



THINK ON THESE THINGS

Philippians 4:8

The turning of the calendar brings us to September. By the time you're reading this I hope the dog days of summer are coming to an end and there is a hint of fall in the air. Today is mid-August and the rain set in yesterday so I'm hopeful that change is coming. I know by intellect the seasons change as the earth continues its rotation around the sun but there are times when the summer temperatures go into triple digits that I forget, doubt, or wonder when that ro-

tation will *finally* take place that provides the next season.

And then, in a more serious note about the constant change we see around us - this morning I read of the passing of another great theologian of this age, Frederick Buechner. Often when I did not have the words for a given occasion I would turn to his and I have used his book, *Beyond Words*, for daily devotionals. In that book he wrote these words about eternity,

"Eternity is not endless time or the opposite of time. It is the essence of time.

If you spin a pinwheel fast enough, all its colors blend into a single color - which often appears white - which is the essence of all the colors of the spectrum combined. If you spin time fast enough, time-past, time-present, and time-to-come all blend into a single timelessness or eternity, which is the essence of all times combined.

As human beings we know time as a passing of unrepeatable events in the course of which everything passes away - including ourselves. As human beings, we also know occasions when we stand outside the passing of events and glimpse their meaning. Sometimes an event occurs in our lives (a birth, a death, a marriage - some event of unusual beauty, pain, joy) through which we catch a glimpse of what our lives are all about and maybe even what life itself is all about, and this glimpse of what 'it's all about' involves not just the present, but the past and future too.

Inhabitants of time that we are, we stand on such occasions with one foot in eternity."

I am grateful for his words today and his message that we need to be alive to our lives. To observe and participate in not just our own life, but with the world around us, even if the events are indescribable. It makes me so glad that we stand together in this moment, with one foot in eternity.

On the journey with you through time,

Morita



Worship Schedule

Sundays

8:30 & 10:50 am In-Person

(10:50 am service streamed)

www.facebook.com/fumcomaha

Taizé Worship

Saturday, September 3

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 and Saturday

Closed on Labor Day, September 5

"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

Where Is Your Passion?

I've been your Associate Pastor for two months and I have to say, "Wow, this is fun!" My transition is different than most pastoral changes because I was on staff for two years before. While most new pastors are learning about the community in their first two months, I've gotten to know you and you've gotten to know me. Instead, right now I'm focusing most on my credentialing process, which means I'm sitting on a lot of Zoom calls with other pastors in the Great Plains and answering a lot of ordination questions like "What is your understanding of evil and how it exists in the world?" Just the easy parts of being a pastor. And while it can be easy for me to hyper focus on these tasks for ordination, mainly because I really want to finish this, so I don't have to write these papers again, my call is still to

serve in the local church and to minister better to all of you at First.

What that looks like is me attending finance, SPRC, nominations meetings and learning how to lead a wedding (Something I've never done before but now legally can). I will also be growing my pastoral care abilities, doing visits and meeting with people. For myself, this might also include doing a Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE) class. While those for me are some of my growing edges, things I want to improve on for my ministry, this is also a time where I can utilize my true passions. My first year here, I was really doing what needed to get done and there was not a clear role or a defining of what I, Maddi, love about ministry and the work of God. So here are some of the things I'm truly passionate about, those things I love doing and which fuel my soul. First, I'm passionate about justice and being out in the community to take a stand for what is right. I also love teaching people about scripture, but not in a "you better believe in Jesus or else" but in ways which show just how liberative the Bible can be. I'm also passionate about small groups, especially for young adults and college students. Guiding people and mentoring them in the questions of their faith is something I love to do and be a part of. But more than anything, I love hearing what gets other people excited and fired up. I want to hear from you, I'd love for you to email or tell me on Sunday morning what you are passionate about, because in ministry connecting our passions together is something I care about. So, where is your passion and how can we utilize all our passions to show compassion to the world?

In Loving Kindness,

Maddi

MOVIE GROUP

Tuesday, September 13, 6 pm, via ZOOM!

GLORY

Facilitated by Ted Brown

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!

Movie Nights

Save the dates...

Join us each third Friday

Sept. 16 - 🌊 🔥

Oct. 21 - 💀 🎸

Nov. 18 - ☀️ 🌬️

Dec. 16- 🚂 🎅

Welcoming

Mark your Calendar!

Ecumenical Legislative Briefing Day is **Saturday February 11, 2023.**

First Church has always led the attendance at this event. The purpose is to cite topics of interest coming up in the Nebraska Unicameral on which citizens can inform and influence each other and the legislators. The ELBD will be an in-person event (at Christ United Methodist Church in Lincoln) after three years of covid restrictions. Bob Meyers, Tim Fickenscher, Becky Schnabel and Ron Roemmich serve on the planning team.

Directory Photos

Coming soon...



Get your family ready
it's almost time to
photograph our new
church directory!!

Sessions start
Thursday October 19
More info coming soon

To volunteer contact Cass.Opal@fumcomaha.org

Thank You!

for the kind school supply donations for FUMC youth to provide to local schools. They will be appreciated as the new school year begins.



Our fall classes have begun! Thanks to all the church members and staff who continue to support our wonderful school with all the acts of kindness you do for us. You are all appreciated very much!
For more information on upcoming visit <http://www.rainbowfactorypreschool.com/>

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



Please reserve these dates on your calendar if you are interested in volunteering.

Registration instructions will be available prior to each event.

Tuesday, September 20th, 1:00 - 3:30 pm

Tuesday, December 13th, 1:00 - 3:30 pm

If you have any questions, please contact: Bruce Deines (brucedeines@gmail.com) or

Mike Rosenthal (Mike.Rosenthal577@icloud.com)

Challenging

Please remember in prayer these members of Our Church Family

For Continued Healing: Dave England, Charlie Harper, Ruth Kruse, Chad McBride, Marvin and Suzanne Morgan, Bud Phillips, Marlys Richardson, Deborah Mabry-Strong, Barb Winfield.

Baptism: Isla Dale Brookhouser-Sisney, daughter of Amanda & Cody Brookhouser-Sisney

New Members: Please welcome to FUMC Omaha, Hannah Gronemeyer and Girardo Castillo who joined by transfer on August 14.

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.

Health, Healing & Spiritual Formation



✱ Blood pressure screenings will return the 3rd Sunday of the month in the Conference room beginning September 18.

✱ "Gift of a Good Death" is a series that helps individuals and families discuss and plan end of life wishes with loved ones. Watch for dates and schedule of topics.

✱ The Garden Table has returned to the Gathering place where produce can be brought and shared. If you need recipes or instructions on preserving produce, a good source is <https://extension.unl.edu/statewide/lincolnmcperson/recipes-0/>

- ✱ Plan on enjoying the front lawn labyrinth under the canopy of fall colors, scents and quiet to renew your spirit.

Please stop by our table at the September 18 Ministry Fair to see and discuss what we do and how you can help FUMC be healthier in body, mind and spirit. Thank you!

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

We are here for you!

You can also email

Lynne Elwood

lelwood2@gmail.com

to be added to
our prayer chain.

Taizé Worship

Saturday, September 3, 5:00pm
Mead Chapel | In-Person
(enter door 9 or 11)

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

ALL ARE WELCOME



Ministry Fair

Please mark your calendars for our Annual Ministry Fair. The purpose of the Ministry Fair is to display all of the amazing ministries First United Methodist Church has to offer. From Small Groups, Mercy and Justice Committees, Fellowship and Ministry Teams, and our Faith Studies Classes, we have a variety of ways for each individual in our faith community to connect! We would like this year's fair to be our biggest one yet! We encourage all small groups, committees, teams, and Faith Studies classes to begin planning your display!

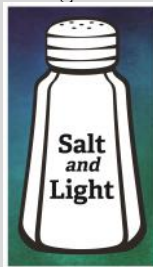
Sunday, September 18, 9:35-10:35 am, the Commons

Questions? Contact Cass Opal at

Cass.Opal@fumcomaha.org

American democracy is in all our hands

FUMC Salt and Light team is partnering with Civic Nebraska to help get out the vote! FUMC members are invited to step up and step out with others who believe our democracy is fragile and in need of our advocacy! Options for engagement are phone banking, literature drops, being an election protector and registering voters. There is something for everyone regardless of your physical abilities! Be on the lookout in the bulletin, weekly emails and social media for more specifics. You also can go directly to Civic Nebraska's website to get involved: civicnebraska.org or contact Maddi at maddi.baugous@fumcomaha.org.



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.



Clair Cares Food Pantry Volunteers Needed!

**Next Opportunity
for Volunteering:
September 15 & 16**

5544 Ames Ave.

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

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)



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

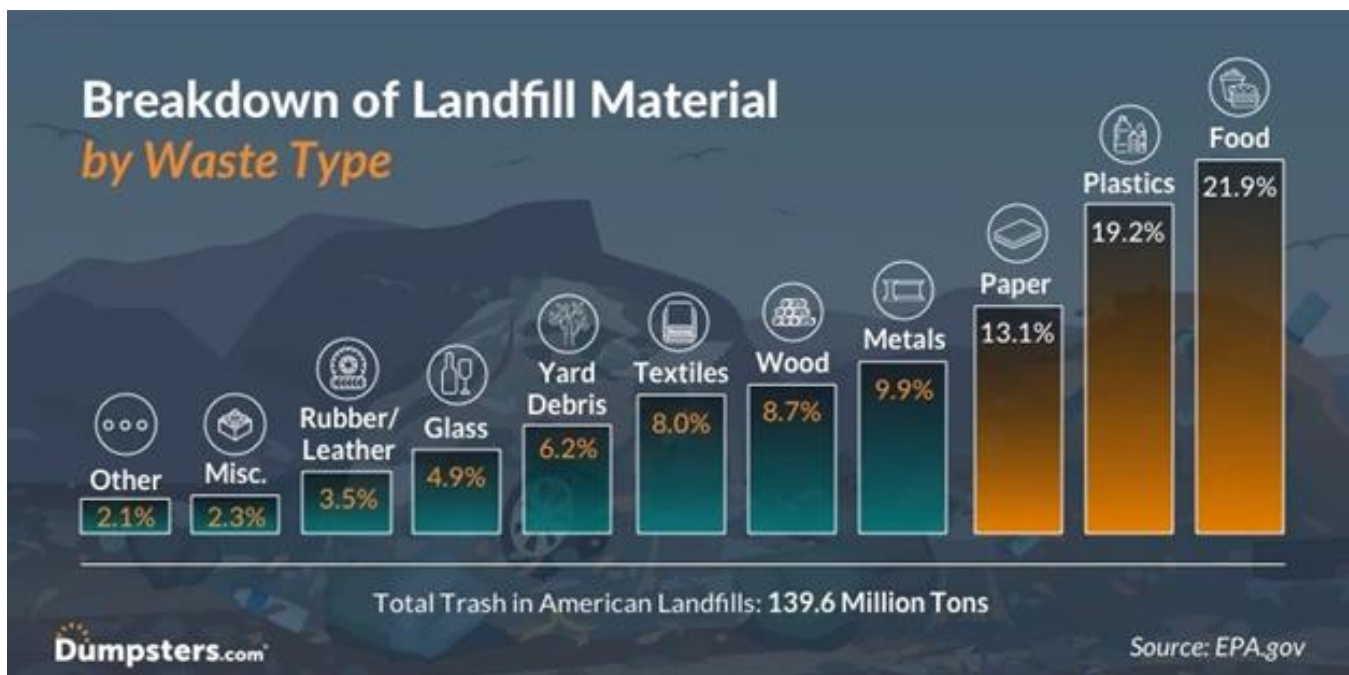
You already know FUMC has a Sustainability Master Plan that includes Energy, Transportation, Waste and Recycling, and Engagement.

<https://fumcomaha.org/ministries/eco-team/>

You already know FUMC has beautiful, new waste cans in the Gathering Place and The Commons to separate paper and recyclables from landfill waste.

You already know FUMC offers composting for your table scraps, recycles printed bulletins, avoids single use items like paper plates and plasticware, and has raised funds to continue converting lighting fixtures to LED lights.

But, did you know as we continue our work on the Sustainability Master Plan that waste management is one area for our attention?



According to the Sustainability Master Plan, our goal is to divert 80% of our waste from the landfill by 2030. (2019 level estimated at 17%) By diverting materials from the landfill, we not only reduce greenhouse gas emissions, but increase the landfill's lifespan.

You are invited to be a part of the discussion with the ECO Team and leaders of FUMC on Wednesday, September 7th at 3 p.m. to discuss and explore next steps for waste management at FUMC. The meeting will conclude by 4 p.m.

We strive to make decisions and engage in practices that bring about positive ecological impacts. We are committed to building inclusive, restorative relationships with each other, our community, the natural world, and God.

Acting

Giving

August means back to school time and we do the same in the church—it is time for “Back to Sunday School” for our kids!

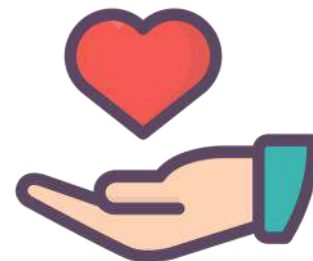
Over the last few weeks we have blessed backpacks, given Bibles to our third grade students, and shared in a time with a story-teller, along with sundaes and a hot dog lunch. We have had lots of fun and are ready for the fall!

Fran Sillau, our director of children’s ministries, has an outstanding group of volunteers who are here each week to teach and share with our children. Plans are in progress for a return to singing and chiming with a children’s choir as well.

Did you know that our nursery is open again on Sunday mornings? Ashley Bandow and Michele Rosenthal are currently working during the hours we are here so parents can enjoy worship and educational opportunities, while their kids are cared for and loved in a safe and nurturing environment.

All of this happens because you believe in our culture of generosity and you give gifts of funding and time and prayer for our children.

If you would like to think about a gift that would fund children’s ministries 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 August 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

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 \$25,895 per month.

As of July 31, 2022, our total income is 75.07% 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 52.38% of what we budgeted. We would expect income and expenses to be at 58.33% 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.

We give thanks for the Culture of Generosity at FUMC and all contributions from members and visitors.

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7020 Cass Street
Omaha, Nebraska 68132-2601

Return Service Requested



UNITED WE WALK

A walk for an inclusive Omaha



FREE

SIGN UP AT:
[TRIFAITH.ORG/WALK](https://trifaith.org/walk)

WHEN

SEPTEMBER 11, 2022, 3-6 PM

WHERE

TRI-FAITH INITIATIVE
13136 FAITH PLAZA

Journey Around
the Commons
Open Houses

Food Trucks
Entertainment
Family Friendly

Community Pop-up by:



LUMINARIUM

Special

Performance by: RIVER CITY

Please join us and wear your Fiercely Inclusive or Compassion shirts to show solidarity!
If you are walking please register at the link above or contact Cass.Opal@fumcomaha.org