



Morita Truman, Pastor

THINK ON THESE THINGS

Philippians 4:8

I remember in the church of my childhood, we participated each year in a Lenten offering. The church staff handed out folders with 40 open slots, one for each day of Lent. Adults used the folder that held quarters, kids used the folder that held dimes. At the bottom there was a larger space with room for folded bills, a check, something a little more. If I remember

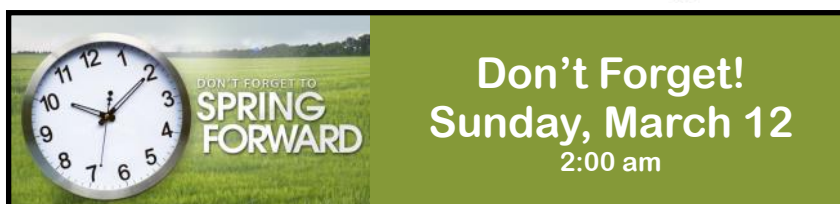
correctly the offering was to be used for missions.

The idea of giving something each day was intended to bring us to a place of thinking about what we have, what we can share, even to consider sacrifice. I remember my Dad going to the bank and getting a roll of quarters and filling in the folder the Monday after we brought it home on Sunday. Kind of a 'well, we're done with that' attitude. Now don't get me wrong, my Dad was very intentional about our giving to the church, the first check each month was written and placed in the offering plate. But the folder apparently wasn't something that called to him. I remember other people returning it on Easter Sunday with a kind of reverential attitude and for them, \$10 in a folder might have been all they could give.

I would not pretend to believe that the exact same practice during the season of Lent speaks to each person in the same way. I do encourage you, though, to take on *something* during these 40 days. We often talk about what we give up and that's important if what you give up is something that is keeping you from living faithfully. I also encourage all of us to take on a spiritual habit that enhances our journey through Lent. Journaling, prayer in a new way, reading the Bible, joining in the discussion of "The Gifts of Imperfection," working at a food bank, calling legislators about important bills, the list is endless. Open your heart and mind to the holiness of the season before us.

On the Lenten journey with you,

Morita



Worship Schedule

Sundays

8:30 & 10:50 am In-Person

(10:50 am service streamed)

www.fumcomaha.org/live

www.facebook.com/fumcomaha

Taizé Worship

Saturday, March 4

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."



Welcoming



Maddi Baugous,
Associate Pastor

Updates!

I just want to update you all on some of the things I have been doing the past few months and am excited for in the future.

On January 31, I had my interview with the Board of Ordained Ministry (BoOM) to request provisional membership in the Great Plains Conference. After anxiously waiting a few days, I received the phone call saying, "You passed!" This means I am continuing to move forward in my call to ordination. It also means that on Friday, June 9, at the LaVista Conference Center I will be recognized during the ordination service. Anyone is welcome to attend. Starting July 1, I will be part of the residency program, which means additional meetings and mentorship for myself. (It also means more

trips to Kansas!) While provisional membership does not automatically mean a change in my role at First UMC Omaha, it has made me consider how I want to lead in the church, in the present and in the future. This may mean trying out different parts of ministry and considering how I can best use my gifts to meet the needs of the community.

At the end of March, I will also be going on a trip to McAllen, Texas, along the United States-Mexico border, to learn about immigration. I will be traveling with 40 other people from the Great Plains Annual Conference, and I am excited to learn more and be with a group of United Methodists who are ready to learn and engage with challenging issues.

I am also excited about our Lenten series on *The Gifts of Imperfection*. The Lenten season is always one where I seek to renew my faith and prepare my heart for the joy of Easter morning. I feel there are a lot of new opportunities springing up. While things might be different it also means there are endless possibilities for what might take place. As I embrace the change of being commissioned in the United Methodist Church, may we each embrace the newness, trusting God is guiding us with every step.

In loving-kindness,

Maddi

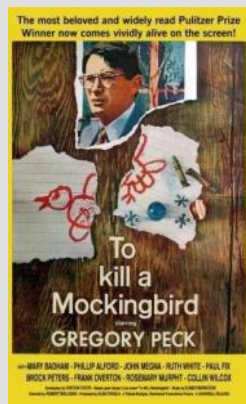
MOVIE GROUP

Tuesday, March 14, 6 pm,
via ZOOM!

To Kill a Mockingbird

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!



WE ARE LIVE STREAMING ON OUR WEBSITE!

Since 2020, we have shared the 10:50am service on Facebook Live. Now, we are streaming **both** on Facebook and our FUMC Website. At 10:50am on Sundays, you can watch the worship service live by going to:

www.fumcomaha.org/live

You do not need an account to watch on the website.

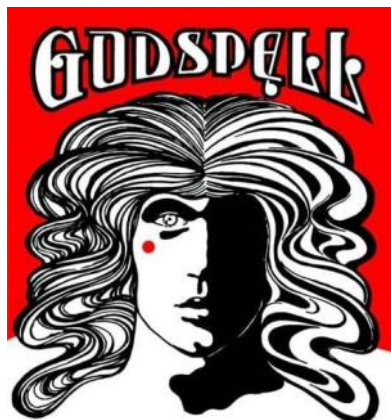
You can also watch worship from previous weeks.

If you have any questions please reach out to the church office

Save the Date

Please plan on attending UWF general membership meeting Thursday, March 2, 10:00 am in room 112. The program will be Prayer and Self-Denial and Installation of 2023 officers. We welcome all FUMC members, of all genders and non-members of FUMC. **We hope to see you there.**

Inspiring



Godspell March 18-26

Résonance, Omaha's premier professional vocal ensemble, continues its tenth anniversary season with the highly anticipated fully staged musical story of Stephen Schwartz's *Godspell* told at First United Methodist Church.

The musical is a timeless tale of friendship, loyalty and love based on the Gospel According to St. Matthew. The 2012 edition is a retelling of the original sensation, injected with contemporary references and dazzling new arrangements. The work was the first major musical theatre offering from three-time Grammy and Academy Award winner, Stephen Schwartz (*Wicked*, *Pippin*, *Children of Eden*); and it took the world by storm. Led by the international hit, "Day by Day," *Godspell* features a parade of beloved songs, including "Prepare Ye the Way of the Lord," "Learn Your Lessons Well," "All for the Best," "All Good Gifts," "Turn Back, O Man" and "By My Side."

Playing the role of 'Jesus' is singer and composer J. Isaiah Smith, known for lead roles in *Ragtime* and *Singing in the Rain* (Omaha Community Playhouse). Additional cast includes Jon Gathje (King Kaspar, *Amahl and the Night Visitors*) in the dual role of John the Baptist and Judas, with John Celesky, Tara Cowherd, Jonathan Frazier, Janeen Jensen, CeCe Hastreiter, Beth Leona King, Lauren Morrissey, Megan Parsons and Evan Wohlers as his followers.

Joining the followers are members of Résonance and the Youth Ensemble together with the Chancel Choir from First United Methodist Church, all led by music director Mark Kurtz.

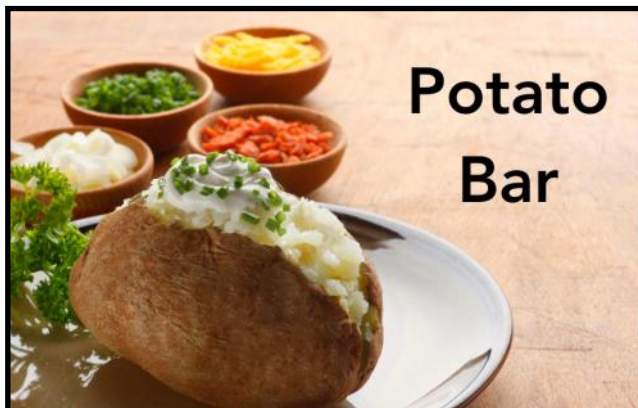
Broadway star (Glinda, *Wicked*) and accomplished author (*Waiting in the Wings*) Tiffany Haas returns to Omaha to direct the ensemble cast, in collaboration with associate stage director, Fran Sillau. "Being able to share this story with the community, in a place of worship, is unique....," shares Haas.

During her residency, Tiffany will also engage in masterclasses with Omaha Public Schools students at North Omaha Music and Arts, and perform the music of Stephen Schwartz in a special fundraiser concert to support the organization's education and immersion programs on Sunday, March 19, at 5:30 pm at First United Methodist Church, in the commons.

Résonance performs five performances of Stephen Schwartz's *GODSPELL* (2012) on Friday and Saturday at 7:30 pm and Sunday at 2:00 pm, March 18 through 26.

The collaboration with First United Methodist Church is highlighted in the Résonance tenth anniversary season. The church has a long history of collaboration with the organization and has hosted the ensemble in a number of performances over the years. "Our community is so delighted to host this performance and offer this community the unique telling of Jesus and his followers, as they share the meanings of love, acceptance, sacrifice, and forgiveness," shares Senior Pastor Morita Truman. The church is neighbors to Lewis and Clark Middle School (OPS) and is offering this performance to all students at no cost.

The musical performance is available at various price ranges, starting at \$10. Those with a student ID are free. Tickets are available at the door; advanced ticket reservation is encouraged. Ticket reservations can be made at resonance-voices.org/events or for more information contact info@resonancevoices.org.



Potato Bar

Please join us for a fellowship meal on

**Sunday, March 5
after 10:50 service
the Commons**

as we honor Jerry Meis for his years of service to our church. Please make plans to attend and bring a card or gift to share with Jerry.

Supporting

Please remember in prayer these members of Our Church Family

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

Sympathies to the families of Marilyn Hansen, Linda Litwin (Barry Houston's sister), Don Halverson (Paul Halverson's brother), Tammie Stickrod (Joan Clark's daughter-in-law), and Wayne Arnold (Linda Hines' brother), Lillie Mabry (Debra Mabry-Strong's mother)

Congratulations to Amanda and Cody Brookhouser-Sisney on the birth of their daughter, Olive Wren, on January 20.

Welcome New Members: Monica Erickson and her three children, Astrid, Kell, and Ebsen, who joined February 19 by transfer of membership from Kearney UMC

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:
March 19 & 20

Clair Memorial UMC | 5544 Ames Ave.

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



Taizé Worship

Saturday, March 4

Saturday, April 1

5:00pm | Chapel | In-Person
(enter door 11)

ALL
ARE
WELCOME

"Prayer in the style of Taizé" is often how the Taizé service is described. It's appropriate because of the variety of ways the Taizé service invites us to pray including chanting our songs, listening to scripture, centering on the candlelight, sitting in silence and speaking our prayers. The intention of the entire service is to deepen one's relationship with the Divine. While Taizé comes to us out of the Christian tradition, it is not limited to one religion or denomination. It connects us with a Cosmic Love that draws us into community with all others.



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!

LIVING HOPE FOOD PANTRY

2919 State St, Omaha | 402-614-7452

Monday - Friday | 10:00 am - 4:00 pm

Volunteers needed for all days.

Please call Living Hope Pantry or contact Ron Alexander
at rwalexander222@gmail.com

Drop off donations at FUMC Omaha | M-Th 8:30 am - 4 pm

Please join Jan Dixon, Parish Nurse, on Mondays and Thursdays at 3:30 – 4:15pm in the Gathering Place for Tai Chi. This free class invites you to open your spirit, center your chi, and stretch out your soul. Tai Chi may help improve balance and is a great way to retain flexibility! Newcomers are always welcome. Please contact Jan Dixon for more information at 2dixons@cox.net.

Kudos to First United Methodist Church

There was preaching in a very creative way. The preacher was Morita Truman, with music led by Marie Meyers at the piano, and soloists/leaders Bob Meyers and Mary Spurgeon. The brain child of Morita and Marie, the result was superb. There was teaching, from leaders recruited by Bob Meyers and Tim Fickenschier, and others. Again, it was wonderfully done. And there were citizens, 25 of them from FUMC. Of course I'm talking about Ecumenical Legislative Briefing Day 2023, held in person at Christ United Methodist Church in Lincoln. Participants got not only fine worship, but choices of workshops on racial justice, education, climate change, labor legislation, housing, and criminal justice. At the end, after a fine meal and fellowship, all were treated to a comprehensive trip through bills in the Legislature by an advocate from the League of Women Voters, and a wrap up including the anticipated date for next year's gathering. Mark your calendar, February 10, 2024, and let FUMC again lead the way. All will be better citizens.

Thank you FUMC, Ron Roemmich, co-chair ELBD Nebraska.

P.S. To stay informed about bills this legislative season, go to:

The League of Women Voters: <https://lwvnebraska.org/legislative-advocacy-2023/>

Civic Nebraska <https://www.civicnebraska.org/voting-rights/bill-tracker>



Our lives begin to end the day we become silent about things that matter. MLK, Jr.



This legislative season is prompting our *Salt and Light* team and our congregation to step up in ways we haven't done before. Bills with serious consequences about public safety (with the easing of gun regulations), discrimination of trans youth, a weakening of our public schools, making voting harder, compromising the minimum wage and more are being debated.

We hope that members will take advantage of the various non-partisan advocacy groups that can provide up-to-date information on bills and ways to advocate for and against. Some of those groups are:

League of Women Voters--Greater Omaha <https://www.lwvgo.org/>

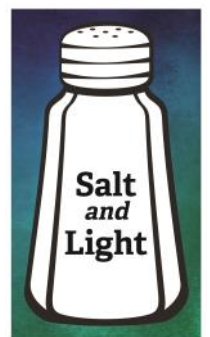
Out Nebraska outnebraska.org | Stand for Schools <https://www.standforschools.org/>

Civic Nebraska [civicnebraska.org](https://www.civicnebraska.org/) | Planned Parenthood plannedparenthoodaction.org

Open Sky Policy Institute openskypolicy.org | Nebraska Appleseed neappleseed.org

To find your state senator, go to Nebraska Legislature --Find your Senator. To email your senator, type in first initial, then last name@leg.ne.gov (example for Senator Megan Hunt: mhunt@leg.ne.gov)

Silence is not an option. The very fabric of our families and communities is being threatened, your voice can make a difference!



10525 J. St., Omaha

Please join VIM
March 21, 1:00 - 3:30 pm

If you have a foodbank account, register online
foodbankheartland.org

or contact

Bruce Deines (brucedeines@gmail.com) or
Mike Rosenthal (Mike.Rosenthal577@icloud.com)

The Roam'n Methodists: a group of FUMC folks for the purpose of enjoying regional places or events with other others. **Upcoming events:**

- March 19, Sunday, Joslyn Castle Tour after lunch
- April still being planned for possible April 21

Contact Mike Rosenthal at

mike.rosenthal577@icloud.com or 402-572-6208 for more information.

Challenging

Eco Team

Eco Team -- Spiritual Practice -- Lenten Calendar

By now, hopefully you have been marking action ideas off your Eco Lenten

Calendar! There are small ideas and not so small ideas, but each one is an positive



action to care for our beloved earth home. United Methodist and environmentalist Bill McKibben offers just one example of a simple action that can make a significant difference, "If we all used clotheslines, we could save 30 million tons of coal a year, or shut down 15 nuclear power plants. And you don't have to wait to start. Yours could be up by this afternoon. To be specific, buy 50 feet of clothesline and a \$3 bag of clothespins and become a solar energy pioneer."

To get more ideas, see the calendar and get links to organizations addressing our warming climate use the QR code to take you to the FUMC Eco Team website.

Remember to join us Sunday, April 16th for an eco friendly fellowship meal and time to celebrate our faithful actions during Lent!



OTOC's 14th Annual Spring Fundraiser *Celebrating Community*

Sunday, March 26, 2023, 4:00 - 7:30 pm Omaha Design Center, 1502 Cuming St.

Tickets: \$25 (\$30 at the door) | Virtual Auction, March 18-26

Silent Auction Registration and Event Ticket Sales Open Now

Go to <http://bidpal.net/otocauktion2023>

If you participated in the OTOC Virtual or In Person Auction in 2021 or 2022 you may already be registered and may not need to register again. You will need your password to log in or you can reset your password.

You can purchase tickets for yourself and guests. You can also purchase tickets to be donated to someone that OTOC selects. Tickets are \$25 in advance - \$30 at the door.

You will have to enter your credit card number to purchase tickets. If you registered in a previous year make sure your credit card information is up to date.

Please feel free to share this link with family or friends who may want to attend the event or bid on the silent auction.

Please contact Carol Beaty 402-332-8215 if you have trouble registering or purchasing tickets.

Bidding on auction items will open on Saturday March 18 and close at 6:30 on March 26, the night of the event.

We are accepting items for the Silent Auction until March 8.

Contact Carol at cabeaty@cox.net or Colleen at cdmomaha@gmail.com if you have an auction item to donate.

Cash Bar | Appetizers | Dessert | Live Music | Silent Auction

Mark Your Calendar for Sunday April 23rd Health Healing and Spiritual Formation will be hosting *Celebration of Soulful Healing* on Sunday April 23, from 1:00 - 4:30 pm. *More information to follow.*

Acting

Giving

When Covid forced businesses to shut down 'for a couple of weeks' none of us dreamed in 2020 that we would not gather in the same ways for a very long time. We have been back together in worship since May of 2021 and we continue to examine some of the moments of worship that changed during that time.

In the season of Lent, we are returning to an offering time in worship when we 'pass the plates.' When we were meeting virtually many of us began to find new ways to make an offering and those continue. When we returned to the sanctuary and still didn't pass the plates or anything else, we changed our standard of practice by having the offering plates at the entrance to the sanctuary. On February 26 we returned to passing the plates, with the caveat that however you give your offering, as the plate passes you say a prayer of thanksgiving for the faithfulness of our congregation—all members and friends.

If you have questions regarding your giving, please contact our Finance Director, Noni Cambridge, at Noni.Cambridge@fumcomaha.org

You can still mail a check to the church or make a donation in the offering plate,. There are also donation options on our website:

www.fumcomaha.org/giving, or on our Facebook page: www.facebook.com/FUMComaha

Donate Here

Scan the QR code for
one-time or recurring
donation options



SCAN ME

FUMC Finance News

FUMC Finance Report Carol Beaty, FUMC Finance Chair

Here is the FUMC monthly report to the congregation written on Feb 22, 2023.

Average monthly pledges needed to meet our budget of \$650,000 in pledge income = \$44,862

Jan 2023 pledges - \$156,519.17 (some members paid entire year) 24.0% of annual budgeted pledges received.

As of Jan 30, 2023, our total income is 20.28% of what we budgeted. Our expenses are 8.264% of what we budgeted. We would expect income and expenses to be at 8.33% at this time of the 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 generosity of our members..

HOLY WEEK

Palm Sunday
April 2
8:30 & 10:50 am
the Sanctuary

10:50 am service will
be streamed on
FUMC Facebook Live

Maundy Thursday
April 6
7:00 pm
the Sanctuary

Service will be
in person only

Good Friday
April 7
7:00 pm
the Sanctuary

Service will be streamed on
FUMC Facebook Live

Easter Sunday
April 9
8:30 & 10:50 am
the Sanctuary

10:50 am service will be
streamed on FUMC
Facebook Live

First
United
Methodist
Church



7020 Cass Street
Omaha, Nebraska 68132-2601

Return Service Requested

Report from Immigration & Refugee Action Team (IRAT)

June 24, 2019 was a momentous day in the life of Pehr Say and Ro May. They arrived in Omaha after leaving a refugee camp in Thailand, first taking a bus to Bangkok, then planes to Hong Kong, Los Angeles, and finally to Omaha. It was a tiring three-day journey before arriving in Omaha to begin a new life. Their home is in an apartment complex north of 66th and Ames where many refugee families live.

Although born in Myanmar, formerly known as Burma, they are of the Karen (Kah-Ren) group. They fled from Myanmar to safety due to civil war fighting, met in the camp, and have been married for 15 years. Their son, Shae Tha Say Ro, a seventh grader, and daughter El Eh Say Ro, a second grader, are students at St. Cecilia Cathedral School. Their son, Alexander Say Ro, was born in Omaha on December 23, 2021.

Pehr Say's parents are still living in Myanmar and she has a sister who lives in Australia. Ro May has two sisters who live in Omaha and a brother who would like to come to America, but needs a sponsor in order to do so. He is employed at Airlite Plastics in Carter Lake, Iowa, and is taking classes in English on Monday and Wednesday evenings at Metropolitan Community College. We welcome them to America and to our city.

