



July 2021 First Connection

Dear First Family!

It is so hard to believe that the month of July is here. This month my word of focus is on “movement.” Our next sermon series will be entitled “Holy Movement.” My rationale for this sermon series is that now that we are making our way towards what will be hopefully the end of this pandemic; I have found myself discerning what are my next steps. I am interested in exploring the movements that will be required of us both individually and collectively, so that we can begin the process of putting the pieces of our lives back together again.

For the reality is that there is no instruction manual on how to do any of this right?! Furthermore, I don't know about you; but I am both elated that we are getting back to some sense of normalcy, but slightly overwhelmed at the same time! For the to do lists seems to be growing by the second. I was telling a couple of parishioners a couple of days ago, that I had no idea that my life and others would be displaced for so long. I expected at the least; a two month hiatus; to be able to catch up on some tv shows and spend quality time with my family. However, as the months went by, I realized at about the 6-month mark; that this pandemic would alter our lives drastically!

The month of July also holds a lot of movement from the pastoral aspect. As you know, we just celebrated the ministry of Matt Borland; who will be moving on to attend seminary at Saint Paul School of Theology; along with serving a church in Cyrus, Kansas as a local pastor. July will be the month that we also receive our new Associate Pastor, Caitly Bentzinger. These moves for me, hold a lot of excitement and sadness in some regards; as Matt will be sorely

missed. However, any time a Church is blessed to receive additional pastoral support; this creates a wealth of opportunities for the Church as a whole! Having this type of pastoral support and expansion, allows us as a Church to move in ways that help us to expand our reach; to those who need to know about the reconciling movement and love of Jesus!

So the invitation this month is not to become overwhelmed by the chaos of re-integrating back into a world that has been placed on pause for over a year. The invitation is to become deeper in prayer and discernment with God; asking God to reveal to us, the next steps for us both individually and collectively. I am inviting us into a time of discernment; taking all that we have learned from the lessons that our time of being in the wilderness has taught us together; so that we can begin to develop a plan of action. A plan of action, where we invite the Holy Spirit to teach us how to move in a manner that is intentional and purpose-filled in how we share God's love to this broken world. For time is of the essence. Furthermore, I do not want us to miss out on an opportunity for transformation; both individually and collectively. For God is doing a new thing; can you perceive it? Can you sense it? I certainly can!

Peace and Love!
Kirstie J. Engel



Hunger and Poverty Response Ministry

For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat; I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink; I was a stranger and you invited me in. Matthew 25:35

Beginning July 1st, our First Church family and friends may join other north Lincoln churches and civic groups in collecting backpacks and as many hygiene supplies as



With one Sunday remaining, we will soon reach the half-way mark in 2021. We have received \$288,449.84. This includes a loan/grant from the Small Business Administration. We are on

possible. The goal is to provide a backpack and hygiene kit for each north Lincoln elementary and middle school student living with food challenges. It is generally known that students are more confident when they come to school clean, but it is not unusual in a food shortage home that hygiene products are left off the grocery list.

The Hunger and Poverty Response Ministry team invites you, our church family and friends, to prayerfully consider helping families living near us. The next time you are at the grocery store pick-up a couple of extra things to share! Your gifts of shampoo, deodorant, bar soap, toothpaste, toothbrushes and backpacks may then be placed in the basket on the Hunger Ministry table in the sanctuary, or taken to the church office anytime during the month of July. Sarah McMaster, Huntington Elementary, is one of the coordinators of this project.

The Blessing Box has been placed north of the parking lot near Madison Avenue and is being stocked regularly by faithful volunteers. Suzie Miller-Schoen leads this ministry, and she has compiled a list of the most highly needed food and hygiene items. To ease your shopping decisions, you may help yourself to one of the lists found on the Hunger Ministry table in the sanctuary. Looking for another way to help? Write a check to First UMC with Blessing Box in the memo, or volunteer a bit of time to restock the Blessing Box. Contact Suzie, smillerschoen@gmail.com

The Hunger and Poverty Response Ministry Team is grateful for our church family and friends' continued response to the needs presented with

target to meet our financial obligations.

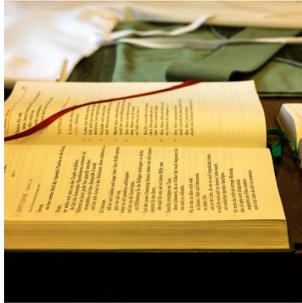
We have two "live services" every Sunday with uplifting worship and are encouraged and challenged by excellent sermons. We will say good-bye to our youth pastor and welcome a new associate pastor in July.

Our Trustees are in the midst of several "beautification" projects throughout our building, especially in the sanctuary and west Vestry. These should be complete at the end of summer. Soon you will be challenged to underwrite these projects.

A year ago, uncertainty seemed to prevail in our world. "As for those who are in the present age are rich, command them not to be haughty, or to set our hopes on the uncertainty of riches, but rather on God who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment. They are to do good, to be rich in good works, generous and ready to share, thus storing up for themselves the treasure of a good foundation for the future, so that they may take hold of the life that really is life." 1 Timothy 6: 17-19

**Chuck Leypoldt—
Treasurer**

each project. Your gifts are making a difference, and they are a blessing. Thank you, Church.
Peggy Hall



July Sermon Series: 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 July 11, 2021 8:30

Scripture Lesson: 2 Samuel 6: 1-5, 12b-19

Preacher: Kirstie J. Engel

Holy Movement: Sunday July 11 2021 10:45

First Lesson: 2 Samuel 6: 1-5, 12b-19

Gospel Lesson: Mark 6: 14-29

Preacher: Kirstie J. Engel

Holy Movement: Sunday July 18, 2021 8:30

Scripture Lesson: 2 Samuel 7: 1-14a

Preacher: Kirstie J. Engel

Holy Movement: Sunday July 18 2021 10:45

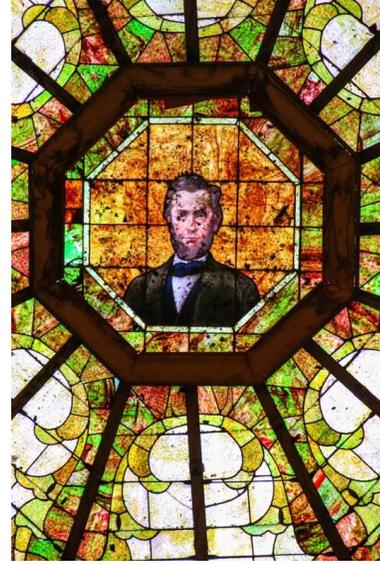
First Lesson: 2 Samuel 7: 1-14a

Gospel Lesson: Mark 6: 30-34, 53-56

Preacher: Kirstie J. Engel

Holy Movement: Sunday July 25, 2021 8:30

Scripture Lesson: 2 Samuel 11: 1-15



**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>.

John Spilker was recently interviewed by Robrenna Redl for her podcast G.R.I.T. Getting Real Immersed in Truth. The June 15, 2021 episode is titled "Getting Real About Being a Gay Christian." You can listen here:

<https://open.spotify.com/episode/2p3Ib6YfQj3I7RUYTUXU0u>

Terri and John are collaborating to create a small group experience beginning in fall 2021. More information about classes will be forthcoming.

Preacher: Kirstie J. Engel

Holy Movement: Sunday July 25

2021 10:45

First Lesson: 2 Samuel 11: 1-15

Gospel Lesson: John 6: 1-21

Preacher: Kirstie J. Engel



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,
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

SojoMail

My Farewell to Sojourners

Jim Wallis

As I say farewell to

Sojourners, one word comes most to mind: gratitude. I feel deeply grateful for the past and very excited about the future. The love of my life and my vocation for more than 50 years has been centered on two other words: faith and justice. Therefore, it is a great joy — a dream, really — to take this big step into the next chapter of my life and vocation and be wonderfully invited into two new roles focused on both of those core words.

I have accepted an invitation from Georgetown University to become the inaugural Chair in Faith and Justice at the McCourt School of Public Policy and the founding director of the new campus-wide Center on Faith and Justice. In these new positions, I will be able to focus on the things I most love: teaching and mentoring, writing and speaking, offering media commentary, convening and strategizing with both faith and political leaders across the theological and ideological spectrums, engaging in outreach to both policy makers and local

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, 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

practitioners, helping to change the narrative of faith and politics, and being an advocate for justice — all because of my faith. It is an incredible gift.

I am deeply thankful for the last 50 years with Sojourners; I am honored to be its founder (which I always say was more like a co-founder, along with many others) and will remain an ambassador of this unique organization going forward. And I could not be more supportive of Adam Russell Taylor, the new president of Sojourners. After three years of planning — and with my full endorsement — the board chose Adam to be my successor. He is a dynamic, new-generation thinker, activist, messenger, and mobilizer who is ready to lead Sojourners into the next 50 years of its prophetic ministry.



Nature in Sacred Spaces

From late April through the end of June, flowers and greenery have been provided by the following people: Lynda Schnirl, Lois and Doug Wilson, Zita Schneider, Carol and Bob King, Liz and Ira Zeff, Bill and Margrethe Ahlschwede, Elaine and Glenn Johnson, Marty and

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,**

Some 16 months ago, we abruptly halted in-person gatherings and were ushered into a pandemic era. Now we find ourselves tip-toeing back into in-person gatherings and reconnecting with others.

As we have eased back into the church building for worship, committee meetings, and small groups, I am reminded that while we have been gone from the building, the strong undercurrent of the work of God has never stopped. The Holy Spirit is truly in this place. Pastor Kirstie and the worship team have been the most visible week in and week out. Behind the scenes, we have been blessed by faithful, steadfast servants tending to our building, monitoring our finances, caring for our staff, and providing resources for expanding ministry. We are so grateful for their dedication

John Eischeid, Judy and Les Lane. We are very grateful for all of these offerings of garden beauty.

In late July 2020, the Flower Ministry began to include Remembrance place cards with Psalm 23 along with the floral arrangements for church members who had died during the Covid pandemic. This seemed important during the time when funerals and celebrations of life were not being held in the church. We wanted to provide a time in the worship service to remember and honor the lives of those who had died.

In May and June 2021, remembrance cards have been placed for Howard Wieggers, Ed Schneider, Lynn Nickol, and Donna Barnell.

The community is now emerging from the pandemic. Families are beginning to plan memorial services in the church. The Psalm 23 place cards and dedication of the altar arrangements will conclude at the end of August. We hope they have given comfort during this past year.

On June 20th, Rosemary Thornton shared Haiku poetry that she had written for Mel for their anniversary twenty years ago. Mel died in late May 2020. Rosemary has given permission to share one of the Haiku poems in this newsletter. Thank you, Rosemary, for sharing your writing.

Joyce



The Saturday clean-up crew included Tom and Shirley James, Doug Wilson, Glenn Johnson, Judy and Les Lane, Gordon Bair and John and Marty Eischeid.

Weeds pulled, trash collected, sidewalks swept, and 95 bags of mulch added. Check it out!



Wiegers. Howard he the oldest member of the church and he joined in 1947 (46 or 47). Howard married Mary Irene “Mickie” (Caldwell) in 1942. He earned a bachelor’s degree from University of Nebraska’s College of Agriculture before moving to California to work for Lockheed during WWII. While in California, Howard sent for Mickie and they married. After the war, Howard studied briefly at Caltech and the University of Utah before the couple returned to Nebraska, where he earned a master’s degree at UNL. They bought an acreage just north of Lincoln, where they raised their two children, Jo Anne and John.

Howard began his career as a professor of poultry science in 1949 at UNL’s College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources, ultimately retiring in 1986. He is credited with making significant advances in turkey fertility processes. In addition to poultry science, Howard developed courses in wildlife management and was instrumental in developing what is now the Fisheries and Wildlife program. The Wildlife Club’s annual award—the Howard L. Wiegers Nebraska Outstanding Wildlife Conservation Award—was named in his honor.

In addition to teaching, Howard was a passionate advisor. During his career he advised hundreds of students,

stepping away from their leadership roles. The Mission Team is asking all of our church family to prayerfully consider joining Judy by accepting one of these soon to be vacated spots. Because we need to begin making plans rather soon, we are hoping for people to come forward by the early days of July. Shortly after, if no one feels called, decisions will be made for an alternate post service fellowship. We are grateful for your exceptional work, Marty, Shirley and Judy. Thank you!

Mission U 2021 is offering three different book studies via ZOOM in the coming weeks. Finding Peace in an Anxious World, presented by the Reverend Bonnie McCord; Bearing Witness in the Kin-dom: Living into the Church's Moral Witness through Radical Discipleship, presented by Rev. McCord; Pushout: The Criminalization of Black Girls in Schools, presented by the Reverend Bridget Gately. Some classes begin in mid-July, others in August or September. All women, men, children and youth are welcome to register at judy@thegrantclan.org FYI for registration: Our Unit is in the Blue River District.

After revisiting plans and available commitment for a rummage sale, Joyce Gettman and the Mission Team have decided to cancel this September fundraiser. Joyce did a masterful job of creating and communicating a working plan for a sale, and the Mission Team wishes to thank Joyce for her time, effort and willingness to lead.

Our Unit's second local mission trip is scheduled for Wednesday, July 21st at 1:30, when we will be touring Matt Talbot Kitchen and Outreach. We

the winters in Texas and would return each spring with crates of citrus fruit and Mexican vanilla. Howard was a member of First United Methodist Church and the Lincoln East Rotary Club. He was preceded in death by his parents, brother Claude Wieggers, sister Reva Wieggers, Irene Caldwell Stevens, and Wanda Wieggers. He is survived by his children, JoAnne (Gordon) Bair of Lincoln and John (Chris) Wieggers of Pickrell; grandchildren, Amanda Bair of Plattsmouth, Cynthia (Brad) Bair Van Dam of Washington, DC, Andrea (Ivan) Haas of Woodinville, WA, Carly (Kyle) Parrish of Auburn; great-grandchildren, Violet Haas, Natalie Parrish, Landon Parrish, Grady Haas; and nieces and nephew, Linda Lewis of Texas, Judy Greene of Virginia, and John King of Iowa.

A celebration of his life will be held on August 7 at 11 a.m. at First United Methodist Church. Memorials may be made to the Howard Wieggers Student Travel Support Fund at the University of Nebraska Foundation (nufoundation.org) or First United Methodist Church of Lincoln, Nebraska.

encourage everyone to join us in learning about Matt Talbot's extensive outreach beyond the delicious meals served to guests. When asked how we might help, staff at Matt Talbot shared that these warm summer months bring a high need for insect repellent, sunscreen and cooling towels. Bike locks are also most welcome. We hope you will join us! However, please consider participating even if you can't make it that day. Just drop a couple of items in the Matt Talbot box placed outside the church office near the mailboxes. To carpool, meet in the church parking lot at 1:00. See you then!

Blessings to you all,
Peggy Hall

The Ministry Fair will be up in the West Vestry throughout our Holy Movement Sermon Series. All are welcome to sign up for the ministry opportunities available. Let's carry the "Ark" together!



Vacation Bible School July 12th-16th 5:30-8:00pm

All ages welcome!
Invite a friend to join you!
<https://www.firstumclincoln.org/vacation-bible-school/>

Greetings Church families!
Thank you so much to all who donated to our t-shirt fundraiser. We were able to raise over \$150.00 in profits to go to our meditation garden. The older youth are in the process of designing the space and it is our goal to have it ready to reveal by the time we are back in session this fall for youth activities. Thank you again for allowing them to have a vision of a place to read, meditate and belong in our beautiful church. For those who are not familiar with the area, it is a small space between the old and new sections of the church that is accessible by the hall near the gym. More on this vision to come when we have a reveal of our new



July Birthdays

1 Ryan Johnson
2 Anna Cadenbach
Gracie Vculek
3 Barb Bratt
Claudia Dougherty
Delaney Wendt
4 Samuel Hubka
5 Lois Goss
6 William Seng
7 Joshua Eilers
8 Brian Fern
Skylar Hill
Kalie Schroeder
10 Braylan Zeff
11 Bryan West
Isaiah Serrano
12 Daniel Bowmaster
Heather Wheeldon
Sean Harris
13 Alexander Lawson
Lauren Lawson
Rayma Delaney
16 Chuck Leypoldt
Dexter Honebrink
Michelle Marquis
17 Mandy Bair
20 Howard Wiegiers
22 Audrey Bartolome
25 Alexi Williams
Liz Halvorsen
Lisa Eilers
28 Gail Hanneman
Jordan Satter
Larry Fischer
29 Eric Rasmussen



Prayer Requests:

The Barnell family in the passing of Donna Barnell, service for Dean & Donna is 7/24 at 10 a.m.
The family of Zita Schneider in the passing of her husband Ed Schneider, service 7/10 11 a.m.
The family of Jo Anne Bair in the passing of her father, Howard Wiegiers, service is 8/11 at 10 a.m.
Wallace Gant, Brookside Rehab Center
Dale Case, Maxine's son, home
For the family of Elaine Johnson in the passing of her mother, LaRue Jacobsen

Mark Daniels, Josh Daniels' father, home
Bonnie Evans, Savanna Pines
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

30 Kaden Reiss
31 Amanda Hansen
Joni Taylor
Judy Lane
Ralph Ebers



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!

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



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