



## Worship Schedule

### Sundays

8:30 & 10:50 am In-Person

(10:50 am service streamed)

[www.fumcomaha.org/live](http://www.fumcomaha.org/live)

[www.facebook.com/fumcomaha](http://www.facebook.com/fumcomaha)

### Taizé Prayer

Saturday, September 6

5:00 pm Mead Chapel

### Pastor

Rev. Morita Truman

### Receive "Connect"

E-mail Lorraine in the church office,  
[Lorraine.Dalziel@fumcomaha.org](mailto: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

*"The United Methodist Church  
forms disciples of Jesus Christ who,  
empowered by the Holy Spirit,  
love boldly, serve joyfully,  
and lead courageously  
in local communities  
and worldwide connections."*



Morita Truman, Pastor

### THINK ON THESE THINGS

#### Philippians 4:8

I've been with my 5 year old great great nephew who is approaching his first year at a Montessori school. In a very serious conversation he sat down, looked me in the eye and asked, "Did you like kindergarten?" I had to be honest with him and tell him I didn't go to kindergarten. Oh, it existed, but my Mom didn't insist on it. I stayed out of school that year. I don't regret it, I think I'm okay, but I realized a 5 year old wasn't really asking about

that, he was asking "will I be okay with this new experience?"

Unfamiliar territory isn't easy at any age. We are hesitant about showing insecurity, we wonder if we'll "fit in" or we simply don't like the new. Road maps aren't always at the ready and in the words of ancient explorers, at times we feel like we're "marching off the map."

So what do we do? We surge forward. We keep learning, we open ourselves to new experiences, challenging lessons, moments that point out where our discomfort is located. We allow ourselves to live in the discomfort. We remember the words that appear over and over again in our faith story, "Fear not!"

I find myself thinking that we live in times that require us to move in the unfamiliar, to march off the map. Last week there was a shooting at a hospital in my home town. As I read the news accounts, I could see the location in my mind, a place I haven't lived in nearly 40 years, but still see clearly. The announcement of the detention center in McCook reminded me of the number of times I drove to the hospital there, to make visits to parishioners having knee and hip replacement surgery. My memories of the town, of the facilities are still clear in my mind. When unsettling news comes to us of places we know, of people affected and impacted, we might feel we are living in the unfamiliar.

And yet...my parents lived in the time when the power of the atom unleashed was shown in a powerful weapon. My grandparents traveled to a new land known as Oklahoma when it was opened via land runs to white citizens. Perhaps your family has stories of the Depression or the Dust Bowl. Maybe 9/11 or Columbine were moments of the unfamiliar. The financial crisis of 2008. Corporate greed such as Enron. As we live in the unfamiliar, I would encourage us to remember in every season, we turn to the words "Fear not!" and we move forward courageously in faith. We accept that we may not always know the map, we may be required to create a new one. And we walk together on this journey,

*Morita*



# Welcoming

## Trinitarian Thanks



Liz Emis, Minister of Education

As I type this on August 20th, we are only 10 days into our Back At It! Fundraiser for WONDER-Kids Ministries. We still have 18 days remaining in the campaign. While not even halfway through the project, we have received commitments of more than \$4,000 and have received more than \$3,500 of those pledges. That is simply incredible, that a group of people is so invested in supporting growth and development. Thank you.

As a Deacon, and I guess just as part of the way I am built, I've always looked with a macro lens at the micro work happening around me. Put another way, I've always been a student of motivation: what is provoking the behavior exhibited before me? Why is what is happening, well, happening? I think this skill is, in part, cultivated a result of being a first-born child to two strategic and organized parents, one in sales and the other in healthcare. Yet I also think I lean into that skill so often because it helps me orient myself with, to, and for the world in which I live. In this role, it helps me uncover what is needed by people and systems to thrive, and then develop programs and strategies to launch them to success.

When I walk by the fundraiser board on Mondays, and make note of any additional pledges in the last week, I see more than envelopes, dollars bills, checks, and online banking transactions. I see provocation, intention, decision-making, and praxis. I see conscious choices to support children and families. And so, why are so many of you making those choices? It's because something about empowering children resonates with you. It's because somewhere in your stories, you came face to face with the reality that we all need one another.

Maybe you needed compassion, a friend, and you did not receive it. So, you are motivated by a sense of advocacy. Maybe you struggled at school and an aide or teacher committed to making sure you didn't fall behind, and you are motivated by paying it forward. Maybe you are the friend, the advocate, who came alongside someone and helped them to thriving, and that feeling of purpose, as infectious as it is, drives you.

No matter your motivation, you do the work. It's a lot like that really cool guy who lived a long time ago, the I Am that we work to emulate. He too experienced all three of these things: receiving the cold shoulder, being invested in at a young age, and investing in those around him. That's a pretty inspiring Trinity!

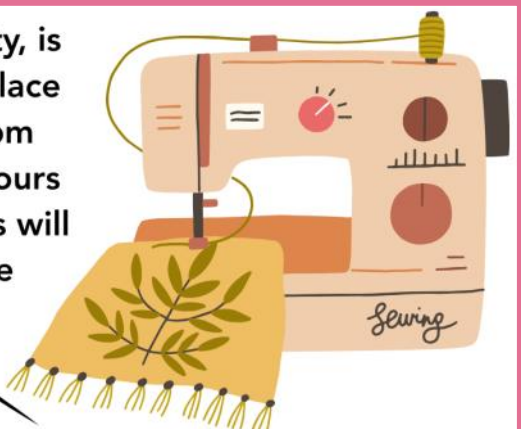
Our motivations influence our values. Our values should determine our ethics, our work in the world. Thank you for your ethic of investment and care. Keep living that Trinity, and may God bless you!

Peace, Salam, and Shalom,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Liz Emis'.

**Stitchin' Sisters, a group that sews and creates for charity, is planning a retreat September 2nd and 3rd. It will take place in the church Parlor from 9:00 am til no later than 4:00 pm both days. If any of you would like to join us for a few hours or for both days, we will welcome you. Lunch and snacks will be provided. You don't need to be able to sew, there are other things to do.**

**PLEASE COME JOIN US.**





## WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS!

We welcome these new members who have joined First UMC

Rolando & Amy Avila by transfer from another UMC

Millicent Myres by restoration of membership

Please call Morita or email her at  
[morita.truman@fumcomaha.org](mailto:morita.truman@fumcomaha.org)

if you'd like to  
talk about  
membership.



## This Is What Democracy Looks Like!

Omaha Together One Community (OTOC) a grassroots organization co-founded by this church—is gearing up for its next **Candidate Accountability Session in September 2026**.

Following recent house meetings, OTOC has identified **four key issues** for focused research:

- Public Safety Net
- Housing
- Education/Child Care
- Transportation/Public Safety (Note: Immigration and Refugee work is ongoing with a dedicated team.)

Research Action Teams will explore each issue by:

- Defining the problem and its context
- Identifying contributing factors
- Determining which level of government is responsible
- Exploring potential solutions

The goal is to uncover actionable issues that can be presented to candidates with a real chance of success.

### Want to get involved?

If you're passionate about these issues and eager to collaborate with others, contact:

Mary Spurgeon – [marspur2@aol.com](mailto:marspur2@aol.com) or  
Kevin Graham – [kgraham409@gmail.com](mailto:kgraham409@gmail.com)

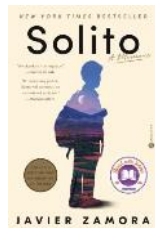
We'll help connect you with the team that matches your interests.

**Deadline: End of October**

Teams are already meeting—**don't wait** to join this vital work!

### Mondays with Morita

"Solito" by Javier Zamora is a memoir about the author's harrowing 3,000-mile journey from El Salvador to the United States at the age of nine. "Solito" explores themes of family, resilience, and the immigrant experience.



September 8 - October 6, Room 108  
Book will be available at *The Bookworm*



Save the Date

*Say goodbye to summer & hello to fall!*

# SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 28

*First Church friends & families are invited to our annual*

# FELLOWSHIP PICNIC ON THE FRONT LAWN

All ages welcome! Enjoy delicious picnic food, outdoor games (weather permitting), and sign-up for a new small group!

Sign-up with Lorraine Dalziel or Cass Opal today to help with food and drink preparations.  
[Lorraine.Dalziel@fumcomaha.org](mailto:Lorraine.Dalziel@fumcomaha.org)  
[Cass.Opal@fumcomaha.org](mailto:Cass.Opal@fumcomaha.org)



# Acting

## Please remember in prayer these members of our Church Family:

Nev Fredrickson, Dean Hesselgesser, Kym Kurth, Daryl & Diane Mackender, Jerry Meis, Suzanne Morgan, Pam Smith, George Winn, Lucy Wood.

**Sympathies** - to the family and friends of Cedric Gibb and of Laura O'Connor Pierce who have transitioned to new life.

**Congratulations** - to Cody & Amanda Brookhouser-Sisney on the birth of their child, Mack David; to Emma & Jamie Dennell on the birth of their child Novie Pearl Dennell, and to Cass and Tim Opal on the birth of their grandchild, Calan Eugene Hopkins.

Please follow these 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 before contacting Lynne or the church.

## MOVIE GROUP

Tuesday, September 9, 6 pm

in-person at FUMC ,  
Ada Mead Hall & Zoom

### THE FRIEND

Optional dinner after meeting  
at local restaurant.

Contact  
**Bonnie Wallace**

[bonniewallace59@gmail.com](mailto:bonniewallace59@gmail.com) for more info



## Taizé Prayer

1st Saturday of the month

5:00 - 5:40 pm

Mead Chapel

In Person (enter door 11)

September 6

This is an opportunity to open our hearts  
and minds, to listen and to rest in Divine  
presence. It is a spiritual practice.

**YOU ARE WELCOME TO JOIN!**



## Volunteer Dates:

Tuesday, September 9 - 1:00 - 3:30 pm

Tuesday, December 9 - 1:00 - 3:30 pm

[foodbankheartland.org](http://foodbankheartland.org) or contact

Bruce Deines [brucedeines@gmail.com](mailto:brucedeines@gmail.com) or

Mike Rosenthal [mike.rosenthal577@icloud.com](mailto:mike.rosenthal577@icloud.com)



The move to 84th and L Streets corner is expected  
in 2026. The current location is 10525 J St.



# Inspiring

## Authoritarians and Beach Balls!

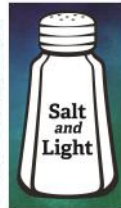
The Salt and Light team is inviting the congregation to join them in the Commons, Sunday, September 21, at 9:35 am for a conversation about the times we are in, identifying the move towards authoritarianism and sharing creative ways ordinary people are resisting. For all those who care about democracy, feel despairing and want to



step it up on behalf of God's bold vision of a community that upholds the dignity of every person, please come! And if you are curious about the beach balls, we'll be sharing a story about a "pool party" outside a congressman's office!

To have a current calendar of community events that are offering support for resistance, go to [Ripples of Hope Calendar](https://ripplesofhopecalendar.com). If you are reading this in paper format, email [ripplesofhope24@gmail.com](mailto:ripplesofhope24@gmail.com) for access to the calendar.

*Our lives begin to end the day we become silent about things that matter.* Let us heed these words from Martin Luther King, Jr. and not be silent in these times!



## WONDER-Ful Wednesday Kick-Off!

Get Ready for friends & fun! We'll kick off the next year of WONDER-ful Wednesdays at 6 pm on Sept. 10th with an all-ages meal until 6:30pm. After we fill our bellies, we'll read *When I Go to Church, I Belong* by Elrena Evans. September's WONDER-Kids theme is Invitation, so we'll invite one another outside for life-sized Jenga, Connect Four, Gaga Ball & making welcoming sidewalk chalk art!

## Midweek Fun at FUMC

Join us Wednesdays each week for food & fun! After an all-ages meal from 6 pm 6:30 pm, Rev. Liz will engage in storytime & spiritual play with children grades Kindergarten through 6th in WONDER-ful Wednesdays. Grades 7th and up will get creative with Chris Marshall, our Youth Director. Come hungry and leave filled with joy! *Starts September 10th.*

**THIS LABOR DAY, 2025:**  
REJECT THE BILLIONAIRE AGENDA  
FIGHT BACK AGAINST CORRUPTION  
STAND UP FOR WORKING PEOPLE

WE ARE THE  
MANY,  
THEY ARE THE  
FEW!

**WORKERS  
OVER  
BILLIONAIRES**

Register on  
Mobilize



Monday  
Sept 1st, 2025

Rally in Memorial Park | 2-4pm  
March to 72nd & Dodge St | 4-5pm

OMAHA  
50501  
OMAHA

WOMEN'S  
MARCH  
Nebraska



INDIVISIBLE  
NEBRASKA

FiftyFifty.one

OmahaDSA.org

indivisible.ne.com

## Terrarium Building with Sheelytown and the Care Collective

Friday, September 26th, 2025

7-9 pm in the Commons



Bring your own container and  
join the fun!



IN PARTNERSHIP WITH



**SHEELYTOWN**  
Market



# Supporting



## 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](mailto:Morita.Truman@fumcomaha.org)

or call 402.556.6262 x1002

You can also email **Lynne Elwood**

[lalwood2@gmail.com](mailto:lalwood2@gmail.com) to be added to our prayer chain.

**We are here for you!**

## Clair Cares Food Pantry

*Volunteers Needed!*

**Next Opportunity for Volunteering**  
**Sept. 18, 10 am & Sept. 19, 1 pm**

**Clair Memorial UMC | 5544 Ames Ave.**

Contact Judy Prenzler

[Prenzler@cox.net](mailto:Prenzler@cox.net) for info



## ECO Team

Contributions welcome for our wonderful rain garden AND join a walking tour of the grounds on September 14th!

The rain garden is doing its job! Water from the parking lot is being diverted and finding its way into the ground. Next steps will be to add more plants this fall to the banks and top of the berm. If you have native perennials in YOUR gardens that have gotten too big or too many, please contact Teri Drymalski at 605-366-0110 and let her know what you can donate (cone flowers, Black eyed Susan, Astor, goldenrod, etc.), she would be happy to come to your garden and help you divide and conquer.

If you'd like to see the rain garden for yourself, or any of our other gardens in progress, we'll host a ground tour after the second service on September 14. Questions and comments are welcome.



## WILD WORSHIP



### AUGUST HARVEST SERVICE:

AUGUST 29TH, 2025 FROM 4:30-7:30P

LOCATION: FUMC GAZEBO AND LAWN

SCAN QR CODE TO GET MORE INFORMATION.

LIKE AND FOLLOW THE EVENT TO GET ALERTS.



Scan for  
August event  
information



~OMAHA~

### SEPTEMBER FALL EQUINOX SERVICE:

SEPTEMBER 22ND, 2025 FROM 5:30-7:00P

LOCATION: TO BE DETERMINED

SCAN QR CODE TO GET MORE INFORMATION.

LIKE AND FOLLOW THE EVENT TO GET ALERTS.



Scan for  
September event  
information





# Challenging

## Building a Culture of Generosity...and a Challenge

An update on what the funds from our Foundation are allowing us to do:

- \* Started installing the new piping in the North wing. A pressure test will be conducted in 2 weeks, then work will begin insulating the pipes. Hope to have the system up and running by end of September or earlier.
- \* A proposed delivery date for the sanctuary air handler is the last week of October. Once that date is firm, they will start the demolition of the old air handler about the same time. The current plans would be no air movement for 2 Sundays, probably first weeks of November. Plan is to be totally finished by Thanksgiving.
- \* We are considering replacing the air handlers in Mead Hall, Mead Chapel and the Parlor.
- \* Investigating replacement of the kitchen in Mead Hall, to make the room more usable.
- \* Adding a floor access panel in the NW corner of room 112. This area is where the supply from the boiler room enters the tunnel and is where several of the valves will be located. If work needs to be performed on the system, this was most likely the area needing to be accessed.

The generosity of members and friends who have donated to the Foundation allowed us to begin this work. At the beginning of 2026 we will invite everyone to learn more about how the Foundation works and how your faithful giving impacts this and the next generations.

*Every gift makes an impact.*

### Donate Here

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



SCAN ME

[bit.ly/FUMCOMahaGiving](https://bit.ly/FUMCOMahaGiving)

## FUMC Finance Report

Kate Fiandt, Finance Chair 2025

The next scheduled meeting of the Finance Committee is September 8.

Key Financial Updates:

Revenues through July 31, 2025 were \$717,051, which is 74% of the budget to this point. We have collected 79% of our budgeted pledges. Expenses were \$577,372, or 59% of budgeted costs.

Expected revenue and expenses should be 58% of budget. We have \$306,621.50 in CDs as of July 31.

Please contact me directly ([KFfiandt@gmail.com](mailto:KFfiandt@gmail.com)) if you have questions and put FUMC Finance in the subject line so I don't accidentally delete your email. 😊

Did you  
know you  
can  
receive the Upper Room by mail?



(Large print or small)

Send your mailing address to:

[Lorraine.Dalziel@fumcomaha.org](mailto:Lorraine.Dalziel@fumcomaha.org)

**FUMC Omaha**

## CHURCH COUNCIL

Tuesday, September 2nd  
6:00 pm, the Parlor

Please enter through door 9 or 11

All church members are welcome  
to attend and participate.

Please join us!



## LOVE THY NEIGHBOR UPDATE

This past spring, as immigrants in the U.S. braced themselves for ICE raids, you gave \$115,000 to FUMC's "Love Thy Neighbor" fund to support those living in fear of deportation. On June 10, it happened in Omaha. ICE agents entered Glenn Valley Foods and took 74 workers into custody. Lawyers from the Center for Immigrant and Refugee Advancement (CIRA) deployed to a detention center in North Platte to provide legal counsel and try to reunite workers with their families.

Meanwhile, CIRA and other organizations stepped up to support the families back home. Here is how your donations contributed to those efforts:

### **\$75,000 -- Center for Immigrant and Refugee Advancement (CIRA)**

Set up a flex fund to provide emergency support, including rent and utilities to families impacted by the June ICE raid. (See attached CIRA final report for details.)

### **\$15,000 -- Heartland Workers Center**

Provided direct support to families affected by ICE raids

Safety training to prepare families for future immigration enforcement

### **\$4,100 -- Iglesia Comunitaria de Omaha, Spanish speaking United Methodist Church in South Omaha**

Rent for an immigrant family facing eviction because of job loss

Legal fees for victims of human trafficking

### **\$2,800 -- AM Counseling, a bi-lingual mental health practice**

Group counseling for 10-12 Spanish speaking immigrants facing mental health crises due to immigration enforcement

### **\$2,800 -- The Tent, UMC pantry in South Omaha that serves families whose breadwinners were detained or deported by ICE.**

Purchase food for the pantry after the USDA cut off deliveries

### **\$300 -- Sack lunches for 100 immigrant children attending a CIRA day camp**

\$100,000 of the "Love Thy Neighbor" fund has been spent. The remaining \$15,000 will soon be put to good use to help more families. As we look to the future, we pray we will continue to live out our Social Principles, not only by providing concrete support to immigrants, but also by "opposing all laws and policies that attempt to criminalize, dehumanize or punish displaced individuals and families based on their status as migrants, immigrants, and refugees."





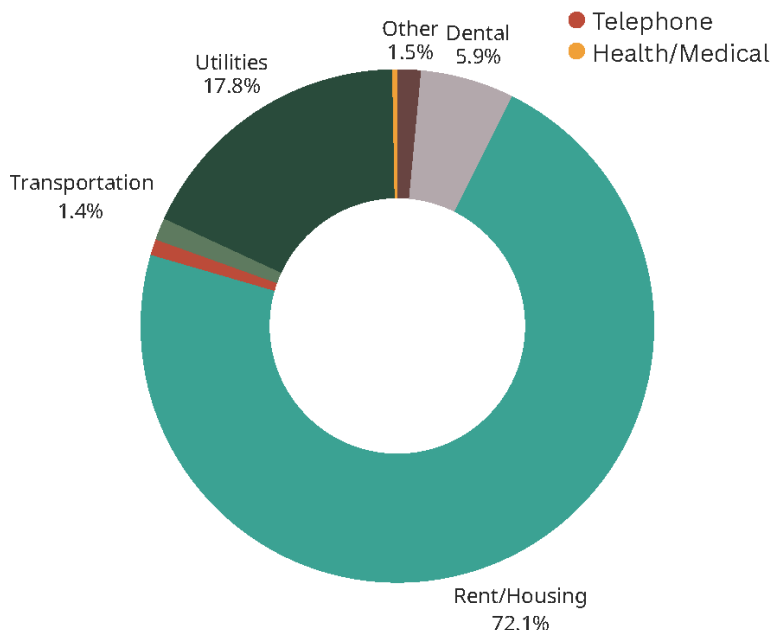
## FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH FLEX FUND REPORT

### 2025 REPORT



<b>252</b> unique individuals impacted	<b>119</b> unique children impacted	<b>113</b> total fund requests	<b>57</b> households served
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### Percentage of Fund Expenses by Type



### What We Have Learned

- *Larger Families Hit Hardest:* Households of 5–9 people require higher support to maintain housing and services.
- *Bigger Financial Gaps:* Post-raid, housing and utility requests are larger on average, reflecting deeper financial insecurity.

### SUCCESS STORY

Gloria\* is the primary caregiver to her four children, all of whom are between the ages of 13 and 21. Gloria was detained during the Glenn Valley Foods raid on June 10<sup>th</sup>. Her four children were left behind. While Gloria has been detained, her kids faced not only having to try and figure out legal assistance for their mother, but also how they will pay their rent and utilities bills without any income coming in. The eldest child in the family had been preparing to start college this fall, but now he was looking at having to defer his enrollment to stay behind and take care of his siblings. With his mother detained and his sudden responsibility to pay rent, food, and everything else, he did not see how he could possibly leave for school. Thanks to First United Methodist Church's support, CIRA was able to cover their essential needs until the children were able to connect with extended family in California to come take care of them in the meantime. Without First United Methodist Church's support, four kids in our community would still be in crisis. Thanks to our combined help, they do not have to worry about losing their home and future opportunities.

*\*names changed*

First  
United  
Methodist  
Church



7020 Cass Street  
Omaha, Nebraska 68132-2601

Return Service Requested

# Ministry Fair

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 14TH

9:35-10:35 AM | THE COMMONS



**Browse booths:** Committees | Ministries | Small Groups  
Hospitality | Mercy & Justice | Spiritual Practices  
Children & Youth | Faith Studies | & More!

First  
United  
Methodist  
Church

