



Morita Truman, Pastor

## THINK ON THESE THINGS

### Philippians 4:8

I was shocked earlier today to see that someone had posted on Facebook these words, "Only 100 days til Christmas!" And this was on September 16, so it's fewer days by the time you're reading this. Actually by the time you're reading this it might be 100 days til 2026. So I better get going on all that has to happen.

One of the tasks before me is the convening of the Lay Leadership team. Previously known as the Nominating Committee, the Lay Leadership team considers opportunities for service in the church and persons who would be amazing leaders in those positions. I choose to focus on the idea of leadership of the lay people, considering their gifts and graces, how God calls each of us into ministry and service.

My roots in ministry are deep in the work of the laity. I worked as a lay employee for 9 years at a church outside of Oklahoma City. I was consecrated as a diaconal minister — a designation in the United Methodist Church that recognized ministries of lay persons. In time diaconal ministers were invited to ordination as deacons, and at that time not everyone made the transition. Diaconal ministers who understood their work as the work of the lay person, not the ordained, retained their titles. This church has known the work of Ruth Kruse and Sue Rood as diaconal ministers.

Ministry is shared. Paul's writings to the churches in Corinth and in Rome are most notable for their designations about how every part of the body matters and the listing of work the church engages in that requires each person's gifts. But throughout the New Testament there are references to those who are doing the work. Some are named, others not, but each person is entrusted with doing what they are called to do.

That work continues through the lay leadership team. By the time you're reading this I anticipate you have received a time and talent card in your mail. I invite you to consider those opportunities, indicate where you feel God can utilize your talents, and return the card on the first Sunday in October, which is World Communion Sunday. In so doing you will join the community of saints who have kept the church moving forward for 2000 years. You ARE called. You ARE a minister of grace and ability. You ARE someone I am so grateful to be with in ministry.

On the journey with you,



## 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](https://www.facebook.com/fumcomaha)

### Taizé Prayer

Saturday, October 4

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."*

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# Welcoming

## Title



Liz Emis, Minister of Education

On a crisp late summer Saturday morning, a bunch of kids gathered at the new Sophia's Garden play space in Lauritzen Gardens. Supported with tickets donated by our own ECO-Team, we ran through rope courses, delivered mail the traditional way, chased butterflies, and filled up watering cans to give the plants a drink.

Our WONDER-Kids fall connection event brought giggles, scampering, and full hearts. It brought joy on what could have been an otherwise everyday kind of Saturday morning. Yes, we had to get up early, and yes, our arms had goosebumps before running so much we warmed up, but it was entirely worth it. Why? Because we had church that Saturday morning. Among the birds, bugs, and buddies, we experienced prayer through play.

It made me wonder: When was the last time you played and equated the experience to worship? To prayer? To church? I don't think it is a stretch to assume that if you're reading this, you're above the age of 18. So I repeat, when was the last time you scampered and felt truly free?

I wonder if, for many of us, it's been far too long. Sure, everyone feels liberated in different ways: dancing, writing, cooking, singing. But there is something to breathing in the outdoors and feeling the sunshine on your face, with the sounds of play all around you. It inspires you to join in.

When a child climbed up one of the garden houses, a caregiver followed, not because we worried someone could fall, but because we too were curious about what that house looked like on the inside. None of us had been to this new play space at the botanical gardens yet, and some hadn't been to the garden in several years. Our children's curiosity inspired our own. Our children gave us a path to wonder. If they can do it, surely we can.

The children led that day, even if they don't realize it. They led us to precocious, inquisitive, risky, wonder-filled joy. And if that's not the point of church, I don't know what is.

This fall, try something new, something uncomfortable, something that forces you out of your comfort zone. Ask yourself what you're curious about, what you've always wanted to try and never have, and go for it. Children lead when they demonstrate that inhibitions aren't worth holding onto when they keep you from growing. If they can do it, so can you!

Peace, Salam, and Shalom,

828.





## WE LOVE TO WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

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

if you'd like to  
talk about  
membership.


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WONDER-Kids will lead TWO new  
Community Offerings: a pantry & a library!  
They'll stock shelves on WONDER-ful  
Wednesday starting October 1st. Please  
consider bringing in these  
items on Wednesdays to  
Rev. Liz Contact Rev. Liz at  
[liz.emis@fumcomaha.org](mailto:liz.emis@fumcomaha.org)  
for more details!

Download list of needed  
items here: (or use QR code)  
[https://bit.ly/  
WKLittlePantryNeeds1025](https://bit.ly/WKLittlePantryNeeds1025)



 NO KINGS



10.18.2025

WE SAY  
**NO KINGS**

## Save The Date!

Mark your calendars for No  
Kings 2.0 a national day of  
standing together and  
standing up for our democracy

When: October 18th  
12-4 p.m.  
Turner Park  
3110 Farnam Street

More details to come!

### REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH & HEALTHY RELATIONSHIPS

As our children enter middle school, their bodies mature as well. Rev. Liz invited Haley Burken, a community educator with Planned Parenthood, to hold two listening sessions for children & caregivers on these reproductive and cognitive changes. **These will be in the Parlor at FUMC.**

**October 12, 12 - 2** | Reproductive health, cognitive & bodily changes, healthy relationships with boundaries & consent.

**October 19, 12 - 2** | Sexuality, sexual identity, and gender. Each session will include all genders and is designed for children in 5th - 8th grades. Caregivers are welcome to attend with their children.



Planned  
Parenthood®

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## FOODBANK FOR THE HEARTLAND

10525 J St., Omaha, NE

FUMC team packed 1,589 pounds of frozen food and  
miscellaneous food items on Tuesday, September 9th.

Thanks to all our great volunteers!!

**Please reserve this date  
on your calendar**

Tuesday December 9, 1-3:30

If you have a foodbank account, register online

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

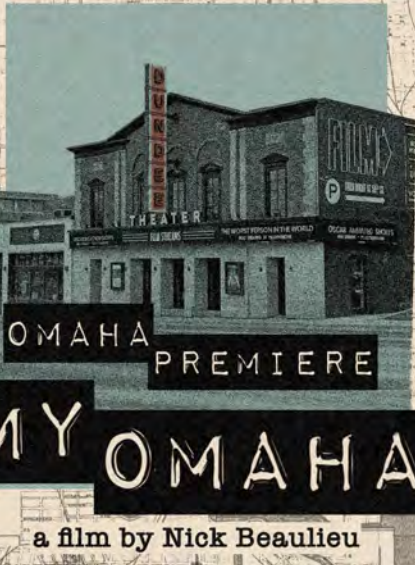
or contact **Bruce Deines** ([brucedeines@gmail.com](mailto:brucedeines@gmail.com)) or

**Mike Rosenthal** ([Mike.Rosenthal577@icloud.com](mailto:Mike.Rosenthal577@icloud.com))



<http://filmstreams.org/films/my-omaha>

"A staggering work...  
don't expect answers, but expect to be moved"  
-Unseen Films



**Tuesday, Oct. 14th @ 7PM**  
**Film Streams - Dundee Theater**  
4952 Dodge St, Omaha, NE 68132



# WILD WORSHIP

~OMAHA~

OCTOBER HONORING THE  
ANCESTORS SERVICE:

**SAT. OCTOBER 25TH, 2025**

**FROM 3-4:30P**

**LOCATION: 2ND UNITARIAN CHURCH**

**NEAR 120<sup>TH</sup> & CENTER**

**SCAN QR CODE TO GET MORE  
INFORMATION.**

**LIKE AND FOLLOW  
THE EVENT TO GET ALERTS.**



Scan for event  
information



"Stubborn nature of not giving up! Daily time with my Lord." These are two things that keep Judy Ashley showing up for God's beloved community!

"It may seem cliché, but I think about what Jesus did. What did he do when he came across a stranger (immigrant) or someone in need? It helps guide me in how I should act" This is how her faith guides Linda Walters.

An act of injustice that made an impression on Judy was while living in Tucson in the late '80s, her pastor came out as gay and was made to leave the church. Although this was an act of injustice, Judy remembers that the pastor did not give up on his faith and started a new church. She writes that he "never lost his joy and laughter, never gave up!"

Linda's father was very active in the Carpenter's Union so she "was exposed early to inequities in society and it is built into the fabric of who I am."

Judy's greatest concern: "the current administration systematically destroying everything good in their path." Linda's greatest concern: "Oh, there are so many! If I had to focus on one, I'm concerned about the future of many children and the opportunity gap they face. They are the future, and my concern is that many of them will not reach their full potential."

And for their hopes...for Linda: "My greatest hope is that there are people, communities, and organizations that continue to fight for justice for all. It can feel hopeless at times, but there is always someone to step up and take on the fight. For Judy: "Enough resistance to occur to stop this madness" and a belief that when "we lose something good in our lives, God always offers a new and different future."

What helps Linda cope and not give up? "Being part of this congregation doesn't let me lose hope and encourages me to push for justice and inclusion for all."

And Judy's call to all of us?... "I view Jesus as the origin of being WOKE! He taught and lived justice. Our response is to follow his example = WOKE!"

Our Salt and Light team sees these two women as signs of hope! Welcome Judy and Linda!!!

**Note: The next nationwide act of resistance is Saturday, October 18th. Please plan to join others from FUMC for this peaceful public act! More details to come!**



FUMC Salt and Light team welcomes our newest members: Judy Ashley and Linda Walters!!



The Nebraskans for Peace Palestinian Rights Task  
Force Interfaith Committee Presents:

# THE ENCAMPMENTS

Film Screening & Faith-Based Panel Discussion

2 p.m. Saturday  
October 11, 2025

Benson Theater  
6054 Maple St  
Omaha, NE

PURCHASE YOUR  
TICKETS HERE



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

*The Encampments* is a documentary that chronicles the 2024 Gaza Solidarity Encampments at Columbia University in New York City. The panel discussion that follows features Columbia encampment participants of various faith traditions, providing a unique, intimate, faith-based angle on the nationwide student movements in solidarity with Palestine.



# Acting

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

Joan Clark, Nev Fredrickson, Claudia & Dean Hesselgesser, Kym Kurth, Daryl and Diane Mackender, Suzanne Morgan, Pam Smith, Lucy Wood, Jane Young

**Sympathies** - the friends and families of George Winn, Jackie Dobson, and Loren Terpenning, who transitioned to new life.

**Congratulations** - Baptism of Lorelai Grace Gilbert, child of Mike & Ariel Gilbert, on August 31.

*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 DISCUSSION GROUP

In October, movie group will not meet so we can attend the premiere of "My Omaha" on Oct 14th.

### ***SMALL THINGS LIKE THESE*** **NOVEMBER 11TH**

in-person at FUMC, the Parlor & Zoom

*Optional dinner after meeting  
at local restaurant.*

Contact: **Bonnie Wallace**  
[bonniewallace59@gmail.com](mailto:bonniewallace59@gmail.com)  
for more info or Zoom link



## Taizé Prayer

1st Saturday of the month

5:00 - 5:40 pm

Mead Chapel

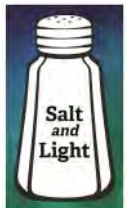
In Person (enter door 11)



**October 4**

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!**

Congratulations to Carol Windrum on receiving the Jim Wolf Equal Justice award from Nebraska Appleseed on October 9th. The Jim Wolf Equal Justice award is presented to a Nebraskan who has made significant contributions to justice for all throughout their career. The individual who receives the award is someone, who like Jim, has stepped outside the comfort of their day-to-day life and, without



thought for their own economic or political gain, devoted themselves to public service to benefit the common good. Carol has dedicated her life to speaking out against injustice and being a voice for those who are often voiceless. Many of us here at FUMC have walked alongside or worked alongside her in her fight for justice for all. Carol's great gift of invitation has brought many opportunities for members of this congregation to work together as a community on issues such as the environment, immigration, our democracy, women's rights, labor rights, and creating an environment that is joyful! Carol lives the words, "Be the change you want to see in the world." In honor of Carol's work to make our communities more just places for all, please offer your congratulations to her!






# Inspiring

**RÉSONANCE**  
Season 13

**THE PROMISE OF LIVING**  
HANDEL. VIVALDI. FORREST. COPLAND


PURCHASE  
TICKETS  
[resonancevoices.org](http://resonancevoices.org)



**THURSDAY, OCTOBER 9, 7:30 PM**  
**COUNTRYSIDE COMMUNITY CHURCH**  
**13130 FAITH PLAZA, OMAHA**

**Use Code FUMC15 for 15% off**

Résonance Festival Choir  
Résonance Consort Orchestra  
with Creighton University Choirs  
Sing Omaha Choirs  
Karina Brazas, Soprano  
A. Barron Breland, Conductor



**SAVE THE DATE!**

This year we are partnering with:

 **Nebraska Community Blood Bank**

**All donations serve our LOCAL COMMUNITIES!**

*I'm sure many of you know someone personally who was helped by receiving a blood donation. This is the perfect opportunity to thank the donor!*

**Nebraska Community Blood Bank Drive**  
**November 9**  
**9:00 am - 1:30 pm**  
in the Commons.

## Epworth Family Services - Heart of the Matter

Epworth Family Services in York, NE is having its annual fundraiser **Sunday, October 19**. The program features Charlotte Endorf as the speaker. She is a storyteller who brings Nebraska history to life. The program is titled **"Excess Baggage: Riding the Orphan Train."** In the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries children from the eastern United States who had lost their parents were placed on Orphan Trains that traveled to the Midwest to be adopted into families. Charlotte reminds us of the resilience of children and the importance of providing stability, love and family - values at the heart of Epworth's mission.

The schedule for the afternoon is a reception at 3:00 pm, the program at 4:00 pm and a dinner at 5:00 pm. We are required to purchase a table for 6; no individual tickets are being sold. A table is \$300. A seat at the table is \$50.00. If you would like to attend, please contact Lynne Elwood at 402-980-9043 or at [lelwood2@gmail.com](mailto:lelwood2@gmail.com) no later than October 9. If we can get six commitments we will purchase a table.

## Upcoming United Women in Faith (UWF) Events - Save the Dates

- \* Oct. 19 Epworth Family Resources Annual Fundraiser, York, NE
- \* Nov. 6 - General Membership Meeting, 10:00 am, FUMC, Room and Speaker TBA.
- \* Dec. 6-7 - Annual UWF Holiday Fair and Christmas Tea, Cookie Sales, Used Books, and Crafts. Silent Auction. FUMC Commons

## Coming in 2026

- \* January 8 - General Membership Meeting, 10:00 am.
- \* March 5 - General Membership Meeting, 10:00 am.
- \* May 7 - General Membership Meeting, 10:00 am.

If you would like more information about UWF contact the President, Ranita Lilyhorn at 402-215-5641 or [rl3frog@gmail.com](mailto:rl3frog@gmail.com)



**United Women in Faith**

# 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**  
**October 16, 10 am | October 17, 1 pm**

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

Contact Judy Prenzler

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



## ECO Team

**A Sunday Eco Stroll and How You Can Help!** by Leighanne Scharp

Thanks to Eco team member Teri Drymalski, several FUMC members enjoyed learning about the evolution of our grounds from first planning and planting in 1955 to today, hosting more and more native plants and trees. Teri gave the details of what the Eco Team and others have been working on all over our church campus. The first area that the E team "dug into" was the **pollinator garden** that surrounds the gazebo on the southeast side of the property. It is pollinating for sure. The **labyrinth** is an area that is currently being handled with changing to plants that are better acclimated to the current Nebraska temperatures (hot and dry). The **rain garden** at the southwest entrance is one of the most current projects. David Dow, Teri and her husband Mike have planned, planted and watered this project that is deemed a success. The rain runoff has pooled in the garden (*applause*). Still needed are more native plants to fill it out. The team will even come out to help thin your plants if you have any to donate. Let us know!

On the south side of our chapel, the flower bed has been updated and planted with native plant pollinators. David Davies has done much work with finding the "right" trees all over the property. Trees have been planted all over the grounds that grow well in our environment. If you are thinking about planting any trees for yourself, there are new trees tagged in the most northwest island of the parking lot. Check them out, it would be a great help to you. There is an area by the east door that could use foster care. If you would like to adopt a garden, please let Teri or the Eco team know.

From expanded concrete bins for mulch, our ongoing composting service, to a newly designed nature encounter space for the Rainbow Factory, there are many more earth friendly improvements across our multi acre property. Stay tuned for more updates.

Thank you Teri for all your efforts and a good tour of FUMC Nature Grounds of Love!





# Challenging

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

We have begun our annual stewardship campaign! The Ministry Fair on September 14, the distribution of Time and Talent cards, the line up of speakers, a forum to talk about the budget, all in place. What's the theme, what's the theme, is a question that is being asked. Over time we have engaged in building a culture of generosity, we have built on the link between gratitude and generosity. Those words and ideas are still before us. Now **it's time for a check-up**. How is our stewardship health? Are our baselines showing good healthy habits that will create longevity for this body we call the church? How's our **heart**, our worship, children & youth ministries, music? Is our **vision** clear in our small groups and the ministries they engage in? How's our **immune system**...our building and grounds support, utilities, insurance? Our staff, who are like the **veins and arteries** delivering life giving blood throughout the body, how are we supporting them? And how are we with the **tissues** that connect us to the needs of the conference, district, and larger world?

It's a different concept. But just as in our physical health we take steps to maintain the body, so too we engage in maintaining our spiritual and stewardship health, as well as the church's. It is vital for life, for the body of Christ that we bring to the world.

Over the next weeks you will be invited to consider vital signs for stewardship health. Pledge cards will be available and we will consecrate those gifts on November 2. You are invited to be in prayer for this work we will do together.

**Donate Here**

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



**SCAN ME**

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

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## FUMC Finance Report

Kate Fiandt, Finance Chair 2025

The Finance Committee met Sept. 8, 2025. The Budget report continues to be positive; we are on budget. Kevin and Paige Wycoff are working on the Stewardship campaign. Kate Fiandt (Finance Chair) will lead a **Budget Forum on Sept. 28 in the Commons** between services to orient the congregation on how the budget works and our finances. This forum will help members understand the church finances and the goals of the Stewardship Campaign. Kate and Carol Beaty are meeting with church staff on the 2026 budget. A draft budget will be presented to the Finance Committee at their next meeting on Nov. 10. The committee is working closely with the Trustees and the Foundation on coordinating the capital campaign to support the major HVAC and other repairs that are in process. Please let Kevin Wycoff know if you are willing to work with them on the Stewardship campaign. Also let Kate ([kfiandt@gmail.com](mailto:kfiandt@gmail.com)) or Pastor Morita know if you are interested in being involved with the Finance Committee next year.

The month of August represents 2/3 of our fiscal year. Expected revenues and expenses would be 66.7%. Revenues are \$768,767 or 79% of budget. We have collected 83% of total pledges for the year. Expenses stand at \$658,491 or 67.7% of budget.

FUMC is blessed to have a healthy budget, but also our Foundation to support major expenses like the building repairs. We are committed to support the Christian mission of our faith through our work, our prayers, and our resources. **Thank you for your support.**

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Return Service Requested

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

TRUNK

OR

TREAT



Scan here to sign up for  
Trunk or Treat donations  
or your decorated trunk!

SUN

OCTOBER 26

3-6P

2025

CAMP FONTENELLE TRAIN RIDES, BOUNCE HOUSES, FREE  
FOOD, CANDY, SPOOKY ORGAN MUSIC, AND SO MUCH MORE...

7020 Cass Street