@cox.net

Next Opportunity for Volunteering:
Thursday and Friday before 3rd Saturday of the month
5544 Ames Ave. | May 19 & 20

Donations of food or money are always welcome. We are in need of nonperishable food items - box cereal, pasta, rice, canned fruits and vegetables, crackers, cookies, peanut butter and jelly, boxed meals, etc.

Please drop off at FUMC, 7020 Cass St., Omaha
during office hours 8:30 am - 3:00 pm Mon - Thurs
(food donation container provided outside door #2)



LIVING HOPE FOOD PANTRY

2919 State St, Omaha

Food Pantry Open

Monday - Friday

10:00 am - 4:00 pm

Volunteers needed for all days.

Please call Living Hope Pantry at 402-614-7452

or contact Ron Alexander

at rwalexander222@gmail.com

Drop-off Food Donations at FUMC

(food donation container provided outside door #2)

Supporting

Eco Team

The FUMC Eco team wants to thank all members of the congregation who contributed to our fund to replace all convertible lighting units in the building and on the grounds to LED lights! As of April 20, \$18,663.85 had been raised!!! We will now begin the process of ordering and replacing! The LED by the Light Campaign was the first major effort guided by the Sustainability Master Plan (SMP). Because of this



focus, we will be reducing our negative impact on global warming.



This Sunday interactive activity was one of many to help educate the congregation about the energy efficiency of LED lighting.

And now we look toward what projects should come next!! The Eco Team invites all interested members to join us as we look at the SMP and strategize our next efforts which can move us even closer to sustainability. We will be having a planning retreat on Monday, June 6, 9 a.m. to noon. Please contact Maddi Baugous, mbaugous@fumcomaha.org if you are interested.

Welcome Micah Corps!

The Micah Corps is a summer internship program for college age students focused on social justice and faith. First Church has a long history of supporting members of the Micah Corps, with Carol Windrum laying the groundwork for this program and then welcoming interns over the last 14 years. This year, the program is piloting a new structure, with interns worshipping each Sunday at the same church and getting to know the members of that individual church. That means this summer, starting May 29th



there will be two Micah Corps interns at First Church: Charlotte Carroll and John Finch, who both attend UNO. You'll see them around on Sunday mornings and throughout the summer. They will also be leading a study in July about the Social Principles. We are excited to have them with us throughout the summer. If you have any questions or would like to support the interns this summer please contact Maddi, at maddi.baugous@fumcomaha.org. Do justice. Love kindness. And walk humbly with God.

Opportunities to stay connected each week:

Sundays: 8:30 & 10:50 am Worship - In-person Service! The 10:50 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/ to view Facebook videos, and go to 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/ 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!

Acting

A Culture of Generosity

In the season of Lent, we invited members and friends to make financial gifts to purchase flowers for Easter that would then be delivered to our 'beloved seniors.' When the gifts were all received, we had much more than we needed to purchase plants, but just enough to allow us to also cover the cost of the food for the Maundy Thursday service.

Just enough. Sometimes those words worry us - but we turn to the story of our ancestors living in the desert for 40 years and remember that each day they received just enough manna to carry them through. The gift of faith is in trusting God's provision.

In the next month you're going to see a lot of work taking place around our church facility. New concrete on the east side, repairs to soffit at various places on the roof line, new doors in a couple of places, upgrades to hearing devices in the sanctuary, security upgrades in our parking lot, and yes even some work on our wonderful organ.

You might be thinking that takes a lot of money — and you'd be right. But the truth is through the gifts of faithful members we have enough. Thanks to those who give \$10, \$100, and yes even sometimes \$100,000: we have enough. God's provision is there in your generosity.

We stopped passing the plate during the pandemic, but the giving did not cease. Your faithful gifts are a blessing.

We also have opportunities to give through our First United Methodist Church Foundation. If you'd like to know more about how to direct funds to the Foundation, now or at a future time, please contact Foundation Board Chair, Bruce Deines, at bdeines@cox.net.



FUMC Finance News

FUMC Finance Report

Carol Beaty, FUMC Finance Chair

Here is the FUMC monthly report to the congregation written on March 31, 2022.

Average monthly pledges needed to meet our budget of \$650,000 in pledge income = \$54,167

Jan 2022 pledges - \$125,340.33 (some members paid entire year) 19.28% of annual budgeted pledges received

Feb 2022 pledges - \$115,092.97 (some members paid entire year) 36.99% of annual budgeted pledges received

Mar 2022 pledges - \$142,394.67 (some members paid entire year) 53.67% of annual budgeted pledges received

As of Mar 31, 2022, our total income is 44.25% of what we budgeted. Our expenses are 22.63% of what we budgeted. We would expect income and expenses to be at 16.67% at this time of the year. Our income is higher because of prepaid pledges. Our expenses are lower primarily because of some vacant staff positions. A copy of the church budget approved by the Church Council in January is available upon request. Please notify Carol Beaty or the church office if you would like a copy.

We give thanks for the generosity of our members.

First
United
Methodist
Church



7020 Cass Street
Omaha, Nebraska 68132-2601

Return Service Requested

ALL WELCOME
ALL SIZES
ALL COLORS
ALL CULTURES
ALL GENDERS
ALL ORIENTATIONS
ALL BELIEFS
ALL RELIGIONS
ALL AGES
ALL PEOPLE

In 2022 we must be.....

*Fiercely
Inclusive*

Because if we aren't shouting our inclusivity
from the rooftops how will marginalized
communities know we're truly a safe place?

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Methodist
Church