



Morita Truman, Pastor

THINK ON THESE THINGS

Philippians 4:8

A definition (and some information) from the Merriam Webster dictionary

Stewardship (noun) - the careful and responsible management of something entrusted to one's care

Stewardship first appeared in English during the Middle Ages, functioning as a job description, denoting the office of a steward, or manager of a large household. Its range of reference spread to

the oversight of law courts, employee unions, college dining halls, and many other organizations. In recent years, the long-established "management" sense of *stewardship* has evolved a positive meaning, "careful and responsible management," often found now in contexts such as "stewardship of the environment, the family business," etc.

With a nod to the learned editorial team at Merriam Webster, I believe stewardship is, more importantly, a verb. It is what we DO to manage what is entrusted to our care.

We are entering the time of year when we hear and think and pray about our stewardship at First UMC. And if indeed, stewardship is the careful and responsible management of something entrusted to one's care, then it is absolutely about the action in which we engage.

In the past few days you have received Time and Talent cards in the mail. Some use this tool as a way to affirm the ministries they are engaged in already. Some use it as a way to say "YES, that's where I will serve!" to a new opportunity. Each person is encouraged to complete the card and return it in worship on October 4, or in the church office. Stewardship is something we DO. Extra cards are in the Gathering Place and the office, please feel free to pick one up if you did not receive it in the mail, or to accommodate additional members of your family.

Then...in the coming weeks we will hear from four speakers in Sunday worship, speaking about their journey to financial stewardship. This is both recognition and consideration that we are all engaged in the ministries of FUMC through our giving. This will culminate in members and friends being asked to make a pledge of financial giving—another activity we DO as part of our stewardship. Your estimate allows us to plan for the coming year of ministry.

I know it's a hard moment to talk about money. We see rising costs at the gas pump and in grocery aisles. Individuals and families are weighing carefully what and how they spend. As your pastor, I assure you we are doing the same. On a regular basis we analyze how we are best using our resources—the gifts and pledges from members and friends. I'm praying for you as you make these decisions. I'm praying for our church as we continue to DO faithful stewardship and ministry. Please know I'm on the 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

October 3, 5:00 pm

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

Alive at 175

We have had a few ideas suggested for our celebration in 2030 of our 175 years as a church. We can always use more. We do need more ideas for inclusion of all ages and more ideas to prepare us for the next 175 years. Some of us may not be here for celebration 200, but we all want to see this church continue to be a vital part of the Omaha community.

A few ideas suggested to me:

- Part 2 of our history, the last 40 years. Maybe a Documentary as well
- Revive VIM project
- Guest clergy: Bishop for our homecoming service, past clergy for other event, clergy called from this church, a salute to our associate pastors
- A Chautauqua
- Host as an Open Omaha site
- Relaunch Horizon of Faith type weekend
- Music events: Messiah, Choir Reunion II, Guest Organ Concert Series, Commissioned Music Piece
- Complete the History Window in the Gathering Place
- Celebration Clothing items
- Develop a project with our neighbors: Lewis & Clark, Omaha Community Playhouse, and Omaha Conservatory of Music

Keep the ideas coming. This is your church. Jesus changed the world one idea at a time. Maybe your idea might change the role of this church in the future.

Mark Howard Schulze,
Archivist FUMC

175th
Anniversary

Nebraska Sierra Club & Nebraska Electric Vehicle Association's

Omaha Area NDEW Show

Sunday, October 4, 12:00-3:00 PM

Do you want to know more about electric cars?

Come meet and talk with enthusiastic EV owners who are scheduled to display their vehicles at First United Methodist Church, 7020 Cass St.

The cars will be parked in the lot east of the church. Presentations will be indoors, in the adjacent church Commons area. Restrooms available inside. The event will run from noon until about 3 p.m. Visitors may park in the north lot. See you there!



We invite you to spend time with Sr. Lucy hearing about the difference Maher makes in our world today, and her vision for the future.

LOVE IN ACTION TOUR

Communities across the U.S. are welcoming Sr. Lucy.

Join us in Omaha!



Wed • Oct 7 • 5:30 - 7 pm

Donor/Volunteer/Friend Evening of Gratitude

First United Methodist Church, Parlor

7020 Cass St, Omaha

Park on the south side of the building.

Please visit our site to learn more and give.
USGivingtoMaher.org



Scan me

CHURCH CONFERENCE 2026

In United Methodism, each year a congregation meets in a Church (or Charge) Conference with the District Superintendent. There are forms that are required, with information about membership, property, leadership, and finances, just to name a few. This is the basic form of governance in the United Methodist Church.

Our Church Conference this year will be held on Tuesday, October 20, at 7:00 pm. As we will be experiencing a cluster conference, the meeting location is Hanscom Park UMC, located at 4444 Frances St. The other churches participating are Clair Memorial, Dietz Memorial, Hanscom Park, Maplewood, Rockbrook, and Ralston Trinity.

A church conference means all are welcome to attend and all church members have a vote. The cluster conference setting means we come prepared to vote on what is before us. With that caveat, we will have a pre-conference hybrid session on Thursday, October 15, at 7:30 pm. If you wish to join by zoom, please contact the church office to receive a link. Live meeting will be in Mead Hall.

ECO Team Climate Change: An Issue of Justice

Nepal contributes less than 0.1 percent of global greenhouse-gas emissions, yet it suffers disproportionately from the consequences of a warming world.

We are all connected! Janet Sanders and her husband, Blase Sands were in the Boomers class a few Sundays ago, and it was there that we learned of their connection to Nepal. The people suffering there from the latest human-induced environmental crisis have names, faces, and stories that Jan and Blase hold in their hearts.



Janet Sanders grew up in Scribner, Nebraska, and graduated from Doane College and the University of Toronto. She began her career as a Methodist U2 missionary in Boston and Camden, New Jersey. While teaching elementary school in Camden, she took a course with the Institute of Cultural Affairs and joined its staff in 1972. She and Blase moved to Omaha in 2024.

Jan's connection with Nepal began in 2001, when she helped expand ICA Nepal's work during the HIV/AIDS crisis. Since then, she has provided Innovative Leadership programs throughout Nepal for community leaders, educators, entrepreneurs, women, and people with disabilities.

The disaster of August 26, 2026, began with a massive glacier-and-rock collapse in the Himalayas. Ice, rock, and sediment crashed into the river system, creating a destructive debris flood that swept down the Trishuli Valley, destroying villages, roads, bridges, and hydropower facilities. So far, 1,367 people have died, and 5,000 are missing.

Friend and colleague of Jan and Blase, Ishu Subba, Executive Director of ICA Nepal, described the tragedy as overwhelming: families have lost loved ones, children have lost parents, parents have lost children, and many have lost their homes, livelihoods, and sense of safety. Her words express both profound grief and a call to stand together with those who are suffering.

Climate change is considered an important underlying factor. The Himalayas are warming rapidly--faster than other areas: glaciers are retreating, permafrost is thawing, and mountain slopes are becoming less stable. Fossil fuel emissions from the US, China, and other countries are increasing the risk of more such disasters. Nepal contributes less than 0.1 percent of global greenhouse-gas emissions, yet it is suffering disproportionately from the consequences of a warming world.



Jan and Blase with friends in Nepal in happier times

This tragedy raises both practical and spiritual questions. As a church, we can contribute to the Advance Special for direct service--International Disaster Response Advance #982450. Our church can also continue to reduce our own emissions through energy conservation, improved efficiency, renewable energy, and movement toward net-zero operations. As individuals and families, we can drive less, reduce waste, and make more sustainable choices. We can also advocate for clean energy and responsible climate policy, support vulnerable communities and nations such as Nepal, and recognize climate change as an issue of justice.



Nebraska Community Blood Bank

Our Nebraska Community Blood Drive was a SUCCESS!

A big **THANK YOU** to those who donated blood at the blood drive we had on August 16. We were able to collect 22 units which in turn helped save 66 lives!

Once again we partnered with the **Nebraska Community Blood Bank** that provides blood to over 23 healthcare facilities throughout eastern Nebraska and western Iowa. As many of you have heard there is an extreme shortage in Omaha so this donation really helps.

I also want to pass on how much they enjoy working with us. They don't always have success with drives at churches but the word I got was how we really show up and are always the top supporters!

So, **THANK YOU** again! We will have another blood drive soon!

Please take this as your personal invitation to donate then!!

Denise Rogondino,, Health and Healing Ministries Team

Acting

Please remember in prayer these members of our Church Family:

Joan Clark, Nev Fredrickson, Tony Gaeta, Paul Halverson, Ray Hansen, Milbert Kurtz, Suzanne Morgan, Julia Nodskov, Berdeen Roemmich, John Rosenow, Pam Smith, Jane Young

Sympathies: to Debbie Rosman Webber, and Sue Kabourek, on the transition of loved ones to new life.

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

NAKED GUN (2025)

WEDNESDAY, Oct. 7 - 2 PM in Mead Hall

Come watch on our 98" screen!!

Popcorn Provided!

FREE POPCORN! at both events

MOVIE DISCUSSION GROUP

NAKED GUN (2025)

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 13, 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)

October 3

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!



WELCOME
Margie Ory

AS A NEW MEMBER...

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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Grief Gathering Group

Struggling with grief or loss? You're not alone.

We're here for you.

Join our grief gathering group at First United Methodist Church.

Friday afternoons 1 PM – 2 PM through - October 23rd.

Meets weekly for 6 weeks. No cost. Spots are limited.

Call 402.556.6262 to register.

We encourage anyone who has experienced a loss to join our group. Facilitator: Anna Terman-White, LMHP, licensed mental health professional.

The group will meet at FUMC Omaha - 7020 Cass St, Omaha, in the Parlor. Please enter through door number 11.

Inspiring

An easy way to make a difference before November 3rd!!!!



You may have seen these cards at the library, a coffee shop or even tucked on a grocery store shelf! They are small business cards that encourage folks to vote their values by visiting VOTE411.org! You, too, can share these with your friends, neighbors, leave on a park bench, tuck by your tip at a restaurant, give to your barber, your mechanic, your doctor.....the list is endless!! The front desk at the church has bundles of ten cards just for you!!!! This is an easy way to encourage voter turnout!!!



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www.fumcomaha.org

TAI CHI

WITH LANE SIDEBOTTOM
WEEKLY ON THURSDAYS
2-2:45 PM | MEAD CHAPEL
ALL ARE WELCOME TO JOIN
ENTER DOOR 11 OR 9

Blessing of the Pets

7020 Cass Street | Omaha Ne 68132
402.556.6262 | www.fumcomaha.org

Sunday, October 4 at 9:30 am on the Front Lawn

Friday, October 16th
Resin Pouring
15+ Adults ONLY

The Commons
from 7-9p

\$20.00 covers up to 16oz
of resin. (2 cups)
\$5 for each additional
8 oz

Molds and training
provided.
New techniques will be
explored with alcohol inks
Resin will require
24 hours to cure

Enter Door 4

LEARN MORE



Tuesday December 8, 1-3:30

If you have a foodbank account,
register online: foodbankheartland.org
or contact **Bruce Deines** (brucedeines@gmail.com)
or **Mike Rosenthal** (Mike.Rosenthal577@icloud.com)

VIM volunteers met at FoodBank for the Heartland Tuesday, September 8th. We teamed up with others to pack 2,552 pounds of cereal for those in need! A great group of loyal volunteers from FUMC! Not pictured is Miriam Chapman.

Our final FoodBank volunteer opportunity for this year is scheduled for Tuesday, December 8th, 1:00-3:30. A great way to give back to our community during the Christmas season! Thanks to all who participated!



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, October 15, 10 am

Friday, October 16, 1 pm

Clair Memorial UMC | 5544 Ames Ave.

Contact Judy Prenzler

Prenzler@cox.net for info



Little Pantry

Items needed for Pantry: 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).



Visitation Team

will be meeting

Oct. 3, 9 am

New members

welcome!

Contact Jen Bell,

jenbell@casscomm.com



SAVE THE DATE:

OCTOBER 17
NO KINGS: VOTE EARLY

The Salt and Light team invites you to hop on the bus at FUMC and head to Gallagher Park for No Kings: Vote Early, a community gathering to encourage people to use their power and VOTE on November 3rd!

WHEN: SATURDAY, OCTOBER 17TH

WHERE: GALLAGHER PARK

TIME: BUS LEAVES FUMC AT 11:45 AND RETURNS AT 2:15



To reserve your spot on the bus email: ripplesofhope24@gmail.com

Challenging

Building a Culture of Generosity

In the previous two years, our fall stewardship campaign has included a Sunday morning forum where the Stewardship Team walked through the budgeting process, what the various areas cover, and how your gifts are used in the day to day and ongoing ministries of First UMC.

This fall, we have created a booklet that covers this information, recognizing listening to a presentation and trying to take notes sometimes limits how we hear and process information. The current budget's numbers are used for information purposes. Each family unit will receive a booklet. You are encouraged to read through the information, consider the questions you have and present those to the stewardship team, and begin to make decisions about your commitment to the 2027 budget.

The invitation to consider is this: we are all stake holders in this work together.

The Finance team is beginning the process of creating a budget for the 2027 fiscal year. Staff members, team leaders, committee chairs, are all looking at the projected spending. Soon we will receive notice of the amount of our apportionment we pay to the annual conference. Numbers are being assembled and in the coming weeks we will be sharing that information. As we present those numbers we will invite everyone to consider and make a pledge. 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.

We know this is a generous congregation. Thank you for your ongoing faithfulness!

Donate Here

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



bit.ly/FUMCOMahaGiving **SCAN ME**

FUMC Finance Report

Kate Fiandt, Finance Chair

As September ends, we will have completed three quarters of our fiscal year. At press time, we do not have final numbers through September but the news is good through the first eight months. Through August our income was at 83% of our projected receipts. We anticipated income of \$908,925 and thus far we have received \$756,703. As far as expenses, we budgeted an anticipated \$969,311 and thus far we have spent \$630,167, or 65%. An open staff position is part of our ability to cut our spending, but every area is cognizant of the money they are using, and being faithful with their resources.

The stewardship campaign is actively underway. For the next four (4) Sundays moving forward and concluding on Oct 18, we will emphasize **Pledging** as a form of Stewardship. On Sunday October 25 we will ask you to bring your Pledge cards to the service for a time of dedication. Each family will receive a Budget Booklet, an excellent resource to use throughout the year to understand the church budget.

As a 2026 budget update, we continue to maintain a balanced budget for this year. This put us ahead of our predicted 2026 but only because we have not yet hired a Christian Education Director and we have had generous "non-pledge" donations. We are working on budget needs for 2027 but cannot work out the details of the final 2027 budget until we have the final pledge data. As a result, **we are asking you to submit your pledge card on Sunday Oct, 25** so we can move forward with 2027 budget development. If you have not pledged in the past, we urge you to consider pledging this year, and submitting your card on Oct. 25. For first time pledging families, how much you pledge is, in many ways, not as important as that you pledge, so we can develop a strategic mission focused budget.

As the Chair of the Finance Committee, I would like to thank our entire church community for their generosity in time, talent and treasure. You are an amazing group of dedicated Christians who make the mission of the church to our families and the community a reality every day. Thanks, Kate

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Return Service Requested

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



Scan QR Code
to Volunteer

**TRUNK
OR
TREAT**

SUN OCTOBER 25 3-6P
2026

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

7020 Cass Street

Donate Candy
by bringing to
FUMC office
during office
hours to church
on Sundays

**Omaha Fire Department will be onsite at 4 pm.
Bring the whole family to see the Fire Truck and meet the fire fighters!**