

SEPTEMBER 2022

THE SPIRE

KEARNEY FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH NEWSLETTER

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FALL FESTIVAL

SEPTEMBER 28

5:30-8:00PM

FIRST UMC NORTH PARKING LOT

Come join us for a night of free family fun!!

Hot dogs & Smores
Pumpkin Carving
Lots of Games
9 Square in the Air
Gaga Ball
Face Painting

We look forward to celebrating with you!!

A NOTE FROM PASTOR MATT

VALUES

"Brothers don't shake hands. Brothers gotta hug," at least according to Tommy Callahan in the 1995 movie *Tommy Boy*, starring the late Chris Farley and David Spade, playing Paul. It's a hilariously awkward scene of the two men's first meeting, soon after Tommy learns that his dad is marrying Paul's mom. It sounds like Tommy's proclaiming a rule for life: "all brothers hug." Yet, ultimately, it's not so much a rule as a result of Tommy's sense of values and moral logic: being family, no matter how it's created, is a relationship of affectionate connection.

Perhaps I'm making *Tommy Boy* carry too much weight, but I see something similar happening at many points of scripture. For example, in reading Matthew 5, it can sound like Jesus is giving rules and prescriptions for life. Read in this way, it seems like the way to experience God's blessing is to be poor in spirit, grief stricken, meek, hungry for righteousness, pure in heart, and peacemaking (vv. 1-9). Later, we might conclude similarly that, for example, anger and calling people "fools" can earn us a one-way trip to the "hell of fire" (v. 22).

I've read these passages this way before, but I'm becoming less and less convinced that Jesus is simply making rules. Here's the simplest reason why I've come to think this. Much later in Matthew, Jesus explicitly calls the scribes and Pharisees, "You blind fools!" (23.17). If Jesus had been making universally applicable, eternal rules in Matthew 5, then he explicitly breaks them in Matthew 23. Because I don't believe it fits with the biblical witness or tradition to call Jesus a rule-breaker, I have sought to figure out how to read Matthew 5 differently.

With the guidance of other biblical readers and the Holy Spirit, I'm still seeking God's wisdom, but this is what I've come up with so far. In Matthew 5, Jesus isn't giving rules so much as he is revealing the character of God and God's kingdom, and providing the moral logic or values for the people who will become his followers. As such, from Matthew 5, we might conclude that the shape of God's kingdom is revealed and lived into when we are a community of care, preemptive forgiveness, mutual respect, fidelity, integrity of speech, non-retaliatory courage in the face of oppression, non-violent protest in the face of abuse, compassion and life-giving grace falling upon all (5.21-48). Jesus' point is not so much about the rules – as important and life-giving as they may generally be, contextually – as it is about being a particular kind of people and community, a community constituted by the values it shares in Christ.



Building upon Jesus' vision of the sort of values necessary to be a community of his followers, the Ad Council is continuing its work of discerning constitutive values of Kearney First United Methodist Church. At our August meeting, the following four values rose to the top of a discernment exercise: engaged, grace, spiritual/faithful, and prayerful. While these are meaningful, we're continuing on a spiritual journey of discernment. I invite your prayers, as well as your conversation and feedback. Together, we're seeking to clearly know in what spirit God is calling us to be a community that loves God, loves others, and makes disciples through the practices of worship and prayer, scripture reading, serving others, growing in generosity, and sharing our faith. Peace be with us on this journey.

MINISTRY SNAPSHOTS

CHECK OUT WHAT OUR MINISTRIES ARE DOING!

EAST LAWN FOOD PANTRY

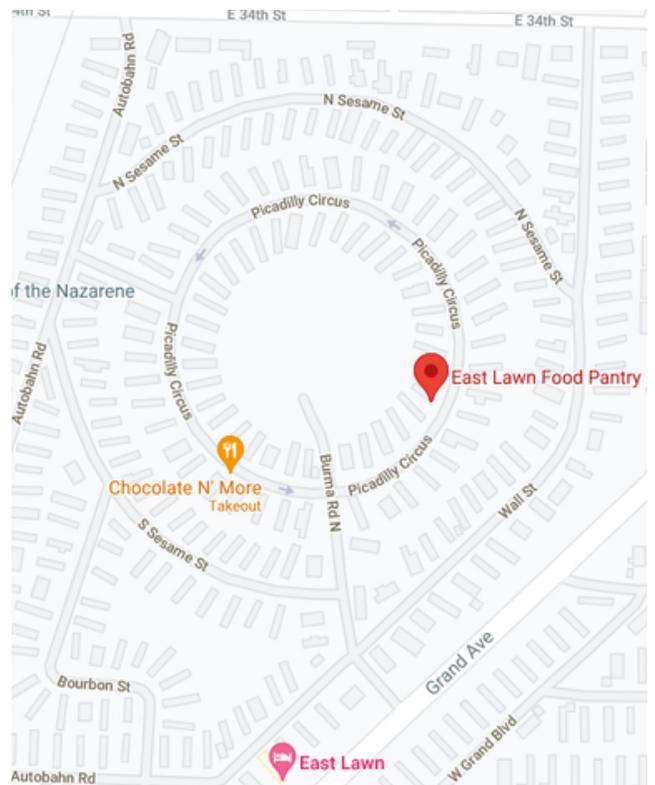
2800 Grand Ave. Trailer #342

Visitors at the food pantry have stayed rather consistent with 307 families visiting in July furnishing food for some 1208 individuals. Repeat visits to the pantry indicated 733 visits. This is about 90 visits each time the pantry is open. Preliminary numbers for August show an increase in numbers with school starting and parents getting their children ready for school with supplies and clothes.

The pantry celebrated the retirement of a dedicated volunteer at the pantry who decided to retire from the pantry aspect and have more time for her own duties at home and at work. She has been a volunteer since the pantry began so she has spent some 10 years giving of her time and energy to help others. We will miss you Colleen Hopkins as you were at the food pantry just about each and every day when the pantry was not open to the public and when it furnished food to the visitors.

We are still 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! If you would like to help with one of these or more areas, please contact Colleen Jacobsen for scheduling a time to help. You can come and see what the pantry does when it is open to get a better idea of how you can help. Just check with the church office for hours of operation.



MINISTRY SNAPSHOTS

CHECK OUT WHAT OUR MINISTRIES ARE DOING!

YOUNG ADULTS GROUP

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

Eight young adults had a meaningful time in Branson, MO. With a prayerful spirit, they had discussions and conversations about talents, gifts, and God's calling. Not only the conversation, but they had a great joyful time watching the Jesus Show at the Sight and Sound Theater, racing with "Go Kart," and roller coasters at Silver Dollar City. They will cherish these unforgettable moments. Pastor Seungli says, "The young people said yes to God to use and share their gifts and talents with God and others. It was great to see how the Holy Spirit works within their lives." Also, Chrissy Gibbs, who is starting her first year at Bryan College, says, "It was a very relaxing and sentimental weekend. I made new friends, and we connected on deep levels because of the conversation we were having with. I could see God working through the fellowship, prayer, and discernment we had." They will continue to grow in talents and gifts that God has bestowed and follow their calling from God. Also, we will gather every Wednesday night at 7 pm to study at the church for their spiritual growth. We appreciate the support and prayers of the church, and they promise that they will grow in Christ and serve the church faithfully.

Pastor Seungli You



MINISTRY SNAPSHOTS

CHECK OUT WHAT OUR MINISTRIES ARE DOING!

KFUMC YOUTH

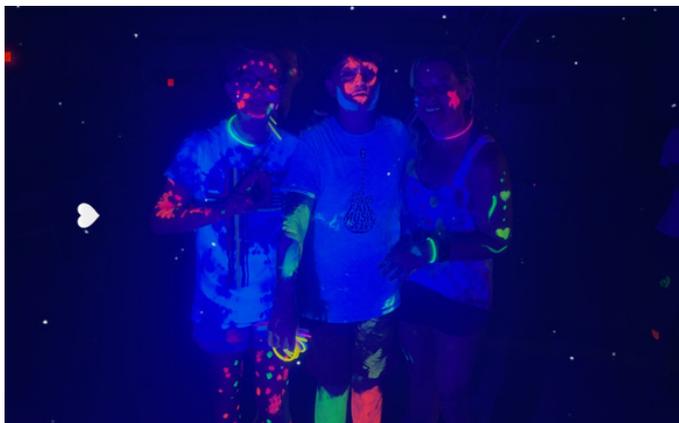
Camp Fontanelle

Braden and I brought 13 youth up to Camp Fontanelle for the final week of camp themed, "Fontanelle Finale." It was a wonderful week full of worship, Bible study, Cardboard boat racing, Glow parties, rock wall climbing, cannonball competitions, and Challenge Course obstacles. Each of these activities helped to cultivate a group of campers who were invited to lead a Christ centered week while learning how powerful a Name can be. Day 1 we learned about God's name, day 2 we learned about labels that can limit or transcend us, day 3 we learned our name's definition and their origins, day 4 we learned God's name for us is different than the world's name for us, day 5 we learned that names teach us who we are and who we belong to.

It was an amazing experience to watch God at work through this group of young people. Not only did our group bond strengthen their bonds, but they also walked as Christ did, caring for each other, and welcoming other campers into their lives.

Thank you for your support in various ways and for your continued prayers and encouragement!

Lyz Garwood



MINISTRY SNAPSHOTS

CHECK OUT WHAT OUR MINISTRIES ARE DOING!



SERENDIPTY

Are you looking for an easy way to connect with new people from the church? If so, the serendipity group is for you. The serendipity group consists of six to eight adults who get together once a month for good old-fashioned Christian fellowship. They meet at different restaurants here in town on a quarterly basis.

This group will start up in October. If this is something you are interested in, please call Arlene Shoemaker at 308-440-2982 or the church office at 308-237-3158.



There are two bulletin boards with general information on them. Each have a designated location specifically for Health & Wellness information. At this time, you can find a second quarter report from the HelpCare Clinic. The clinic continues to serve persons with low income in Kearney and Buffalo Counties, and other surrounding counties on occasion.

Patients generally present with chronic illness and/or injuries. The Clinic greatly appreciates the donations from First United Methodist Church. Additionally, the clinic is open one evening a week. Since the majority of volunteers are coming directly from work, members of our congregation are providing a light snack to sustain them through the evening. Our church provides the snack for the 12-15 volunteers on the 4th & 5th Thursdays each month. If you would like to participate in this ministry on an occasional basis, please contact the church office. The Clinic is "faith based" and served by several other churches in our community. If you are interested in volunteering at the clinic, you do NOT need a medical license. There are many volunteer opportunities. To volunteer at the clinic, contact: Lisa Guthrie, RN, Executive Director at 308-224-2392. For further information on the HelpCare Clinic check out their website: helpcareclinic.org



Begins September 12

7:00pm

Seekers Room

Find help and healing after the loss of a loved one. The class meets on Mondays for 13 weeks and is led by Judy Spellman. If you or someone you know is grieving, we encourage you to attend. To register for the FREE support group, call the church office or go online to www.griefshare.com.

MINISTRY SNAPSHOTS

CHECK OUT WHAT OUR MINISTRIES ARE DOING!

Join us on Wednesday evenings and Sunday mornings for children's Kingdom Kids & Sunday School!



Sundays

Aug. 14 during services

Presentation of 2nd Grade Bibles

Aug. 21 9:30AM & 11:00AM

1st morning for regular Sunday school classes.

10:30AM

Children's Choir & Bell Choir

Join us in a fun time signing songs and playing bells! We will preform during services throughout the year.

Wednesdays

Aug. 17 @ 7:00-8:00PM

Kids Preschool-5th grade join us for Kingdom Kids classes. Enter and check-in at north door.

Open gym 8:00-8:30PM

available for kids with older siblings and/or parents in later groups.



ANNUAL ALZHEIMER'S WALK

The Kearney Annual Alzheimer's Walk is scheduled for Saturday, September 17 at Yanney Park. You can register in the Narthex between services or leave your donation there. Registration at Yanney Park begins at 8am, followed by a short program at 8:45 (you don't want to miss this) and the walk will begin by 9am. The walk is generally a mile or less. You can walk as far as you wish with the group. If you are unavailable to walk and wish to donate, there is a form for that. The Alzheimer's Association is committed to ensuring everyone who walks and donates or donates is acknowledged. We generally have a pretty good attendance and have been very successful in donating to this cause. Come and join us on a Saturday morning, get your walk in early and support a great cause!!!



FIRST AID KITS

The Health & Wellness Ministry has replaced the gloves in the Simple First Aid Kits in each room of the church. The kits also contain gauze pads and band aids. Locations include: all staff offices, Pumpkin Patch, all classrooms, kitchens, Usher supply cabinets and the pulpit, lecterns in both the Sanctuary and Chapel. Please use these for minor injuries. Remember to have the individual wash the wound with soap and water, if there is any blood, use gloves and apply a bandage to the wound. Protective gloves are replaced annually to ensure safety. Don't hesitate to ask questions and direct them to Kathy Gosch, RN, Faith Community Nurse - 308-237-7682 or 402-659-1707 OR the church office.



LOST & FOUND

With the start of a new school year we have set up and lost & found table in the Narthex. Please stop by it and make sure none of your belongs are on it.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

PLUG IN AND SERVE!

THE CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL PROGRAM IS IN NEED OF TEACHERS & HELPERS!

BY VOLUNTEERING ONE OR TWO SUNDAYS A MONTH, YOU MAKE A LASTING IMPACT IN THE FAITH FORMATION OF THE CHILDREN & SHOW THEM WHAT IT IS TO LIVE OUT OUR MISSION TO LOVE GOD, LOVE EACH OTHER AND MAKE DISCIPLES OF JESUS.

CHOOSE TO SERVE IN THE PREK-1ST GRADE, 2ND/3RD GRADE OR 4TH/5TH GRADE AT EITHER 9:30AM OR 11:00AM.

CONTACT JEANINE SPANGLER TO VOLUNTEER 237-3158 OR JEANINES@KEARNEYFIRSTUMC.ORG



BIRTHDAY BUILDERS

This year we are celebrating 150 years as a church. In honor of this big milestone birthday, the Trustees invite you to be a part of the FIRST UMC BIRTHDAY BUILDER'S FUND. The funds will be used by the Trustees to maintain and improve our church family's home. Some recent improvements from the Birthday Builder's Fund include: a new server, restriping of the parking lot, new push lawn mower, and an upgrade to our internal internet system.

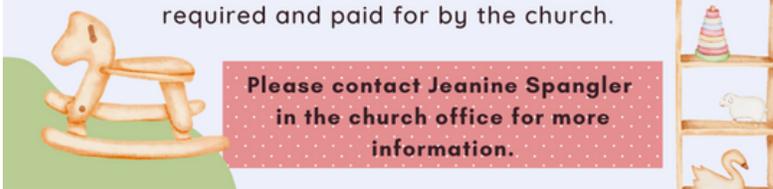
VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

PLUG IN AND SERVE!



We are in need of loving adults and teens to staff our church nursery. This is an important area in our disciple making, as it is showing God's grace and love through you to both the children and parents. This paid position is for Sunday mornings and other times upon request. Safe Gatherings certification/background check will be required and paid for by the church.

Please contact Jeanine Spangler in the church office for more information.



PASS IT ON MINISTRY

Would you like to help a grieving family? We are looking for volunteers that would like to help out with funeral lunches by either helping serve, clean up or provide food. If this is an area your heart fills passionate about please contact the church office.



RADIO BROADCAST

Sponsors Needed!

The 11 Am worship service is broadcast live every Sunday morning on KGFW Radio 1340 AM and 96.1 FM. Generous members of this church sponsor the broadcast each week. The cost is \$199 per Sunday. The available 2022 dates are: October 9, 16 & 30, November 6 & 13, 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.

SYMPATHY & THANKS

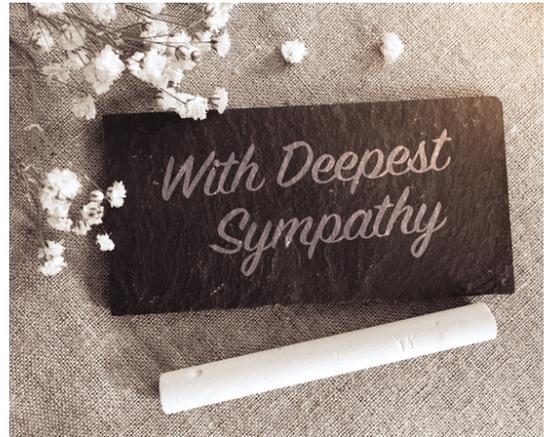
WITH LOVE FROM YOUR KEARNEY FIRST UMC FAMILY

WITH SYMPATHY

Family and friends of Beverly Muller who passed away August 3.

Family and friends of Willie Weber who passed away August 4.

Family and friends of Mary Ann Jess who passed away August 24.



THANK YOU

Endowment Committee of Kearney First UMC,
Thank you so much for approving our application for a new computer for the library. It has been installed and is already making a huge impact on what we can do for the library (and Shopping Card Committee).
-Sincerely, The FUMC Library Committee

Kearney First,
Thank you for the lovely flowers that were brought to me. They are precious! Also, thank you to Pastor Seungli for his visits.
-Betty Lehmkuhl

AMEN CORNER

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

Thank you to the lawn mower crews who have kept the lawn cared for this year.

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



CONFIRMATION CLASS OF 2023



Dear Students and Parents,

We are gearing up for an exciting year of Confirmation! If you missed the parent's informational meeting, please let us know.

Classes will start in September and will be held on Wednesday night from 5:30-6:30 PM, except for the Methods class (7:00-8:30 PM only three times on October 5, 12, and 19). The first confirmation class is Wednesday night at 5:30 PM in the Heritage Room on September 21, 2022. The anticipated date for Confirmation Sunday is May 7, 2023.

We look forward to working with you this coming year. Please contact one of the pastors or Lyz Garwood if you have any questions. We believe that it is an important experience. We are open to conversation about how to adjust this journey for you as needed.

In order to purchase enough supplies, please email the church office and let Brandi know if you will be attending the classes. You may email her brandiw@kearneyfirstumc.org. We appreciate your assistance and request that you respond to us by September 11, 2022.

Thank you in advance for your cooperation and participation. We look forward to hearing from you soon.

Peace and Grace

Rev. Matt Fowler

Rev. Seungli You



www.kearneyfirstumc.org



308.237.3158



info@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

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

Braden Garwood, High School Youth Minister, 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.

