

First United Methodist Church
604 West Avenue / PO Box 30
Holdrege, NE. 68949-0030
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Pastor Pedalings...

It's good to be back to my Pastor Pedalings. The staff and I needed to shift gears a little this summer. Now that summer's almost over, I think we're mostly ready to climb into the saddle again.

Part of my summer constituted making some adjustments both professionally and personally. One of the things I've learned through the years, is that if I do not stay healthy physically (diet and exercise), spiritually, emotionally, socially, and financially, I get to a point where I don't put my best foot forward. Likewise, when I get overly tired, there are consequences that end up taking a toll. This summer was a something of a necessary self-care "reset" for me. So, back in the saddle again!

Recently, I read a fascinating article about how the world is changing and how churches must adapt to needs of its mission field. In sharing the points made in the article, I am asking for your participation and help as part of the process of navigating forward.

The five shifts include:

1. The "highest good" in society now is about individual freedom and happiness. That means for some the Bible does not necessarily set the standard on ethics, personal behavior, or values. Instead, ethics, behavior, and values have been replaced by experiences, desires, preferences, and feelings. In a number of cases, self is elevated over God. So, is it time for the church to push back and speak into this?

2. Traditions that restrict freedom, happiness and self-expression are being destroyed. That means people are creating their own "religious" beliefs, so they can just be themselves. So, if the gospel says that Jesus is your Savior and your Lord, does that mean you're willing to let the good news of Jesus Christ shape what you believe and how you live – your money, your life, how you treat neighbors and how you show hospitality? How do people develop humility?

3. Some believe the world will get better through progress, education, and technology even though the 100 million dead in the 20th century would disagree. Basically, there is a school of thought where some think they can out-smart antiquated scripture and even God.



This indicates an inclination to deny evil, injustice and oppression in whatever forms they present themselves. How can the church help people learn that evil, injustice, and oppression exist and why resisting them are important through love rather than judgment?

4. Some believe their ethics are not about doing what's right for the greater good but doing what's right for themselves. That means the church must learn how to enter into the conversations surrounding the sentiment graciously but knowledgeably. How would you suggest doing that?

5. Some reject external authority because it is more important to celebrate personal authenticity. The sentiment is that the goal is about being the best you, often making self into a false idol or a replacement of God. What is the best way for the church to start with itself to welcome the authority of the triune God, so individuals and communities can be at their best?

These days the church is widely viewed as judgmental, anti-gay, too political, racist, and hypocritical. If that's so (and I'm not saying it is ... this is based upon research), how is ministry affected when church attendance used to be 48 out of 52 weeks a year to once every four weeks (the last 20 or so years), to once every 7 or 8 weeks (post-pandemic)? There's been a digital revolution, a porn revolution, and studies that indicate people are on their phones or devices 40 hours a week, which some consider a device addiction.

So, how is the church going to adapt to all of this? It is up to the church membership to bring the gospel message to the world. What suggestions do you have to make that happen?

I don't have all the answers and I'm pretty sure no one who will read this does either, but I would welcome your written feedback and conversations because I believe in the First UMC of Holdrege, and I believe in all of you. With God's help, let's do this together!

First United Methodist Church

Live God's blessings so clearly, you inspire others to do the same.

humcholdrege@gmail.com fumcholdrege.org

Rev. Dr. Mark Crist: 402-607-9435

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS:

Monday - Thursday
9:00 a.m. - 3:15 p.m.

Friday
9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Church office: 995-8691



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

August Birthdays

2-Gabrielle Karpisek
 4-Janet Anderson
 6-Judy Ganser, Mike Sunblade
 8-Cassie Fulmer
 9-Sophia Schemper
 12-Michelle Marquardt
 13-Payton Schmalz
 14-Sandy Tilson
 15-Lois Bergman, Dianne Wintermute
 16-Nick Weaver
 17-Archie Robinson, Whitney Kuss, Jack Brown, Bennett Peterson
 18-James Nelson, Garrett Ganser, William Rogers

19-Bennett Latter
 20-Ed Schrock, Renae Imel, Matthew Mooney
 22-Jeremy Nelson
 24-Kathryn Rogers, Joleigh Mooney
 25-Marilyn Thompson, Drake Johnson, Jennifer Nelson
 26-Heath Robinson
 27-Dale Sturgis, Jamie Tilson
 28-Judy Shield, Kaley Dahlin
 29-Debra Kassing
 30-Andrea Norris
 31-Amie Bell

** If your Birthday is not listed, please call the Church office and we will add your special day to our list!**

USHERS-10:00 a.m. Service

1st Sunday-Mark Kassing, Mike Olson, Brian Anderson
 2nd Sunday-Mark Beam, Joe Marquardt, Mike Sisson
 3rd Sunday-Brad Ludeke, Mike Sisson, Rob Schmidt, Shane Stabenow
 4th Sunday-Sandra Calvin, Sandy Dahlgren, Helen Wells
****If you would like to help usher please contact Brad Ludeke or the Church Office**

GREETERS-8:30 a.m. Service

August 7 - JoAnn Everett & Sandy Mueller
 August 14 - Mike & Marilyn Layton
 August 21 - Kenton & Marilyn Thompson
 August 28 - Linda DiGiovanni

PRAISE CAFÉ COFFEE HOUR - 8:30 a.m. Service

August 7 - Marian Sisson, Bill & Susan Perry
 August 14 - JoAnn Everett & Sandy Mueller
 August 21 - Linda DiGiovanni
 August 28 - Marilyn Burkholder

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Are you looking for an opportunity to make a difference in others lives? Come and join our cast of volunteers and discover how to use the talents God has blessed you with. It will inspire others to do the same.

THANK YOU!

God's Way's
 The Lord has a way of pointing out things. Thursday morning, May 26th, one day after my 76th, while taking my shower, clear as a bell, "Seventy Six Trombones" from Meredith Wilson's "The Music Man" song was playing in my brain!

I had to go to our library for a copy of the music.

Thanks so much for each of the cards I received.
 Pastor B



We are in need of volunteers to help out in the sound booth. Training is provided. You will pick what dates work best for you and we will do our best to schedule accordingly. This is a great opportunity to help out and makes our online stream ministry possible.



Brett and Karissa Roberg
Kinley and Alayna

Haley Kunz &
Joleigh Mooney

Through your generous giving to the scholarship fund, we sent two youth and a family of four to Camp Comeca this summer. Thank you for helping provide this spiritual growth opportunity.

FIREPIT FRIDAY

FRIENDS, FOOD, AND FELLOWSHIP
 FOR ALL YOUTH ENTERING 6-8TH GRADES

9:30-10:45 p.m.

In the church yard



September

2 Back-to-School Bash
 9 Nerf Night -
 Bring your nerf gun or borrow one of ours
 16 Homecoming Night -
 Show your Duster Pride
 23 Survivor Night
 30 "Drive-in" Movie Night -
 Dress as your favorite movie character

October

7 Friendtoberfest
 14 Challenge Accepted?
 21 Glow-in-the-Dark Night
 28 Freaky Friday Night -
 Wear your Halloween costume

Adult sponsors are needed. Would you come spend an evening building relationships with the youth?

Are you interested in sponsoring hot dogs and S'mores on a Friday night?

Contact Candance to find out how you can support this relationship building event.



Approximately 35 kids and 25 youth and adult volunteers, filled the church for the Food Truck Party VBS. The theme verse for the week was Matthew 6:11, "Give us this day our daily bread."

Our mission project for the week was collecting donations for the Phelps County Food Pantry.

THANK YOU to everyone who helped make this week possible!



Wednesday Activities Begin Sept. 7

- Preschool- 6th grades meet 4:00-5:30 p.m.
- 7-12th grades meet 7:00-8:30 p.m.

Wednesday church is a safe place where ALL kids are welcome to learn about and explore their faith by being free to ask questions and engage in activities that help them live as disciples.

First United Methodist Church BBQ Picnic

Wednesday, August 24, 2022 from 5:00 - 6:30 p.m.
Phelps County Courthouse Lawn



Menu is Brisket, Holly's Beans, Chips, Dessert,
and a bottle of water.

Free-will offering with the proceeds going to the church.

Grab your lawn chair and come join us for a great meal,
great music, and great fellowship!

UPCOMING EVENTS

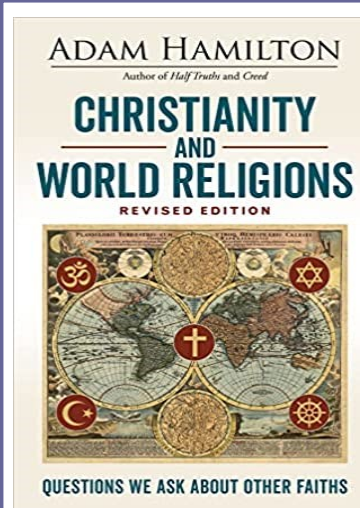


Financial Peace University will be starting soon.

It will run from Sept. 11 - Nov. 6 From 7:00 - 8:30 p.m.
If interested, please contact the church office at
308-995-8691.
Come try the first session FREE!



Emotionally Healthy Spirituality Course will be
starting the second week of September, this is a 9 wk
course. If interested please mark on your connect
cards or contact the church office at 308-995-8691.



Starting September 15th,
Adam Hamilton's Study
and comparison of
Christianity and world
Religions will take
people on a 6-week
exploration.
If interested mark your
connect card or call the
church office.

The Annual Church Conference
will be
Saturday, October 15th at
Kearney First UMC.
From 10:00 a.m. to
11:15 a.m.



Please mark your calendars and
plan to attend!

**Annual First United Methodist
Church
Time & Talents Auction
Will be on Sunday , November 13,
2022**



Start making or gather-
ing your homemade items
to put on the auction.
Some Ideas Include:
Homemade goods, art-
work, photography,
babysitting, woodwork-
ing, Husker tickets, snow
removal, yard work or
any talent you have!

**FRIENDS AND FAMILY
GATHERING**

Friends and family of ALL
AGES are invited to gather
for a meal, worship, and
devotion. This mid-week
gathering will take place the
last Wednesday of each
month beginning September
28 at 5:30 p.m.

NO weekly fellowship meals.

'Afternoon @ the Movies'
Wednesdays @ 1:00 p.m.
*Popcorn Provided.



United Methodist Women

We will resume group meetings in September.

IS NOW

United Women in Faith



MONDAY, August 22nd
Committee Meetings 6:30 p.m.
Ad Council Meeting 7:30 p.m.



HANDBELL CHOIR

Bell Choir will be starting after Labor Day. If you would like to try your hand at playing bells please contact Merry Johnson.



Checkout our New Website @ www.fumcholdrege.org

- You can access Livestream by going to the website and clicking on the [Click here to watch](#) or
- Go to Facebook and click on the link that will be provided.



Prayers to all our military members

Cole Watts, Quentin Hadan, Dalton Bryant, Cade Wiese, Gary Jacobson, Christian Jacobson

For the safety of all, including our staff, we are asking that you please make sure you check in with the office as you enter the building during office hours.

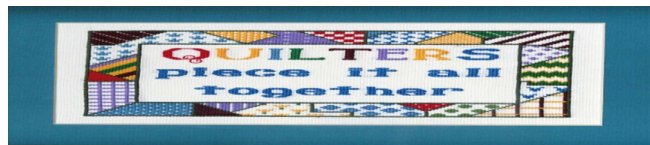
ALL VISITORS PLEASE CHECK IN AT FRONT OFFICE



CROCHET GROUP

TUESDAY'S @ 1:30 P.M.

Come join us to work on your crochet projects and enjoy some fellowship.



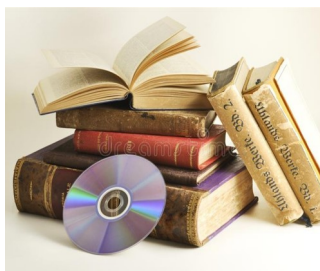
Quilters Guild
August 9th, 6:30pm-9:00pm
Fellowship Hall



Non-perishable items can be placed in the baskets located in the Fellowship Hall and the main entrance to the Sanctuary.

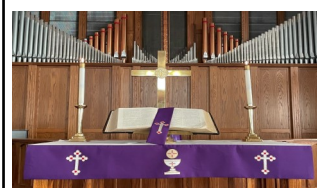
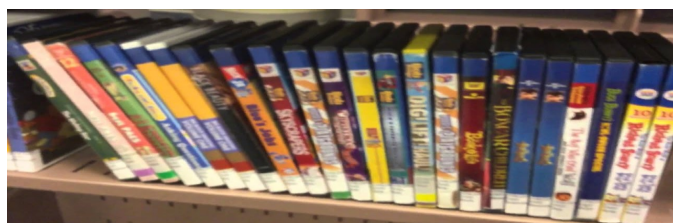
FREE RESOURCES...

On the table in the parlor, there are many Bibles, books, devotionals, study materials, cookbooks and CD's to give away. Take a book or CD for yourself or share it with a friend.



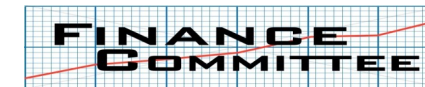
VIDEO LIBRARY

If you are looking for a family-friendly movie to watch, check out the DVD library in the parlor. If you find something that you'd like to watch, write your name, the movie title, and the date on the notebook available. When you are finished, please return the movie to Candance.



Sunday Worship Services May 29-Sept 4
8:30 a.m. Praise Café in Fellowship Hall
10:00 a.m. Worship in the Sanctuary
Hand Sanitizer is available at the door.

If you are unable to be with us in person, please join us on Sunday's @ 10:00 by either going to our website @ fumcholdrege.org or by going to Facebook and clicking on the link.



Hello from the Finance Committee! Hope everyone had a great summer! Well, it is that time of the year when the kid's go back to school, and the routines start all over again! I hope that you all had a good summer. The Finance Committee has planned some fun stuff coming up.

We are having our Annual Barbecue Picnic on the courthouse lawn on August 24, from 5:00-6:30 p.m. The meal will consist of brisket with beans and lots of good fellowship. Bring your lawn chairs or sit at our picnic tables. It is a free-will offering with all proceeds going to the church.

We have also planned the Time and Talent Auction for November 13, after the 11:00 a.m. service. We will be having a live auction and a silent auction. So, start planning on what you want to do to showcase your talents.

Our Annual Quilt Raffle will be October 10 – November 13. The quilt is donated from the Prairie Quilt Guild. Ticket prices will be one ticket for \$5.00, five tickets for \$20.00, and ten tickets for \$40.00. The drawing will end November 13 before the auction. Find anyone from the Finance Committee to have a chance to win.

Hope to see you all back to church soon. If you any questions, please feel free to contact anyone on the finance committee. This year's committee includes: Blake Johnson, Tracie Ludeke, Lexie Ludeke, Brenda Johnson, Ted Schrock, and Kathy Wilkins.

Thank you again,
Kathy Wilkins, finance committee chair

Great Plains AC Clergy Excellence budget: how mission shares support it

Innovation & Adaptation Grants, \$287,172
In a time when many denominations and religious organizations are cutting costs to conserve resources, we're moving in a different direction. Thanks to the financial generosity of conference churches, as well as continued strong financial health of the Great Plains Conference, we're committed to combining a portion of this Mission Share budget with other financial resources to invest back into our churches. Our hope is to provide significant and needed financial support to churches in the conference that are trying innovative ways to adapt to the dramatically changing realities of our world.

World Service Fund, \$2,363,328
When United Methodist congregations give their share of apportioned funds, they participate in God's work. The World Service Fund is the heart of our collective Church ministry. Through this fund individuals partner with church agencies to be in mission and ministry at home and around the world. World Service ministry truly makes a difference globally. World Service is God's people reaching out in love and compassion in the name of Christ. It represents a call and a challenge to each United Methodist. The World Service Fund makes our Christian outreach possible by providing the basic financial support to program-related general agencies, who are important to the common vision, mission, and ministry of the Church.

OFFERING REPORT

Needed Monthly: \$24,597.74
July to date: \$14,617.00
Last Week: \$3,419.00

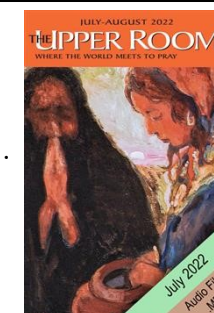
Thank you for your giving!



Please save your POP TABS!

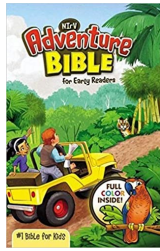
You will find collection containers by the pop machine, In Fellowship Hall, and in the sanctuary.

We still have the Upper Room available. The current one is July/August, September/October will be available the end of September. Suggested donation for the Upper Room is \$1. We have small and large print. If you would like one please stop by the Church and we can bring one out to you.



3rd Grade BIBLE PRESENTATION

The education committee will be presenting Bibles to 3rd grade students on September 11. If you have a third grader, please let Candance know at 991-5809 or fumcmiller@gmail.com.



volunteer



FUMC will be packing food packs for Backpack Blessings on August 30 at 4:00

p.m. The task will take approximately one hour.

Contact Candance or mark your Connection Card to volunteer. We need 15-20 people.

If you have a college student, please contact Candance with an updated college address and anticipated graduation date.

Confirmation is an opportunity to respond to the grace of God available to us, as acknowledged in baptism, and to promise to live as a person of faith.

Confirmation is not a destination. It is more of a way station, a place where we renew our commitment to the journey we have been traveling under the care of others.

"It is the first time that persons publicly declare their intention to live out the vows of the baptismal covenant," Taylor Burton-Edwards teaches. "It is not intended to be the last time. It's just that confirmation is the label we put on the first time."

It is also a time for a congregation to celebrate their young people's commitment to "live as a faithful disciple of Jesus Christ," and to renew their commitment to do the same.

- UMC.org

Confirmation classes for current eighth grade students will begin September 11. The class will meet Sunday nights at 5:00. If you have a student that would like to participate, contact Pastor Mark or Candance.



BLESSING OF THE BACKPACKS

Kids of all ages are invited to bring their backpacks to church on August 14 for the Blessing of the Backpacks.

BACKPACK BLESSINGS

The 2022-23 school year will be the start of the eighth year for the Backpack Blessings ministry. This program provides weekend food packs for children in Holdrege.

Many of YOU have supported Backpack Blessings with your time, your prayers and your financial gifts, without YOU this ministry would not be possible.

Here are some ways to get involved:

- **Deliver the food packs to the schools on Thursdays. Once a month.**
- **Direct food packing nights once a month, the last Tuesday of the month.**

If you, or someone you know, would like to be part of this ministry, contact Candance.

Parenting in the Pew

CHILDREN CAN WORSHIP TOO!

In the back of the sanctuary by the sound booth, you will notice a bookcase. This will serve as a resource center for parents. After interviewing some parents, it was discovered their preference is to keep their children in worship with them.

Children are an important part of the Body of Christ, and we want them to feel part of the church community. We not only want them to be present in worship, but we want them to feel part of our worship.

The resources on the shelves will be to help engage the kids in worship: children's Bibles and hymnals, dance ribbons, prayer cards, and children's bulletins.

If you see a parent in worship, please welcome them AND their children. Also, make sure they are aware of the "Parenting in the Pew" resources.

Remember in baptism, we vow to "do all in our power to support these persons in their life in Christ."



Connor Fulmer, Sam Tunnell (Minden), Jessie Tunnell (Minden), Carly Stewart, Marah Dornhoff (Minden), Joleigh Mooney



Lydia Patterson Institute Mission Trip 2022



August 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2 7:30 a.m. UMM Coffee @ Cozy 1:30 p.m. Crochet Group	3 1:00 p.m. Movie in Fellowship Hall 7:00 p.m. SPRC/ Finance Meeting	4 7:00 p.m. Discussion Group on the Future of the Church	5	6
7 Communion Sunday 8:30 a.m. Praise Café 10:00 a.m. Worship in Sanctuary Worship Livestream via Website Or Facebook	8 1:30 p.m. HMH Communion	9 7:30 a.m. UMM Coffee @ Cozy 1:30 p.m. Crochet Group 2:00 p.m. Christian Homes Com- munion 6:30 p.m. Quilters Guild-Fellowship Hall	10 1:00 p.m. Movie in Fellowship Hall	11 7:00 p.m. Discussion Group on the Future of the Church	12	13
14 Back-To-School Blessing 8:30 a.m. Praise Café 10:00 a.m. Worship in Sanctuary Worship Livestream via Website Or Facebook	15	16 7:30 a.m. UMM Coffee @ Cozy 1:30 p.m. Crochet Group	17 1:00 p.m. Movie in Fellowship Hall	18 7:00 p.m. Discussion Group on the Future of the Church	19	20
21 8:30 a.m. Praise Café 10:00 a.m. Worship in Sanctuary Worship Livestream via Website Or Facebook	22 6:30 p.m. Committee Mtgs. 7:30 p.m. Ad Council Mtg.	23 7:30 a.m. UMM Coffee @ Cozy 1:30 p.m. Crochet Group	24 1:00 p.m. Movie in Fellowship Hall 5:00 p.m. Church BBQ Picnic	25 7:00 p.m. Discussion Group on the Future of the Church	26	27
28 8:30 a.m. Praise Café 10:00 a.m. Worship in Sanctuary Worship Livestream via Website Or Facebook	29	30 7:30 a.m. UMM Coffee @ Cozy 1:30 p.m. Crochet Group	31 1:00 p.m. Movie in Fellowship Hall			