



August 2021 First Connection

Dear First Family!

We are in the month of August and it is hard to believe that school will be starting soon! This month I anticipate being a month of building momentum; which is our next sermon series; Holy Momentum. This will be a time where we will be focused on training those who have signed up for our Ministry Fair in the various ministries that relay to our 5 membership vows; prayers, presence, gifts, service and witness. In preparation for this series, I am currently receiving training in a DART Justice Ministry Conference. In this conference, the learning goals will involve:

1. The basic tenets of the justice ministry.
2. How to identify and cultivate lay leaders around personal, life experiences which put on exhibit issues of justice that can bind us together, and;
3. How to exercise collective action to balance power in the public arena.

I am excited for this training opportunity within our conference, because it will help inform my leadership on how we might address some of the social justice concerns that are in our community and world.

I greatly appreciate the enthusiasm that is building and growing within our community for this work of reconciliation. I am still reflecting on the study of the five giraffes that we have been studying in conjunction with our Holy Movement Series. It is an imagery that I cannot get out of my head. My personal prayer has become developing the energy, eagerness and optimism of the baby giraffe, who when the zookeeper called her name; she came running over without hesitation. I know that there are still a lot of unknowns that lie ahead. My prayers for our

community is that we look at these unknowns as a beautiful journey that we GET TO take together; knowing and trusting that not only does God want us here; we as the church of First United Methodist Church in Lincoln wants us here... together!

The best is yet to come. I am glad that we get to experience this reality together!

Peace and Love,
Kirstie J. Engel



Hunger and Poverty Response Ministry

"Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God."
- Hebrews 13:16

Appreciation to each of you who, in July, contributed donations of non-perishable food items, hygiene products and backpacks. Thank YOU for helping the impoverished families in our community with your generosity!

This month we are highlighting School Food Markets, co-sponsored by the Food Bank and a variety of local agencies, including LPS. This program serves 3,691 students monthly in 16 southeast Nebraska counties. There are an estimated 18,740 children, 18 and younger, who live in this area that are considered food insecure.

School Food Markets aim to provide a variety of nutritious, healthy foods to children and families for



I am pleased to report we are on target regarding our 2021 budget, which includes the \$50,000 S.B.A. loan. Our trustees have approved several upgrades to our building including beautification improvements in the sanctuary and west vestry. In the near future, we will be asking for some financial support for these projects.

Chuck Leypoldt, Church Treasurer

consumption in their homes. Their goal is to work with schools and community partners to distribute food in a safe, easily accessible environment. Menu-specific items are delivered to local schools and are supplemented by a limited number of donated goods, bakery items and fresh produce as those items are available. Each school allows all students, parents of students, and school staff to walk through the market and select food based on the allocated amount. This market model removes the stigma of needing help and supports client-choice, offering dignity and compassion to the people who are served.

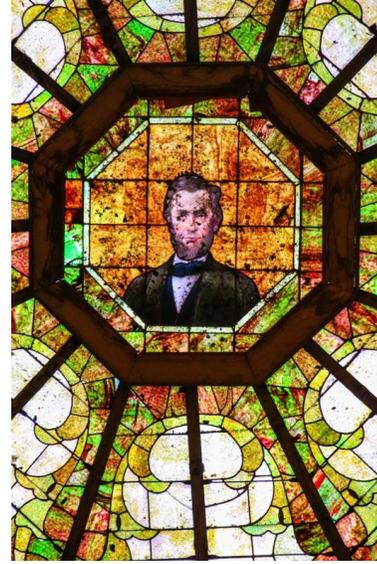
How Can You Become Involved?

1. Your Time. What are you doing on the 2nd Tuesday afternoons from September to May?

For many years our church has spearheaded a team to assist in operating the Huntington Elementary School Food Market (formerly Backpack program). Several long-term volunteers need to be replaced. Ten to twelve persons are needed each time from 2:00 to approximately 4:00. The food truck arrives at 2:00 and volunteers help arrange the donations on tables. The Market is open from 2:45-3:30 and then volunteers help clean up.

To join our amazing group of volunteers sign up on the sheets when you attend church services OR contact either Pastor Caitlin (call church office/leave message) or Shirley Baum at: sbaum@inebraska.com or call 402-432-8833 (cannot leave a message).

2. Your Monetary Donation: It costs about \$100 for one student to get market food each month for an



Compassionate Conversations

As we contemplated fall programming and approaching it as a re-connection, the invitation to love with our whole body, mind, and spirit surfaced in the context of our sermon series and studies over the past year. We are reminded to slowly consider re-connections as we watch the delta variant emerge.

While details are yet to be worked out, we will be engaging our minds with a study using ***Emergent Strategy: Shaping Change, Changing Worlds*** by adrienne maree brown and engaging our spirits as we embrace the book, ***On the Brink of Everything: Grace, Gravity, and Getting Older*** by Parker Palmer.

We'll engage our hearts through **Compassionate Conversations: Pause and Prayer** which will continue through the fall on Zoom. Our time together has become a safe space for sharing;

entire school year. The cost to fund a single School Food Market with 200 students is about \$2,000. Support this much-needed program through your giving to First Church by earmarking your donation to the Huntington Food Market.

Shirley Baum, First UMC Coordinator of Volunteers



Holy Movement: Helping to explore how to put everything we have learned and talked about into action both individually and collectively; as continue to be informed by the wisdom of the Holy Scriptures.

Holy Movement: Sunday August 1, 2021 8:30

Scripture Lesson: 2 Samuel 11:26-12:13a

Preacher: Pastor Caity

Holy Movement: Sunday August 1, 2021 10:45

First Lesson: 2 Samuel 11:26-12:13a

Gospel Lesson: John 6: 24-35

Preacher: Pastor Caity

Holy Movement: Sunday August 8, 2021 8:30

Scripture Lesson: 2 Samuel 18: 5-9, 15, 31-33

Sermon Dialogue: Dr. Spilker, Pastor Caity (and whoever you all invite in)

Holy Movement: Sunday August 8, 2021 10:45

First Lesson: 2 Samuel 18: 5-9, 15,

learning and engaging in dialogue; and being present to God, to ourselves, and to others. We extend grace and compassion to ourselves and to each other. We are finding comfort, acceptance, belonging, honesty, and gratitude in our conversations. We gather on Tuesday evenings, 6:30 - 7:45. All are welcome to join anytime. If want to join in the Zoom conversation or have questions, please contact Terri Storer at tstorer@neb.rr.com

Dr. John Spilker and Terri Storer



On July 18th, Pastor Caity and six young women from First UMC traveled to Camp Norwesca in Chadron, Nebraska for a week of a church camp. There is something miraculous and spiritually life-giving when immersing oneself in God's beautiful creation – a sight that is sometimes rare to experience in the busy city of Lincoln. Throughout the week, the group focused on trust, respect, and forgiveness. We discussed what it means to give trust and what we look for when

31-33

Gospel Lesson: John 6: 35, 41-51
Sermon Dialogue: Dr. Spilker, Pastor
Caity (and whoever you all invite in)

Sermon Series: Holy Momentum
Exploring how to keep the
movement towards justice, peace,
love and inclusion fresh, alive and
not stagnant and developing
spiritual practices, disciplines that
will help us to do so.

Holy Momentum: Sunday August
15, 2021 8:30

Scripture Lesson: 1 Kings 2: 10-12,
3: 3-14

Preacher: Kirstie J. Engel

Holy Momentum: Sunday August
15 2021 10:45

First Lesson: 1 Kings 2: 10-12, 3: 3-
14

Gospel Lesson: John 6: 51-58

Preacher: Kirstie J. Engel

Holy Momentum: Sunday August
22, 2021 8:30

Scripture Lesson: 1 Kings 8:(1,6,10-
11), 22-30, 41-43

Preacher: Kirstie J. Engel

Holy Momentum: Sunday August
22 2021 10:45

First Lesson: 1 Kings 8:(1,6,10-11),
22-30, 41-43

Gospel Lesson: John 6:56-69

Preacher: Kirstie J. Engel

Holy Momentum: Sunday August
29, 2021 8:30

Scripture Lesson: Song of Solomon
2:8-13

Preacher: Kirstie J. Engel

Holy Momentum: Sunday August
29 2021 10:45

First Lesson: Song of Solomon 2:8-
13

Gospel Lesson: Mark 7:1-8, 14-15,

receiving trust. We focused on respecting ourselves through establishing healthy boundaries and respecting others around us. We talked through the various aspects in which we are going to make mistakes, but also learned that if we want to ask for forgiveness, then we need to be willing to forgive others just as God forgives us. When combining these elements, our faith guides us to be the disciples that God has called us to be. We learned that forgiveness and respect help us to create trust and build healthy relationships with those around us. The same can be applied to our faith. When we ask God for forgiveness and respect God, we in turn are actively working on our relationship with Christ and creating a stronger bond with God.

In addition to our worship lessons, the camp group enjoyed various activities such as: The slip-n-slide, campfires, gaga-ball, various hikes throughout the 40 acres of camp, Evan's plunge natural hot springs water park, horseback riding, and what we call ME Time (a time set aside each day for everyone to push all outside voices away and focus on listening to what our bodies need, i.e., daily self-care). Within a short time, these young women began to develop long lasting relationships and friendships with other campers that they just met from all over

21-23

Preacher: Kirstie J. Engel

Holy Momentum: Sunday

September 5, 2021 8:30

Scripture Lesson: Proverbs 22:1-2, 8-9, 22-23

Preacher: Pastor Caity

Holy Momentum: Sunday

September 5 10:45

First Lesson: Proverbs 22:1-2, 8-9, 22-23

Gospel Lesson: Mark 7:24-37

Preacher: Pastor Caity

Holy Momentum: Sunday

September 12, 2021 8:30

Scripture Lesson: Proverbs 1:20-33

Sermon Dialogue: Dr. Spilker & Pastor Caity

Holy Momentum: Sunday

September 12 10:45

First Lesson: Proverbs 1:20-33

Gospel Lesson: Mark 8:27-38

Preacher: Dr. Spilker & Pastor Caity



Dear First Church Family and Friends,

As I reflect back on the morning of Sunday, June 27, 2021, joy continues to overflow. I could fill the newsletter with the attentive details of so many to make this a memorable day. You may recall we celebrated Matt Borland's next steps into seminary in

Nebraska. They are a prime example of what happens when we are willing to be our authentic selves and put forth the energy into building a friendship based in respect, forgiveness, and trust with God as the central focus.

When we focus on how we make others feel and pay attention to how others make us feel – it really isn't difficult to trust and make new friends.

It was a pleasure to have the opportunity to adventure and grow with these young women over this past week. There are not enough words to describe the holy movements that were active over the five days we were there. None of this would have been possible without you, the devoted members of First UMC, and your donations to allow our youth to witness and experience life-giving opportunities. All six of these ladies were able to go to camp at no cost to them because of your support and we are extremely grateful. Next year, we hope to expand the camp experience and involve as many youths as we possibly can, so please consider your continuation of financial support to the youth fund. If these six ladies showed us anything thus far, it is that our youth have the capabilities to move mountains and it's our job as their church family to support them as they discern how they will do that with God's help. Thank you,

Kansas City. First UMC will continue to support Matt providing a strong foundation and fertile ground to nourish his roots of faith. We also affirmed five confirmands and renewed our own vow to faithfully participate in the life and ministries of our local congregation through our prayers, presence, gifts, service and witness.

I don't think the energy of human connection infused with the Holy Spirit was missed by anyone. As I looked around the sanctuary, I was filled with light in the steadfast faithfulness and the resilience of humanity through the generations past and present. From toddlers to those special nonagenarians (yes, there is a word for 90-somethings) we greet each Sunday, we gain energy, strength, and hope. It was a gift to see many called into ministry at various stages in their calling with Matt starting his education, Pastor Caity eager in her first appointment, Pastor Kirstie embracing her role as Senior Pastor and Spiritual Leader, Pastor Larry in his newfound liberation in retirement, and other retired clergy sharing their wisdom. I have to wonder . . . Which of the confirmands will be led into ministry and follow in their footsteps?

The deeper aspect of my reflection is the number of engaged, active participants that contributed to that special day and to the special life of our congregation. Pastor Kirstie has issued the invitation to become engaged in new and varied ways through the Ministry Fair. I recall a previous sermon series where Pastor Kirstie asked this question and it seems pertinent to revisit it - How are you contributing and participating in God's story? You see, we are all

church family!

In Christian love,
Pastor Caitlin Bentzinger



Leila Zila

I was born far away, in the family of musicians,
They raised me in Baku,
Azerbaijan. String players –
Mom and Dad – what a
perfect condition
To have my music light bulb
turned on!

I was enrolled in a music
school at the meager age of
six. There I studied music
literature, and theory, and
piano. All the subjects were a
beautiful, harmonious mix,
All of it I thought of as
Heavenly Manna...
Then I got older and
discovered I could train as
soprano!

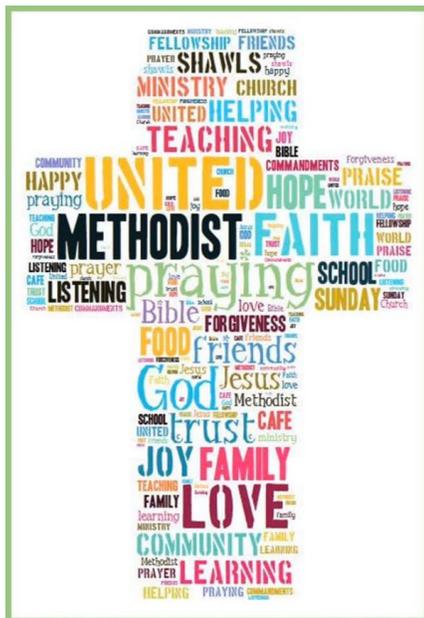
My next big step was the
Academy of Music! I earned
Master's in Vocal
Performance and Music
Education. I knew with the
music profession I was going
to stick when our family
entered the chapter of
emigration.

Travels brought us to the
United States, we settled in

called to be active participants in the story as it plays out in the four walls of our church building as well as in all aspects of our lives.

This is truly a special time in our congregation and community as we re-connect and sense the strong presence of God, the unconditional love of Jesus, and the movement of the Holy Spirit in one another. We welcome all.

Peace be with you,
Terri Storer
Lay Leader



Turning faith, hope and love into action on behalf of women, children, and youth around the world.

Greetings UMW, First Church Family and Friends,

Thank you for responding so generously to the needs of Matt Talbot Kitchen and Outreach. Unit members delivered your gifts as they toured Matt Talbot's beautiful facility to learn more about the extensive outreach provided guests in Lincoln. The sunscreen, insect

Lincoln. As an accompanist for LPS I worked for many years. Over time I began to feel a certain inkling That change was needed in my professional career.

Fast forward to now, I've been teaching since 2013 - Culler Middle School is where I call home.

If you come to my room, you'll find very musical scene: Singing, Drumming, Playing everything, even Styrofoam!

Two children of mine make me a proud Mother: Daughter's a high school junior, Son - college freshman.

I neglected to mention that I also have a Brother, He is an Artist but makes a living via different vocation.

I love playing music, also reading and art, I love being in nature and to make people laugh. I am excited of First UMC team to be a part And with this I will end my bio's last paragraph.



repellent, cooling cloths, and bike locks were most gratefully received by staff members. Surely guests will feel your love and caring as they enjoy these items essential to their daily living.

Sheryl Pont has graciously volunteered to serve as the new Chair of the Compassion Ministry. We look forward to welcoming Sheryl beginning September 1st, however, she is already planning! The luncheons following a funeral or memorial service may look similar to what we have known, but what will be different is that the work will be shared by numerous people rather than completed by a few. Many women, men, children and youth are needed to complete varying tasks before, during, and after the luncheon. Perhaps you have 20-30 minutes to share with this important ministry. Join the fellowship of working together to provide a beautiful lunch over which people may feel comforted and begin to heal. Prepare to say "Yes, I will help!"

Registration is being accepted for Mission U Zoom classes. Everyone is welcome! Register for Pushout: The Criminalization of Black Girls in Schools, Finding Peace in an Anxious World, or Bearing Witness in the Kin-dom: Living into the Church's Moral Witness through Radical Discipleship
at judy@thegrantclan.org

UMW wishes to extend an invitation to you all for membership at any time of the year. Our youngest member is a recent teen and our oldest members are part of the greatest generation. You don't have to be a member of the United Methodist

This week was so much fun! We ventured with our kids on a trip to discover the Kings Armor. Our banner verse was "Be Strong in the Lord and in the strength of His power" Eph 6:10.

The nights were each based around an important lesson that focused on Gods unfailing power to guide, deliver, and help us when we need him. We learned about the Armor of Truth, Justice, Peace, Faith and Salvation.

I think all of us were beyond excited to wear costumes and be a little silly since we finally had younger kid activities back. Big thank you to all the people who helped out this year, Pastor Caity, her fiancé Tyler, her mom Pastor Lynn, Jen Fry, Mike Coffey, John Helter, Kathy Cummings, Angie Smith. We also had many youth who made the event a success by helping with the younger kids and also just being there to add to the excitement of the nights. Noah Kloch, Jenna Helter, John C. Helter, Philomena Hogan, Malia Reynozo, and Gracie Vculek.

During these nights we learned about:

Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego Stand True
David Defeats Goliath
Daniel and the Lions Den
Jonah and the Whale
Jesus Walks on Water

As you can tell a lot of these were very deep and the youth

Church, and there are no dues. How do you join? Call the church office 402-466-1906, come to the meeting in Black Fellowship Hall September 2, at 1:30, or contact Shirley Baum or Peggy Hall. sbaum@inebraska.com or peggysintek.hall@gmail.com. We will be delighted to welcome you as a member of our Unit!

Blessings,
Peggy Hall

asked some amazing questions that really helped many of us adults to realize that our children do listen, they do hear the stories and the messages that we are sending them. God's love is deep and wide and will be there for you during the difficult times. Does not mean they won't happen, but He will be there to help comfort and guide you.

I am looking forward to our next time we can all get together and sing, praise God, and just be goofy as a church family.

Blessings - Charity



August Birthdays

- 1 Kathy Cummins
Kevin Korell
- 2 David Zeff
Milt Schmidt
Tobias Baxter
- 3 Kelly Allen
- 5 Jahiem Curry
Jaquez Curry
- 6 Caroline Caldwell
Nolan Caldwell
Erik Fegter
Judy Berger
- 7 Alan Eighme
Jan Blue
Jon Francis
- 8 Brandon Eslick
Marcus Vculek

Prayer Requests:

- Susie Cook, Home
The Barnell family in the passing of Donna Barnell. The service for Dean & Donna is July 24 at 9:30 a.m.
The family of Zita Schneider in the passing of her husband Ed Schneider
The family of Jo Anne Bair in the passing of her father, Howard Wieggers, service is August 7 at 11 a.m.
Wallace Gant, Brookside Rehab Center
Dale Case, Maxine's son, home
Mark Daniels, Josh Daniels' father, home
Bonnie Evans, Savanna Pines

9 Tobin Louderback
Jeremy Jurey
Shannon Fegter
10 Andrew Forst
Arien Martin
Brad Vculek
Carol King
Catlyn Sheldon
11 Emma Vculek
Randy Gettman
12 Amy Bartolome
Ande Hill
Deb McGuire
13 Ebb Munden
Ethan Memming
14 David Beatty
Grace Bartolome
Lori Hanson
Sumalee Karr
15 Katherine Lent
16 Sean Hall
17 Linda Stevenson
18 Connie Million
Micah Wythers
Mindy Vyhnaiek
19 Lou Gaddis
20 Logan Allen
Madelyn Eilers
21 Bill Venhaus
Garrett Hanneman
Sharon Eighme
22 Becky Williams
Missy Leypoldt
23 Beyna Taylor
Dan Howell
Ken Mohr
Tyler Francis
24 Sara Hanna
25 Kailey Seitz
26 Jeff Koepke
Terry Lange
27 John Helter—adult
Tom Schwindt
28 Richard Flanigan
31 Richard Voeltz

Jeremy Hickenbottom, home
Sandy Conrad, Firth
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



**Worship online or in person
with FIRST UMC LINCOLN
Sundays at 8:30am and 10:45
am! Please wear a mask unless
you are FULLY Vaccinated. We
thank you in advance!**

**Sending a BIG Thank You for
your Prayers, Presence, Gifts,
Service and Witness**

**If you are interested in being
baptized or becoming a new
member of First United
Methodist Church, then please
contact the Church office. We
are excited to be in Community
with YOU!**



**COMMUNITY CENTERED...
COMMUNITY FOCUSED...
COMMUNITY MINDED!**