

MARCH 2022

THE SPIRE

KEARNEY FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH NEWSLETTER

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HOLY CHARACTERS

Lenten Worship Services/Events

March 1 - Shrove Tuesday – Pancake feed in the Fellowship Hall from 5:15 to 6:30pm

March 2 - Ash Wednesday – 5:30pm with organ; 7:00pm with praise band - Judges 7:1-8- Repentance

March 6 - 1st Sunday in Lent - Ruth 1:6-22 - Loyalty

March 13 - 2nd Sunday in Lent - 1 Samuel 3:1-21 - Attentiveness

March 20 - 3rd Sunday in Lent - 1 Samuel 16:1-13 - Character

March 27 - 4th Sunday in Lent - 1 Kings 3:1-15 - Wisdom

April 3 - 5th Sunday in Lent - 1 Kings 19:1-18 - Hope

April 10 - 6th Sunday in Lent - 2 Kings 23:1-14 – Obedience
Lunch and Easter Egg Hunt following 11:00am Service

April 14 - Maundy Thursday – 7:00pm – Highs and Lows of Holy Week

April 15 - Good Friday – 7:00pm – It Is Finished

April 17 - Easter Sunday – Mark 16:1-8 - Resurrection

8:00am Traditional Worship Service

9:30am Modern Worship Service

11:00am Traditional Worship Service

A NOTE FROM A PASTOR

FROM PASTOR MATT

Who am I? Who are we as church? How are we called to be, together? These are especially great Lenten questions, for in the season of Lent, the church always seeks to plumb the depths of who and whose we are, our need for and way of salvation, and the pathways through which we may best say, "We are being saved by God's grace."

Rather than simply supply my answers to the questions above, I invite us to journey together through the season of Lent in pondering, praying, and talking about them together. Consider taking them up as a prayer or journaling practice, or take them to your coffee or meal gatherings. You're sure to be the life of the party. Seriously, I mean it. Lent is a season to wrestle with the big questions of personal identity, relationships, habits, practices, and purpose: essentially, the question may be, "How can what I do more perfectly reflect who God calls me to be?"

During worship each week, we'll be exploring these sorts of questions as we journey through the books of Ruth through 2 Kings in a series called, "Heroic Character(s)." We'll consider Ruth, Samuel, David, Solomon, Elijah, and Josiah – on loyalty, attentiveness, character, wisdom, hope, and faithfulness. But as we read through these books, and ponder these people, the real focus is on how God cultivates holy character for the sake of God's saving mission in and for the world. That's the thing to be looking for as you're reading. And, this is a great season to pull together a few friends or neighbors to read and ponder together.

When I think about cultivating holy character and our lives together as church, the work of theologian Stanley Hauerwas frequently comes to my mind. In *Resident Aliens*, he writes, "We [the church] serve the world by showing it something that it is not, namely, a place where God is forming a family out of strangers" (83). Elsewhere, Hauerwas asserts, "For the Christian seeks neither autonomy nor independence, but rather to be faithful to the way that manifests the conviction that we belong to another. Thus, Christians learn to describe their lives as a gift rather than an achievement" (Hauerwas Reader, 224).

Therein, Hauerwas articulates part of the beautiful calling we share together in Christ through our baptism by the power of the Holy Spirit. We are a special sort of people, a family, a unique gift to the world – or, at least that's how God intends us to be – should we take up the practices necessary through which God forms us with holy character. May it be so with us, today.



"The most creative social strategy we have to offer is the church. Here we show the world a manner of life the world can never achieve through social coercion or governmental action. We serve the world by showing it something that it is not, namely, a place where God is forming a family out of strangers." ~ Stanley Hauerwas (Resident Aliens?)

https://www.azquotes.com/author/17967-Stanley_Hauerwas

"For the Christian seeks neither autonomy nor independence, but rather to be faithful to the way that manifests the conviction that we belong to another. Thus Christians learn to describe their lives as a gift rather than an achievement." Hauerwas Reader, 224?

MINISTRY SNAPSHOTS

CHECK OUT WHAT OUR MINISTRIES ARE DOING!

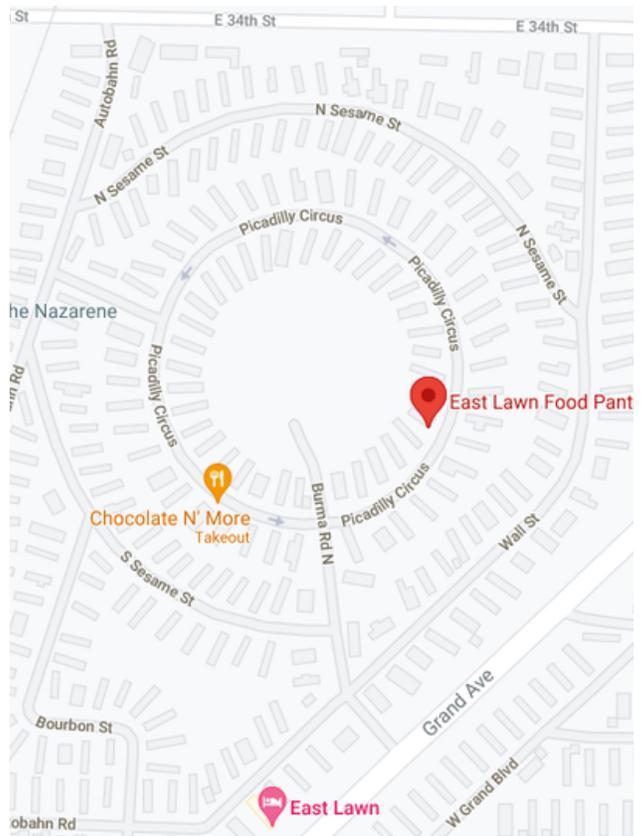
EAST LAWN FOOD PANTRY

2800 Grand Ave. Trailer #342

Thanks to all who donated groceries during “Heart for the Hungry” month of February! This was an awesome project by the youth and we were able to get many items not available from the food bank at Omaha. This looks like a lot of food, and it is, but with the number of families coming to the food pantry, this will last about a month and it will be used up. So, as you shop during this year, check on specials at the grocery stores and pick a few items for the pantry. Everything helps, even things like toothpaste, Kleenex, dish soap, laundry detergent, etc.

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, which would also be great! If you would like to help with one of these or more areas, please contact Colleen at the number listed below.

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 Colleen Jacobson, 308-627-4472 to schedule a work day or Pete Ludowese, 308-293-0100 for other information.



MINISTRY SNAPSHOTS

CHECK OUT WHAT OUR MINISTRIES ARE DOING!

WEDNESDAY NIGHT MEAL

Every Wednesday from 5:15-6:30 PM in the Fellowship Hall

Our Wednesday night meals are in full swing! These meals serve multiple purposes.

First, these meals are fundraising opportunities for the groups sponsoring the meal. The church will provide \$100 toward covering the cost of the meal (main dish, salad/veggie, and dessert). The meal is a free-will donation and all proceeds go to the meal provider.

Second, these meals provide physical nourishment to our Wednesday night youth and participants of the Wednesday night service. By providing for their physical need, they can more freely dive into their spiritual meals.

Finally, these meals provide a place of community and fellowship. Come get to know your church family and share a meal together!

To sponsor a meal, contact the church office!
March 2nd - No meal being served

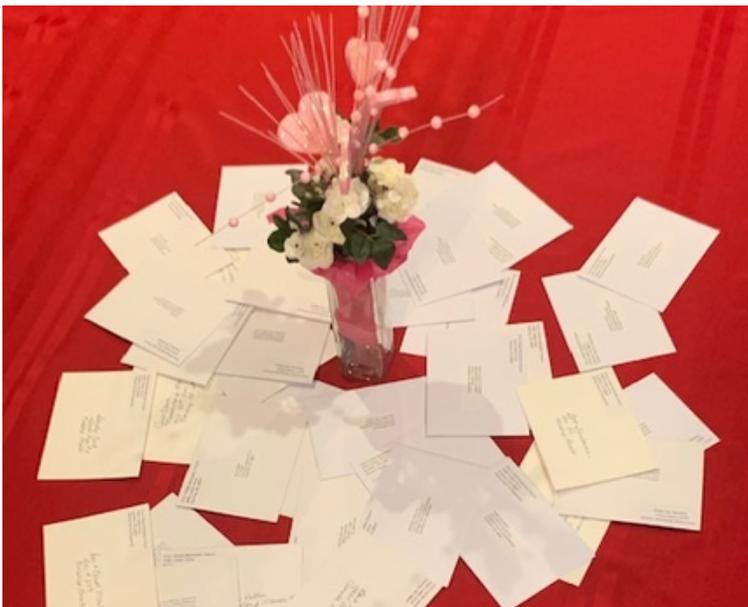
March 9th - Seekers SS Class serving meat loaf, cheesy potatoes, rolls, & bars

March 16th- Meal provider needed

March 23rd- Friendship SS Class serving

March 30th - Meal provider needed

Other dates available include: April 6, 13, 20 & 27



VALENTINES PROJECT

UMW sent out Valentines to our shut-ins again this year. Thank you UMW for making Valentine's Day special for our shut-ins!

MINISTRY SNAPSHOTS

CHECK OUT WHAT OUR MINISTRIES ARE DOING!

KEARNEY FIRST UMC CHURCH LIBRARY

Ash Wednesday is March 2nd and the church library will observe the start of Lent by giving you a selection of books to read for the Easter season.

These are some of our adult section titles for Lent....

- Uncovering the love of Jesus: a Lent devotional 242.34 Ci
- The promise of Lent devotional: a 40-day journey toward the miracle of Easter 242.34 Ti
- From the grave: a 40-day Lent devotional 242.34 To
- The good of giving up: discovering the freedom of Lent 263.92 Da

We also have many Easter books for children on display. Books can be checked out of the library for one month and DVDs can be checked out for one week. We have books and DVDs for all ages.

Please visit us and you're sure to find something that interests you!

A recent wonderful new addition to our children's section is a picture book written by our very own church member, Robin Bennett. *Go Be the Light!* is the perfect book to help children—and adults as well—learn the importance of sharing their light with the world. After the story, it prompts readers to reflect on their blessings and make plans for spreading kindness. We hope you find many chances to *Go Be the Light* this Easter season!



MILITARY CARE PACKAGES

"Just wanted to let you all know I have completed my military project! Thanks to so many wonderful members of our church. We sent eleven boxes to military personnel! Makes my heart smile to think of them knowing we appreciate their service."

-Connie Ourada
Random Acts of Kindness

MINISTRY SNAPSHOTS

CHECK OUT WHAT OUR MINISTRIES ARE DOING!

YOUTH MINISTRIES

The middle and high school youth have been cultivating the connections between personal holiness and social holiness recently. Each Sunday at 11am, they are gathering for faith-filled fellowship. Many weeks, they grow in their practices of worship and worship leading. Most recently, they've been serving the East Lawn Ministries together by assisting Nathan Talbert in his Sunday food pickup route.

"I like doing it because of the joy you see on people's faces after all the work that the others and I have done to help all the amazing people in this community. Also, to Braden who asked me and Hayden to help and when I looked at all the smiles on their faces after, it made my heart light up."

- Makinley Callen

"It's a feel-good moment knowing what we are doing benefits someone else."

-Nate Talbert



SCHOOL'S OUT FUN DAYS

When the kids are blessed with two unexpected days out of school, the Holy Spirit says...invite them to church! So, on the mornings of February 14th & 15th, we hosted 42 Kindergarten-High School aged kids for our first ever School's Out Fun Days! What an amazing time we had singing new songs, playing gaga ball, making slime, eating yummy snacks and so much more! It was awesome to see all the different ages of kids interacting together in all the games and activities. We pray this time of fun and fellowship blessed all the kids and was truly a help to the parents and caregivers. We as leaders were overjoyed with this experience. We look forward to future events and opportunities for the Student Ministries to come together in our mission to love God, love our neighbors and make disciples of Christ.

UPCOMING NEWS & EVENTS



CAFE CHOCOLAT

***Saturday March 19, 2022 | 9 AM - 4:30 PM |
Fellowship Hall***

Join us at the Café Chocolat Women's Retreat! This one-day women's event will feature a relaxing chocolate-theme that will be interwoven through worship, Bible study, laughter, and time for quiet reflection on God's extravagant grace. We are suggesting a \$10 registration to help cover the cost of your participant guide, supplies for each session, and lunch. However, don't let this cost deter you, as we want you to come and enjoy the day regardless of ability to contribute toward this amount. If you have questions or would like to help with the retreat, contact Jeanine Spangler and Lyz Garwood at the church office.

EASTER EGG HUNT

***Sunday, April 10 - following the
11:00AM service - lunch, Easter
Egg Hunt, face painting, photo
area***

We are requesting donations of new unopened Easter candy to fill the eggs. If you would like to donate, please bring candy to the church office or the Gathering Area. Thank you!



UPCOMING NEWS & EVENTS

345	\$9,235	1.63	1.78	2.26	16.0	12.6	2.49	2.39	3.08	12.0	9.3
190	\$691	0.26	(0.04)	0.40	--	12.6	--	2.15	0.52	40.0	9.6
191	\$2,934	0.40	0.49	0.96	38.0	18.9	--	1.23	23.2	15.0	
614	\$2,553	--	0.01	0.12	NM	41.5	--	--	59.4	23.2	
458	\$1,848	(0.06)	0.00	0.20	NM	20.9	--	--	14.2	11.9	
111	\$627	0.94	0.36	0.66	15.8	8.6	--	--	--	5.6	
70	\$5,686	0.43	3.36	13.97	24.0	5.8	--	--	--	--	
144	\$6,250	1.21	2.77	6.33	15.7	6.5	--	--	--	--	
269	\$7,500	3.90	3.51	3.55	7.9	7.7	--	--	--	--	
163	\$10,634	1.45	2.71	7.91	21.8	7.7	--	--	--	--	
196	\$2,998	--	1.28	2.37	14.4	--	--	--	--	--	
150	\$13,011	2.18	8.80	13.42	10.5	--	--	--	--	--	
65	\$4,561	1.15	3.42	6.84	15.9	--	--	--	--	--	
212	\$2,008	--	1.00	2.44	11.4	--	--	--	--	--	
77	\$3,481	(0.40)	1.07	6.68	42.2	--	--	--	--	--	
272	\$14,495	1.58	2.93	6.27	16.3	--	--	--	--	--	
1958	\$2,842	0.66	1.53	1.75	17.2	--	--	--	--	--	
342	\$1,454	--	0.40	0.76	--	--	--	--	--	--	
45	\$2,307	0.88	1.12	6.16	--	--	--	--	--	--	
62	\$704	--	1.01	2.15	--	--	--	--	--	--	
86	\$351	--	1.21	2.06	--	--	--	--	--	--	
153	\$1,274	(0.23)	0.03	0.98	--	--	--	--	--	--	
26	\$831	(3.29)	(2.20)	7.26	--	--	--	--	--	--	
33	\$222	(1.46)	(0.67)	0.98	--	--	--	--	--	--	
187	\$1,363	--	0.28	0.13	--	--	--	--	--	--	
133	\$1,672	(0.98)	(0.25)	0.45	--	--	--	--	--	--	
157	\$1,264	0.29	0.46	0.68	--	--	--	--	--	--	
168	\$585	--	0.62	1.11	9.0	--	--	--	--	--	
37	\$1,472	3.78	2.93	6.47	13.7	6.2	4.39	--	--	5.2	
65	\$2,033	1.26	1.74	2.53	18.0	12.4	2.13	2.78	--	7.6	
52	\$1,193	0.86	2.03	2.29	11.4	10.1	2.34	2.66	--	7.0	
					14.4	9.5				9.7	6.6

GIVING STATEMENTS

The Finance Committee made the decision to go from quarterly statements to semi-annual statements. They will now be going out in January and July. If you need one at anytime don't hesitate to call the church office and Jennifer can get one for you.

RON BROWN IS COMING TO TOWN

Yes!! Coach Ron Brown is coming to Kearney!! He's bringing his skills as a football coach as well as the message of Jesus Christ. These clinics have been very popular across Nebraska. This is a FREE community event and open to boys and girls in Grades 3-8. We know from research, if you bring a Father to Christ, the children are more likely to follow. Below are further details.

*Sunday, March 27, 4-7pm (doors open at 3:30)
A light snack will be offered followed by the clinics and then a Keynote from Coach Brown.
Location: Kearney Family YMCA (additional parking will be available at the 1st Presbyterian Church and also eFree Church.
Football Clinic for boys in Grades 3-8 with Coach Brown and assisted by UNK Football players
Volleyball Clinic for girls in Grades 3-8 with UNK Volleyball players
A parent/guardian is requested to attend with the youth.
Registration is encouraged, but not required. Register at the YMCA Website. A parent/guardian is requested to be present and a release must be signed for each child.*

The Health & Wellness Ministry has initiated this community event and we are grateful for the support of our church family, other Kearney churches and organizations and Kingdom Sports and the Kearney YMCA. Even if you don't have a child in the age groups, this is something you don't want to miss and all are welcome to attend (especially Coach Brown's Keynote)!!



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.

YOUNG ADULTS MINISTRY

**Growing Together in your 20's and 30's
Bible Small Group (Wed chapel at
7pm)**

EVERY WEEK, WE STUDY THE BIBLE AND SHARE OUR SPIRITUAL JOURNEY. CURRENTLY, WE ARE DOING A PROJECT, CALLED THE BIBLE YEAR. WE ARE READING THE BIBLE FROM GENESIS TO REVELATION. WE SEE HOW THE BIBLE TELLS GOD'S TRUTH IN OUR LIVES. ALSO, WE ARE SEEKING TO BE A LOVING COMMUNITY WHERE WE PRAY AND WATCH OVER ONE ANOTHER IN LOVE.

ONCE A MONTH OR TWICE A MONTH, WE GATHER FOR SOCIAL GATHERINGS SUCH AS BOARD GAME NIGHT, LASER TAG, DISC GOLF, BOWLING, AND KAYAKING. IF YOU WANT TO MAKE MORE CONNECTIONS WITH YOUNG PEOPLE IN KEARNEY, WE ARE HERE FOR YOU!



UPCOMING NEWS & EVENTS



Supply Drive for Help Care Clinic

FUMC has been a great supporter of our local Help Care Clinic. As you may know, the clinic serves persons with medical needs who live at the poverty level. The majority of the staff at the clinic are volunteers (some from our church) and the clinic operates on a "shoestring" budget. One of the clinic's needs are over-the-counter medications for their patients. At this time of year, we all experience the common cold and/or flu. Think about your purchases of medications at this time of year. Those in poverty are unable to afford these same meds. Your Health & Wellness Ministry will be having a "Supply Drive" during the months of February and March. Check out our display in the Narthex and pick up a list of needed items. As you purchase your "over-the-counter" medication - purchase some extra for those in need.

HY-VEE RED BAG PROGRAM

For the month of March 2022, East Lawn Food Pantry will receive a \$1 donation from each purchase of the \$2.50 reusable red "My Heart" Bag at the Hy-Vee store located at Hy-Vee 5212 3rd Avenue, Kearney NE.

We're participating in the

HY-VEE REUSABLE BAG PROGRAM

When you buy the \$2.50 red My Heart Reusable Bag this month, we will receive a \$1 donation.



HyVee.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

PLUG IN AND SERVE!

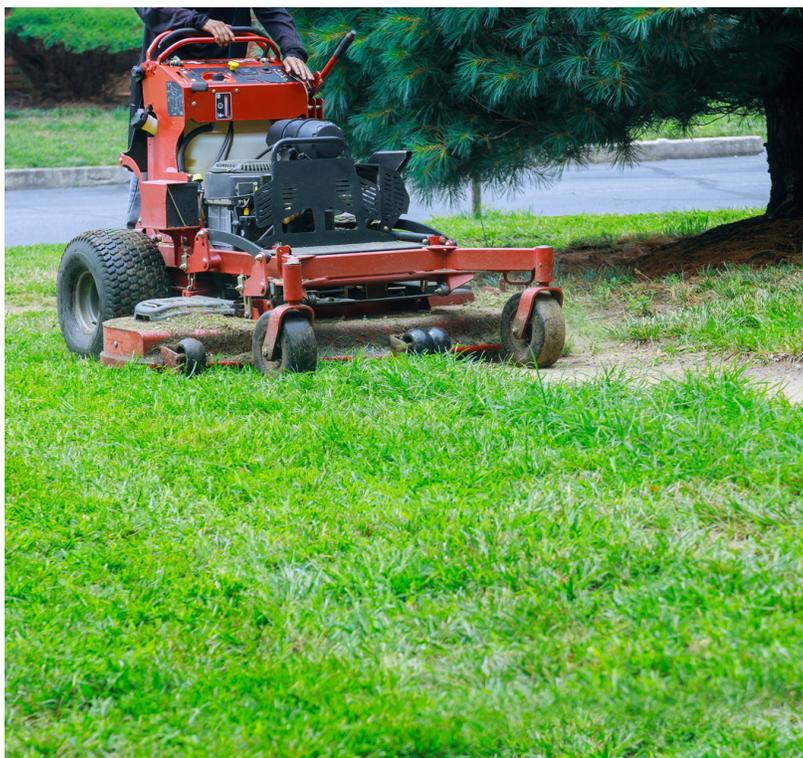


Recent Blood Drive

Our February Blood Drive was a success – we made GOAL!! My thanks to our members who were able to donate! Each will receive a \$10 Amazon gift card by email. It's true – what you are hearing about a major blood crisis!! Supplies are critically low. Some of our members have donated at a time that is not one of our drives. For you, we say thank you, too!! It's not WHEN you give, but IF you give that is important. Save the date for our next drive: Friday, June 17, 12noon-6pm at the local Red Cross Office.

LAWN MOWING TEAMS NEEDED

The lawn mowing season will be here soon. 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. Each crew mows about four times a season. 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 Linda Gillming who passed away February 9.

Family and Friends of Dana Rodehorst who passed away February 21.

Wendell Muller and Gordon & Bev Muller on the death of their sister, Marilyn Anderbery of Axtell, who passed away February 23rd.

Family and Friends of Elosie Taylor who passed away February 26.

Family and Friends of Ron Snart who passed away February 26.

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.



WITH THANKS

Dear Pass It On Ministries & Kearney First UMC,
We wish to thank the women that served, and the ones that made salads & desserts for the lunch after our mother's funeral. We so much appreciate their time and service to our family and the church.

The family of Loris Peterson



AMEN CORNER

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

Thank you to the 2021 Radio Broadcast Sponsors: Donna & Rolland Lindgren, Charleen Frerichs, Phyllis Kendle, Barb Naber, Frank Sherman, Jerry & Genny Brandorff, Carol Duple, Dan Jeffryes, Arlene Dillon, Lynn & Ann DeLaet, Nevabelle Howe, Myron Andersen & Margo Garrand, Doris Whitacre, Kay Keifer, Connie Love, Karen Garrelts, Brandy Brodersen, Virginia Britton, Bob & Eve Green, Ethel Glenn, Dottie Bowman, Rich & Judy Spellman, Lance & Kristy Potthoff, Bob & Artie Hobbs, Tom Lindau, Liz Gillaspay, Maxine Brass, Arlyn & Pam Hinrichs, Dwaine & Bev Johnson, Kent Hubbert, Jeff Knapp, Cheryl Hough, Sharron Altmaier, The Harris Family, and Rich & Phyllis Fusby.

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



CAMP FONTANELLE OPPORTUNITIES

Dear Parents and Campers,

I can't believe Summer is right around the corner. Tis almost the season for SUMMER CAMP! We would like to invite you and or your kids to join us for a week of awesomeness at Camp Fontanelle.

The 2022 theme for camp is "What's in A Name". This summer, Camp Fontanelle will help campers understand what is in a name. They will learn that a name may be a reminder of the potential that a person has, like when Simon became Peter. Our campers will discover how our lives changed when Jacob was given the name Israel by God and in the Book of Ruth, they will learn about Naomi and all that she learned when she claimed who she was.

Summer camp gives each person the chance to define who they are and who they want to be; it is a chance to discover new things and learn to hold tight to those things which are important. It's an invitation to walk with campers through their faith journey, to meet them where they are with their faith, and to empower them with God's love that we can keep walking on this journey together. Who knows...at camp you might see some old friends and you will definitely get to make new ones as well!!

For an opportunity to learn more about Camp Fontanelle, please join us Sunday April 24 for Camp Sunday! We will celebrate camping ministries during worship at all three services. AND staff from Camp Fontanelle will be at the church available to answer all your questions!

We will be leading two of the camps this summer at Camp Fontanelle. Transportation will be provided for the two camps below.

- Lyz Garwood, Dean for Campolodeon (Let's get wild and wacky) June 13-17 for grades 3rd-8th
- Braden Garwood, Dean for Camp What If? (Imagine the possibilities) June 26-30 for grades 7th-12th

Visit the website for all the info on Camp Fontanelle and to register for camp.

<https://www.campfontanelle.com>

Lyz Garwood
Youth Ministries
Coordinator

Jeanine Spangler
Director of Children's
Ministries

Braden Garwood
Youth Ministries
Coordinator

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

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Aidan Blankenship, Building & Grounds Coordinator, Email: aidanb@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.

