

MAY 2022

THE SPIRE

KEARNEY FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH NEWSLETTER



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CONFIRMATION CLASS OF 2022

MAY GOD BLESS AND KEEP YOU!!

- Jacqueline Addison Caldwell
- Benjamin Michael Fries
- Andrew Dale Gibbs
- Kaden William Holt
- Cole Keith Larsen
- Lauren Eva Lydiatt
- Jackson William Slaymaker
- Connor Bruce Stewart
- Natalie Ann Zechmann

A NOTE FROM A PASTOR

FROM PASTOR MATT

"Jumping Rope"

When was the last time you jumped rope? I am pretty sure (though not totally) that I still can; however, one challenge for me is that the rope twirlers in my family are all different sizes – and all of them shorter than me. Because of the height differences, the rope rarely maintains the same tension, making it trickier to jump consistently. Perhaps we, as church – as well as American society – are similarly challenged. Let's play with this image a bit.

This month in worship, we'll celebrate two momentous events in the lives of our young people: confirmation (May 1) and graduation (May 15). These events have significantly different foci, but occasionally we have trouble distinguishing them. Confirmation is the partnered act between God, young people, and the church. Youth, having spent at least a year learning and growing in faith, publicly commit to following Jesus through this church. Yet, the most important actor in confirmation is God: God welcomes, God initiates, God invites, God offers, God cleanses, and God makes new. Our act in confirmation is acceptance of God's grace and committed partnership in God's mission. Graduation, meanwhile, is focused much more on students' personal achievements, work, and merit: they've fulfilled the requirements and are conferred a diploma.

In these two events, we see a tension of our times: grace and merit. We need the tension between them. We depend on the truth of God's amazing grace, for all "fall short of the glory of God" (Rom 3:23), and "it is by grace [we] have been saved, through faith" (Eph 2:8). And so, we hold that grace without intentional response is "cheap grace" (Dietrich Bonhoeffer), and that truly, God's grace impels us toward greater holiness of heart and life. Nevertheless, grace also demands that we avoid viewing God, salvation, or any part of life, as though we alone have earned it or deserve it – regardless of what it is. We need to hold grace and response in tension.

Over the next few months – at least in the Spire, and perhaps in other formats – I will be sharing some reflections and questions related to other points of tension in our lives. If there is a certain topic, you'd like me to address, please contact me.



For this month, here's the challenge: let's look for things, ideas, relationships, and values we hold in tension and prayerfully examine them.

Sometimes we feel like tension is a bad thing, like it will pull us apart or far off course. It very well could. Yet, perhaps that is not tension, but an anchorless tug. In jump roping, one twirler can pull the rope from the other completely, but that's not very fun for the jumper. We can only enjoy jumping when both twirlers balance their pulling and maintain that tension. Perhaps we need some tension, as between valuing both grace (as God's free gift of Holy Spirit presence, power, and sanctification) and responsibility and hard work. Perhaps learning to hold the right things in the right amount of tension is where the fun really is.

MINISTRY SNAPSHOT

CHECK OUT WHAT OUR MINISTRIES ARE DOING!

EAST LAWN FOOD PANTRY

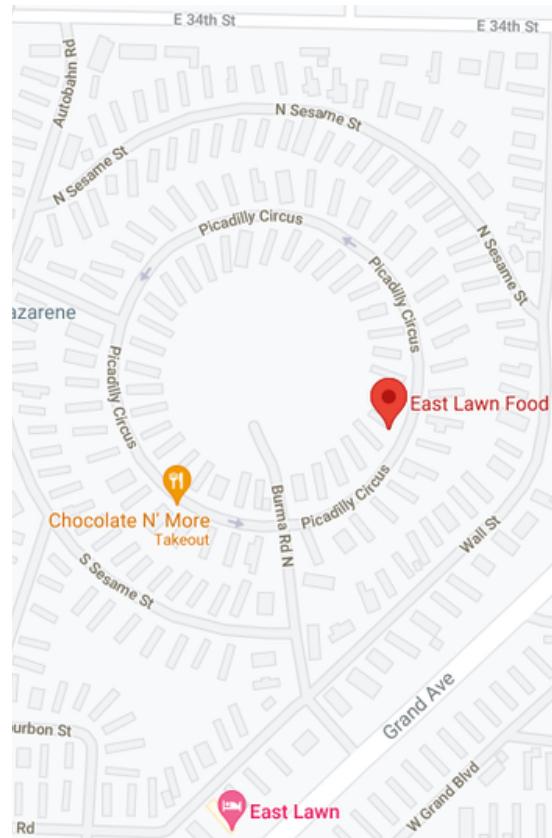
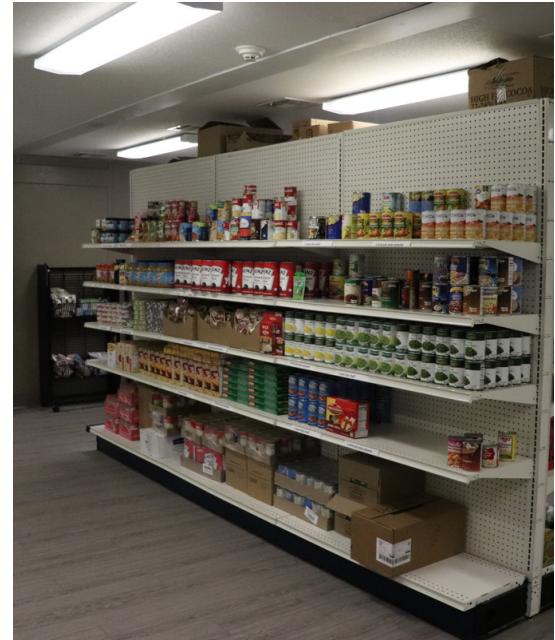
2800 Grand Ave. Trailer #342

Thank you for bringing items to the church and placing them into the grocery carts next to the office. We are always in need to food items, personal items, clothes and other items we often take for granted.

Thank You to all those volunteers who pick food items up from the grocery stores in Kearney and transport it to the trailer, to volunteers that sort the food items and place it on the shelves, to volunteers that work each day the pantry, to those that work on those days repacking items or other large packaged items into smaller packages for distribution. There are over 50 people who help in one way or another to support the pantry outreach program. That sounds like a lot of people, but if several are gone and some are only able to tackle certain jobs, it sometimes becomes hard to find people to work. So if you would like to be put on a substitute list, that would be great! If you would like to help with one of these or more areas, please contact the church office.

Number of patrons coming to the pantry seem to vary from week to week but we are still reaching some 400 families each the month which accounts for over 1000 individuals being reached. With all of the news about transportation problems and higher prices at the grocery stores, we are seeing more use of the pantry.

If you would like to help at the trailer sorting food, repacking or visiting the grocery stores, please call the church office for additional information.



MINISTRY SNAPSHOT

CHECK OUT WHAT OUR MINISTRIES ARE DOING!

CLERGY EXCELLENCE

Great news for our young adults group!

Kearney, Wellington receive first

Culture of Call Grants for 2022

The Office of Clergy Excellence announces two Culture of Call grants in the first round of grants for 2022. Kearney First UMC and Wellington First UMC will each receive \$2,000 for programs that target cultivating a Culture of Call in their congregations.

Kearney FUMC will be sponsoring a retreat for young adults to discover God's calling which they describe as to "know God, know ourselves, and fuse our talents and gifts for God. Associate Pastor Rev. Seungli You says, "This project can give young adults in Kearney First United Methodist church a foundational time for their vocational journey to find God's calling. As we started the young adult group in 2021, we have found that our young adults have one common question and concern—what should we do in the future? What kind of job do we need to have?"



EASTER OFFERING UPDATE

Thank you for your generosity with our Easter offering this year. We set a goal of \$10,000 and fell short from it with receiving \$4,080.

With the breakdown of each we gifted Collage with \$825, Compass with \$930, East Lawn with \$1,125, and Youth Ministries with \$1,200.

Your love for others shows. Thank you for loving like Jesus!!



MINISTRY SNAPSHTOS

CHECK OUT WHAT OUR MINISTRIES ARE DOING!

KEARNEY FIRST UMC CHURCH LIBRARY

Methodism and John Wesley @ the library

In May and June, United Methodists celebrate the birthday of John Wesley (June 17, 1703-March 2, 1791) founder of the Methodist movement with Heritage Sunday being on May 24, 2022 this year.

The Discipline says, "Heritage Sunday calls the church to remember the past by committing itself to the continuing call of God" (par 264.1).

Books are on display that cover general histories of the Methodist church, the Methodist Church in Nebraska, and books about John Wesley – his life, teachings, and theology. There are two DVDs on John Wesley and one on United Methodist heritage as well. Please feel welcome to visit your church library and browse the shelves.



CONFIRMATION RETREAT

Eighteen students went on the confirmation retreat to Camp Fontenelle from April 22-24. Nine confirmands, Jackie Caldwell, Ben Fries, Andrew Gibbs, Kaden Holt, Cole Larsen, Lauren Lydiatt, Jackson Slaymaker, Connor Stewart, and Natalie Zechmann, participated in the trip. Other middle and high school students were also invited to this trip for youth ministry could not have an in-person retreat in the past year due to Covid-19. Essentially, the confirmation retreat was a part of the confirmation class. They learned about holy communion and baptism, especially infant baptism and open table, the core belief in the United Methodist Church. Pastor Seungli and Lyz shared their faith journey and how they have come to know and experience God's grace and love and encouraged the youth to write their own stories with God in their faith journey. Without gracious support and prayer, we could not have the retreat. Once again, thank you for your generosity and partnership with God for the ministry. Special thanks to Gene and Tammy Tillotson, who watched over the youth over the three days.

UPCOMING NEWS & EVENTS

BIRTHDAY BUILDERS CLUB 150 YEARS & CELEBRATION

In honor of this big milestone birthday, the Trustees invite you to be part of the FIRST UMC BIRTHDAY BUILDER'S FUND. You are asked to give a gift of \$150, a dollar for each year of our church's ministry. The funds will be used by the Trustees to maintain and improve our church family's home. Each year you will be given the opportunity to donate again, and the cost will only go up by a \$1. Donations will be recognized in the Spire, unless they choose to remain anonymous.

This year KFUMC will be celebrating 150 years. We are looking for persons to use their talents in a committee to start planning for the anniversary. If this is something you would like to help out with, please call the church office at 237-3158.



Screening for Skin Cancer Sunday, May 15

We will offer screening for skin cancer between services on May 15. This only takes a short time as we will again have two Dermascans. The impact of damage from sun exposure is cumulative. That means, damage from childhood to the elderly accumulates and often becomes evident and of concern as we age. Do you have areas concern on your arms, legs, face ears or top of head? Let us know when you come for the screening. The Health & Wellness Ministry team will be there to help check you out. We will have samples of sunscreen, information on skin cancer and free samples of sunscreen. As spring and summer approach and we are outside more, protect your skin and be mindful of the risks during certain times of day.

UPCOMING NEWS & EVENTS

VBS

Morning Session 9AM-12PM

June 21-24

Evening Session 6PM-8:30PM

July 11-15

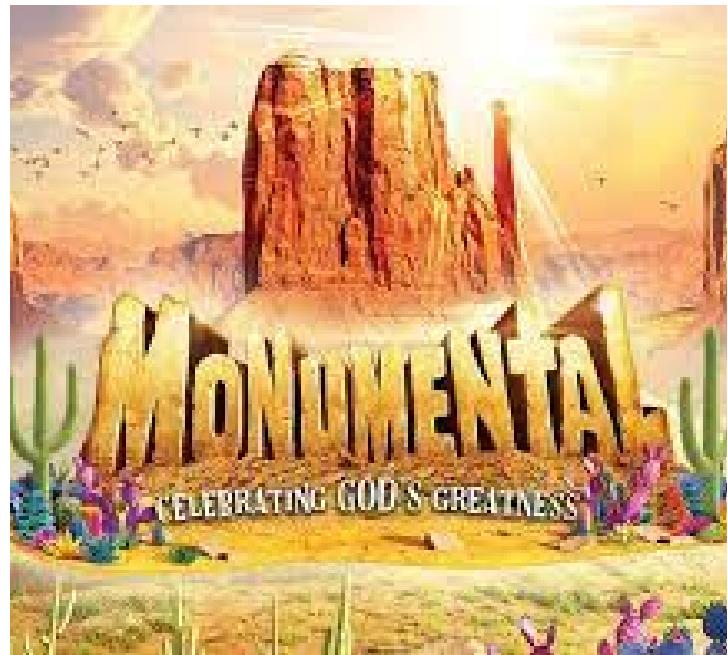
At First UMC, we LOVE VBS!!! We LOVE watching the kids' faces light up when they walk through the doors to see the church transformed for VBS! We work hard to provide an AMAZING week full of skits & worship, experiments & crafts, live Bible stories, yummy snacks, games and memorable MUSIC!!! So many lifelong relationships are made by the kids and adults alike. MONUMENTAL is this year's VBS with a fun Southwestern theme. The kids will spend the week celebrating God's greatness and learning new Bible points each day that are reinforced in every activity.

You can imagine the MONUMENTAL task it is to put on two sessions of VBS not only for the kids of our church but for our community. WE need lots of help to make this the most AMAZING experience possible for the kids, so they leave truly feeling God's love for them and take it out to share in the world.

HOW can you help?

- PRAY for our kids and volunteers
- Be a leader or helper to run one of the fun stations
- Be a crew leader to take a small group of kids to each station (Middle and High School kids are encouraged to sign up for at least one of the VBS sessions)
- Donate items listed on the VBS bulletin board (by the gym) or to the cost of station supplies
- Help with decorating and/or building and making decorations
- Help organize, serve and clean up evening session meal

*REGISTRATION will open May 1 on our church website.



UPCOMING EVENT

RETIREMENT CELEBRATION FOR SHARON HAMMAR



RETIREMENT CELEBRATION

May 15 | Following the 8:15 and 11 AM Services

Come celebrate the retirement of Sharon Hammar as she retires as the Acclamation Bell Choir Director .

A farewell reception will be held in the Fellowship Hall following the 8:15 & 11:00 AM services on May 15th.

Please join us and thank Sharon for her many years of service to First UMC!

A NOTE FROM SHARON HAMMAR

It is with much sadness that I have come to the conclusion that I must give up the directing duties for the Acclamation Bells of Kearney First United Methodist Church, effective May 15, 2022. Though spiritual/mental age is merely a number, physical age sometimes catches up with reality. I have directed this awesome group since early 2004 with some changes in personnel; however, several of the present ringers have participated for many more years than the Hammars.

Phil and I would like to continue to be a part of this group for a while longer in the ringing capacity. We look forward to fewer responsibilities such as setting up rehearsal rooms every week, scheduling, managing budget, and selecting appropriate music. We thank God for our years with the Acclamation Bells in service to the people of FUMC, and pray that the beautiful music this group will continue to produce will touch the hearts of the worshippers.

Sincerely,
Sharon L Hammar



VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

PLUG IN AND SERVE!



EAST LAWN FOOD PANTRY

The East Lawn Food Pantry ministries have a fantastic group of deeply committed ministry leaders, and we can use a few more people to serve in the following ways:

- Thursdays 8am-noon – 1 person with a pickup able to lift 50lbs to assist in food pick-up from Cash-Wa and unload/store at the pantry;
- Wednesdays/Fridays 6:30-8:30am – 1 person able to lift 50lbs to cut and repackage meat with Buss Biehl.

-Call Pete Ludowese or Buss Biehl (or the church office) to serve or with questions.

Do you want to serve at East Lawn, but can't commit to serving every week? There's room for you to serve too!

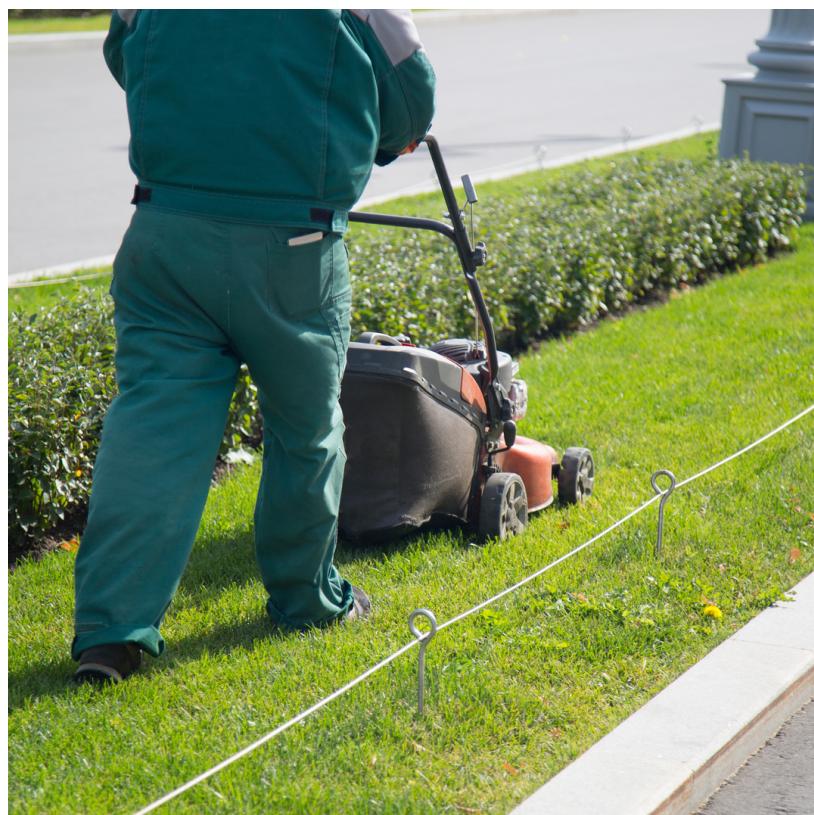
-Call Colleen Jacobson (or the church office) to get on the intermittent list.

Here are a few different things East Lawn Food Pantry ministers do:

- Food pick up from local vendors throughout the week on regular schedule;
- Tuesday & Thursday mornings – repackage and stock the pantry
- Tuesday & Thursday afternoons – run the pantry, then restock after close
- Data and paperwork related to vendor donations, ordering, and client services.

LAWN MOWING TEAMS NEEDED

The lawn mowing season is here. We are in need of volunteers to mow the church lawn. Volunteers have saved the church thousands of dollars each year in lawn mowing expense. The ideal mowing day is Thursday so the lawn looks nice for the weekend. All equipment is furnished: a riding lawn mower, push mowers and trimmers. We are looking for additional volunteers for this summer. If you are interested in joining a team, please contact Ann in the church office at 237-3158. The Trustees very much appreciate our lawn mowing teams.



SYMPATHY & THANKS

WITH LOVE FROM YOUR KEARNEY FIRST UMC FAMILY

WITH SYMPATHY

Family and friends of Cliff Sovereign who passed away April 3, 2022.

Family and friends of Y'londa Anderson who passed away April 22, 2022.

With the cost of the Kearney Hub going up, we decided to discontinue the paper subscription. If you have a family member that passes away and would like it in the Spire, please contact the church office with the information.



AMEN CORNER

*In Memory of
Rev. Maurice Holt 1907-1997*

Thank you to Buss Biehl for his years of dedication to putting up the three crosses in the church lawn through our celebration of Lent and Easter.

Note: This corner has been designated the AMEN corner for "an audible alert that something special was (is) being done,



KFUMC NEWS



BAPTISM

JAXON WAYNE PATTERSON

Jaxon Wayne Patterson, son of Jarek & Demi Patterson, was baptized on April 24, 2022. Big sister, Norah helped celebrate.

THANK YOU UNK WRESTLERS!

On Wednesday, April 27, the UNK Wrestling Team contributed their time to clean up outside and inside the church. The Seekers Sunday School Class treated them to pizza and desserts afterward.



SENIOR RECOGNITION SUNDAY

May 15 - All Three Worship Services

Please let Braden know if you have a senior or are a senior that would like to be recognized on May 15. His email is bradeng@kearneyfirstumc.org.

First United Methodist Church

4500 Linden Drive,
Kearney, NE, 68847
(Return Service Requested)

Phone: 308-237-3158

Fax: 308-237-4654

Website: www.kearneyfirstumc.org

Address Label Here



kearney

First United Methodist Church

OFFICE HOURS AND WORSHIP TIMES

Office Hours: 8 AM - 5 PM Monday - Thursday, and 8 AM - 4 PM Friday

Sunday Traditional Service: 8:15 AM and 11 AM

Sunday Modern Service: 9:30 AM

Sunday Service Livestream: www.kearneyfirstumc.org/watch-online

Radio Broadcast of 11 AM service on KGFW Radio 1340 AM and 96.1 FM

Wednesday Night Worship: 6:30 PM

STAFF MEMBERS

Rev. Cindy Karges, District Superintendent, Email: gatewayds@greatplainsumc.org

Rev. Matt Fowler, Senior Pastor, Email: mattf@kearneyfirstumc.org

Rev. Seungli You, Associate Pastor, Email: seungli@kearneyfirstumc.org

Jeanine Spangler, Children's Ministry Director, Email: jeanines@kearneyfirstumc.org

Lyz Garwood, Middle School Youth Director, Email: lyzg@kearneyfirstumc.org

Braden Garwood, High School Youth Director, Email: bradeng@kearneyfirstumc.org

Ann Patterson, Administrative Assistant, Email: annp@kearneyfirstumc.org

Brandi Walker, Administrative Assistant, Email: brandiw@kearneyfirstumc.org

Jennifer Dierberger, Comptroller, Email: jenniferd@kearneyfirstumc.org

Anne Reinhiller, Multi-Media Coordinator, Email: anner@kearneyfirstumc.org

Diann Martin, Pumpkin Patch Director, Email: ppatch@kearneyfirstumc.org

Margaret Klimek, Wedding Coordinator, and Evening Custodian, Email:
mkweddings@yahoo.com

FUMC VISION

In order to grow in Christ, to learn from Christ, and serve Christ; we will be a Christian community characterized by our Wesleyan Heritage of: Doing Good, Doing No Harm, and Staying in Love With God.

EDITOR'S NOTE

The next issue will be mailed out at the end of this month. Information for that issue should be turned into the church office by the 20th of this month. The editor reserves the right to edit for content and space. - Brandi Walker, Editor.

