



Morita Truman, Pastor

THINK ON THESE THINGS

Philippians 4:8

There are a few things that I worry about every Sunday morning. Getting a catch in my throat and starting to cough. Making sure I have taken care of every need for the coming hour. And unique to some pastors, including this one, is getting something in my eye that affects my contacts and vision. That happened recently. Just as I was breaking the bread at the communion table, I felt something in my left eye. It only got worse. By the time worship had ended I was in a lot of pain. When I finally was able to remove the contact lens, I knew it had taken too long. My eye, bloodshot, my vision blurry. The rest of the day included a dark room, lots of eye drops, and rest. There had been nothing visible I could see in my eye, nothing on the lens when it came out, but I could see and feel the results of what had taken place. I took precautions today and am wearing glasses to give my eye some time to rest and be less irritated.

Life sometimes does that. Something that starts as a little irritant, that we can't really see but we know it's there. If we don't take care of it in real time, we find ourselves in a lot of pain. Or we are somehow unable to see a way forward clearly.

Sometimes we ignore it, thinking it will pass, or that it will work itself out.

Sometimes we blame ourselves, as if we could have done something in advance to prevent what we could not see coming.

Sometimes we say we'll do things differently next time, already anticipating there **will** be a next time. After all, Sunday was not the first time that I've had something in my eye. And yet I still put in my contacts every morning, knowing there is a risk of the "next big one." You may be asking why does she keep wearing contacts, knowing that risk is there? The truth is, they help me see more clearly. My overall vision is better and when I have a clear field of vision, I do life better. I take the risk because the promise of clarity and moving forward is always there.

Why do I write about my contact lenses and a small irritant? We are at a moment when we see dissension and division around us. It grows daily in some circumstances. Often the disagreements are public and difficult to watch, to be a part of. Others are happening in families, friendships, relationships. They are painful and they impact our vision of one another and the world. In our faith lives, we are called to remember the words of the psalmist who wrote, "How very good and pleasant it is when kindred **live** together in unity!" We are family, kindred. It is imperative we remove irritants, provide salve to heal wounds, and seek the healing that will restore our vision and clarity—that we are all the family of God together. I am on that journey with you...

Morita

7020 Cass Street • Omaha, Nebraska 68132 • 402.556.6262



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

August 1st

Please join us in the 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

Office 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



Crying: Lots and Lots of Crying!

The week of July 5th, I received a call that ICE was dropping off a young man in Omaha who had been released from the McCook Detention Center that morning. The man had no phone, no extra clothes, and had not eaten all day. Not far from Abbott Drive and Avenue H, my friend and I found him alone, waiting and hoping for strangers to pick him up and offer help. We had a photo and his name. And when our eyes met, his face lit up with the biggest smile!

To make a long story a little shorter, after introductions (and fortunately my friend speaks passable Spanish), we took him to El Alamo where he ate for the first time that day (it was now close to 5 pm.) We learned that ICE had detained him in MN although he had legal status and no criminal record. He was detained there for six months (horrible conditions) and then spent the last eight months at

the McCook Detention Center. Sixteen men were in each caged unit, lights were on 24 hours a day, they received \$1 a day for cleaning and grown men were crying... lots and lots of crying. And whenever one of them was released, the whole "community" cheered and celebrated for a brother soon to go home! This man was originally from Venezuela and spoke of his critically ill father. Within the last two weeks, he was able to speak to his father and begged him to hold on until his son could come and be with him. His father died shortly after and his son will never see him again.

The suffering of so many for no good reason other than racism, manufactured fear and greed.

This young man with a beautiful smile (the photo doesn't show his face because he fears being rounded up again by ICE) and kind gestures toward us, represents so many who are detained around the country. Over 70% have no criminal record, yet they are incarcerated, their lives turned upside down, and they have no idea if or when they will be released or deported. Note: Why, oh why, couldn't ICE put him on a bus to MN? Instead they dropped him in a city where he had no family and no friends. Thank God for the informal network of advocates across the state who are stepping up and showing up.

Our new friend remembers others who are still in McCook, still crying, still wondering if they will ever go home.

So, what can we do? One thing we can do is stand in solidarity with those in McCook. Consider joining their rally and vigil on Saturday, August 15th, 12 to 2 pm in McCook. If you cannot be there in person, then set aside time for prayer during their rally. The FUMC Omaha Mead Chapel will be open from 12 to 2 pm, August 15. If you need prayer prompts, contact ripplesofhope24@gmail.com and we'll send you some.

And then keep calling Senators Fischer and Ricketts and Representative Bacon (Capitol switchboard 202-224-3121.) Keep calling for all those who can't make calls, who have little to no voice and who are languishing day in and day out wondering what comes next!

Carol Windrum, member of *Mothers and Others: Justice and Mercy for Immigrants*

PS - Good news! Our new friend has been reunited with his family in MN!!!

WE HAVE NOT FORGOTTEN
RALLY & VIGIL
FOR THOSE DETAINED AT THE MCCOOK DETENTION CENTER
SPEAKERS - MUSIC - POETRY
SHADE - WATER - PORTAPOTTY ON-SITE
SAT AUGUST 15
12 - 2 PM
SOUTH OF THE DETENTION CENTER
1797-1805 US-83
MCCOOK, NE 69001
POTLUCK FOLLOWING
THE COALITION OF ORGANIZERS IS COMMITTED TO A PEACEFUL, NONVIOLENT EVENT
REGISTER
TACO TUESDAY FAMILIA (LINCOLN) - NEBRASKA VOICES (MCCOOK)
INDIVISIBLE LINCOLN - BLUE VALLEY INDIVISIBLE (GAGE COUNTY)
STAND UP NEBRASKA - BUTLER COUNTY DEMOCRATS
SALINE COUNTY DEMOCRATS - SKETCH CLUB (LINCOLN)
ICE OUT BURT COUNTY - SIOUXLAND GUARDIANS (SIOUX CITY)
LAS VOICES, COMMUNITY RESPONSE TEAM (HALL COUNTY)
REV. DR. JONATHAN REDDING (LINCOLN) - KEARNEY ACTION NETWORK
MOTHERS AND OTHERS JUSTICE & MERCY FOR IMMIGRANTS (OMAHA)
CENTRAL NE INDIVISIBLE - CENTRAL NE PEACE WORKERS

COME TO THE BABY SHOWER FOR MIDWEST MISSION

UWF is hosting a baby shower to support Midwest Mission. Midwest Mission has two locations, Jefferson, IA and Pawnee, IL. They receive requests from trusted nonprofits for needed items which they prepare with the help of volunteers. Donations are shipped world-wide to the partners to distribute to those in crisis.

One of the kits that the mission assembles is a layette kit for newborns to 6 months of age. A kit consists of these items:

6 cloth diapers, 2 gowns/sleepers, 2 onesies or tee shirts, 2 infant washcloths, 6 diaper pins with plastic closures, 1 sweater or jacket with front closing, 2 receiving blankets-28" by 28" to 32" by 32" (no fleece or thermal), \$2.00 for diaper cream. No camouflage fabric.

They have an Amazon list: https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/1QKVLGX9LVLUR/ref=hz_ls_biz_ex



The tea is Saturday, August 8th 1:00-3:00 pm in the church parlor, doors 9 and 11. The price of a tea ticket is a donated item or a monetary donation to Midwest Mission. Reservations to Liz Boyer no later than Sunday, August 2, 402-676-5222. Delicious refreshments and fellowship provided too!

You can bring any number of items of your choosing. NO GIFT WRAPPING PLEASE. Unwrapped gifts will be sent/delivered to Midwest Mission by UWF members. To learn more about Midwest Mission, go to their website <https://www.midwestmission.org/>



United Women of Faith Baby Shower

To Support Midwest Mission

Saturday, August 8th 1 - 3 pm RSVP by July 31st - Liz Boyer (402) 676-5222

Join us in the Parlor - Enter through Door 9 or 11

Please select your gift from the list and bring to the shower:

Midwest Mission Layette Kit Items:

***All items must be 0 to 6 mo.**

Cloth diapers | Gowns or sleepers | Onesies or undershirts
Infant washcloths | Sweater jacket w/front opening
Receiving blankets 28"x28" to 32"x32" (no fleece or thermal)
\$2.00 donation for diaper cream

Note: You may provide any number of the items of your choosing. Your unwrapped gifts will be sent/delivered to Midwest Mission by UWF members.



FUMC-Omaha will be celebrating its 175th anniversary in 2030.

The Trustees would like to refresh the public spaces in time for the celebration. Projects could include painting, flooring, windows, doors, etc.

We are looking for a broad group of volunteers from the congregation who would be willing to assist in identifying and prioritizing maintenance projects. Your membership would consist of helping to 1) confer with the congregation, 2) identify projects, and 3) prioritize the projects in a list. The prioritized list would be used by the Trustees to schedule the work over the next 3 years.

This is your opportunity to help direct the maintenance project for the next several years.

Contact Mike Rosenthal, mike.rosenthal577@icloud.com, if you would like to participate in this group or desire more information.

175th
Anniversary

Acting

Please remember in prayer these members of our Church Family:

Joan Clark, Nev Fredrickson, Tony Gaeta, Ray Hansen, Suzanne Morgan, Berdeen Roemmich, Pam Smith, Jane Young

Sympathies to - families of Lowell Wendland (Iola Millins' brother) and Gail Lovercheck (cousin of Bruce Deines) following their transitions to new life

Congratulations to - Jean Simard on the birth of her grandson, Gracen Hill Mercier on July 21, 2026.

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

1946: The Mistranslation That Shifted Culture

WEDNESDAY, August 5 - 2 PM in Mead Hall

Come watch on our 98" screen!!

Popcorn Provided!



FREE POPCORN! at both events

MOVIE DISCUSSION GROUP

THE ODYSSEY

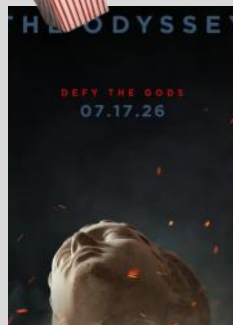
TUESDAY, AUGUST 11, 6 PM

in-person at FUMC, Mead Hall & Teams

Optional dinner after meeting at local restaurant.

Contact: Bonnie Wallace for info or link

bonniewallace59@gmail.com



Taizé Prayer

1st Saturday of the month

5:00 - 5:40 pm

Mead Chapel

In Person (enter door 11)



AUGUST 1ST

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!

**WE'D LOVE TO
WELCOME YOU AS
A NEW MEMBER...**

**Welcome
Ruth Rath**

Please contact Morita at

Morita.Truman@fumcomaha.org

or Cass at Cass.Opal@fumcomaha.org

if you'd like to talk
about membership.

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Care Collective & Wild Worship Omaha

Both Wild Worship Omaha and the Care Collective are meeting in August!!!

Care Collective: is back on Friday, August 14, from 7:00-9:00 p.m. in the Commons! Join us as we break out our fall and Halloween molds and create fun seasonal resin projects together. Everyone is welcome and no experience is needed! If you plan to attend, please let Cass Opal know so we can be sure to have enough seats and supplies. Our resin nights are growing fast, and we'd love to save a spot for you!



LEARN MORE



Wild Worship Omaha: returns in August and, going forward, we'll gather on the last Sunday of each month. This month we're excited to try Lake Flanagan again! We'll meet by the playground (a map will be posted soon) for an outdoor time of worship, reflection, and connection with God in creation.



MORE INFO

Inspiring

This Election Season is Different

by Becky Schnabel (part one of two parts)

Why are you engaged more in this election season than at other times?

This election season is different. I love our democracy and it appears some with authoritarian ideas are working daily to dismantle the basic tenets of democracy and one of the ways people can respond is by being active in the process of elections.

I see less responsiveness from elected leadership; it often feels that elected leaders are acting in their own self-interest and often lack understanding of the lives of everyday people.

Our government was designed for involvement by the people. Previous generations honored our forebears' idea of a government of the people, by the people and for the people. We must continue working the same way or risk losing democracy.

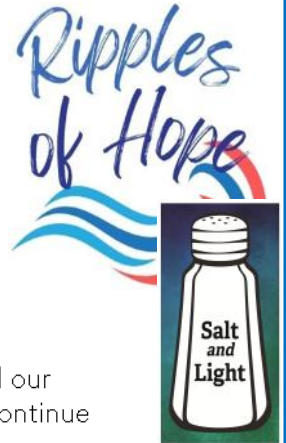
I feel folks need to be fully engaged to **give the next generation** the freedoms and opportunities my generation has experienced.

What are you doing that is perhaps out of your comfort zone?

Engaging in conversations with people I don't know about voting, democracy, candidate involvement

Engaging in multiple organizations, planning and working with people I don't really know seeking to find common ground and good.

Going to rallies, attending candidate events, working for a candidate



Salt and Light team members
Becky Schnabel and Kate Fiandt

What might you say to encourage others who, in the past, have thought voting was enough?

We are in a different time in our country. Voting is important and I'm so proud to vote, but **today voting alone is not enough**. We must do the work prior to marking our ballot, like being personally informed about candidates, and sharing information with those you know and love—talk with others, encourage others to register to vote (in the primary election only 26% of eligible voters in Douglas County voted), work for a candidate, have a yard sign, display a bumper sticker... all of these things encourage discussions and ultimately voting, the work to get voters informed and out to vote is happening now... be a part of it.

Please consider joining Becky, Kate and others from FUMC in bringing values of truth, justice, compassion, human dignity and inclusion into this unique election season! Our Salt and Light team will be offering specific ways you can offer your voice, time and resources in the weeks ahead.

If you have your own ideas and need support email ripplesofhope24@gmail.com, Attn: Sara and Carol.

The Mayor is coming to FUMC Sunday, August 23rd!

Mark your calendars: 12:30 p.m. in the Commons to hear from Mayor Ewing about how faith and civic engagement go hand in hand! A light lunch will be served after worship and the program will start at 12:30 pm. Look for more details soon!



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**

prayerrequest@fumcomaha.org to be added to our prayer chain.

We are here for you!

Clair Cares Food Pantry

Volunteers Needed!

Next Opportunity for Volunteering

Thursday, August 13, 10 am

Friday, August 14, 1 pm

Clair Memorial UMC | 5544 Ames Ave.

Contact Judy Prenzler

Prenzler@cox.net for info



BACK TO SCHOOL Sustainability

Even retired teachers start getting excited in August for Back-to-School. The smell of new Crayolas, the sight of perfectly sharpened #2 pencils, the squeak of a new pair of shoes, the marvel of all the compartments of a backpack, or the nutritious delicious possibilities of a lunchbox are all reminders of a new year, a new start.

Here are some ideas for shopping and preparing for back-to-school in a sustainable way from our friends at Keep America Beautiful.

Reduce, Reuse, Recycle: Before buying new supplies, check what items from the previous year can be reused. Things like backpacks, lunchboxes, binders, and scissors can often be used for another school year with proper care. Or consider checking and swapping with neighbors, friends, or family.

Green School Supplies: Look for school supplies made from recycled or sustainable materials. Items like notebooks, pencils, backpacks, and paper made from recycled content or sustainably sourced materials are becoming more widely available.

Thrifty Treasures: Explore thrift stores and consignment shops for second-hand clothing and school supplies to reduce waste and embrace sustainable clothing.

Reusable Lunchware: Ditch disposable bags and containers in favor of reusable. Cloth napkins, reusable water bottles, snack containers, and utensils made from sustainable materials are swaps to consider.

Support Local Shops: Whenever possible, buy from local businesses or artisans that prioritize sustainable practices. This not only reduces the carbon footprint associated with shipping but also supports your local economy.

Minimal Packaging: Be conscious of the packaging of the products you buy. Opt for products with minimal or recyclable packaging to reduce the amount of waste generated. Consider purchasing essential items like pens, pencils, paper, or folders in bulk with neighbors or friends to minimize packaging waste and save resources.

Eco-Commute: Encourage carpooling with neighbors or friends to reduce carbon emissions when commuting to school. Check to see if your school has a "Walking Bus" or "Bike Bus" option. Perhaps this is the year to start one.



By choosing eco-friendly back-to-school habits, you're not only reducing your environmental impact, but you're also setting a powerful example for others and caring for all Creation.

For more ideas on sustainable back-to-school options you can look at

<https://kab.org/10-sustainable-ways-to-prepare-for-back-to-school/>

<https://walkingschoolbus.org/>

Challenging

Building a Culture of Generosity

We are rapidly moving to the season when we will begin our fall stewardship campaign in full swing. The Stewardship committee has been meeting over the summer to plan and create ways to invite all members and friends into the process of answering the question of "Will you support this church with your prayers, your presence, your gifts, and your service?" It begins with the time and talent card which is sent to each family, each member, each friend. As we begin to create this card we are thinking about opportunities that are not listed, or about groups that we need to establish in order to better serve our church and community. Grief support, supper club, book club, Sunday morning small groups, exercise groups all come to mind. Are you willing to be part of a group that travels and engages in mission work? Are you good at inviting people to the church? Have you stopped to think about what brings you into the church building on Sunday mornings and what ministries you engage in when you depart? Take a moment, pray about your gifts, and how God will use them through the ministries we share together.

FROM THE STAFF PARISH RELATIONS COMMITTEE

We are pleased to announce that after an internal search resulting in two candidates, the SPRC has hired Ed Pearce to be the church's Finance Manager. If that name sounds familiar to you, Ed was previously employed at First UMC in this position. He is very familiar with the accounting systems and the ways in which the church operates finances and investments. We will welcome him on his first day, August 3. Bob Dalziel will stay on to work with Ed on systems and payroll processing that have changed since he worked here before.

To that end, on Sunday, August 2, we invite the congregation to a celebration of appreciation for Bob Dalziel who has worked with us for the past four years. Bring a card of thanks and enjoy cake in the Commons at the 9:30 social hour.

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

Your Finance committee continues to meet and analyze the spending trends and data that impact our annual budget. In a year that began with a fear of a deficit, it is imperative that we maintain an understanding of where our dollars are being spent to maintain fiscal health and responsibility. We are doing well financially, blessed by your generosity and faithfulness.

As of the end of June, our revenues were \$638,299 or 70.23% of what was budgeted. Our expenses were \$456,474 or 47.09% of what was budgeted. Thank you to all who are spending wisely, and to all who are supporting our church budget through pledges, gifts, and other means of fundraising.

Much of our saving this year has come because we have had one staff position not yet filled. We have also just hired a new finance manager and so for a time in August during training we will have two people in that office.

We are aware we are in the second half of the year and many pledges have been paid in full. We are grateful for all who financially support the ministries of First UMC.

Thanks for your stewardship of funds, time, talent, and gifts! Kate Fiandt, Finance Committee Chair

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Return Service Requested

DUNDEE DAY

A HISTORICALLY FESTIVE
NEIGHBORHOOD

Join our FUMC family as we participate in the Dundee Days parade/festival on Saturday, August 22nd. The parade starts at 10:30am, but we will meet in the Brownell Talbot parking lot. Be there by 9:45a to line up. If you would like to march with us sign-ups are in the Gathering Place. We will be wearing our "25 Year anniversary" or "Fiercely Inclusive" shirts!

DUN
DEE
DAY
8 . 2 2 . 2 6

The Dundee Merchants Association and Dundee Memorial Park Association bring you the 31st annual Dundee Day street festival and the "Dundee Night" evening of music, food, and fun.

We will have a booth this year also so if you would like to help with the booth there are sign-up sheets in the Gathering Place!!

For more info visit:
<https://www.dundeeday.org/>

FUMC MARCHING IN DUNDEE DAYS PARADE