



THINK ON THESE THINGS

Philippians 4:8

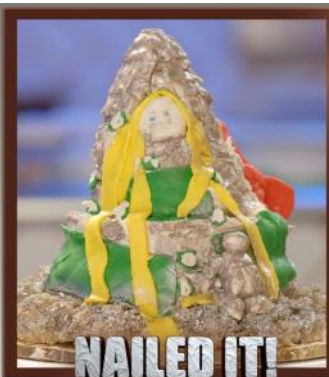
With the help of some good people, I am working on landscaping my back yard. So far my part has involved a lot of listening and writing one check. I expect that to change. I anticipate sweat equity and more check writing in the near future. In my mind, I envision a place of respite where I can relax and enjoy nature. I envision a place I can invite people to visit and hear them say, "Oh I love this!" I en-

vision a place where pollinators can stop in and enjoy beautiful plants and flowers. I have a vision.

Maybe you're familiar with this concept:

What I want to make:

How it turns out:



There's a lesson in this for we in the church about vision and our willingness to put in the work to achieve that vision. We all have beautiful thoughts about a full sanctuary, full classrooms, the building back at full capacity, creating a safe and warm environment for ALL to come together in faith. I love that vision too, but it will require all of us working together to bring those ideas to fruition.

October is Stewardship Month. Time and talent cards have been mailed and soon the pledge cards will arrive. We don't talk about stewardship of our gifts often enough, but right now we are. You are encouraged to think and pray about how you and your family will impact the future through the ministries of First Omaha. I pray that future generations will point to this moment and say "*They really did nail it in 2022!*"

I'm glad to be on this journey with you,

Morita

Worship Schedule

Sundays

8:30 & 10:50 am In-Person

(10:50 am service streamed)

www.facebook.com/fumcomaha

Taizé Worship

Saturday, October 1

5:00 pm, Mead Chapel

Pastor

Rev. Morita Truman

Associate Pastor

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 - Sunday

"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."



First
United
Methodist
Church

Inspiring



Maddi Baugous,
Associate Pastor

The First 100 Days

In October I will celebrate 100 days of appointed ministry at First UMC Omaha! Yah! I have been working at First Church for over two years, but to be appointed has affirmed my calling and the work I do. I want to acknowledge some of the firsts I have experienced over the last 100 days.

1. I consecrated communion in July, meaning I finally able to bless the bread and cup on my own.
2. I attended clergy meetings, specifically those focused on boundaries and information about the Great Plains conference.
3. I got to vote at a special session of Annual Conference. Even though it was for many disaffiliations, it was affirming to finally have voice and vote in concerns of the United Methodist Church.

There are many other highlights from the Pride Parade to having fellowship meals to the United We Walk event. The first 100 days have been a wonderful growing experience for myself and there is so much I'm excited for in the next 100 days

1. I am excited to continue working with the young adults' group and to witness the community being built with our children, youth, and families.
2. I am excited to lead book studies this fall.
3. I am excited to participate in continuing education with a spiritual conference in October.
4. I am excited to have my interview with the District Committee on Ordination in the Missouri River District scheduled for November 19.
5. I am excited to walk into a place where people are passionate about loving God, neighbor, and self.
6. And I'm excited we get to have some fun in the next 100 days and even after that! Let's keep finding new ways to show the love of God to all people.

In Loving Kindness,

Maddi



**United
Women
in Faith**

United Women in Faith invite you to a Fellowship Meal.

A baked potato bar with many toppings will be served.

Salads, desserts and drinks will be also served.

The freewill donations will be used for the work of UWF.

Hope to see you there!

October 16th after the 10:50 service in the Commons



MOVIE GROUP

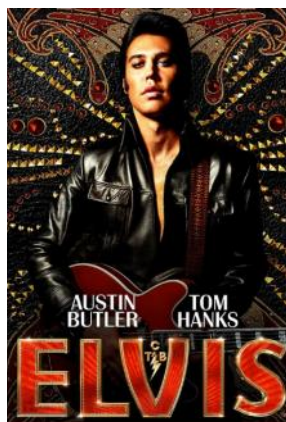
Tuesday, October 11,
6 pm, via ZOOM!

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

Email Bonnie Wallace at

bonniewallace59@gmail.com

for more info and to
receive ZOOM link!



Intergenerational Sunday School

Have you studied your 3 R's?

No, not Reading, 'Riting,
and 'Rithmetic.

Join us Sunday, October 16th as we ex-
plore another set of 3 R's:

Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle.

All ages welcome!

9:35 – 10:35 in The Commons



Welcoming



We spent September forming new friendships and diving into our play based curriculum with a focus on Rainbows, Weather, Colors, and Dinosaurs. If you're new to the term "play based", it simply means our curriculum emphasizes learning through centers constructed to engage our learners and assist in regulating their social-emotional needs so learning comes as second nature! Each room hosts a variety of Centers, from our Sensory Table to the Free Art Opportunity to our Im-

aginative Play Center where students participate in a child-led approach by selecting centers that align with their interests. Our classes have a designated Whole Group learning time that is led by our wonderfully talented teachers and an abundance of time in our nature center, a favorite of our students! Our new programs, Aftercare and the Twos Program are in full swing and going swimmingly. We're proud to offer programming that will extend our reach into the community and offer accessible, affordable preschool.



Our programming is full with a waitlist, but if you're interested in learning more about our programs or Camp Rainbow, reach out to Miss Skoog at alexandria.skoog@gmail.com today and keep an eye out for our Fall Fundraiser in October!

Directory Photos Starting October 19th!!!

Photography for our new directory is almost set to start

This year we are doing things a little differently by photographing and creating our new directory entirely in-house, and it will be available online! Through the month of September, we sent an email every Friday that included a link to our booking system and are pleased to report the spots are filling up. Starting soon, for those who have not signed up, the calls and mail will start pouring in reminding you to book your photo appointment. Our booking times run every Wednesday, Thursday, Saturday, and Sunday starting October 19th and ending November 17th.

Book your appointment here: <https://bit.ly/FUMC22DirectorySignUp>

All families will receive one free 8x10 print and/or digital copy in the pose of their choice. They will also receive a personalized online gallery of all photos taken during the session with the option to purchase prints or digital copies. All proceeds from photos sold are used to fund the printed directories or donated to the church. Full family and complete individual breakdowns are included in each session. Cass Opal, our Director of Communication and Membership(DC&M), is donating her time and talent to photograph the directory this year and while she is happy to accept donations for a new dream camera lens, this is a labor of love.

You're in experienced hands: Cass has 20+ years of professional photography experience and is excited to get to work with each and every one of you. If you have questions you can reach out to cass.opal@fumcomaha.org

Challenging

Please remember in prayer these members of Our Church Family

For Continued Healing: Jo Ann Cooper, Jim Eisenhardt, Dave England, Charlie Harper, Ruth Kruse, Chad McBride, Marvin and Suzanne Morgan, Millie Plumb, Marlys Richardson, Deborah Mabry-Strong, Barb Winfield.

Sympathies: For those who had loved ones transition to new life: Marj Phillips (husband, Bud Phillips.)

New Members: Please welcome Nicole Loke, September 11; Fletcher Dreher, September 18.

Marriage: Congratulations to Ken and Nicole Loke who were joined in marriage on September 2.

Baptism: Finn Rex Wojcik, son of Sophie and Nick Wojcik; baptized on September 25.

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.

Clair Cares Food Pantry

Volunteers Needed!

**Next Opportunity
for Volunteering:
October 13 & 14
5544 Ames Ave.**



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

Please drop food 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)

Church Conference

Thursday, October 20, 6:30 pm
Urban Abbey, 1026 Jackson St.

For our annual church conference meeting we are scheduled to meet with a cluster of other churches. All are invited to attend, you must be a church member to vote.

Why and what? Church Conference is the core body of the local church. At this meeting we determine goals and vision, celebrate accomplishments, elect officers for the coming year, approve pastoral salary packages, and honor the retired pastors who serve through this church.

In the midst of the talk about churches disaffiliating it is more important than ever that we affirm who we are as United Methodists. Please join us as you are able.

Help for Refugees

Kor Ner & Spate Two came to Omaha in July 2019 as refugees from Myanmar. They recently purchased and moved into a house and are in need of some items: washer and dryer, and a lawn mower. If you have any of these items (in good condition), please contact Kay Peters at 402-507-6283 via call or text.



PASTORAL CARE

In these times, if you are in need of additional support, pastoral care, or there is an emergency, please reach out to:

Morita Truman

Morita.Truman@fumcomaha.org
or call 402.556.6262 x1002

Maddi Baugous

Maddi.Baugous@fumcomaha.org
or call 402.556.6262 x1006

You can also email

Lynne Elwood

lelwood2@gmail.com
to be added to
our prayer chain.

We are here for you!

Taizé Worship

**Saturday, October 1, 5:00pm
Mead Chapel | In-Person
(enter door 9 or 11)**

For more info go to: <https://fumcomaha.org/taize-worship/>

ALL ARE WELCOME



Elders for the Earth:

A Retreat at Platte River State Park
October 10 -12

This multi-day zero waste event is for people 50 years and older who want to enjoy nature, be with others concerned about the environment, learn about climate change and be inspired to ACT. For more information and to register, go to elders4theearth.com.



WHAT CAN YOU DO LEADING UP TO THE NOVEMBER 8TH ELECTIONS?



Please join the Boomers class Sunday, October 2, at 9:30 a.m. in room 112 to learn from Civic Nebraska staff about options to Get Out The Vote (GOTV).

Our democracy is in the balance and the stakes are high. There are many opportunities to DO something to encourage voting. Join us!!!

Sunday, October 30, 4 - 6 pm

- Activity Bags
- Costume Contest with prizes!
- Make & Take Cookie Station
- Photo Booth
- Music
- To-Go Hotdogs
- Pumpkin Bowling, Interactive Games



If you are interested in volunteering your trunk, or providing items, please contact Fran Sillau at Fran.Sillau@fumcomaha.org or 402-556-6262x1008.

We need....

- All kinds of candy for the event. Please bring candy - **NO NUTS** (you can leave them outside the box in Fran's office)
- Hot dogs and hot dog buns
- Volunteers to grill hot dogs
- **AND** we need you to help us come up with and lead interactive games!

Have an idea and want to brainstorm? Contact Fran!

Bringing Forth the Kingdom PEAT ANNUAL FORUM

Housing and Public Transportation Update
What progress is being made?

SATURDAY OCT. 8, 9-11:15 AM via Zoom

Speakers:

- Naomi Hattaway, Director of Communications and Community Initiatives, Front Porch Investments.
- Lauren Centric, CEO of Metro Transit
- Terrell McKinney-District 11

Register at: <https://bit.ly/PEATForum2022>

Book Clubs



"This Here Flesh"
Tuesdays at 7pm

starting Oct. 4, (Five Weeks) via Zoom
Cole Arthur Riley shares stories from her, her father, and her grandmother about faith and liberation.

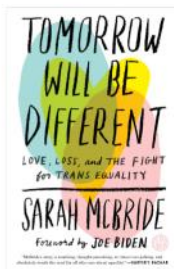
"Tomorrow Will Be Different"

Saturdays at 11am
starting Oct. 22, (Four Weeks)

Sarah McBride's memoir discusses her life after coming out as transgender and then serving in the House of Representatives, as well as the losses she experienced.

Hardy's Coffee at the
Highlander Accelerator
(2112 N. 30th Street)

Email Maddi to sign up
maddi.baugous@fumcomaha.org



CENTERING PRAYER: TWO-PART WORKSHOP

October 15 & November 12,
9:00 to 11:30 a.m.

"Be still and know that I am
God." (Psalm 46:10)

There are many ways to open oneself to a deeper spiritual practice. If you have wondered if Centering Prayer might be a way for you to do this, you are invited to a two-part workshop to learn about this practice.

Centering Prayer is a way of opening one's heart and mind to a deeper relationship with the Loving Presence of the Divine. These two sessions are intended to be helpful to those learning about Centering Prayer for the first time as well as for those who already have an established Centering Prayer practice and would like a refresher.

Retired Pastor Don Bredthauer will lead the workshop in Mead Chapel. (Enter through door 9 or 11.)

Please email your RSVP to Pat Gromak, patgromak@msn.com, to help us plan for refreshments. With or without an RSVP, you are welcome to attend! *There is no cost for this workshop.*

Supporting

Eco Team

Did you know we have a zero-waste market + eco-boutique within minutes of our church?

Exist Green was a stop during our July ECO Tour. Started by environmental engineer, Leigh Neary, with a passion for the environment and a concern about plastics use, **Exist Green** has a selection of locally sourced organic produce, multiple tea varieties, salad dressings, plastic-free alternatives for every room of your home, and refillable products for cooking and cleaning and personal use.



It smells good in this store. And the business is solar powered, sustainably designed, and zero waste! If you are not sure where to start on your journey to being more environmentally friendly – Leigh and her staff are ready to educate and help.

This business is an example of carefully considered environmental care and deserves our support.

Check it out at 4914 Underwood Avenue in Dundee, open Tuesday through Saturday 11AM to 7 PM.

<https://existgreen.com/> for more information.

Looking for a win/win? Consider a gift certificate from **Exist Green** this holiday season – a gift for Mother Earth AND your loved ones.

30% to 40% of the entire US food supply is wasted. 43% of that waste comes from our homes and goes to our landfills. (Source: <https://www.rts.com/resources/guides/food-waste-america/> (Recycle Track Systems)) Once in the landfill it degrades, causing carbon dioxide. Composting keeps some of that food out of landfills, thus, creating less carbon dioxide.

Grocery stores also dispose of food that is past the “sell by” date or is bruised, blemished, and won’t sell. In Omaha some of that food is rescued from the landfill by **Saving Grace Perishable Food Rescue**.

Table Grace Cafe, located at 1611 ½ Farnam Street is open 11 AM – 2 PM Monday-Saturday. Catering and e-gift cards are available. Christmas is approaching and a gift card from Table Grace is a gift to our Mother Earth in addition to your loved ones. The Eco Team loves the food and the concept! <https://www.tablegracecafe.com/>

So, what can you do to keep food from being wasted? Plan meals and snacks carefully, buy only food you need and will eat, compost if food is beyond saving, and enjoy rescued food from Table Grace.



United
Women
in Faith

Please join us on **October 6 at 10:30 am** to carpool to the Big Garden for a tour of the new herb garden created by the bequest of our late, beloved Marilyn Stewart. Lunch will follow at a restaurant near the church. We will meet at FUMC on the north side (front). **All are welcome!**



FUMC volunteers re-packed popcorn kernels for the FoodBank for the Heartland on

Tuesday, September 20th. We packed 8,226 pounds of popcorn! Now that’s a lot of corn!! Thanks to all our VIM volunteers!! Our next FoodBank volunteer opportunity will be Tuesday, December 13th. **Mark your calendars.**

Acting

Giving

October is Stewardship Month and this year we focus on the 3 I's of giving.

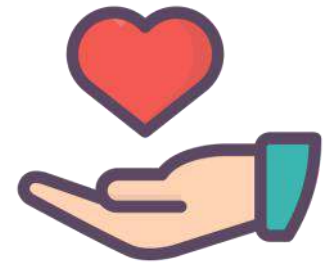
Inspire, Inform, Invite

On the first three Sundays of the month you will hear from church members, people like you, who have intentionally made a decision to be present, to be involved, to give of their time and talents and gifts at First United Methodist Church.

On October 2, you are invited to return your families' Time and Talent cards as you come forward for communion. These offerings will be consecrated and celebrated at the altar. These cards can also be returned to the church office any time.

On October 23, you are invited to return your families' pledge card—your intent for monetary gifts for the 2023 budget. Your gifts allow us to create and dream how we will do ministry in the world and in our own back yard. We know you give this pledge your prayerful thought and we consider each pledge to be a holy gift, intended for God's purposes.

You will also continue to hear about ways you can affect the church's future through giving to the FUMC Foundation. If you would like to learn more about gifts in perpetuity, you are invited to talk with our church Foundation 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 September 15, 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 - \$137,889.67 (some members paid entire year) 58.20% of annual budgeted pledges received
April 2022 pledges - \$43,571 – 64.91% of annual budgeted pledges received
May 2022 pledges - \$36,337 – 70.50% of annual budgeted pledges received
June 2022 pledges - \$26,281– 74.54% of annual budgeted pledges received
July 2022 pledges - \$36,012.67– 80.08% of annual budgeted pledges received
August 2022 pledges - \$29,577.67– 84.63% of annual budgeted pledges received
As you can see, we are in great shape receiving pledge income this year. This means the average pledges needed to meet our budget going forward is \$24,974 per month.

As of Aug 31, 2022, our total income is 80.31% of what we budgeted. This includes \$30,490 from Employee Retention Tax Credit (ERTC is a federal Covid program) which we will not need until next year. Our expenses are 60.00% of what we budgeted. We would expect income and expenses to be at 66.66% at this time of the year. Our income is higher because of prepaid pledges and the ERTC. Our expenses are lower primarily because of some vacant staff positions in the early months of this year.

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.

October is our month to focus on Building a Culture of Generosity. Please return your Time and Talent cards on Sunday October 2 and your Financial Pledge for 2023 on Generosity Sunday, Oct 23. We give thanks for the Culture of Generosity at FUMC and all contributions from members and visitors.

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First
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7020 Cass Street
Omaha, Nebraska 68132-2601

Return Service Requested

Help GOTV (Get Out The Vote!)

"The future of this republic is in the hands of the American voter." —Dwight D. Eisenhower, 1949

VOTE

Have you seen them? Do you want to support voting? Salt and Light has beautiful bright blue VOTE bumper stickers available again!! These bumper stickers are easy to peel off after the election. Stop by the church office and pick up a sticker (or two or five) to encourage neighbors, friends, family to VOTE!!

Civic Nebraska is providing several opportunities for us to give an hour or more to encourage the citizens of Omaha to register and to vote!

On **Sunday, October 16th** we'll enjoy the fellowship meal immediately following the 10:50 a.m. worship service and then we will go to either South or North Omaha and drop off literature. This is no contact, just putting flyers in doors. You'll get your walk in and help promote GOTV. Please let Maddi, maddi.baugaus@fumcomaha.org, know of your intentions to join us.

Other opportunities include hosting a **texting party** in your home. Civic Nebraska will provide the message. Phone banking and canvassing are also options. For these options, you can sign up directly with Civic Nebraska at <https://www.civicnebraska.org/voting-rights/get-involved/>

Each of us can do something to help strengthen our democracy in these fragile times. Join us as we work to Get Out The Vote.

