



Morita Truman, Pastor

THINK ON THESE THINGS

Philippians 4:8

The writer Anna Quindlen once observed that for the old the days go slow and the years go fast...for the young the days go fast and the years go slow. It's an illusion, time is time, but as we come to the eleventh month of this year I seem to be thinking this year flew by. Rather than thinking I can change how quickly time moves, I'm considering how to relish the time we share. Here are some starters...

I'm slowing down and recognizing all the people and moments and gifts for which I am thankful. For instance this month in our worship we will celebrate the United Women in Faith (formerly UMW) and hear of the amazing history, present reality, and future visions of women in the church. We will also experience a Laity Sunday, where lay members of our church, the ministers, will lead and inspire us.

Oh, and I'm thankful for our upcoming Church Conference when we consider the work we have accomplished together, the visions for the coming year, and the people who make up this body of Christ.

There will be special Thanksgiving services in our sanctuary and with an interfaith community at Temple Israel on November 23.

We observe the Transgender Day of Remembrance on November 20.

November 30 we begin the season of Advent.

All of this takes place surrounded by workers on the HVAC system, the north courtyard work, and possibly adjustments made to the cell tower on the steeple.

Oh, and we're engaged in our stewardship campaign with a return of commitment cards beginning November 2. They've arrived in mailboxes and we ask you to prayerfully consider your stewardship health for 2026.

Oh, and we celebrate All Saints Sunday on November 2 when we remember those saints who have gone before us in the previous year.

In addition to all of that we announced on October 26 that our Minister of Education, Liz Emis, will leave on November 9. We celebrate the ways Liz has ministered with all of us, but are especially grateful for her ingenuity and creativity with the children's education and ministry. Our Staff Parish Relations Committee has already been discussing the best ways to move forward. Please extend your thanks and congratulations to Liz and her family, John and their two children Jackson and Will.

Regardless of the way you relate to the idea of days moving slowly and years moving fast, savor this time, stop to say thank you, and feel the presence of God in and around you.

On the journey of thanks 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 Prayer

Saturday, November 1

5:00 pm Mead Chapel

Pastor

Rev. Morita Truman

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

"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



Liz Emis

November: Gratitude for Difference

I'm typing this having just completed the Intercultural Development Inventory for our Great Plains Conference. The assessment is designed to reveal to your appreciation of cultural dynamics, and your relationship to your culture, the world, and humanity. It should surprise no one at this point that I, a constant thinker, am not a fan of assessments like these. It's not that I can't or won't appreciate the attempt at defining one's intercultural competencies. I can and I will. I just don't think 50 prompts with limited multiple choice responses will give an accurate picture. The reason I think that has a lot to do with, you guessed it, how we approach intercultural development discussions themselves.

Someone, or more likely, a group of someones, educated in designing assessments, came together to design this one. They determined their aim, the assessment format, the guidelines, and most importantly - the prompts to pose. For me, the prompts are the most important. They're the most user-facing portion of assessments like these. They frame the entire experience, and a person's responses then determines their values, understandings, and sometimes competencies.

As I selected my answers to the statements on the assessment, I was keenly aware of the reasons. They had a lot to do with how the prompts were worded. For example, I selected "Disagree more than I agree" as my response to the prompt: Cultural differences aside, we all have the same needs, goals, and values. We may have similar human needs, but we certainly do not all have the same goals and values. This question assumes that all people are capable of discerning their values. We see quite often that what we say we value is not reflected in the decisions we make, suggesting we have different values than what we claim.

Several prompts created a dichotomy between cultural diversity and what the assessment called "universal human needs." One stated: The world would be a better place if we focused on people's universal similarities rather than our cultural differences. Why would I want to set cultural differences aside? Why would I want to focus on our commonalities when it's our differences that make life rich, vibrant, and a constant education! It seemed to this participant that the assessment had a natural bias for similarity as the primary route to human health rather than appreciating differences as a path to peace.

Friends, the U.S. tends to do this. Honestly, white people do this. People from cultures other than white Protestant call this the *can't we all get along?* mentality. When a cultural norm is not working for a group and change is sought, the first step is usually trying to find common ground. The next is finding small, nearly painless steps toward change that feel painful for the majority and like a pittance to the minority? Martin Luther King, Jr. wrote about this bias toward neutrality in his letter on civil rights and civil disobedience, written from the Birmingham jail in the 1960s.

White culture is petrified of difference, that's why it has named as *different* so many cultures over the centuries. We have not evolved beyond this as a culture. We see white efforts to stamp out those labeled as different accelerating in our city and more like Portland and Chicago. Whether or not we as *individuals* are doing it, we must acknowledge that our *culture* is and hold ourselves accountable. And in November, when the calendar tells us to focus on gratitude, to be thankful for the land we tread upon, I think it's our differences we should be highlighting, not our commonalities. To emphasize our differences is to honor them, validate them, and celebrate them!

Imagine what this land would feel like if we listened to another's cultural story simply for the sake of learning something new. Imagine if in that storytelling session, when we heard something that made us uncomfortable, we asked ourselves *why* we feel such discomfort? Maybe what we thought were universal values because they are ours are actually not universal and, pause for effect - that's ok?! There are countries where children go to work at age 10. They are paid to do so. For us in the U.S., that's illegal and immoral child labor. For them, that's how they afford food and shelter, and the children are quite proud of their ability to provide for their families. Letting differences remain differences is the first step toward interconnected relationship. It honors the divine tapestry of shapes, sizes, and colors made by God because it has no agenda to shift the narrative to commonalities. Our common ground is that *everyone is different*, and difference is by design. It's nothing to fear, everything to relish.

I don't know how I scored yet on this assessment. I'm interested to hear what this instructional design-focused deacon revealed in her responses. I do know I'd rather spend November reveling in just how different we all are than using difference as a means to find sameness. My God is too big, too expressive, and too creative for me to do anything else.

Peace, Salam, and Shalom,

828

WE LOVE TO WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

Please call Morita or email her at
morita.truman@fumcomaha.org

if you'd like to
talk about
membership.

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Congratulations
to Kevin Mayle
on his promotion
to Building
Manager
(or as he prefers...
Building Dude!)



United Women in Faith November Happenings

The annual UWF Holiday Fair is Saturday, December 6th and Sunday, December 7th. The Christmas Tea will be held Saturday, December 6th, starting at 2:00 pm. All activities will take place in the Commons.



United
Women
in Faith

We will sell our popular boxes of homemade cookies. Cookie bakers, it is time to dust off your recipes!

We will sell used books, name your price. We need book donations, so if you need to reduce your collection, we can help with that. Sellable books include novels - new and classics, mysteries, biographies and popular nonfiction. We typically can't sell textbooks, yearbooks, magazines, cookbooks, craft and DIY books. We have to find a place to donate the books we can't sell and that is becoming a bit more difficult each year. If you have questions about the book sale, ask Laura Seyl or Lynne Elwood. We will announce a date later in November for bringing book donations to the church.

We will sell tea tickets for \$15.00 closer to the event.

Watch the blue Announcing and the weekly email updates for more information regarding cookie baking/boxing and book donations.

This is our main fundraiser. We use **all** of our funds to support the wonderful world-wide missions of UWF, and local missions such as The Big Garden, Epworth Family Resources in Nebraska, Della Lamb in Kansas, Sienna Francis House and other local nonprofits. We also support projects with FUMC such as The Rainbow Factory, camp scholarships, youth scholarships and other projects as they come up. We support organizations that support women, children and youth.

We appreciate greatly the support that you give to United Women in Faith. **We believe love in action can change the world!**

UWF November General Membership Meeting

Our first general membership meeting is Thursday, November 6th, 10:00 am – noon in room 112. We will have officer elections, approve the 2026 budget, plan the final details of the Holiday Fair and Christmas Tea and hear from Nancy Coziahr and Miriam Chapman about their experiences working at Midwest Mission in Illinois. Refreshments will be served. We hope you can join us!

UWF Sunday

Sunday, November 9th is UWF Sunday. We will tell you more about UWF.

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, Jim Rassmussen, Nancy Simpson, Pam Smith, Lucy Wood, Jane Young

Sympathies - to Donna Smith and John & Nancy Rosenow on the transitions of their loved ones to new life

Congratulations - to Levinya Doupnik on her graduating high school in 2025 at 16 years old! Through resilience and determination, she's reached this milestone.

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

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
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)



NOVEMBER 1

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 OPPORTUNITY WITH AARP

The **AARP TaxAide program** is a free service that helps people file their income tax returns and is operated by the AARP Foundation in cooperation with the IRS.

TaxAide started in 1968 with just four volunteers and in 2024 there were over 3500 sites and 28,000 volunteers that served 1.7 million taxpayers nationwide. In 2025 in Nebraska, 215 volunteers in 4 districts encompassing 28 sites were able to file over 6000 tax returns including returns prepared in person and returns prepared and filed virtually. In Omaha, there are nine in-person sites including Clair Memorial Methodist Church.

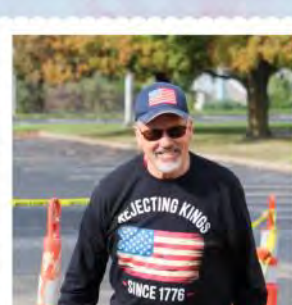
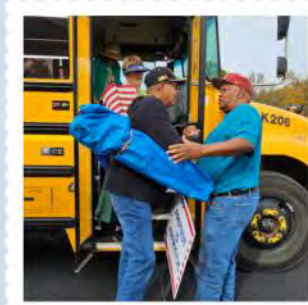
Accomplishing all this work requires a variety of roles in addition to the Counselors who prepare returns at a face-to-face site or using a virtual system. These roles include: Client Facilitators; Technology Coordinators; Communications Coordinators; and Leadership and Administrative volunteers. Bilingual speakers are in great demand to assist volunteers in all roles. Training for Counselors is available online for volunteers after being registered through the portal (see below). In-person training for all new volunteers will be held at First Methodist beginning in December. Additional classes will be held in January in preparation for sites to open in February.



More information is available at aarpfoundation.org/TaxaideVolunteer
or call 1-888-227-7669 (1-888-AARP-NOW).

Registration as a prospective volunteer for any of the roles indicates your interest so a local volunteer can contact you to answer your questions and help you with additional steps.

Inspiring



Salt and Light

Lynne Elwood Meets Jesus: And Other Interesting Encounters at the No Kings Rally!

Thanks to Mose Turner and his bus crew, 82 FUMC folks and friends showed up for the No Kings rally at Turner Park, Saturday, October 18th! Taking to heart MLK Jr.'s words, "Our lives begin to end the day we become silent about things that matter", patriots who love our country and people of faith who follow Jesus showed up, stood up and spoke up for the rule of law, our immigrant neighbors, truth and accountability, veterans' care, environmental justice, and more.

The work continues so stay connected to what's happening and ways you can join others witnessing for God's beloved community; just email ripplesofhope24@gmail.com or Facebook: bit.ly/ripplesofhopefacebook.

In the end, why did we show up? "With God all things are possible," as James, one of our drivers, reminded us.

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

or call 402.556.6262 x1002

You can also email **Lynne Elwood**

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
November 13, 10 am | November 14, 1 pm

Clair Memorial UMC | 5544 Ames Ave.

Contact Judy Prenzler

Prenzler@cox.net for info



ECO Team

Peace on Earth... Or Is It?

According to the Center for Biodiversity, the amount of household waste in the United States in the month of December is 23% higher than in other months of the year. But it's not just the extra trash that's a problem. All the fossil fuels, trees and other natural resources that go into producing unnecessary plastic toys, novelty gifts and wrapping paper make the winter holidays dreary for wildlife and the habitat they need to survive... and ultimately threatens our own human survival.

It's not too early to make plans for how each of us will celebrate the birth of Christ. It's not too soon to think about how our spending, consuming and disposing of "stuff" impacts Mother Earth.

Our FUMC Eco team encourages members to begin having conversations NOW about thoughtful gift giving that will contribute to "Peace on Earth, goodwill to all." Visit with family and friends ahead of time and consider these gift ideas:

- Your time and services - babysitting, cooking a special meal, computer help, music lessons, etc.
- Recycled items - go through your closets (your junk may be another's treasure,) or visit your favorite thrift store.
- Homemade items - sewing, paintings, your own poetry, a framed photograph you've taken, etc.
- Memberships to experiences - the zoo, Children's Museum, Lauritzen Gardens).
- Donations to environmental groups (Sierra Club, Nature Conservancy, Jane Goodall Institute.)
- Families draw individual names for a gift exchange.
- And send electronic cards and holiday greetings instead of paper and wrap gifts in newspapers.

Each of our thoughtful consumer habits can help bring joy to our world. Happy gift giving!



Challenging

Building a Culture of Generosity - and a Challenge

Thank you to everyone who started off our stewardship campaign with a return of Time and Talent cards! We are compiling information and you can still fill out this tool that invites us all to consider how we share our time, our talents, our presence, our prayers, our service. Cards are available at the entrance to the sanctuary or in the church office.

In the month of October we heard from speakers about stewardship health. David Coziahr gave us insight about family history. Donna Dobson related the steps of growing in healthy giving. Sara Peterson spoke about the consideration of pre-existing conditions that affect our giving, and David & Susan Davies ended the month with words about long-term health in stewardship.

We have arrived at our next step in the consideration and maintenance of our spiritual and stewardship health. The annual commitment cards have been mailed and are arriving in mailboxes across the city and region. Each household is invited to make a prayerful consideration of how it will participate in the financial health of our church body. As Paul wrote to the church at Corinth, every part of the body needs every other part of the body. Your financial gift will make an impact on the body and the work in which we engage.

You are invited to return your card during worship on November 2. You may also bring the card to the church office or send via mail. Please be in prayer for the important decisions being made by our friends and members as we plan for our ongoing ministry.

Donate Here

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



SCAN ME

FUMC Finance Report

Kate Fiandt, Finance Chair 2025

The end of September represents 75% of our fiscal year. We have received \$834,192 or 85.7% of our budget for the year. Pledges received was \$648,193 or 88.1% of our pledge amount

Year to date expenses were \$745,395 or 76.6% of our 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.**



FOODBANK
FOR THE HEARTLAND

10525 J St., Omaha, NE

Please reserve this date on your calendar

Tuesday December 9, 1-3:30

or contact

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

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

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Return Service Requested

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.

Jewish | Muslim | Christian

Interfaith Thanksgiving

Temple Israel

13111 Sterling Ridge Dr., Omaha

Sunday, November 23rd, 2025
at 6:00 PM.

**Coffee, sweets,
and reception
to follow Service**

Child Care available

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November 2025



Worship Schedule

Sundays

8:30 & 10:50 am In-Person

(10:50 am service streamed)

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