
THE CORNERSTONE

A newsletter to provide information and inspiration for the members and friends of First United Methodist Church.

FEBRUARY 2012

FROM THE



PASTOR

Thank you for your help with our Membership Update and for your responses to the *Pathways* Survey! This year is off to a great start and we are so grateful for all of your help!

If you have not completed your Membership Update form please do so and return it to the Church Office by Sunday, February 19th. If you did not receive one and would like to, please let the Church Office know and we will make sure to get you one. This information is extremely helpful for our membership records and it will also help us stay connected with you and your family in the months and years to come.

The next step in our *Pathways* process is to have our Church Council look at the responses from the surveys and begin to identify the areas of our church's ministry where things are going well and those areas where we need to grow. This conversation will lead us toward setting some short-term and long-term goals. We will update you about our progress in the coming months so be sure to look for that in upcoming newsletters. If you have any questions or if you are interested in helping with this process, please let Sharon Thompson, our AD Council Chairperson know or contact me through the Church Office.

Again, thank you for your help and may God continue to guide us each step of the way!

In Christ,
Pastor Rebecca Hjelle



Lenten Study – “The Easter Experience”

Monday Evenings: February 20-March 26, 7:00-8:00pm

or

Wednesday Mornings: February 22 – March 28, 9:30-10:30am

Monday and Wednesday sessions each week will be the same so participants may attend either.

“The Easter Experience” is meant to be just that: an experience. Using dramatization, we will feel, meet and enter the last few hours of Jesus' natural life as well as the first few hours of His resurrected life. We will find ourselves reclining next to Him in the Upper Room, walking beside Him in Gethsemane, standing near Him in Pilate's courtyard, weeping alongside Him in Golgotha, and celebrating with Him at the empty tomb.

As we shadow Jesus, we will often find ourselves identifying with those around Him - Peter, Judas, Mary, and others. But most of all we will find ourselves identifying with Jesus Himself. And that's a good thing because the more we identify with Jesus, the more we will become like Him. No book is needed for this class, a hand-out will be available at each session. Please sign-up on the table outside of the church office.

For further information contact: Debbie Foust 402-426-2165.

**Wednesday Night Special study will not meet during Lenten Study. It will resume after Easter with new study topic. Watch for updates in your “Chip”.



Wednesday Night Lenten Services

6:45 – 7:15pm in the Sanctuary

*Starting February 22nd

with Ash Wednesday Worship

Kingdom Kids Lenten Schedule

Wednesday, 6:00-6:40PM (Lenten Service 6:45)

No Meeting April 4 (Holy Week)

UMW Bake Valentine Bake Sale: Sunday February 12th

Your chance to be ahead of the game and buy sweets for your sweetie!





**Summer Camp Promotion
Sunday, February 26th**

Nebraska camp schedules are available and more information can be found @campfontanelle.com Watch for details on Fundraising for Camp Scholarships
TBA: Feb. 26th



Reading: "Room", by Emma Donoghue
Books available in the office.

Next Meeting: March 1st at 9:30am in church parlor. Come join us for some fun fellowship and discussion.

"Saturday Serves" at Open Door Mission

On Saturday, January 21st, 14 people from our church worked at the Open Door Mission for 2 hours. Some assembled shelving for the new low income apartments and the remaining group assembled bags of food that will be used to assemble snack lunches (1,000 sack lunches are served daily on and off-site). Cold lunches are being served until the new men's building is opened, the old building housed their large kitchen. The mission is expanding, and will be able to serve more clients but with that they will need to increase their volunteer base to fill the need.

Small Groups Ministry is asking for manpower that we could pool for a monthly trip to Open Door Mission. We have been asked to have a standing time (we are considering the 3rd Saturday of the month, 11:30-1:30) that we could work to assist them. This would not mean that you would be required to go each trip, we could rotate teams and work with your availability.



Please prayerfully consider being part of this ministry, taking what we believe out of our building in Christ's name. This is a great activity to do as a family and we ask that children would be accompanied by a parent. Interested volunteer Sheet and sign-up for next month are near the office on the table.

February Mission Project: "Undy Sunday"

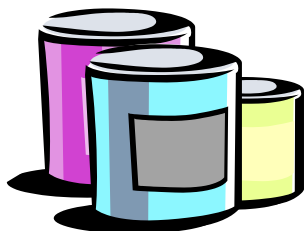
The entire congregation is invited to join this effort to benefit The Open Door Mission. We are collecting new underwear, socks, and t-shirts for men, women and children (any size).

Help fill the giant pair of bloomers in the Narthex with your donations.

Collection Dates: February 12th-19th



**Undy
S u n d a y**



"Food Pantry"

Needs at the pantry:
Jelly, Juices & Broths

Newsletter Deadline: February 23, 2012
Newsletter Assembly: February 27th at 1:30pm

Committee Meetings

- 7th @ 7:00p.m. - Children's Ministry
 8th @5:30 Missions
 9th @ 5:30 p.m. - Trustees
 @ 6:30 p.m. - Finance
 13th @ 7:00 MOC
 16th @ 7:00 p.m. - Church Council
 20th @ 7:00 p.m. - Worship
 21st @6:30 p.m. - SPRC
 @ 7:00 p.m. - Small Groups
 Youth Council

If a committee is not listed it may be scheduled later. You will receive an email telling you the time and date of all committee meetings.

United Methodist Men

The United Methodist Men (UMM) will meet Saturday, February 11th at 7:30 a.m. in the Parlor. All men are welcome to come and join the group for breakfast, Christian fellowship, fun and bible study.

United Methodist Women

Esther Circle February 15th
 Hostess: Janet Wallace
 Co-Hostess: Connie Abbott
 Program: Janet Wallace
 Devotions: Helen Reiber

Ruth Circle February 8th

Hostess: Helen Jipp

Activity: Bring Cookies for February 12th Bake Sale



★ Thank You! ★
THANK YOU!

- A big THANK YOU to those who decorated and "undecorated" the church for Christmas. Also, thanks to the people who ordered poinsettias the splash of color added to the beauty of the season! Worship Committee
- Thank you to Caring Hands & Prayer Shawl Ministry for the lovely shawl. It is so colorful & looks nice on the back of my recliner. I am grateful for your prayers. You're a great group of young people & it is fun to get together with you. Sincerely, Betty Gorman - Crowell Home.
- We would all like to thank you very much for the help that you gave us this Christmas. You helped make it wonderful. Tiffanie, Serenity, Beau, Halie & Justin.
- Thank you, these two words are not enough to say what your help means to us. With your assistance the Optimist Club of Blair were able to meet the needs of 87 families with more than 250 children. It is only with the help of so many unsung heroes that we are able to brighten their holiday. May you all have a very blessed New Year. Optimist Club of Blair
- Thank you very much for the beautiful prayer shawl. I will treasure it for the rest of my life. God bless you all. Fae Williby

Cancer Support Group Meeting February 16th

This group is headed by Mary Larson a 13 year cancer fighter and includes other members of our church. All those who are fighting cancer or those supporting others with cancer are invited to attend. At group meetings we share our experiences and discuss coping mechanisms to learn that we are not alone and how others are coping. The meetings are every 3rd Thursday of the month from 7:00-8:00 in the Bagby room at Memorial Community Hospital here in Blair. It is free. Are you interested or do you know someone who would benefit from a support group experience? Please call Mary at 402-533-2014. We look forward seeing you Thursday, Feb. 16th.



Confirmation is starting up again...
 Mark your calendars for Wednesday nights starting February 1st

**Remember to bring your Confirmation Binder and your Teen Devo Bible!*



Mark your calendars -- Boy Scout Sunday is February 12th *Be sure to wear your Boy Scout Uniform so we can recognize all of our Boy Scouts during Worship!

February Youth News

Lenten Season Youth/Confirmation Schedule

6:00-6:45 Middle School Youth Group

6:45-7:15 - Lenten Worship Service

7:15-8:30 - HS Youth/Confirmation Group

Feb. 22 - Ash Wednesday-

No Youth Group or Confirmation

March 7 -Spring Break -

No Youth Group or Confirmation

April 4 - Holy Week

No Youth Group or Confirmation

Caring Hands Club!

The next two dates for Caring Hands will be Feb. 4 and March 3. If you would like to join this group as a substitute when the regular members need to miss a Saturday, please email Jamie at the address below.



Winter Dance (Prom) "Fun" draiser

Join the fun on Sat. Feb. 18 from 7-9 pm!

Music will be played from the 1940's through today. Everyone is welcome.

Drinks and appetizers will be provided and there will be an opportunity to take home some gift baskets.

Tickets will be given out for a \$5 donation.



Please consider buying a ticket or two as a donation to the youth group even if you cannot attend the dance!

Lock-in

High School Lock-In following the dance! Adult volunteers are needed to help with the high school lock-in. Youth will be spending the night at the church from 10pm, Sat. Feb. 18-7am, Sun. Feb. 19. A project will be completed during the night, along with games, snacks, and movies. Youth are encouraged to invite a guest to join in the fun.

Youth Groups and Youth Council will be serving Wednesday Evening Dinner on February 29. Please mark your calendar and plan to attend or volunteer!



Wanna take a trip?

The Nebraska Methodist Conference will hold the High School youth retreat at **Camp Comeca** for high school youth over the weekend of Feb. 24-26.. This retreat is a great way for the youth of our church to meet Methodist youth from around the state. Registration materials are available on the church website or in the youth room.

Cost per youth to register will be \$40. Deadlines to register is Feb. 1. So hurry and let Jamie know!

The youth from our congregation will be taking a trip of our own to **Camp Kingswood in Minnesota** over June 10-13. This trip is both a retreat and a mission. We will also participate in an adventure day and will get a chance to try rock climbing. Adults are needed to go along. You do not need to be a parent of a youth to participate, but we do encourage all volunteers to have Safe Sanctuary Training before participating. Registration materials will be mailed out for this trip this month. This trip will be limited to the first 30 youth and will combine our middle and

The next **Youth Council Meeting** will be on Tuesday, February 21 at 7:00pm.

If you would like to receive **email updates from Jamie, please email Jamie (blairumcyouth@gmail.com) your address or drop it by her office. You may reach Jamie on her cell at 402-709-4809. Also, stop by the church website (fumclair.com) and click on Youth to see the calendar of upcoming events, photos, and more! Check us out on Facebook! First United Methodist Youth Blair. Like us! Please.

First United Methodist Church
1656 Colfax Street
Blair, NE 68008
Phone (402) 426-2165

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