



Morita Truman, Pastor

## THINK ON THESE THINGS Philippians 4:8

Over the summer months we were invited to consider some stories that might have been new to us...especially in August when we considered stories of children in the bible. We don't focus as much on those tales and as I discovered, we really miss out when we forget to read of these young people who had and have an impact on the faith.

Now we are in September and we have before us many beginnings...back to Sunday morning learning opportunities for children, youth group and confirmation, a new grief support group, start-ups of Tai Chi and yoga classes for adults. Chancel Choir and Handbell Choirs will begin rehearsals September 16. The Lay Leadership team (nominating committee) is inviting persons to participate in leadership positions. Plans are underway for Trunk or Treat and the Interfaith Thanksgiving service. I don't want to say it out loud, but even at the midway point of August, we are so over summer.

Because time seems to move so rapidly, and I say seems because it doesn't really...I want to get a couple of things before us:

**Sunday, September 13**, is going to be packed! We have our annual Ministry Fair, when groups from the church set up in the Commons for the morning and present information about what they do, what opportunities exist within their ministry, and ways to join in the work and ministry. If you are new to FUMC, or have been here for 40 years, you'll learn something new at the Fair. There will also be opportunities to learn more about the previously mentioned yoga and Tai Chi and perhaps some other new options. It's also the morning our children's ministries will kick off children's choir and new classes on the second floor at 9:30. **THEN** after the 10:50 service we will have our annual fall picnic. We'll be cooking hamburgers and hot dogs, encouraging everyone to bring side dishes, desserts, chips, etc. **Bring extra because we sent postcards out to our neighborhood to join us this day.** Yes we really are opening our doors!

On **Tuesday, October 20**, we will join with several other churches from Omaha for a cluster Church Conference. Our meeting place this year is Hanscom Park UMC. A church conference is a way of looking at the work of the previous year in the church, considering the vision that moves us forward, and celebrating how we have been and are, the church at work in the world. There will be a pre-conference meeting here at First on October 15 to preview the paperwork so that when we engage in group voting on October 20 you'll know what you're voting on. To that end we invite our ministries to share reports of the work they've done, we elect officers for the coming year, and approve some parts of the 2027 budget. All are welcome to attend these meetings, all church members may vote.

It's fall y'all! Let's journey together on this pathway,

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

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

### Taizé Prayer

Canceled for September

Please join us on October 3rd

### 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

Office Closed Labor Day, September 7

*"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

## Author Talkback

**Sonia  
Sotomayor**

best-selling author of *Just Ask! Be Different, Be Brave, Be You*

**September 18th**  
after the 6:30 pm performance

*Tickets to the show will be limited and must be purchased in advance. The final day to purchase tickets for this performance is 9/15/26.*



## CALLING ALL KIDS!



**Who:** Kids ages 4 through 6th grade

**When:** Sunday, September 13, 9:35 am.

**Where:** First United Methodist Church Omaha  
Families are invited up to the Sunday School rooms. Parents can meet teachers, fill out enrollment forms, look at the curriculum and children can complete a craft. Parents are welcome to leave their child in the Sunday School room, but will need to come back to get them at 10:30.

**Come join the fun this Sunday!**

**Bring a friend!**

## A BIG THANK YOU FROM THE TENT UMC FOOD PANTRY APPRENTICES!

- Thank you for listening to us about the food crisis in Omaha!
- Thank you for worshipping and praying with us!
- Thank you for writing letters to public officials to restore SNAP benefits in Nebraska!

Thanks to your help, we collected 445 letters, far surpassing our summer's goal! We look forward to seeing you again soon!

Please come visit and/or volunteer at The Tent Pantry, 4440 S. 25th St, Omaha, NE 68107.



**2026**  
**CANDIDATE**  
*Accountability*  
**SESSION**

**SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 20<sup>TH</sup>**

First United Methodist Church  
7020 Cass St.  
2:00-4:00pm

Join us for a *Nonpartisan Candidate Accountability Session* where we will ask candidates running for the **NE Legislature, U.S. Senate, U.S. House, and Governor** to make public commitments on key issues impacting our families and communities.

Our goal is to FILL the 500 seat worship space at First United Methodist Church with members of OTOC institutions and their guests - **that means YOU!**

**Please RSVP today so we can plan seating for each member institution & guests.**

Scan the QR Code below or go to the link to RSVP

<https://bit.ly/4uVt7Gj>



# Ministry Fair

**SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 13TH**

**9:35-10:35 AM | THE COMMONS**



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



## ECO Team

September is the perfect time to divide overzealous perennials and also make additions to your own garden. With that in mind, please join us in the Commons on Sunday mornings September 13 and 20 for a plant exchange. Bring your divided plants, potted and LABELED.

Go home with a new friend. Hope to see you there!



## Get Out The Vote With Heartland Workers Center

Join with FUMC and Heartland Workers Center to canvas on Saturdays starting **September 12<sup>th</sup> - October 31<sup>st</sup> from 9:30-12:30 p.m** Canvassing will take place in either North or South Omaha and will focus on encouraging eligible voters to get out and **VOTE!**



**Canvas Kickoff Training**

**Wednesday,  
September 2nd**

**From 7-8:30 p.m.**

**FUMC Commons, 7020 Cass Street, Door 4**

To RSVP for the training or get more information about canvassing email: [ripplesofhope24@gmail.com](mailto:ripplesofhope24@gmail.com)

## FUMC OMAHA BEGINS PREPARATIONS FOR 175<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

June 9, 2030, this congregation will celebrate its 175<sup>th</sup> anniversary, the second oldest Methodist church in Nebraska. To prepare, the Trustees are enlisting help from the congregation in identifying areas and projects that are in need of work. This list includes everything from painting to window replacement and furniture/space refurbishment.

You do not need to have a special skill to be able to walk the building and grounds and note the areas that are most in need. Your responsibility would consist of 1) conferring with the congregation, 2) identifying projects, and 3) prioritizing projects. This information is what will guide the Trustees to schedule the work over the next 3 years.

This is a unique opportunity to help direct maintenance projects of the church for the next several years. Contact Trustee Chair, Mike Rosenthal, [mike.rosenthal577@icloud.com](mailto:mike.rosenthal577@icloud.com) if you would like to participate or need more information

**175<sup>th</sup>**  
*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** - Paige & Kevin Wycoff and Marvin Morgan, at the transition to new life of loved ones

*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 **PRESSURE**

WEDNESDAY, Sept. 2 - 2 PM in Mead Hall

Come watch on our 98" screen!!

**Popcorn Provided!**



**FREE POPCORN! at both events**

## MOVIE DISCUSSION GROUP **PRESSURE**

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 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](mailto:bonniewallace59@gmail.com)



## Taizé Prayer

1st Saturday of the month

5:00 - 5:40 pm

Mead Chapel

In Person (enter door 11)

Taizé has been canceled for  
Labor Day Weekend

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...**

Please contact Morita at

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

or Cass at [Cass.Opal@fumcomaha.org](mailto:Cass.Opal@fumcomaha.org)

if you'd like to talk  
about membership.

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**FOODBANK**  
FOR THE HEARTLAND

Please reserve these dates

[FoodBank for the Heartland](https://www.foodbankheartland.org)

Tuesday September 8, 1-3:30

Tuesday December 12, 1-3:30

If you have a foodbank account,  
register online: [foodbankheartland.org](https://www.foodbankheartland.org)

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

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

# Inspiring

## How Do You Cope?

*Part 2 of conversation with Becky Schnabel about the upcoming elections:*



**Prepping our Food Pantry Voting packets in 2024!**

**How do you cope with the seriousness of this time in our nation?**

I limit my exposure to news and use legitimate journalistic sources, as well as taking time for activities outside of politics. I spend time reading, gardening, listening to music, and not over committing myself in any area of my life

**How does your faith impact you in these times?**

In difficult times like this, I rely on the basics, using faith as my guide...do unto others...do it for the least of these...love is the greatest of these. When the negative emotions of frustration, fear, uncertainty, or anger, overtake me, I try to turn my thoughts to 'the peace that surpasses all understanding' and God's promise to always be with me. Remembering to give gratitude throughout the day also calms me and helps me focus on the next steps, especially when doing things that take me out of my comfort zone. A small recurring mantra I use is 'Thank you Lord for thinking about me. I'm alive and doing fine.' (I've been using it since the '70's)

**What do you say to those who say "my involvement won't make a difference?"**

I believe we are created to make a difference every day, in big and small ways. Most of the time we don't know our impact. Every person using their voice, every action taken is meaningful. Just do one thing a day. Those who would degrade our democracy, want us to give up, to be fearful, to be secluded. I don't believe that is in our design. If you don't do anything, you won't make a difference. An important question each person should ask is "What do I want for the next generation?" If the answer is, "I don't know/care much about future generations," then there's no need to do anything. If your answer to this is that you want your children or grandchildren to have similar opportunities that you've been given, then get involved.

**How does joining others help you be hopeful?**

Connecting with others (whether one on one, small groups, or larger groups) is encouraging, and energizing for me. Being with others provides opportunities for stories, laughter, new ideas, possibilities for action...all of these interactions give me hope and I turn to the old adage...we get by with a little help from our friends

**Your smile might make the difference this election!**

TV commercials, phone banking, postcards, and texting are all ways to reach voters, but **visiting with folks IN PERSON** is the most effective way to encourage them to VOTE!!!

Walk alongside folks from the Heartland Workers Center (HWC) as they visit with registered voters in South and North Omaha encouraging voting in the upcoming general election! Due to an ICE presence in our community, fewer people from vulnerable parts of our city are volunteering. Please consider investing in our democracy every Saturday morning (or as many as you can) beginning September 12th, 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Don't worry about a language barrier, as each UMC volunteer will be paired with a Spanish-speaking volunteer from HWC! You will receive training on **September 2nd** in person in the FUMC Commons, 7 to 8:30 p.m. (highly encourage in person, but will be virtual as well).

**Note:** HWC also has other times each week when you can pair up to canvas, go to: [heartlandworkerscenter.org](http://heartlandworkerscenter.org) to learn more!

For more details, email [ripplesofhope24@gmail.com](mailto:ripplesofhope24@gmail.com).

**Mark your calendars for September 27th!! Fellowship Meal Fundraiser to support the work of the Salt and Light Team!** (Please bring your own place settings.)



**FUMC prepping to door knock in South Omaha for the 2024 election!**

# 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**

[prayerrequest@fumcomaha.org](mailto: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, September 17, 10 am**

**Friday, September 18, 1 pm**

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

Contact Judy Prenzler

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



## To the First United Methodist members:

Since our pantry is a Little Pantry, I recommend stocking individual-serving, shelf-stable, ready-to-eat foods, preferably with pop-top lids for easy opening. This is especially important for individuals experiencing houselessness who may not have access to a can opener or cooking facilities.

Additional helpful items include small packages of Kleenex, toothbrushes, and individually wrapped utensils (forks, spoons, and knives).

Thank you for your continued generosity and support - your donations are greatly appreciated.

- Laura Altman



## Archive Report

I have been looking for a good time to start this discussion, but as busy as we are at FUMC, there is no perfect time. Therefore now is as good a time as ever.

Currently I am working on organizing 6,000+ pictures, most of which were taken in the 70's through the 90's.

I want to thank Paul Halverson for all the hours he gave to find a Flat File for all of our Blueprints of this church; including the original construction and the major additions over the years. Not only did he find the Flat File for us; he organized the blueprints and established a record of all the blueprints that we possess. This allowed a savings of time with all our recent work done to the church.

Current needs we need in archives are:

One - a Calligrapher to catch us up with the Memorial Book in the case in the Narthex.

Two - someone I can teach to input information in the computer program we are using for the Archives. After training they could work any hours that the building is open.

2030 marks the 175th year of the existence of this congregation. We are the second oldest Methodist Church in Nebraska. We have held services in seven different buildings; the first being the Claims House at 12th and Jackson (where the Candy Store is in the Old Market) to our current building that opened in 1957. We need to start planning this celebration now. It is an opportunity to look back to where we came from; but more important, we can look forward to where we are going in the future.

We need your help and will be discussing more about this in the months to come. This congregation has a legacy of leading the way; to continue we need your ideas. I look forward to working with all of you.

Mark Howard Schulze, FUMC Archivist

# Challenging

## Building a Culture of Generosity

This summer you have heard moments in worship when different ministries of the church were described and invitations issued for you to be involved. Now we begin our Stewardship campaign in earnest!

On Sunday, September 13, you have the opportunity to visit the Ministry Fair in the church commons. Browse the booths, ask questions, get to know people who engage in ministry both within these walls and in the world around us. Consider what your passions are and use the Time and Talent card, which will arrive in the mail, to indicate where you would like to serve.

Beginning September 27, you will hear a series of speakers on Sunday mornings, sharing about their own journey to commitment and financial support of the church. Those who speak represent many kinds of giving – online and plate donations, regular donations, pledges and tithes. The intent of the speakers is not to put pressure on you, but rather to assure you each person at FUMC makes decisions about giving. We are inviting you to do the same. In order to plan for the 2027 fiscal year, and to create a budget that faithfully represents what we are able to do, we ask each person, each family, to make a pledge, an estimate, of what their giving will be. We know circumstances change, we know there is uncertainty for many of us, but your estimate and pledge will help us plan for the work God is calling us to do.

For the present moment, consider your talents and time. When the card arrives in your mailbox, or you pick one up at the church, you are encouraged to pray about how you will offer your prayers, presence, service, and enthusiasm through our ministry together. And we'll see you at the Ministry Fair!

**Donate Here**

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



[bit.ly/FUMCOMahaGiving](https://bit.ly/FUMCOMahaGiving) **SCAN ME**

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## FUMC Finance Report

Kate Fiandt, Finance Chair

There are two major events for the work of the Finance Committee this time of year:

1. Budget development - we are working on the 2027 budget. If you are on a team that has a budget you are asked to meet with a member of the Finance team and provide input about needs and expectations for the coming year on a Budget Worksheet.
2. Stewardship Campaign - we cannot develop a budget without information from our Stewardship Campaign. As you know, we ask members to commit time, talent and treasure to the sustainability of the church. We have been sharing with you some examples of members' time and talent at the Stewardship Moments this summer. Starting in September we will be focusing on Treasures, i.e. your financial pledge. We are excited to announce that this year, to meet our goal of informing all members about our budget and the budget development process, we have prepared a brochure with lots of details about the FUMC budget. These will be available in September and we urge each family to take a brochure. You can take this home and keep it for future reference and to help you make your decision about your annual pledge.

We very much want the budget process and the FUMC church finances to be transparent, so please contact the Finance CMTE Chair (Kate Fiandt, [kfiandt@gmail.com](mailto:kfiandt@gmail.com)) with questions.

Thanks, Kate

First  
United  
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Church



Return Service Requested

*Say goodbye to summer & hello to fall!*

**SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 13**

*First Church friends & families are invited to our annual*  
**FELLOWSHIP PICNIC ON THE FRONT LAWN**

- All ages welcome! Invite your family and friends & don't forget your lawn chairs along with your reusable place settings, and enjoy an afternoon of outdoor fun and relaxation. We will have yard games, Gaga Ball, as well as lots of delicious food!

Sign-up with Lorraine Dalziel or Cass Opal  
today to help with food and drink preparations.

Lorraine.Dalziel@fumcomaha.org or Cass.Opal@fumcomaha.org



**Hamburgers & Hotdogs provided (with vegetarian options)**