

JULY 2022

THE SPIRE

KEARNEY FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH NEWSLETTER

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CELEBRATING GOD'S GREATNESS VBS 2022

July 11-15 from 6:30pm-8:30pm

Freewill Donation Dinner served in the Fellowship Hall 5:30

We need a lot of volunteers!!

We can use Station Leaders/Helpers & Crew Leaders!

Contact Jeanine Spangler to volunteer

jeanines@kearneyfirstumc.org

308-237-3158

Registration is now available online at:

www.kearneyfirstumc.org

A NOTE FROM A PASTOR

"TENSION IN THE SYSTEM: THOUGHTS TO PREPARE FOR AN ALL-CHURCH MEETING"

My Spire articles this summer have explored ways in which we experience and live with tension. The last two months, I've shared ways in which I think tension can be a good thing (as in the perfect tension of a well-swung jump rope): holding in tension God's grace and our intentional living in response to God's grace; and valuing the tension of Christ's calling to personal holiness (love God) and social holiness (love others). I'm not about to make the sweeping declaration that tension is always and everywhere a good thing; although, I do think it's more valuable and expansively true than we might think at first look.

Nevertheless, the existence of tension can sometimes jerk and jar us in at least mildly unpleasant ways. Take waterskiing for example. In my experience, once the skier gets ready in the water with the handle in hand, the boat driver slowly, gingerly, moves forward to pull the slack out of the rope. Then, the driver romps on the throttle and pulls the skier out of the water (some of us take longer to come up than others – and need a bigger motor). But if the boat starts without pulling out the slack, the rope often jerks out of the skier's hands. The same thing happens when the skier moves from outside the wake to inside. Presently, in the system of our church, at a denominational level at least, there are some jarring bits of tension. I think we should talk about these.



To speak to these points of tension, Pastor Seungli and I are hosting an informational meeting for the whole church on Sunday, July 17 at 12:30pm entitled, "So, We Hear the Church is Splitting?" We'll meet in Fellowship Hall so that you can bring your lunch if you'd like to. We'll share information about the history and future the United Methodist Church, address the reality of a new denomination (the Global Methodist Church), speak to the tensions that have led to what some have called a "split in the church," and cast vision for the future of Kearney First United Methodist Church.

Please plan to attend this important informational meeting, in which we'll continue to journey together in God's grace. For other background, see my "Thriving Faith" videos on the church Facebook page.



MINISTRY SNAPSHOTS

CHECK OUT WHAT OUR MINISTRIES ARE DOING!

EAST LAWN FOOD PANTRY

2800 Grand Ave. Trailer #342

Hot weather sounds like the normal for a fairly long time in Nebraska and the same terms could be used for the food pantry with the number of visitors being high and persistent for the year. We are sure the high prices for everything has kept many struggling with financial issues.

A big "Thank-You" goes out to the Golden Kiwanis Club for conducting a food drive for several food pantries in Kearney. We received many different types of food and household items that we do not normally receive. We are experiencing some shortages of food items that are no longer from the Food for the Heartland out of Omaha. Thankfully, Cashway Distribution has filled the void with many meat and other key food items for East Lawn. But, keep the pantry in mind and when you shop, buy one item for the pantry and if several people do that, it will help us out greatly. The main item we are short in is canned fruit. It is rather expensive as compared to other items, but still furnishes a healthy food for clients. Look for sales in the local grocery stores and help support them as they are having some supply issues as well.

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!



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. Transportation problems and higher prices at the grocery stores are the main factors.

If you would like to help at the trailer sorting food, repacking or visiting the grocery stores, please call Colleen Jacobson to schedule a work day or Pete Ludowese for other information. General information is available from the church office for phone numbers.

MINISTRY SNAPSHOTS

CHECK OUT WHAT OUR MINISTRIES ARE DOING!

JULY WORSHIP

In worship this month, we'll begin a journey through the biblical prophets that will extend through the month of August. Our Bible Year reading plan will cover Isaiah, Jeremiah, and Lamentations, and begin Ezekiel. For July, we'll let the prophets guide us to "Hope for Hard Times," as they sought to interpret the decline and eventual conquest of the southern kingdom of Judah. The following questions get at the problems they were facing: "If we're God's people, why is our nation in decline?" "If God is with us, why are these bad things happening to us?" and, "When the future looks bleak or hopeless, to what and whom can we cling?"



YOUNG ADULTS GROUP

Calling retreat to Branson, Mo
August 11 -14, 2022

Kearney First young adults will go to Branson, Mo to discern God's calling. It is a crucial time for young people, particularly college students to know how to use their gifts and talents for God's Kingdom and glory. We believe that God has specially called each and every one of us and gave us unique talents and gifts. If you are still wondering about your calling, please join and let us discern and pray together. Kearney First young adults will have intentional questions about their calling from God and have a fun time together in Branson, MO, known as "Live Entertainment Capital of the World." This retreat will be free of charge for young adults.

Prior to the retreat, we will have a meeting (July 20, 7 pm) to discuss the retreat book and further explore how God calls us in our lives. Contact the church office or Pastor Seungli for more information. Please pray for young adults and give your hearts to them through financial support.

Pastor Seungli You



MINISTRY SNAPSHOTS

CHECK OUT WHAT OUR MINISTRIES ARE DOING!



EAST LAWN FOOD PANTRY VAN PURCHASE

Pictured is the new van purchased for the East Lawn Food Pantry. This mission helps support hungry families in our community. Through God's grace and the help of many devoted volunteers we are able to continue this wonderful mission in Kearney. The purchase price of the van was \$10,500. If you would like to help offset the cost of the van for the East Lawn Food Pantry you can go online and make a payment to the East Lawn Van Fund, or you can write a check payable to the church with East Lawn Van written in the memo line.

SPLASH NIGHT
JOIN THE CHILDREN'S MINISTRY COMMITTEE
WEDNESDAY, JULY 20
6:30PM
AT KFUMC
WE WILL HAVE A WATERSLIDE, LOTS OF FUN
WATER ACTIVITIES AND FROZEN TREATS!!



MINISTRY SNAPSHOTS

CHECK OUT WHAT OUR MINISTRIES ARE DOING!

CAMP FONTANELLE UPDATE

By Lyz Garwood

Camp this year was one for the books!!! Our theme this year was What's In A Name? Asking the question of who we are to ourselves, our parents, our friends, and our teachers and discovering all the ways that God calls us God's children. We took four campers to Campolodeon! Three of the four then got to experience their first week away at Camp Fontanelle! Our camp was amazing and wacky! We had "Backwards Day", where our schedule was flipped, including ice cream on our waffles with toppings for breakfast. We wore some of our clothes backward and we even walked around backward, safely that is! We had a color war, we zip lined through the trees, spent many afternoons swimming, tie dyed our camp shirts with squirt guns! We even had a Campolodeon Carnival with 6 bounce houses and one had a slide! There was face painting, games, popcorn, and the Camp Fontanelle Express barrel train! Our week wouldn't have been complete without a slip and slime!!! Lots and lots of slime!!!

One of my favorite parts of camp this year as a Dean, was watching our amazing group of campers with different journeys in life, connect through Christ with the love and support from the staff. Every day we would talk about the highs and lows of the day and support each other through the joy and the challenges.

I saw God, throughout the week with this group. On the zip line there were campers who had never zipped before, yet there they were stepping off the scary ledge trusting everything would be okay. And it was! Even when two campers were too afraid to step off the platform, the kids cheered them on in the midst of the uncertainty and praised them for giving it a try! "Good job! We are proud of you, it's okay.", they yelled. God was surely present.

This week, a new group of campers are headed from Kearney First up to Camp Fontanelle for camp What If? I can't wait to hear about all the stories this week brings to this group and how they saw God.



VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

PLUG IN AND SERVE!



RADIO BROADCAST

Sponsors Needed

The 11:00am worship service is broadcast live every Sunday morning on KGFW Radio 1340AM and 96.1FM. Generous members of this church sponsor this broadcast each week. Cost is \$199 per Sunday. Dates available include: August 7, September 11, 18 & 25, October 9, 16 & 30, November 6, 13 & 20, and December 4, 18 & 25.

ALTAR FLOWERS

Would you like to purchase altar flowers in honor or memory of a loved one? If so, please sign up on the flower chart in the Fellowship Hall or call the church office. The cost is \$20 each and you will be billed directly from Divas.



SHOPPING CARDS COMMITTEE

The Shopping Cards Committee is looking for a group to man the booth for the third quarter. This would include the months of July, August, & September. Gift cards will not be sold on July 3rd due to the holiday. If your group would like to man the booth and raise some money, please contact the church office.

SYMPATHY & THANKS

WITH LOVE FROM YOUR KEARNEY FIRST UMC FAMILY

WITH SYMPATHY

Family and friends of Beverly Duff who passed away June 4.

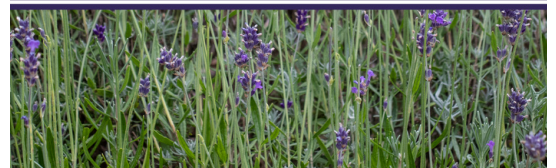
Family and friends of Dorothy McCammon who passed away June 12.

Family and friends of Vicki Richman who passed away June 16.

Family and friends of Kyle David who passed away June 29.



*with deepest
sympathy*



THANK YOU

Dear Friends,
Thank you so much for the pretty flowers that Colleen Jacobson brought to me from the church. It was so nice of you to think about me. I am doing much better.
Thank you!
Karen Chandler



AMEN CORNER

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

Thank you to the Visitation Team who helps keep our shut-ins connected to the church.

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



CAMP OPPORTUNITIES

SUMMER DAY CAMP 2022

SESSIONS MAY 30TH - AUGUST 6TH

Weekly Cost: \$220

Discount for multiple weeks

Weekly Fun Themes:

Week 1 (May 30th - June 3rd):
Offsite @ Elkhorn Hills UMC

Week 2 (June 6th - 10th):

Treasure Hunters

Week 3 (June 13th - 17th):

Crazy Carnival

Week 4 (June 20th - 24th):

Junior Mad Scientist

Week 5 (June 27th - July 1st):

Little Picassos

Week 6 (July 4th - 8th):

Holiday Hoopla

Week 7 (July 11th - 15th):

Making Waves

Week 8 (July 18th - 22nd):

Time Travelers

Week 9 (July 25th - 29th):

Wild West

Week 10 (August 1st - 5th):

Fontanelle Finale

Weekly Bible lesson Themes:

Week 1 (May 30th - June 3rd):
Offsite @ Elkhorn Hills UMC

Week 2 (June 6th - 10th):

Love

Week 3 (June 13th - 17th):

Joy

Week 4 (June 20th - 24th):

Peace

Week 5 (June 27th - July 1st):

Patience

Week 6 (July 4th - 8th):

Kindness

Week 7 (July 11th - 15th):

Goodness

Week 8 (July 18th - 22nd):

Gentleness

Week 9 (July 25th - 29th):

Faithfulness

Week 10 (August 1st - 5th):

Self-control

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 Contemporary 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

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

Seungli You, Associate Pastor, Email: seungliy@kearneyfirstumc.org

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

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

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Anne Reinhillier, 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.

