Connect

November 2026



Morita Truman, Pastor

THINK ON THESE THINGS
Philippians 4:8

We are entering the season of the year when we allow gratitude to take center stage…not that it shouldn't always be there. Gratitude is centered in thankfulness and appreciation, and yes, if you look in a thesaurus you'll discover those are synonyms for the same feeling. Gratitude is a gift I try to cultivate in myself, and in all those around me. In response to that, lately I have been writing more thank you notes (using stamps and everything), aware that I need to be more "vocal" in my gratitude. Can writing be vocal? I hope so. I hope to write in such a way that someone not only reads, but hears the gratitude I'm trying to express here.

That made me reflect on recent events where language impacted a moment in powerful ways. On a not too distant Sunday as we welcomed new members to the congregation at First, two statements were made that reflected both faith and welcome. To the question of "do you know God?" we heard the response, "I do now." And in a description of attending a first Sunday that happened to be Love Sunday, we heard the words, "Love...that's what we found."

To know God and to find love.

If I were to try to write a job description for the church, those two statements would be enough. Everything we do starts there. Let me say that again… everything we do starts in knowing God and finding and sharing love. Even our stewardship campaign included the thought "stewardship begins with love, not giving." Who we are, who we are called to be, how we live out faith in the world, is grounded in love. In gratitude. In knowledge that we are all children of God, siblings together.

Think about it - our work for justice and peace. Our outreach through pantry ministries. Our classes for children, youth, and adults. Our music. Our worship. Every publication we send out from the church office. The hospitality we extend. The groups that meet in our building. Our gifts of time, energy, and offerings. Everything we do is an extension of those thoughts – we are in the world to know (and share) the Divine, and to find (and share) love. It is work at which we continually strive for excellence.

In this season of thanksgiving, to you, my siblings in faith, my family in love, please know I thank my God every time I think of you. It is a privilege to be in this place where together we know God and find love together.

On the journey 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

Taize Prayer

November 7, 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

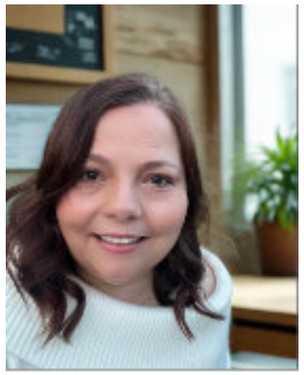
"The United Methodist Church forms disciples of Jesus Christ who, empowered by the Holy Spirit, **love boldly, serve joyfully,** and **lead courageously** in local communites and worldwide connections."

First United Methodist Church

7020 Cass Street • Omaha, Nebraska 68132 • 402.556.6262



WECOME TO OUR NEW CHILDREN'S EDUCATION DIRECTOR


Erin Lee, Children's Director

Erin Lee (she/her) has a heart for children, families, and creating spaces where everyone feels welcomed, valued, and loved.

Originally from Grand Island, Erin moved to Omaha during her sophomore year of high school and graduated from Millard South. Shortly after graduation, she headed east to the suburbs of Washington, D.C., where she worked as a nanny and discovered her passion for ministry.

Her ministry journey began serving children and families in the Lincoln Heights community of Washington, D.C. She went on to serve as a Student Ministries Director for two local churches, building more than 12 years of experience in children's and youth ministry.

Throughout her ministry, Erin has enjoyed developing engaging programs, encouraging volunteers, and helping children and students discover their faith in meaningful and creative ways.

In December 2019, Erin and her husband made their way back home to Omaha, where they enjoy life with their two dogs and a cat.

Erin is thrilled to be part of the First United Methodist Church family! She believes every child deserves a place where they feel safe, celebrated, and encouraged to be exactly who God created them to be. She's equally passionate about coming alongside parents, building genuine relationships, and creating opportunities for families to grow in faith together.

ALIVE AT 175

I have been organizing the many pictures we have in our records and am now in the process of getting them and scrapbooks, blueprints, and other items put in our computer program by the end of the year. Doing that has caused me to reflect on what we have done in this church over the past years that we might consider reviving as we head to 2030 and 175 Alive.

I see the Boomers are starting to serve meals at Siena/Francis House again; that was a project we started in 1990 and ended with the onset of Covid. Various groups would take a month to serve a meal.

VIM, Volunteers In Mission, use to travel across the country to various Methodist Agencies to help with various projects. When we supported Missionaries to other countries from this church, they even traveled to those sites. Did you know one of our former members was a missionary to Africa?

We had a singles group that had a wide age span and met at each others houses and attended social events as well as trips to camps and tubing down the Niobrara.

The Chancel Choir invited all who had ever sung in a choir to return for a grand reunion.

We had a pumpkin patch outside on the front lawn to raise funds and help a Methodist program in New Mexico.

We participated for several years with Habitat. The first house was a renovation for a woman who later was a staff member of United Ministries of Northeast Omaha. Several others were part of the Blitz Build where we worked with several congregations to build a house in one week.

We hosted noted guest speakers, world renowned organists, community events, and served in leadership positions in the Annual Conference.

We helped start the Interdenominational Thanksgiving Service and the organization Together after the Tornado of 1975.

Where do we go NEXT?
Mark Howard Schulze, Archivist FUMC

United Women in Faith



General Membership Meeting

Thursday, November 5th, Room 112, 10:00 am is our next UWF general membership meeting. Anyone interested in membership is invited to attend.

We will have a brief business meeting. Refreshments are provided.

Our guest speaker is from Project Harmony. Project Harmony works to end child abuse and neglect in our community. They provide services that encompass response, treatment and prevention.

We hope to see you there.

Holiday Fair Changes.

We've made some significant changes to the annual Holiday Fair. We have disbanded the Christmas Tea, and we are not going to have the fair during the first weekend in December.

We will sell crafts and homemade cookies during the Youth Chili Cookoff Sunday. December 6th. UWF will have crafts for sale and boxes of homemade cookies between services and after the last service in the Commons area.

We are still discussing the idea of having a used book sale sometime during the year.

We will ask for cookie donations and have a cookie box packing day before the Holiday Fair. Watch this space and other announcements for information as we develop our new Holiday Fair.

Get ready! Get set! GO for Eco Friendly holidays!!



Here we go again! How can we have thankful, joyful holidays without trashing our planet?

Consider:

The environmental impact of holiday overconsumption is multifaceted.

- Waste Increase — Household garbage in the U.S. rises by 25% during the holiday season, adding an extra million tons of waste.
- Carbon Emissions — Travel, consumption, and accommodation choices during holidays significantly elevate carbon emissions.
- Resource Depletion — The demand for gifts and decorations strains natural resources, affecting ecosystems.
- Energy Use — Increased energy consumption during holidays often relies on fossil fuels, exacerbating climate change

ECO Team

Before making holiday plans, google "how to have a green holiday" and scroll through the many sites and resources to give you great ideas!!!

And make plans to "shop" at our FUMC Alternative Mall!



Acting

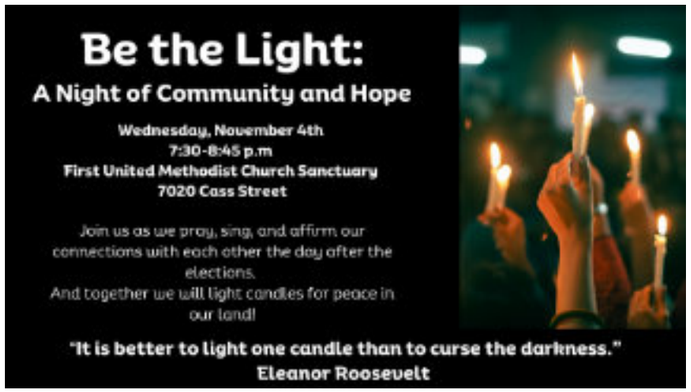
Please remember in prayer these members of our Church Family:

Joan Clark, Nev Fredrickson, Tony Gaeta, Ardelle Halverson, Paul Halverson, Ray Hansen, Milbert Kurtz, Harriet Major, Allan Male, Bob Meyers, Marie Meyers, Julia (Winn) Nodskov, Ken Peters, John Rosenow, Pam Smith, Jane Young

Sympathies: to the family of Mary Ellen Jordan, aunt of Anna Terman White. Our prayers are with this family in a time when their loved one has transitioned 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 withour 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.







November 8

12 pm

After Second Service

Want to join the church?
Learn more about us?
Join Morita on Sunday, November 8, after the 10:50 service in The Commons for Pizza with the Pastor!



Tied Up with Strings

RCMC Tickets https://tinyurl.com/RCMCTiedUpWithStrings

FOODBANK FOR THE HEARTLAND 4645 S 84th St.

Tuesday, December 8, 1:00 - 3:30 pm

foodbankheartland.org or contact:

Bruce Deines - brucedens@gmail.com or

Mike Rosenthatl - mike.rosenthal577@icloud.com

Inspiring





CLAIR CARES FOOD PANTRY

Next Opportunity for Volunteering:

Thursday, November 19, 10 am

Friday, November 20 - 1pm

Clair Memorial UMC, 5544 Ames Ave,

Contact Judy at 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).





Supporting

HOBART IS COMPLETE!

Who is Hobart and what was wrong with him? Or her? Or them? Hobart is the name we affectionately use to refer to the industrial dishwasher in the main kitchen (BTW: Hobart is the name of the manufacturer). We discovered recently that Hobart was not installed with the intended pumps that provide soap and rinse aid to every load of dishes washed. In cooperation with one of our vendors, those pumps are now installed and using Hobart is easier than ever.

Please note – if you are a Hobart user, we no longer add powdered soap. Simply load the tray into the machine and pull down the cover. The read-out on the screen will let you know the wash cycle, the rinse cycle, and continue the countdown of drying. And a special thanks to all who have washed, who will wash, who are going to learn to use Hobart. You make a difference in our cutdown of single use materials.





WELCOME OUR NEW MEMBERS!

Robb Holzrichter & Ken Powell-Holzrichter
Sabrina Fisher & Blake Graves

Please contact Morita at Morita.Truman@fumcomaha.org or Cass at Cass.Opal@fumcomaha.org if you'd like to talk about membership

First United Methodist Church

MOVIE WATCH GROUP BLUE HERON

POPCORN INCLUDED!

WED,NOVEMBER 4, 2 PM

in-person at FUMC Mead Hall

Contact: **Lorraine Dalziel**
for more info
lorraine.dalziel@fumcomaha.org

MOVIE DISCUSSION GROUP

THE SOCIAL RECKONING

TUES, NOVEMBER 10, 6 PM

in-person at FUMC
Mead Hall & Teams

Optional dinner after meeting at local restaurant.

Contact: **Bonnie Wallace**
for more info
bonniewallace59@gmail.com for more info or Team link

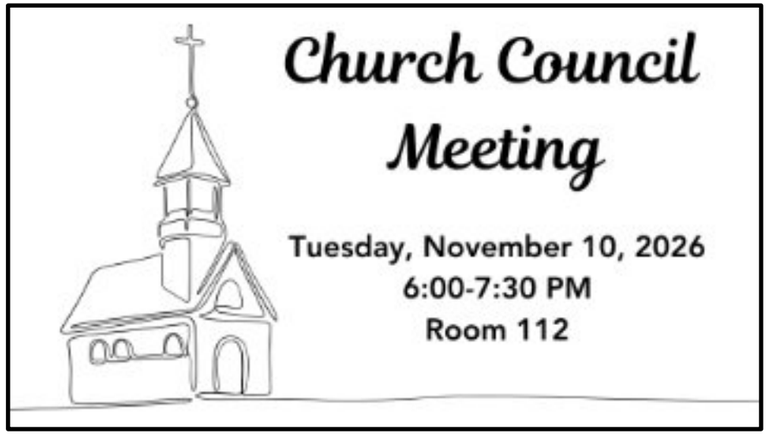
Charge Conference Packets

Available at the office front desk.

Please pick them up during our regular office hours, M-Th, 8:30 - 4:00

Please consider a monetary donation to Clair Memorial UMC Pantry for Thanksgiving Meals. Please leave cash or check at church office in an envelope. Make check out to FUMC Omaha with "Clair UMC" in Memo line.





Church Council Meeting

Tuesday, November 10, 2026
6:00-7:30 PM
Room 112

Challenging

Building a Culture of Generosity

This summer and fall we have engaged in a journey of understanding about stewardship and the ways our gifts and talents and pledges impact the ministries and work of First UMC. Our Stewardship team has encouraged us to know and take to heart that we are all stakeholders in the work of the church.

Some say stakeholder. Some say shareholder. What's the difference? In the business world, a shareholder is a specific type of stakeholder who owns equity or stock in a company, focused primarily on financial return and profitability. A stakeholder is an individual who has a vested interest in, or is affected by, the activities, decisions, outcomes, or performance of the company.

In our case, the church is the company. And each of us are affected by the activities and decisions of the company, the church. We each are impacted by the outcomes and the "performance" of this business. Our growth is dependent on the work we do together. Our work is dependent on the sharing of gifts, talents, and offerings/pledges that are given to the church to be used and built on.

Inviting all to be stakeholders reminds us that each of us has a vested interest in the work of the church we do together. Some teach, some sing. Some make pledges, some cook. Some invite their neighbors in, some go into the world to reach out to those in need. It takes all of the stakeholders working together to keep the church on the move, on a pathway to the kin-dom.

If you have not yet returned your pledge card indicating your intentions for 2027, you may do so in the church office, in the offering plate on Sunday morning, or by contacting Ed Pearce in the finance office, Ed.pearce@fumcomaha.org

Donate Here

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

FUMC Finance Report Kate Fiandt, Finance Chair

As we come to the end of October we are starting to have a fuller picture of the fiscal state of the church. Due to the newsletter deadline being ahead of the end of month accounting, we are able to report on the final numbers as of the end of September. To date (9/30) our income for 2026 has been $825,791. Expenses for that same period have been $703,593. Income receipts are at 91% of what we expected, expenses are at 73% of what was budgeted. It is good to be able to see the numbers that reflect the faithfulness of our members and friends. The year began with an uneasy feeling as we anticipated deficit, but the opposite has proven true and we are hopeful as we consider the ongoing generosity of all.

Our stewardship campaign is ongoing (see the above article) with the return of pledge cards beginning the last week of October. Again, we see faithfulness and expectation in your responses. Please continue to return the cards. A calling effort will begin soon, to reach out to every person and family so that we may all make a pledge of support, a commitment to the ongoing ministries of the church.

The Finance committee will meet on November 16 to continue work on the 2027 proposed budget. It will reflect the mission statement and the values of this church, both within our walls and in the world.

Thank you all for making that mission and ministry possible by your faithfulness and stewardship.

First United Methodist Church

Return Service Requested

