



# SPIRE

First United Methodist Church



## Trunk or Treat 2021

October 2021



Wednesday, October 27th

5:30 to 7:00pm

**We need your support in making this popular event successful!**

**Sponsor a trunk.** We need people to decorate their cars and be a part of the festivities that night. Please call Jeanine in the church office to reserve your spot, 237-3158.

**Donate items.** Small toys, pencils or candy are appreciated in case our "trunk providers" run low on goodies. Assistance in providing goodies for the 500+ that will stop at each car is appreciated.

**Come!!** Bring your family, invite your neighbors and help show our church family and the community how Kearney First celebrates our youth in a Christian atmosphere.

### FUMC Mission

Love God.  
Love Each Other.  
Make Disciples of Christ.

### 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.

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

Brandi Walker,  
Editor



“What’s your vision for our church?” asked someone at one of our gatherings this summer.

These were introductory gatherings through which Pastor Seungli and I were doing congregational archaeology; therefore, I didn’t, and perhaps still don’t, have a crystal-clear vision for Kearney First UMC. Nevertheless, I do have a fairly clear vision of who we are called to be as a particularly United Methodist congregation. Using a turn of phrase modeled after theologian Stanley Hauerwas, the church does not *have* a mission – the church *is* a mission. We are God’s mission in and for the world, lived out through individual and communal practices, in order to participate in growing God’s kingdom in our midst.

On October 10, I will begin a five-week preaching series called “Essential Practices of Faith,” which will spread out into November. In it, we’ll explore who we are called to be as individuals and as a church. In each baptism and confirmation service, we promise God and each other to participate in the mission of Christ within this church by our prayers, presence, gifts, service, and witness. For this series, I am re-wording them, building upon Adam Hamilton’s book, *The Walk*:

- 1) Talking to God through worship and prayer;
- 2) Listening to God through scripture reading;
- 3) Partnering with God through acts of kindness and service;
- 4) Growing like God through acts of generosity;

- 5) Sharing Christ with others through invitation.

Each week, I’ll explore concrete ways for us to grow in our faith as individuals, and center ourselves on collective practices that shape our identity as a church. As United Methodists, we believe these practices are essential for faithfully following Jesus in God’s mission in and for the world. They are our *method* of experiencing God’s grace.

Peace, Matt

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The library has received in several new books. They are on the new book table waiting for you!

They include adult fiction books by Kingsbury, Austin and Fabre. There are several non-fiction books like “Words of Life: Jesus and the Promise of the Ten Commandments Today”, “The Caregiver’s Companion” and “Praying for America”. We received in a few children’s books and my favorite is “The Rabbit Listened”. It is worded for children but the message is for everyone. Middle School: Master of Disaster by James Patterson is also one of our new titles.

The Halloween books and DVDs are on display in the children’s section.

The Thanksgiving books will be put out towards the end of October.

As the weather gets cooler and the desire to cuddle up under a blanket with a good book gets stronger, don’t forget your church library has a lot to offer!!!



**East Lawn Food Pantry**

One of our faithful volunteers at the food pantry has moved to Lincoln to be close to her sister and we are going to miss her as she came every day to the pantry to help sort, package and stock food items. She also was there to meet patrons and help them with selecting items. This great helper is Donna Roeder. We will miss you Donna!

Our frontage into the trailer is now concrete! That is great for ease of entry into the trailer, provides some close parking for volunteers and will help tremendously in the winter for snow removal.

Thanks to those who are donating items for the pantry. We can always use canned fruit, flour, sugar, cereal, canned soup, crackers, pork-n-beans and other canned items. Toothpaste, tooth brushes and other personal care items are always welcome. Please leave in the grocery next to the church office.

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, and to those cleaning the pantry area. 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 to 450 families each the month which accounts for some 1300

individuals being reached. This is a wonderful outreach for the church.

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. General information is available from the church office.



**With Sympathy:**

Alice Krewson on the death of her brother-in-law, Jimmie McCully of Republican City, NE who passed away Sept. 13th.

Family & Friends of Rita Coakley who passed away September 19th.



**With Thanks:**

Dear Sharron Altmaier and Kearney First UMC, Thank you for the prayer shawls for the Central Nebraska LOSS Team. Our team is a local outreach to suicide survivors.

We outreach to families who are experiencing a very painful time in their lives and the shawls will be a wonderful comfort to them. God bless you for your devotion and care for the community.

Kind regards,  
The LOSS Team Kearney

Pass It on Ministries and Kearney First UMC, Thank you for serving the cake and coffee after Jack's funeral. It was so much appreciated.  
The Family of Jack Robson

Dear Bread of Life and Pastors Fowler & You, Thank you for the wonderful zucchini bread, clip, magnet & information about Kearney FUMC. We enjoyed the church service and sermon Sunday, September 12<sup>th</sup> and were pleasantly surprised by the knock on our door to deliver the welcome package. My husband & I have faced some adversity the past few weeks and your generosity could not have come at a better time. Thank you for welcoming us into your church home.  
Rachel & Chuck Hoffman.

**Congratulations to:**

Annie Jackson & Jessie Aragon who were married here on August 28, 2021.



We are officially underway with an exciting year of Kingdom Kids and Sunday School, **however** we still need a few more teachers and helpers!! Not having enough teachers to lead each class, we have had to combine age groups.

You can do something we as staff members cannot do. You can demonstrate the ministry of all believers, to which we are called in our baptism, growing God's kingdom through the church. Your ministry inspires the faith and ministry of others, including the children of the church.

Please prayerfully consider your service roll in the Children's Ministry of our church. When we join together loving our God and loving each other, we are making disciples of Jesus.

**Sunday Morning Volunteers Needed**

**9:30am:**

**Kindergarten/1<sup>st</sup> Grade**-2 teachers & 2 helpers

**10:30am:**

**Children's Bell Choir**-2 leaders, helpers  
**Cherub Choir**-1 leader & 1 helper

**11:00am:**

**Preschool**-2 teachers & 2 helpers  
**2<sup>nd</sup>/3<sup>rd</sup> Grade**-1 teachers & 1 helper

**Kingdom Kids Volunteers Needed (Wednesdays 6:30pm-8:00pm)**

**Preschool**-1 Teacher and 1 Helper  
**Kindergarten/1<sup>st</sup> Grade**-1 Teacher and 1 Helper  
**4<sup>th</sup>/5<sup>th</sup> Grade**-1 Teachers and 2 Helpers  
**Open Gym Supervisors** from 6:00pm-6:30pm  
AND/OR 8:00-8:30pm

Contact Jeanine Spangler at the church office 237-3158 or email [jeanines@kearneyfirstumc.org](mailto:jeanines@kearneyfirstumc.org) with questions or to serve.



**Rowan Russell Webb**, son of Thane & Amy Webb, was baptized on July 26, 2021. Big brothers Hayden and Grayson helped celebrate.



## MyLink

Have you ever wondered where to go to find: Hot Line and emergency numbers, adoption, back to school resources, parenting resources and family support? These and other resources are available FREE and a one-stop resource people in need. It's available on **MyLink**. Check out one of the church's bulletin boards for a card that has information on downloading the app on Google Play or the App Store, depending on your device. This effort is a collaboration of Buffalo County Community Partners, UNK and Don't Panic Labs. The Health & Wellness Ministry hopes you find this app helpful in your daily life.



## Blood Drive – October 29<sup>th</sup>

Our next Blood Drive is coming up on Friday, October 29<sup>th</sup>, 12noon-6pm. It will again be held at our local Red Cross Office, 520 West 48<sup>th</sup> Street. You may register on-line ([www.redcrossblood.org](http://www.redcrossblood.org)), call Kathy Gosch at 402-659-1707 or 308-2377682 or the church office at 308-237-3158. Registration will also be available in the Narthex between services October 10, 17 & 24<sup>th</sup>. Our First United Methodist Church sponsors a blood drive three times per year. Join us in “giving the gift of life”!! If you have questions about your eligibility, check out the Red Cross website or contact Kathy Gosch.



Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,  
For more than half a century United Campus Ministry has been making a difference in the lives of students at University of Nebraska Kearney. Would you prayerfully consider becoming a part of this ministry? On behalf of the UCM Board of Directors I invite all members of our supporting churches to consider joining the Board, which meets monthly at the Campus Ministry House in Kearney. Christians with experience in many fields, including finance and accounting, administration, small business, advertising, design, etc. would enrich our Board and make a valuable contribution to our work. No matter your training, if you have a heart to serve Christ, please pray about this opportunity. For more information, please contact Pastor Laura Stubblefield by email at [laura@ucmunk.org](mailto:laura@ucmunk.org) or 308 627-6225.

Yours in Christ,  
James Rohrer  
President, Board of Directors



We are noticing that we don't have updated information on a large majority of our members. We are now sending out correspondence through text and email. If you no longer have a home phone or have switched your email account, please call the church office with your updated information. Thank you!



### **SPONSORS NEEDED FOR 2021 RADIO BROADCASTS**

The 11:00 worship service is broadcast live every Sunday morning on KGFW Radio 1340 AM and 96.1 FM. Generous members of this church sponsor this broadcast each week. Cost is \$199 per Sunday. Dates available in 2021 are: October 10, 17 & 31, November 7, 14 & 21, and December 5.



October 6<sup>th</sup> – KFUMC serving hotdogs, chips, and smores in the north parking lot  
October 13<sup>th</sup>- **Need a meal provider**  
October 20<sup>th</sup>- Pumpkin Patch serving a baked potato bar  
October 27<sup>th</sup> – Seekers class serving halloweenies for Trunk or Treat  
Wednesday dinners are served from 5:15-6:30 pm in the Fellowship Hall for a free will offering. These are fundraisers for the group providing the meal. At this time, we are looking for persons or groups to provide the meals. The church pays \$100 (less expenses) and all proceeds go to the meal provider. We ask that you prepare 120 meals, serving a main dish, salad and/or veggie and dessert. Drinks are provided by the church. Please contact Ann or Brandi in the church office to sign up for a date. Next available dates include: October 13, November 3, 10 & 17.



Our 2021 Alzheimer's Walk held at Harmon Park was a great success, and to top it off, the weather was perfect. 1st United Methodist Church had 24 walkers scheduled to walk and an additional 11 persons who made additional donations. This resulted in a total raised of: \$1,425! Thanks to the entire congregation for the support & prayers you provided for the Walk. Funds will go to researching a cure and support for families who are living with someone with Alzheimer's. Your prayers were felt and those who participated and walked with purpose!!

Congratulations to those winners of our drawings: Cheryl Echtenkamp, Lynda Francis, Wayne Garrelts, Mary George, Vicki Green, Marvin Heckman, Colleen Jacobson, Ron Kramer & Barb Siedenburgh!!



Altar flowers are back! We have hung a flower chart on the bulletin board in the Fellowship Hall for you to sign up or you can call Ann in the church office. Each flower bouquet is \$12.50 and you will be billed directly from Kearney Floral.



Thank you, Gene & Tammy Tillotson, for allowing Faith Formation to gather for an evening of fun and fellowship at your home on August 18<sup>th</sup>.



Dear members and friends,

Christmas planning is underway! Help us choose our three Christmas Eve service times by marking your top three service time preferences and letting us know how many in your family plan on attending. We appreciate your input and understand that plans may change between now and Christmas Eve. Thank you and God bless!



Please scan the QR Code above with the camera on your phone to take a brief Christmas Eve 2021 poll by Sunday, October 10<sup>th</sup> at 11:55pm.

Thank you to our dedicated teams of financial counters, who count the offering each week.

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



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



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**First United Methodist Church**

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(Return Service Requested )

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Fax: 308-237-4654  
Website:  
[www.kearneyfirstumc.org](http://www.kearneyfirstumc.org)

Address Label Here



**kearney**  
First United Methodist Church

Church Office Hours: 8am to 5pm, Monday through Thursday, and 8am to 4pm, Friday  
Worship Services Broadcast on KGFW Radio 1340 AM and 96.1 FM every Sunday at 11am  
Sunday Blended Worship Service at 8:15 am, watch live at [www.kearneyfirstumc.org](http://www.kearneyfirstumc.org)  
Sunday Contemporary Worship Service at 9:30 am, watch live at [www.kearneyfirstumc.org](http://www.kearneyfirstumc.org)  
Sunday Traditional Worship Service at 11:00 am, watch live at [www.kearneyfirstumc.org](http://www.kearneyfirstumc.org)

Staff Members

Rev. Cindy Karges, District Superintendent, Email: [gatewayds@greatplainumc.org](mailto:gatewayds@greatplainumc.org)  
Matt Fowler, Senior Pastor, Email: [mattf@kearneyfirstumc.org](mailto:mattf@kearneyfirstumc.org)  
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Pastor Laura Stubblefield, United Campus Ministry at UNK, Email: [laura@ucmunk.org](mailto:laura@ucmunk.org) or phone 308-627-6225

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