

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



## Pastor Pedalings...

*Please read this month's Pastor Pedalings to the END. Thank you!*

As most of you know throughout July and into August, I preached a series of sermons about what the scriptures say about people society currently identifies as LGBTQ because United Methodist congregations are facing some hard denominational decisions.

Instead of comparing similarities and differences between the United Methodist Church and the Global Methodist Church – two of the options – I focused on what scripture says, since John Wesley, himself, suggested treating scripture as primary but in conversation with tradition, reason, and experience.

Discussion groups also met during the series, and I received some significant feedback, and questions I tried my best to answer, even when delayed. There are original copies of handouts from those meetings plus a few additional articles that have come out since. If you're interested, stop by the office, and ask for a copy. I've added a few since the discussion meetings ended.

Still, there are some things folks should be aware of when it comes to the decision facing our church. It is not my intention right now to discuss UMC, GMC or "independent" paths. I'm going to invite others to do that in the coming months. Those events will be well advertised.

What I will address, however, are two concerns I've heard folks express. First, is the question of potential changes in the *Book of Discipline* after 2023. Second is whether a gay clergy person could be appointed to FUMC Holdrege.

First, the *Discipline* may change in 2024 or 2028 or after (since general conference meets every four years), but it also may not change. That's an unknown until everything shakes out, and if the language changes and clergy are allowed to be of the LGBTQ community and clergy are allowed to perform same-sex ceremonies, that does not mean either would apply to a pastor at FUMC Holdrege. That brings me to my second point, but before I go there, let me offer an explanation.

If I'm a farmer and half of the crops I normally plant are corn and half are beans, where would be the logic of planting half the fields with banana trees and half the fields with pineapple plants and expecting them to do well in our four-season climate when they're warm-climate plants? That's one way of considering some of what's being discussed. No bishop or DS is going to make an appointment that would intentionally harm a church or a pastor. That goes against the first of the three simple rules that were central to John Wesley: "First, do no harm."

That's why it is so important for folks to learn about the *Book of Discipline*. There was a time when I didn't give it much attention, but now I find myself looking things up nearly every week and sometimes every day.

For instance, it states in paragraph 427 that "appointments shall take into account the unique needs of a charge, the community context, and also the gifts and evidence of God's grace of a particular pastor". The profiles of the charge and the pastor are reviewed annually by the Staff Parish Relations Committee, the Pastor, the Superintendent, Cabinet, and the Bishop.

Even more to the point is 427.1b, where the *Discipline* states that the "convictional stance of the congregation: theology, prejudices, if any, and spiritual life are taken into consideration" in making appointments. In other words, if the church does not want an LGBTQ person appointed there, it will likely not occur. It would be like planting bananas and pineapples where the farmer should be growing corn and beans.

Every single one of us is concerned about this and that's why the conversation matters. If the conversation turns to proving who is "right" and who is "wrong," I think we will all be disappointed in the outcome. But if we focus on doing "what is right", I believe it will give us the best chance of success well into the future.



## 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**

**9am-3:15pm**

**Friday**

**9am-12pm**

Church Office: 995-8691





# HAPPY BIRTHDAY

## September Birthdays

- 2-Alec Wiese, Margaret Wendell
- 3-Karon Peterson, Bill Weaver, Lloyd Johnson
- 5-Corey Wiese
- 6-Joseph Marvin, Cade Wiese
- 7-Larry Marvin, Tina Wiese
- 8-Alice Richardson
- 9-Reed Schultz
- 10-Dustin Stewart
- 11-Mike Streeter
- 12-Caron Sunblade, Chelsie Sunblade
- 13-Frank Lindsay
- 14-Johanna Osborne

- 16-Larry Fellows, Connie Dahlin, Dan Nelson
- 18-Mike Peterson, Kathy Wilkins, Kamden Bell
- 19-Renae Engel, Mark Dahlgren, Rebeka Abramson, Halle Bell
- 20- Karna Bryan
- 21-Larry Hutton
- 22-Mandy Sunblade, Jett Johnson
- 24-Mike Wiser, Carol Snyder
- 26-Linda DiGiovanni, Dawn Dierking
- 27-Judy Schrock, Rhonda Thorell, James Anderson
- 29-Wanda Johnson, Andrew Anderson
- 30-Mason Marquardt

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

### USHERS- 11:00 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

- September 4 - Shirley Messersmith
- September 11 - Delta Mae Johnson
- September 18 -
- September 25 -

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

- September 4 - Mike & Marilyn Layton
- September 11 - Warren & Heather Miller
- September 18 - Kendall & Lola Moseley
- Sept. 25 - Gwen Harden & Thelma Steinshouer



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 gathering your homemade items to put on the auction.

Some Ideas Include: Homemade goods, artwork, photography, babysitting, woodworking, Husker tickets, snow removal, yard work or any talent you have!

We are also having a quilt raffle on a quilt donated by the Prairie Quilt Guild. You may buy raffle tickets October 9th to November 13th. The drawing for the quilt will be during the auction. To purchase a ticket for the raffle, just find one of the finance committee team members for a chance to win. Tickets are \$5 for one ticket, \$20 for five tickets, and \$40 for ten tickets.



# 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.**

## FRIENDS AND FAMILY GATHERING

"REMEMBER WHEN"

September 28 @ 5:30 p.m.

Old-fashioned fall gathering featuring a potluck, cake walk, home-made ice cream, worship, and devotion. This event is for ALL ages!



## 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 disci-

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

# 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."



## 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.

NO PreK - 6th grade activities Sept. 28 due to early dismissal. As a reminder, when HPS has early dismissal/no school on a Wednesday, we do not have children's activities.

7-12th grades WILL meet 7-8:30 p.m.





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.

### "Happy Hookers" CROCHET GROUP

TUESDAY'S @ 1:30 P.M.

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



### First United Methodist Church BBQ Picnic



The barbeque picnic brought in \$3,802.63. Thank you to everyone who helped supply desserts or attended the event. It was great to see everyone!



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



Quilters Guild  
September 13, 2022  
6:30pm-9:00pm  
Fellowship Hall

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. Thank you for your help!

**ALL VISITORS  
PLEASE  
CHECK IN AT  
FRONT OFFICE**



Prayers to all our military members  
Cole Watts, Quentin Hadan, Dalton Bryant, Cade Wiese, Gary Jacobson, Christian Jacobson

### UPCOMING UMF Group Meetings

Elisabeth Group: Wednesday, September 14th @ 9:30 a.m.  
Ruth Group: Wednesday, September 14th @ 9:30 a.m.  
Hannah Group: Monday, September 12th @ 5:30 p.m.  
Naomi/Rebecca Group: Thursday, September 8th @ 9:30 a.m.



MONDAY, September 26th  
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.

'Afternoon @ the Movies'  
Wednesdays @ 1:00 p.m.  
\*Popcorn Provided.  
Please bring your own beverage



How much of our jurisdictional giving goes to the Lydia Patterson Institute? Stop by or call the church office with your answer and receive a prize.

### 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.



### Please save your POP TABS!

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

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

#### South Central Jurisdictional Ministries, \$157,809

Nearly two thirds of our giving to the South Central Jurisdiction directly supports the Lydia Patterson Institute. For more than 100 years, the Lydia Patterson Institute has responded to the need for a quality education within the community of Juaréz-El Paso Border Region along the Rio Grand River. Graduation rates of students there exceed 98 percent of those entering as freshmen and more than 96 percent of the graduates continue their education at colleges across the U.S. Many students do not speak English when they arrive, but are successful bilingual students bound for colleges (including some in Kansas and Nebraska) upon graduation.



Thank you, for making the BBQ a great success! We made \$3802.63 to put toward our general giving for the year. Now we are getting ready for the Time and Talent Auction! It will be November 13th at noon with lunch. The Auction and Silent Auction follow the meal, so think about what you want to put on both.

Please remember that to remain steady in your giving every month, so the church not only meets its budget, but because when our ministry touches people's lives the way we know it can, that is both exciting and fun! As you may have noticed from the weekly offering reports, we continue to fall short of the \$5,000 needed weekly to pay for salaries and ministry-related expenses.

If ever you have any questions, please feel free to visit with one of the Finance Committee team members. Any of us would love to sit down and talk.

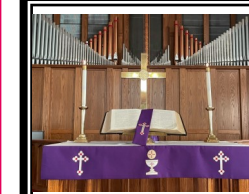
God Bless,

*The Finance Committee*



### OFFERING REPORT

Needed Monthly: \$24,597.74  
August to date: \$20,421.00  
Last Week: \$8,215.00



Sunday Worship Services:  
8:30 a.m. Praise Café in Fellowship Hall  
11:00 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 @ 11:00 on our YouTube or Facebook for Livestream

### Worship Time Change for Late Service

Starting September 11 we will switch back to 11:00 a.m.  
Early service time will stay the same at 8:30 a.m.



### COMMUNITY OUTREACH / MISSION COMMITTEE

We would like to continue our donations to the Holdrege Head Start.

Items needed are:

Copier paper	Clorox Wipes	Trash Bags
Paper towels	Napkins	Dish soap
Reynolds wrap	Ziploc baggies	Flushable wipes
Paper plates	Toilet paper	Liquid bleach
Kleenex	Glue	Glitter
Liquid hand soap	Construction paper	

If you know of children ages 3 and 4 years old who would like to attend Head Start, please have the parents call Dee at 308-995-8711 to find out about their qualifications.

Other projects that we will be working on throughout the next year will be:

- \* Forming a walking group
- \* Forming a walking group for those who want to walk their dogs.
- \* Forming a group to do yard clean-up for those who are unable.
- \* Forming a group to work on house repairs and cleanup.
- \* Finding an area that we can have a community garden.
- \* Finding an area for a dog park.
- \* Working with the Disaster Response Team in furnishing water, food, clean up supplies and assist in the cleanup.
- \* Working with South Central Area Recovery.
- \* Having a Winter Party to give new shoes to the Head Start Students.

We will need your help in making these things happen and we know we can count on you for your assistance. Our purpose is to make First United Methodist Church of Holdrege very visible in our community.

# September 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				<b>1</b> 9:30 a.m. UMF Exec.	<b>2</b> 9:30 p.m.- 10:45 p.m. Firepit Friday - Youth 6-8th	<b>3</b>
<b>4</b> Communion Sunday 8:30 a.m. Praise Café 10:00 a.m. Worship in Sanctuary Worship Livestream via YouTube/ Facebook	<b>5 Labor Day Office Closed</b>	<b>6</b> 7:30 a.m. UMM Coffee @ Cozy 1:30 p.m. "Happy Hookers" Crochet Group 7:00 p.m. Emotionally Healthy Spir- ituality	<b>7</b> 1:00 p.m. Movie in Fellowship Hall 4:00 - 5:30 p.m. PreK - 6 7:00 - 8:30 p.m. 7 - 12th	<b>8</b> 9:30 a.m. Naomi Group	<b>9</b> 9:30 p.m.- 10:45 p.m. Firepit Friday - Youth 6-8th	<b>10</b>
<b>11 Present 3rd grade Bibles</b> 8:30 a.m. Praise Café 11:00 a.m. Worship in Sanctuary Worship Livestream via YouTube/ Facebook  <b>Grandparents Day</b>	<b>12</b> 1:30 p.m. HMH Commu- nion 5:30 p.m. Hannah Group	<b>13</b> 7:30 a.m. UMM Coffee @ Cozy 1:30 p.m. "Happy Hookers" Crochet Group 2:00 p.m. Christian Homes Communion 6:30 p.m. Quilters Guild Fellowship Hall 7:00 p.m. Emotionally Healthy Spiritu- ality	<b>14</b> 9:30 a.m. Elisabeth Group 9:30 a.m. Ruth Group 1:00 p.m. Movie in Fellowship Hall 4:00 - 5:30 p.m. PreK - 6 7:00 - 8:30 p.m. 7 - 12th	<b>15</b> 9:30 a.m. Christianity & World Religions Book Study 6:30 p.m. Emotionally Healthy Relationships	<b>16</b> 9:30 p.m.- 10:45 p.m. Firepit Friday - Youth 6-8th	<b>17</b>
<b>18</b> 8:30 a.m. Praise Café 11:00 a.m. Worship in Sanctuary Worship Livestream via YouTube/ Facebook 2:00 p.m. Confirmation	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> 7:30 a.m. UMM Coffee @ Cozy 1:30 p.m. "Happy Hookers" Crochet Group 7:00 p.m. Emotionally Healthy Spir- ituality	<b>21</b> 1:00 p.m. Movie in Fellowship Hall 4:00 - 5:30 p.m. PreK - 6 7:00 - 8:30 p.m. 7 - 12th	<b>22</b> 9:30 a.m. Christianity & World Religions Book Study 6:30 p.m. Emotionally Healthy Relationships	<b>23</b> 9:30 p.m.- 10:45 p.m. Firepit Friday - Youth 6-8th	<b>24</b>
<b>25</b> 8:30 a.m. Praise Café 11:00 a.m. Worship in Sanctuary Worship Livestream via YouTube/ Facebook	<b>26</b> 6:30 p.m. Committee Mtgs. 7:30 p.m. Ad Council Mtg.	<b>27</b> 7:30 a.m. UMM Coffee @ Cozy 1:30 p.m. "Happy Hookers" Crochet Group 7:00 p.m. Emotionally Healthy Spir- ituality	<b>28</b> 1:00 p.m. Movie in Fellowship Hall 5:30 p.m. Friends & Family Gather- ing	<b>29</b> 9:30 a.m. Christianity & World Religions Book Study 6:30 p.m. Emotionally Healthy Relationships	<b>30</b> 9:30 p.m.- 10:45 p.m. Firepit Friday - Youth 6-8th	