



May 2021 First Connection

The month of May is one of my favorite months. For one, my birthday is in May and so I am always grateful to gain another year of hopefully wisdom, learning and experience. May is also a month filled with many celebrations; with students wrapping up another school year and many even celebrating graduations.

The word of focus for me this month and will serve for our May sermon series is the word **REPAIR**. The sobering reality for me is that although the month of May brings so much beauty, awe, anticipation and celebration; the reality is that the world is in a very different place than we have ever been before. We are discovering how to come back through a pandemic that is not over. We are discovering that a lot of how we have done things pre-pandemic, may need some revisions. From my perspective, being in isolation has revealed so much on both a personal and global level. In many ways, being in isolation has forced the world to really see the brokenness and suffering in ways that we may have never experienced it before.

In light of some of our small groups and discussions that I have been a part of, the one sentiment that has come up from many people, is this desire to **do something**. We desire to **do something** about racism. We desire to **do something** about being more inclusive to the LGBTQ community. We desire to **do something** to help our communities. This desire to do something has caused many of us including myself to go a little stir crazy!

Therefore, the hope of the sermon series “Holy Repair,” is to help point us into the direction of what this work of repair that we have

been naming looks like in our ministerial setting. My hope is that this will be a time of vision, collaboration and evaluation so that we can secure the foundation of love and repair that we are striving to build together.



Hunger and Poverty Response Team

Feed my sheep. John 21:15-17

Last month I told you about the Blessing Box that was being planned for the FUMC community. I am very happy to report that through the efforts of the Trustee Committee's advice, resources and actual physical labor, along with other FUMC members, the Blessing Box has been installed! The pantry store room has been cleaned out, shelves have been placed to store food and other items needed to stock the Blessing Box. As we placed food in the box for the first time, we were blessed with the witnessing of a Holy Sighting. A young boy ran across the street to us to give us two cans of tuna and vegetables to put in our Blessing Box. We are truly ready to Feed our sheep.

Many of you have asked how you can participate in this ministry by donating food and money. For financial donations, I refer you to FUMC's treasurer Chuck Leypoldt's article in this



Back in the eighties I managed a country bank in Douglas, Nebraska. At the end of every day our cashier reconciled the deposits and cash in and out. Every once in awhile that became my task as well. Some days we struggled to get the job done. We had a little jar which was available to make it balance.

Saint Paul wrote about reconciliation five times: Romans 5 and Romans 11, and 3 times in 2 Corinthians Chapter 5. The summation is in verse 19, "...in Christ God was reconciling the world to God's self, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us."

As church treasurer I find it necessary to reconcile our accounts in a timely fashion. I'm

newsletter. For food donations, please bring them to the church on Monday and Tuesday mornings, from 9am to 11 am. (Laura, please correct this if needed) If you are attending church services in person, please place the donations outside the storeroom across from the gym. As the church continues to open up and resume regular schedules and activities, there will be more time to bring your donations in to the church. If you want to volunteer your time by filling the Blessing Box when needed, working in the storeroom, contact me at 402-477-9113 (home; can leave a message, no text) or 402-730-7056 (cell; receives texts) or at smillerschoen@gmail.com.

There has been a request for a list of needed food and non-food items. This is the current list that is continuously updated as needs are identified. There will also be a list posted outside the storeroom and posted on the church website in the near future.

Many of these items stocked at the Dollar Tree store. Some are not, but are carried at regular grocery stores .

Food Items:

Preferably in plastic containers, not glass

Cans or pouches of tuna, chicken, turkey

Peanut Butter, smaller jars

Jelly in plastic squirt bottles

Refried Beans

Seasoning pouches for tacos, enchiladas

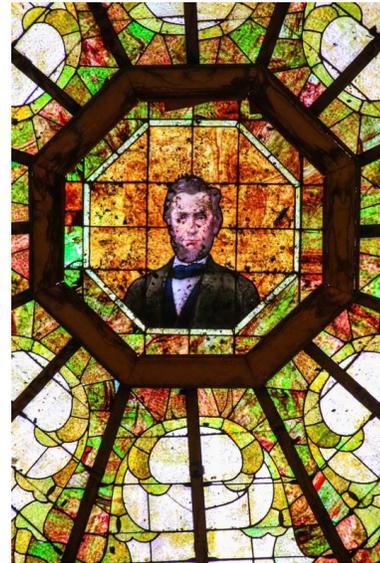
Taco shells

Salsa

"Hamburger Helper" that calls for chicken or tuna

happy to report we are doing well. What a joy it is to be among faithful servants who give generously to the mission of God through the United Methodist Church connection.

Chuck Leypoldt
Church Treasurer



DR. JOHN SPILKER
MINISTER OF MUSIC & LITURGY, SOCIAL JUSTICE, LEADERSHIP

- As part of our reconciling ministry, I share with you my commitment to antiracist equity, which I continue to update with online learning resources:
<https://bit.ly/2YsN3UQ>.

“RACIAL EQUITY & REPAIR” SMALL GROUP: First UMC Lincoln is inspired by our Spiritual Leader making room in her heart to learn about white culture. We want to learn about black experiences and how to understand and dismantle racism. **Suzie Miller-Schoen & Roy Schoen** have invited

Smaller bags of rice
Pasta: spaghetti, elbow, shells,
egg noodles
Spaghetti sauce in can or plastic
container
Parmesan cheese in shaker
container
Canned fruit, water packed or in
lite syrup
Boxed Cereal; avoid heavily
sugared types
Flavored Oatmeal packets
Small cans of milk
Jiffy Cornbread mix; vegetarian-
has fewer additives
Specialty pouches of rice or
noodles; can add chicken, or tuna
to it to make a casserole meal
No canned vegetables at this time;
we have a supply of them and they
are often not taken.

Non-food items:

Female hygiene products,
tampons regular or heavy size
pads, regular or heavy size

Toiletries:

Bath soap
Shampoo
Deodorant
Toothpaste
Toothbrushes

Hand Sanitizer

Masks

I am so grateful for your response
to this ministry, your gifts,
prayers, presence, and your
willingness to live out your
confirmation vows in this way.

God bless you all.

Suzie Miller Schoen

us to gather around this book:

- ***My Grandmother's Hands: Racialized Trauma and the Pathway to Mending Our Hearts and Bodies.***

Therapist **Resmaa**

Menakem examines the

damage caused by

racism in America from

the perspective of

trauma and body-

centered

psychology. The body is

where our instincts

reside and where we

fight, flee, or freeze, and

it endures the trauma

inflicted by the ills that

plague society.

Menakem argues this

destruction will continue

until Americans learn to

heal the generational

anguish of white

supremacy, which is

deeply embedded in all

our bodies. Our

collective agony doesn't

just affect African

Americans. White

Americans suffer their

own secondary trauma

as well.

- **If you'd like to join us, please email me:**
john@firstumclincoln.org

Schedule: (6-7pm CDT via
Zoom)

May 10: Intro sections, Ch. 1-
4

May 24: Ch. 5-9

June 7: Ch. 10-15

June 21: Ch. 16-20

July 19: Ch. 21-24, ending
sections

Aug 2: Reflective wrap-up:



Sermon Series: Holy Repair: Often times we tend to seek scripture for guidance, answers, solutions and more; to address the brokenness and suffering that is in the world. This sermon series will invite us to explore next steps on how we begin this work of repair throughout our families, communities and world.

**“ Holy Repair” May 9th, 2021
8:30: 1 John 5: 1-6
10:45: Psalm 98; John 15: 9-17
Preacher: Kirstie J. Engel**

**“ Holy Repair” May 16th, 2021
8:30: 1 John 5: 9-13
10:45: Psalm 1; John 17: 6-19
Preacher: Kirstie J. Engel**

**“ Holy Repair” May 23, 2021
8:30: Romans 8: 22-27
10:45: Psalm 104: 24-34, 35b; John 15: 26-27; 16:4b-15
Preacher: Kirstie J. Engel**

**“ Holy Repair” May 30, 2021
8:30: Romans 8: 12-17
10:45: Psalm 29; John 3: 1-17
Sermon Wrap-up Dialogue: Dr. Spilker, Kirstie Engel and Dr. Spilker will be inviting possibly 1-2 more people into this for both services.**

Q&A w/ Rev. Kirstie Engel

“COMPASSIONATE CONVERSATIONS: PAUSE & PRAYER” is a life-enriching soul-filled spiritual experience **every Tuesday evening** via Zoom. Would you like to try it out? We would love to have you join us. Email Terri Storer.

SMALL GROUP IDEAS: Terri Storer, Lea Ann Johnson-Kappes, and I continue to collaborate to reimagine possibilities for small groups during COVID-19 and beyond. What ideas do you have? Zoom? Small patio visits at home? Let us know what you need, what ideas you have, what’s on your heart and mind right now.

PHONE TREE MINISTRY continues their work during social distancing. **Many thanks** to those of you who call to minister to our members who don’t have email access. We are so blessed to have such a strong church community. I owe a debt of gratitude to **Peggy Hall** for co-coordinating this important ministry with me.





Dear First Church Family and Friends,

Welcome to the refreshing springtime and the New Life we find in the Easter Season. We are more than a year into the pandemic which has caused a shift in our way of life and, for many, our priorities.

As people feel comfortable, they have started coming into the physical space of our sanctuary and our church home. It is good to see people in the pews, hearing conversations, and engaging with one another. For some, it may feel like seeing a friend we haven't seen in a long time and picking right up where we left off. For some, there may be a newness, a hesitation as we have adapted to the impact of the pandemic on our lives. The pandemic affected each of us in different ways . . . grieving at many levels, social isolation, physical distancing, health, general wellbeing, and many other ways.

Always know you are welcome at First Church in person and virtually whether it be for worship, a music recital, a panel discussion with Bryan Health, or other events. Our small groups are considering hybrid (some in-person and some virtual) meetings to be as inclusive as possible. Our confirmation class has kicked off in person under the leadership of Matt Borland.

If you are yearning for connection in community, I invite you to reach out

Report of the Lay Delegate to Annual Conference

After being cancelled last year, the Great Plains Annual Conference session will be held virtually this year on Friday and Saturday, May 28-29. I have registered. We have a grandson graduating from high school that weekend, so we will be in Sioux Falls, and I will log-in to the conference sessions from there.

All worship services and the business session of annual conference will be livestreamed on the conference website and facebook page. We will be able to watch the livestream and vote via computer, tablet, or phone.

The Laity Session is on Friday morning. The first Annual Conference Session is Friday afternoon and the second Session on Saturday. The Ordination and Commissioning Service will be Saturday, June 12, at Church of the Resurrection in Leawood, KS.

General Conference postponed to 2022

The denomination's global lawmaking assembly, which was postponed by the pandemic from March last year and then postponed again until August of this year. It is again postponed and now scheduled for August, 2022, still in Minneapolis.

The Council of Bishops has

to Pastor Kirstie or myself.
Be well in mind, body, and spirit,
In Christ's love,
Terri Storer
Lay Leader - FUMC



been following a temporary abeyance of charges against pastors for violating rules in the Book of Discipline regarding clergy officiating at same-sex marriages and other LGBTQ issues, and it is up to the bishops if they will continue the abeyance.

United Methodist conservatives detail plans for a breakaway

With General Conference being postponed again, Conservative leaders within the church do not want to wait another year to consider proposals that are being developed for ways in which differing approaches to LGBTQ inclusion can coexist in the world-wide church. They are moving ahead with plans to form a new denomination, the Global Methodist Church, with a doctrine that does not allow ordination of LGBTQ clergy or recognize same-sex marriage.

The chair of the Global Methodist initiative had asked that the topic of separation be added to the tightly limited agenda of a special one-day General Conference that was scheduled online for May 8, but has since been postponed.

With leadership from clergy members of the Great Plains Conference, a Protocol of Reconciliation & Grace Through Separation that would allow conservative congregations and regional bodies to separate from the UMC and form a new denomination, was to be



Nature in Sacred Spaces

The Seasons of Easter and Spring show forth in growth and color. Stems seem to grow by inches each day and buds burst into bloom. Many deciduous trees have flowered and are now unfurling their leaves. The altar has held lilies, tulips, ranunculus, daffodils and early spring greenery along with the beautiful Easter paraments through the month of April.

Though more blooms and greenery will be coming soon, we will feature arrangements created by Lynda Schnirl on Sunday, May 2. In the past year, Lynda has made numerous dried arrangements for the

church's worship and work areas. We want to recognize and thank Lynda for her artistry and generosity of time in beautifying the church. These arrangements will be used at various times as we move through the seasons of the church year. When you can, walk through the East entrance and the hallway to see some of Lynda's lovely arrangements. Thank you, Lynda!

Here is a poem by Ada Limon that speaks of the greening of trees and has a message for humans as well.

Instructions on Not Giving Up

**More than the fuchsia funnels breaking out of the crabapple tree,
more than the neighbor's almost obscene display of cherry limbs
shoving their cotton candy-colored blossoms to the slate sky of
Spring rains,**

it's the greening of the trees that really gets to me.

**When all the shock of white and taffy, the world's baubles
and trinkets, leave the pavement strewn with the confetti of
aftermath,**

the leaves come.

**Patient, plodding, a green skin growing over whatever winter did
to us,**

**a return to the strange idea of continuous living despite the mess
of us,**

the hurt, the empty.

**Fine then, I'll take it, the tree seems to say, a new slick leaf
unfurling like a fist to an open palm, I'll take it all.**

**If any of you will have summer flowers or greenery to share for
the Sanctuary, please be in touch with: Marty Eischeid (402-466-
6680, jjeischeid@hotmail.com)**

Judy Lane (402-466-4541, judithblane@yahoo.com)

**Simple. Joyful. Grateful. Grace.
*The Flower Ministry***



Greetings First Church!

If you have a middle school or high school students that have not been confirmed, or are wanting to learn more about their faith join

us this Sunday at 12:00-1:30 p.m. in west vestry.

This 6-week Journey we will meet once a week on Sundays from 12:00-1:00 and explore their faith, their community of faith, why and what we believe.

There will be opportunity for a mission service, and a trip to see the Holy Family Shrine near Gretna. In addition, we will end our time together with a outdoor celebration at the Helter's Family Farm.

This will be a great way to get your youth engaged in learning about who and whose we are, and I look forward to seeing you then!
For more information please email **Charity@firststumclincoln.org**

Attention campers! If you are interested in attending camp Fontenelle please go to <https://www.campfontanelle.com> register for camp! If you have never attended camp, scholarships are available. Also if you have but are interested in financial assistance please email charity@firststumclincoln.org. Our goal is to send any youth who wants to attend to this great summer camp!



May Birthdays

**1 Angie Hauser
Kane Filbert
Kolt Filbert
2 Kirstie Engel
Phyllis Vculek
4 Peggy Hall
5 Chase Collier
6 Blaire Schneider
Edyth Cascini
8 Kristina Siebrandt
9 Sharon Koepke
Sue Kirkland
10 Jennifer Honebrink
Linda Smith
Ruth Peters
11 Mike Burda**



Prayer Requests:

For the family of Elaine Johnson in the passing of her mother, LaRue Jacobsen

Mark Daniels, Josh Daniels' father, home
Bonnie Evans, Savanna Pines
For the family of Phyllis Vculek in the passing of her brother, Jim Webster
For Lenny Drescher, family friend of Kiley Taylor
For Ebb Munden and Family in the passing of Ebbs wife, Lucy
Jeremy Hickenbottom, home
Sandy Conrad, home

12 Al Campbell
Brian Hosler
Ron Svehla
14 Aaron Raymond
Josh White
Julianna Lanxon
Mike Hoefs
15 Cassidy Besse
Marcus Wendt
Rachel Peters
16 John Helter, Jr.
Ken Vogel
17 Cynthia Bair Van Dam
Harrison Admire
18 Barbara Borgmann
Melanie Sheldon
19 Jeremy Hickenbottom
20 Janelle Glenn
Janet Fulmer
21 Jon Taladay
23 Cassidy Taladay
Libby Baum
Linda Purser
24 Alexander Fern
Alli Raymond
Peyton Griffin
Shandra Bergt
Stephanie Buchli
25 Deb Fisher
26 Roy Schoen
27 Katy Pesek
28 Al Vyhnaek
Ermal Collister
29 Jennifer James
Jim Neumann
Madison Francis
30 Bonnie Amen
Cindy Doll-Skutchan
Don Delaney
Karl Harris
Kyson Bryan
Malcolm Sattler
31 Bill Noble

Jim Neumann, home
Ron Gaddis, home
Dixie Gannon, home
Cindy Newsham, home
Elaine Brown, Bryan East
Lauree Turner, home
Richard Voeltz, Gateway Vista
Lester Shaw, Kiley Taylor's dad.
Roscoe Shields, Van Dorn
Legacy
Emajane Crossley, Lancaster
Manor Rehab
Jim Leypoldt, home
For Jo Anne and Gordon Bair and
Family in the Passing of Howard
Wieger
For Zita Schneider and family in
the passing of Ed Schneider



**Worship online or in person
(socially distanced and
wearing masks) with FIRST
UMC LINCOLN Sundays at
8:30am and 10:45 am!**

**Sending a BIG Thank You for
your Prayers, Presence, Gifts,
Service and Witness during
these difficult times.**



FIRST UNITED
METHODIST CHURCH