

JANUARY 2022 VOL. 20 ISSUE 1

THE SPIRE

KEARNEY FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH NEWSLETTER

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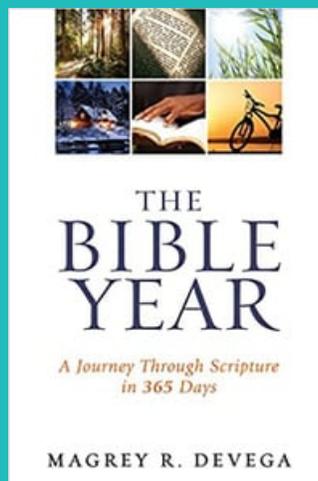
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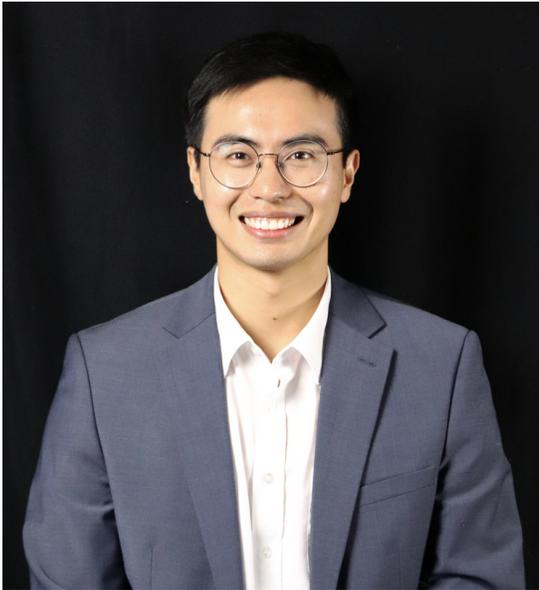


2022 BIBLE JOURNEY

Get ready for a Spirit-filled Journey in 2022!

- From the first Sunday of January, we'll be starting a year-long journey through the entire Bible with Pastor Magrey deVega's The Bible Year: A Journey Through Scripture in 365 Days.
- Daily readings, with a devotional book, will guide us through the Bible from Genesis through Revelation.
- You can also find the list of daily readings on our website! <https://www.kearneyfirstumc.org/bible-in-a-year>

A NOTE FROM A PASTOR



John Wesley, the founder of Methodism, called himself Homo unius libri, "a man of one book."

We know that reading the Bible is not easy. Some of us may have some experiences in the past that we got stuck somewhere in Leviticus or Deuteronomy. Here are a few things that we can avoid the experience and finish our journey well at the end of 2022.

1) Pastor Matt and I will preach sermons following the Bible Year. The sermon and your reading will be on the same page.

2) Some small groups will be created where you can share your perspective and stories of how God reveals Godself in your life. There will be more the church can offer as we move forward. And here is the promise. Even if you fail to read the Bible, there is no judgment, and the church will keep encouraging you to start reading the Bible again.

I am excited about this new journey and thrilled to see how God loves us. Let's challenge us to be people of one book in 2022!

FROM PASTOR SEUNGLI

I can't believe that it is time to say goodbye to 2021. I feel like it is just yesterday that Pastor Matt and I did informational gatherings with you. Pastor Matt and I prayed and discerned together how we, Kearney First United Methodist Church, can participate in God's grace more fully for the following year. Without any disagreement, we both saw God stirring in us a holy desire and inviting us to become mature disciples of Jesus Christ through reading Scripture. I, thus, want to encourage and challenge you to read Scripture together in 2022.

United Methodists believe that Scripture is the primary source and criterion for Christian doctrine. Through reading Scripture, the living Christ meets us in the experience of redeeming grace. John Wesley, the founder of Methodism, called himself Homo unius libri, "a man of one book." Yes, one book is the Bible, and Wesley challenged Methodists to be people of one book. Following the spirit of Methodism, we want to read the Bible from Genesis to Revelation and experience together how God shapes and blesses us through reading the Bible.



MINISTRY SNAPSHOTS

CHECK OUT WHAT OUR MINISTRIES ARE DOING!

EAST LAWN FOOD PANTRY

2800 Grand Ave. Trailer #342

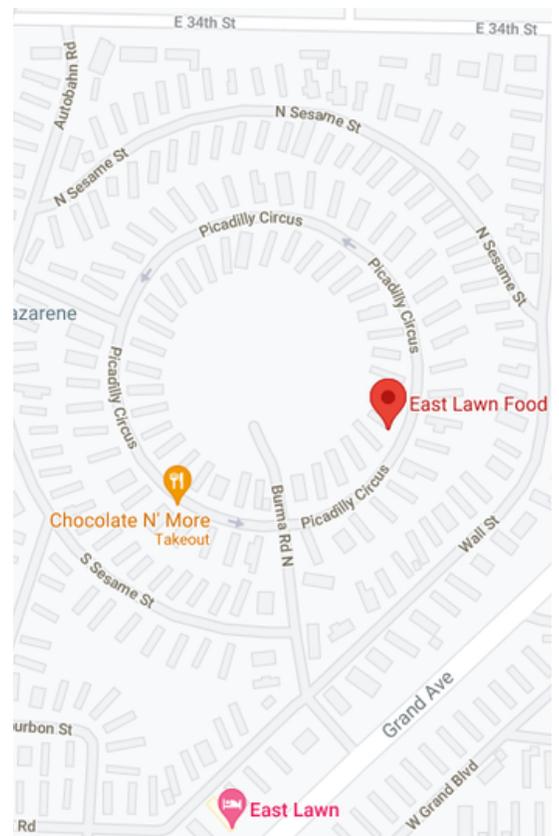
Hope all of you were able to gather with families this year and recognize the meaning of the season. We at East Lawn are still wary of the current COVID situation and require masks at the pantry. This should make everyone feel safe when coming to the pantry.

Thanks to the community of Kearney for their support of East Lawn Food Pantry. This time of year is special for a variety of reasons and the food drives to help support area food banks is the one that reaches us at East Lawn. We had donations from Five Points Bank and Kearney Catholic High School from their food drives held in December. Many thanks go out to those food drives.

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 at the pantry, to those that work on 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. There are times when heavy items are moved from one place to another and if you have one day a week or month to help with that job, it would be great!

Number of patrons coming to the pantry seem to vary from week to week, but we are still reaching some 450 to 500 families each the month which accounts for over 1300 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. Right before Thanksgiving there were over 100 patrons at the pantry. This Christmas there will be special bags for the families with children prepared by the Sunday School children at church and some special bags prepared by East Lawn as well. We want to make this a wonderful Christmas for all families. This is a wonderful outreach program for the church and THANK YOU again for your support.

If you would like to help keep this ministry operating, consider bringing food items to the church and placing them in one of the grocery carts by the entrance, or volunteer to help at the trailer! If you'd like to help sort food, visit grocery stores, or repackage food, contact Colleen Jacobson at 308-627-4472 or Pete Ludowese at 308-293-0100 for more 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! (check pg. 7 for available Wednesdays)



THANKSGIVING OFFERING UPDATE

Thank you for your generosity with our Thanksgiving offering this year. We set a goal of \$5600 and surpassed it with receiving \$7745.

With the breakdown of each we gifted the SAFE Center with \$2586.75, Crossroads Center with \$1681.25, East Lawn Food Pantry with \$1939.25, and the HelpCare Clinic with \$1537.75.

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

UPCOMING NEWS & EVENTS



CAFE CHOCOLAT

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

Cafe Chocolate is a relaxing chocolate-themed day retreat that will include worship, Bible study, laughter, and time for quiet reflection on God's extravagant grace!

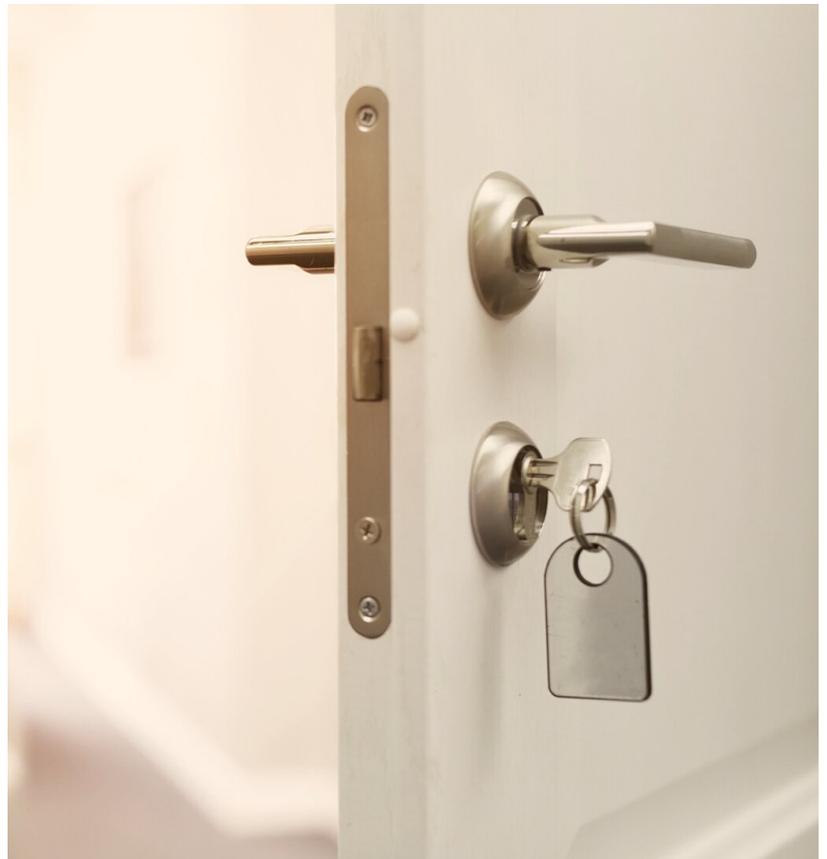
Registration will begin in February.

We need women to help lead stations, decorate, run the registration table, food, music, etc. Join us for a planning meeting on **Thursday, January 20 at 7:00 PM in the Heritage Room** and see how you can get involved. Please contact Jeanine Spangler with any questions!

MAGNETIC DOORS UPDATE

Starting in January

Starting in January we will again be securing all church doors during office hours. In order to get into the church, please ring the doorbell at any of the main entrances and the office staff will open the door for you. We ask that you use patience and understanding as security of our building is highly important. Thank you to the Birthday Builders Club for funding the updated internet system.



UPCOMING EVENT

RETIREMENT CELEBRATION FOR THE BAUERS



A NOTE FROM THE BAUERS

We came to Kearney during the summer of 1984. Ann was asked to serve as accompanist and organist before we moved from Aberdeen, SD to Kearney. She happily assumed that position, as she has for the past 37 and one-half years. I received the invitation to direct the Chancel Choir beginning the first week of January 1986; 36 years ago. We have, to the best of our abilities, tried to serve the church in a professional manner, upholding the standard of quality repertoire throughout our tenure. The choir's repertoire has covered a wide range of Christian text and styles, in an attempt to touch the heartstrings of each person in the congregation. We have presented at least one cantata per semester, except a December day that Kearney was besieged by a major winter snowstorm.

It is incredible to us how the years have flown by. It is equally incredible to us the blessing each and every member of the choir has been to us through these many years. The choir became a great joy to us. I believe that we only have four remaining "long-time" singers that have been with us throughout our tenure.

The scholarship established by Doris and Jim Ganz Sr. has been a great blessing to the choir since it was established. We believe that the singers of Chancel Choir and the 11 a.m. congregation appreciate quality repertoire performed well. We pray they will continue to be blessed by the choir, organist, and pianist.

Christmas Eve, December 24, we trust will be our final day of employment. We will gladly serve as substitutes should one be needed, although, we may be visiting children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren in China, Texas, Oregon, Kansas, or right here in Nebraska. We may also be visiting our siblings in Michigan, Missouri, Kansas, or Colorado.

With God's Grace

I wish to quote Yates in parting

If you would comfort me,
Sing me a lullaby.

If you would win my heart,
Sing me a love song.

If you would mourn me and bring me to God,
Sing me a requiem,

Sing me to heaven.

RETIREMENT CELEBRATION

**January 9 | Following the 8:15 and
11 AM Services**

Come celebrate the retirement of Dr. David & Ann Bauer as they retire as Chancel Choir Director and Organist.

A farewell reception will be held in the Gathering Area following the 8:15 & 11:00 AM services on January 9th.

Please join us and thank the Bauers for their many years of service to First UMC!

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

PLUG IN AND SERVE!



SHOPPING CARD COMMITTEE

Booth Operators Wanted!

The shopping card committee is looking for a group that could man the booth on Sunday mornings during January, February, and March beginning January 9.

This is an opportunity to earn some extra funds for your projects and requires someone to be present at the booth from 9:00 to 11:00am each Sunday except Holiday weekends.

Contact Phil Hammar if your group is interested:

phil.hammar@charter.net or 308-338-3456.

WEDNESDAY EVENING MEALS

Here's the upcoming Wednesday Night meal schedule!

January 5th – Need meal provider

January 12th – Troop 136 serving sloppy joes

January 19th– Kearney Catholic serving

January 26th– Need meal provider

February 2nd – Need meal provider

Other dates available include: February 23, March 2, 9, 16, 23 & 30



SYMPATHY & THANKS

WITH LOVE FROM YOUR KEARNEY FIRST UMC FAMILY

WITH SYMPATHY

Richard & Sandy Remmenga on the death of Sandy's mother, Helen Dorris, who passed away November 4th.

Family & Friends of Arlene Peterson who passed away December 1st.

Family & Friends of Helyn Leathers who passed away December 3rd.

WITH THANKS

Dear FUMC Family,
We would like to say a special thanks to Pastor You for leading the memorial service for my mom, Helen Hickenbottom Dorris. Your eulogy meant a lot to my family. Also, thanks to the church ladies who provided and served refreshments after the service. This gave our friends and family a chance to share in fellowship. All of you are a blessing to our church. Thank you again! - Dick, Sandy, Brad & Matt Remmenga

Thank you to my church family for the prayers during my lengthy hospital stay. Thanks to Pastor Seungli for visiting and giving a prayer shawl to me. It was much appreciated. - Jack Rood



AMEN CORNER

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

Thank you to Dr. David & Ann Bauer for their musical devotion to the church all of these years.

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



WELCOME NEW MEMBERS



9:30AM NEW MEMBERS

Welcome to our church family!

Please join us in welcoming our new members. On December 12th at the 9:30 AM Service: Robin Long and Preslie Sheer

11AM NEW MEMBERS

Welcome to our church family!

Please join us in welcoming our new members. On December 12th at the 11 AM Service: Valerie Caldwell, Mirim Kim, and Young Park.



WANT TO JOIN KEARNEY FIRST UMC?

Church Office | 308-237-3158

We would love to be your church family! Contact the church office with any questions you may have about joining Kearney First United Methodist Church!



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 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

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.

