



Morita Truman, Pastor

THINK ON THESE THINGS

Philippians 4:8

Remember when we experienced Ash Wednesday in February and it felt like it came very quickly after Christmas and we worried about how we would get everything done? Okay, *I might have been the only one who was feeling that way.*

When we began this "journey to brave" I had no idea how much I would need to consider this journey we share. The first days of this new month bring us to the heart of Lent with Holy Week: Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and of course, Easter. The depths and the heights of faith. The reminders of the importance of being in community, the sorrow of loss, the hope of resurrection.

We each come to a moment when we gather for these remembrance celebrations. I can't and would not dare to define those moments for you, but I can offer the thoughts of others who have tried to put them into words...

Perhaps you met or read John Shelby Spong, who wrote "the gospel writers were suggesting Jesus was the portrait of the destiny available to all who are to be the recipients of the Holy Spirit... As the recipients of the spirit from Jesus, they were alive in a new way. It was the same quality of life they believed they had met in Jesus and so in the power of that new life they shouted, 'Jesus lives!'"

Perhaps you are more in tune with Frederick Buechner who wrote of Easter, "If it is true, there is nothing left to say. If it is not true, there is nothing left to say. For believers and unbelievers both, life has never been the same again. For some, neither has death."

Perhaps you read Rachel Held Evans, "Jesus didn't just 'come to die.' Jesus came to live, to teach, to heal, to tell stories, to turn over tables, to touch people who weren't supposed to be touched and eat with people who weren't supposed to be eaten with. To break bread, to pour wine, to wash feet, to face temptation, to tick off the authorities, to fulfill Scripture, to announce the start of a brand-new kingdom, to show us what that kingdom is like, to show us what God is like, to love his enemies to the point of death at their hand, and to beat death by rising from the grave."

Whatever brings you to the moments of Easter in 2026, if one of the above, or curiosity, or the music, or the idea of possibility, or the hope of resurrection, I pray you find your place here. We have wide open hearts to all who are searching, for those who have found, for those who seek community, for those who feel loved when they walk through the doors, for those who have yet to feel that way, Easter is belonging. Easter is home. Come home.

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, April 4

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."



Welcoming

United Women in Faith

How does your contribution to United Women in Faith (UWF) work to help others? It's a great question. UWF make donations that work around the world supporting programs that improve lives and help to empower women, children and youth.



United
Women
in Faith

UWF supports missions in 38 countries. An example is Community AID Integrated in Ghana. This mission supports a project that trains women and youth in grass charcoal production, promoting renewable energy and mitigating climate change in rural Ghana. Another example is the Bethune House Migrant Women's Refuge in Hong Kong. Funds support costs for shelter, food, medical provisions, mental health support and life and work skills trainings to migrant domestic workers in distress.

In addition, UWF also supports around 90 National Mission Institutes (NMI's) located in the United States, Puerto Rico and Canada. Examples include Moore Community House, Biloxi, Mississippi. Financial gifts from UWF's members supported 12 cohorts of low-income women to obtain national credentials in the skilled craft trades and participate in advanced leadership courses through Moore Community House's Women in Construction program. Another example is Scott's Run Settlement House, Pursglove, West Virginia. With support from UWF, Scott's Run Settlement House's food pantry provides food for more than 10,478 individuals in rural West Virginia.

UWF supports two NMI's in the Great Plains Conference, Epworth Family Resources in York, NE and Della Lamb in the Kansas City area. Epworth Family Resources works with families providing training and counseling to help keep families intact and trains foster parents. Della Lamb assists immigrant and refugee families and families experiencing poverty in the Kansas City area.

UWF at First Church raises money through our annual Holiday Fair and Christmas Tea. We also raise funds through individual member donations. You can be assured that your donations will be used to support women, children, and youth to reach their full potential, no matter where they live.

faith

action

sisterhood

In 2025, the Eastern Nebraska District of the Great Plains Conference gave \$26,136 for Mission Giving. That's a phenomenal amount from a relatively small number of UWF units. When the amounts from all over the country and the world are combined, we truly are making a big difference for women, children, and youth. You can find more information at <https://uwfaith.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/10/2024AnnualReport.pdf>

Donations can be made directly online through uwfaith.org or through a check made out to United Women in Faith and delivered to our unit treasurer, Lynne Elwood, lelwood2@gmail.com or call or text her at 402-980-9043.

Upcoming UWF Events

Stitchin' Sisters meets the first Tuesday of the month, in room 112. Contact Nancy Coziahr, ncoziahr@gmail.com.

April 15, Evening Zoom Meeting (Contact Lynne Elwood, lelwood2@gmail.com)

May 7, General Membership Meeting, 10:00 am, room 112. Short business meeting. Program: lunch at Table Grace Restaurant, downtown. Please RSVP to Lynne Elwood, lelwood2@gmail.com so we can get a count for lunch.

July 16, All Church Potluck

July 17-18 Mission U, Kearney, NE

September 11-12, UWF Annual Conference Meeting, North Platte, NE



SEVEN DAYS, EIGHT CITIES, CHANGED LIVES

Day 1
Tulsa/Memphis

- Black Wall ST
- Lorraine Motel
- Mason Temple
- Civil Rights Museum

Day 2
Jackson

- Emmett Till
- Medgar Evers
- Civil Rights Museum

Day 3
Birmingham

- 16th Street Church
- Kelly Ingram Park
- Civil Rights Museum
- AG Gaston

Day 4
Selma

- Edmund Pettus Bridge
- Voting Rights Museum & Institute

Day 5
Montgomery / Tuskegee

- Rosa Parks Museum
- Legacy Museum
- National Memorial for Peace & Justice

Day 6
Atlanta

- King Center for Nonviolent Social Change
- Ebenezer Baptist Church
- HBCU colleges
- Black Atlanta Tour



TOUR DILIGENCE

- No Cost to Participants
- Qualified Staff & Chaperones
- Full Background Checks
- Full Trip Liability Insurance
- Certified Funds Accounting
- Registered Nurse Attending



Register Here

2026 Tour Dates: Sunday, Jun 21, 2026 to Sunday, Jun 28, 2026

UNDERSTAND YOUR OWN STORY THROUGH THE LENS OF BLACK HISTORY



2025 Tour Photo with Preston Love Jr. and Former Atlanta Mayor AMB Andrew Young

TOUR DEVELOPMENT ASSETS

- BVM Youth Tour Academy
- True Color Personality Assessment
- Journaling, microlearning, daily reflection, and survey required
- Pre-tour, fun, late nighter at the Hope Center (pizza, games, icebreakers)
- Tour Alumni become Ambassadors for Change

WE LOVE TO WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

Please call Cass or email her at Cass.Opal@fumcomaha.org if you'd like to talk about membership.

First United Methodist Church



CELEBRATION OF SOULFUL HEALING

Sunday, April 19, 2026

THE CENTERED HEART

Evidence-Based, Mind-Body Practices to Stress Less and Improve Cardiac Health

12:30-1:00 PM Registration

1:00-2:00pm ~ Keynote Address with Susi Amendola

2:15-3:00 Breakout sessions

Jill Curtis: Ayurveda Nutrition ~ Cass Opal: Wild Hope
Jane Florence: Chakra Sound Bath

3:15-4:00 Centered Heart Practice with Susi Amendola

<https://www.facebook.com/share/186oyWisMn/>

Acting

Please remember in prayer these members of our Church Family:

Joan Clark, Nev Fredrickson, Tony Gaeta, Kym Kurth, Diane Mackender, Suzanne Morgan, Pam Smith, Jane Young

Sympathies to - the family and friends of Denise (Nec) Bowyer, Don and Barb Bredthauer's daughter-in-law's mother in Lincoln and Barb's sister-in-law Deb Baker, and Jeanie Barry, mother of Becky Schnabel, who transitioned to new life.

Congratulations - on the marriage of Jay Stanley and Anthony Gaeta on March 3.

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 Elwood or the church.

Movie Watch Group SING SING

TUESDAY, April 7 - 3:15 PM in Mead Hall
Popcorn Provided!



MOVIE DISCUSSION GROUP

PROJECT HAIL MARY APRIL 14, 6 PM

in-person at FUMC, Mead Hall & Zoom
Optional dinner after meeting at local restaurant.
Contact: **Bonnie Wallace** for more info
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)

APRIL 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!



HOSANNA!

Palm Sunday

Sunday, March 29th
8:30 am in-person only
10:50 am | CDT | in-person and live
streamed

Watch it LIVE:
www.facebook.com/FUMComaha/
or at www.fumcomaha.org



Palm Sunday Breakfast Potluck

Sunday, March 29th at Noon

Stay after the service for a brunch potluck filled with your favorite breakfast dishes. Bring something sweet or savory to share and enjoy time in community around the table.

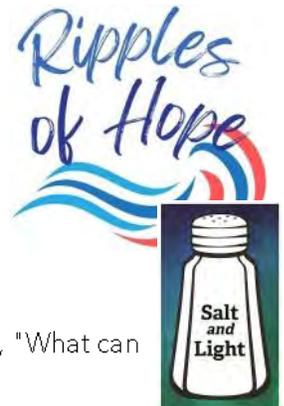
We hope you'll join us!



Inspiring

Show Up, Stand Up, Speak Up!

The *Salt and Light* team lost a light last month when our team member Neece Bowyer died. She may not have identified herself as a teacher but through her actions, she taught the rest of us how to be a bolder witness for God's beloved community! Often she would say how important it was to "*show up, stand up and speak up*" on behalf of the least of these. She no longer sits across the table at our meetings, asks for signatures on a petition or witnesses at the capitol, but we will be better for the lessons learned by watching her follow her God of compassion and justice.



Lesson #1 Keep hearts and ears open to hear the cries of those who are in need and ask, "What can I do to help?"

Lesson #2 Truly see those who are often in the shadows

Lesson #3 Look at the whole picture by providing direct service to those suffering AND work on the systems that perpetuate injustice.

Lesson #4 Never miss an opportunity to connect people to each other for a good cause.

Lesson #5 Set big goals for fundraising to help lift up the vulnerable (Love Your Neighbor campaign is just one example)

Lesson #6 Resist judgment...we're all just doing the best we can

Lesson #7 Keep moving...go for a walk, listen to the trees, marvel at a sunset, see the Divine in nature

Lesson #8 Love always... extending welcome to others and making the circle bigger

Lesson #9 Seek and celebrate joy even, and especially, in the midst of darkness

Lesson #10 Always find an opportunity to dance!

The impact of one person's convictions. Reflections from Bill Howard

Neece was very instrumental in my increased involvement within First United Methodist Church. It started in January 2025 when she came to our IRAT meeting and proposed the team be the vehicle for what became the Love Thy Neighbor (LTN) campaign. Something about her conviction that we needed to do something and her eye contact with me in that moment stirred something in me and galvanized my spirit. Further conversations with Neece as the LTN campaign developed strengthened my personal spiritual self to be more present and involved within the IRAT team and within the congregation leading me to accept the responsibility to be the Church Council chairperson. My heart and soul misses Neece and I will use her example to help me be the best person I can. She will forever be in my heart.



You're invited to our annual..
On the Lawn
Easter Egg Hunt

Palm Sunday
March 29th 2026
1:00-2:00pm
Front Lawn



PALM SUNDAY
PEACE RALLY

MARCH 29 | 3-5 P.M.

First United Methodist Church
• On the Lawn

JOIN 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

April 16, 10 am | April 17, 1 pm

Clair Memorial UMC | 5544 Ames Ave.

Contact Judy Prenzler

Prenzler@cox.net for info



ECO Team

While your **ECO Team** believes every day is Earth Day, officially Earth Day is April 22nd with events and activities planned all month long. This year's theme is **OUR POWER, OUR PLANET**. Here are some activities including stories, art, service, and community to enjoy as you celebrate and use your power for our Mother Earth.



EARTH DAY STORY WALK | APRIL 1-30 | THE RIVERFRONT

[Earth Day Story Walk](#) All month long, families can visit the The RiverFront for a walk around the park, reading large signs about Nebraska resources and wildlife. The self-guided story walk starts at the Discovery Playground at the Lewis & Clark Landing.



ART IN THE PARK: PLANT-IT FOR THE PLANET

APRIL 22, 10:00 AM – NOON

ARRIVAL PLAZA AT THE RIVERFRONT PARK

[Art in the Park: Plant-it for the Planet: Printing Plantable Postcards](#)

On Earth Day, decorate postcards and compose an inspiring message based upon this year's theme "Our Power, Our Planet." Creators will have the opportunity to work with movable type and earth-themed printing blocks to letterpress print the front of a postcard onto plantable seed paper. The workshop will take place near the entrance of the Kiewit Luminarium with instructor Kimberly Maher.

SERVICE DAY AT THE C | APRIL 25, 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM | LAKE CUNNINGHAM

8965 STATE STREET, ENTRANCE 1

Be part of a community effort to clean up and care for Lake Cunningham (The C). Volunteers will come together to help with various cleanup tasks, from picking up trash to clearing debris along the trails. An opportunity to give back to the community, enjoy the outdoors, and make a lasting impact on the beauty of the lake. For more information and to sign up go to <https://forms.office.com/r/J9Evd2c2YS>

EARTH DAY OMAHA | APRIL 25, 11AM TO 4PM | ELMWOOD PARK

One of America's oldest, continually running environmental events, Earth Day Omaha is free to the public and provides entertainment for all ages. Earth Day Omaha features green exhibitors, a multitude of family-friendly activities, hands-on demonstrations, educational displays, and food & drink. Sponsored by Green Omaha Coalition. Info at [About Earth Day Omaha — Green Omaha Coalition](#)

Challenging

Building a Culture of Generosity

Did you know that First United Methodist Church has a Foundation, one which was incorporated in the late 1990's? The by-laws allow for membership from the members of the church, three classes of 2 persons, serving 3 year terms, plus representatives from Finance, Trustees, the church treasurer, and the church lay leader. Monies are invested with the assistance of Feltz WealthPlan.

The money entrusted to our Foundation is given in many ways. We receive end of life gifts that have been designated by individuals and families. There are persons who make ongoing gifts, designated for specific projects. Memorial gifts are included and the Foundation holds in trust funds designated for certain ministries.

Over the course of the past 9 months we have been at work on our building. HVAC updates, including new air handlers, a reimagining of the north entry area, repair of radiant heaters, the addition of an automated control system which can be accessed from an app, and the re-design of Ada Mead Hall.

Rather than hosting a capital campaign fund, these funds were made available through the Foundation. The goal is to create a campaign to replenish those funds and to inform the congregation about the work of the Foundation, but to date we have not had to delay any work due to lack of funding. What an amazing gift this has been to all of us, whether we realized it or not!

In the coming weeks you'll be hearing more about a workshop centered on end of life planning: what legal issues you need to consider (trust vs. will), how to give a gift to your family of making decisions about your celebration of life service, and yes, ways to remember your church in your final estate wishes. All will be welcome to attend and learn together.

Donate Here

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



bit.ly/FUMCOmahaGiving **SCAN ME**

FUMC Finance Report

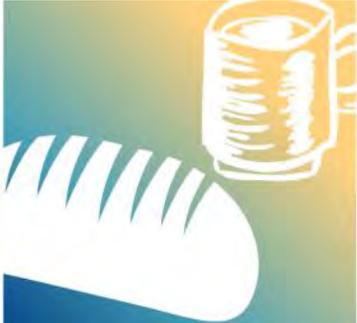
Kate Fiandt is our Finance Chair

The 2026 Budget was approved at the Church Council Meeting on March 10. The budget is tight this year but we are optimistic that we will end the year in solid financial shape. The Finance Committee identified 3 goals for 2026. One is "involve the congregation in the budget process through increased transparency" and another is to "generate as much revenue to cover programs through fundraising as possible." As a result you will see more information about the activities/ministry/programs the church engages in and opportunities to give through QR codes and envelopes in the back of pews. We will be inviting you to focus on special donations for program fundraising to support your interests. Please let us know if you have any questions or any ideas about stewardship. And speaking of Stewardship, we have activated our Stewardship Committee and are seeking additional members outside of the Finance Committee. Please contact me or Kevin Wycoff (kwycoff01@gmail.com) to participate. Our first meeting is April 7 at 6:30. Thanks for your generous support of FUMC and our ministry. Feel free to contact me directly through kfiandt@gmail.com. Thanks, Kate Fiandt, Chair of the Finance Committee

First
United
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Church



Return Service Requested

 HOLY	 LY	 WEEK	 EK
Palm Sunday March 29th, 2026 8:30 & *10:50 am the Sanctuary	Maundy Thursday April 2nd, 2026 7:00 pm the Sanctuary	Good Friday April 3rd, 2026 *7:00 pm the Sanctuary	Easter Sunday April 5th, 2026 8:30 & *10:50 am the Sanctuary

***streamed online at www.facebook.com/FUMComaha**