

## OCTOBER 2021 First Connection



We are in the month of October; one of my favorite times of the year for many reasons. First, I love the season of Fall. I love wearing boots, sweaters, hats and more! I love the typically cooler mornings and evenings. I love drinking warmer liquids such as hot chocolate and eating soups. I love to turn on my

electric fireplace, cozy up on my couch; wrapped in a blanket; while reading, or watching a good movie.

Secondly, Steve and I got married in the month of October... October 29, 2015 to be exact. So October is typically a month where he and I will reminisce about our relationship and how it has evolved. We also typically try and plan a vacation in October to celebrate our union together. This year however, we plan to go on vacation sometime in November. We still haven't decided just yet. However Branson, Missouri is typically one of our top choices, as we love to take our kids or "just us," to see the Christmas lights at Silver Dollar City.

So this is a long way of my naming that the month of October reminds me of the purpose of building and keeping relationships with people. For we have our familial relationships, work relationships, church and community relationships, relationship with God and more! Furthermore, my aha moment is that for me, life is meaningless without these relationships. For it is in building these types of intentional relationships where we truly become alive!

This is also why I have been intentional about having monthly home gatherings; all based on the Wesleyan model of forming relationships with people all with the purpose of just being in fellowship with one another. Everyone is invited to these gatherings where the dinner is themed and Stephen and I provide the main course, while asking others to bring sides/drinks and dessert. If you found joy in attending one of these gatherings, guess what you can come again! So below I have included the next 3 dates where if you would like to come, please call the Church office and be signed up for one of these Gathering events. The details of our home address will be provided upon your call.

- Friday October 22, 6pm-8:30 pm- (Soul Food)
- Friday November 19, 6pm-8:30pm- ( Friendsgiving-

Thanksgiving)

- Friday December 17, 6pm-8:30p

(Christmas Party, \$10.00 elephant gift, Appetizer night)

We are excited to do life with you!

Peace and Love!

**Kirstie Engel**

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### **Hunger and Poverty Response Ministry**

*...and he took the five loaves and two fish, looked up into the sky and asked God's blessing on the meal, then broke the loaves apart and gave them to the disciples to place before the people. And everyone ate until full!* From the book of Matthew, Chapter 14

Don't you just love a good miracle? Feeding a crowd of 5,000 with five loaves and two fish! Thankfully, you have the power to help such a miracle occur. You won't be using bread and fish, you will use your voice.

On Bread for the World Sunday, October 10th, use your voice to help those who are hungry.

By writing to political leaders in Washington, D.C., you will be the voice for those hungry for food, financial assistance, and reform. Please join the Hunger and Poverty Response Committee between services on Sunday, October 10th. Join us in writing to leaders in Washington D.C. asking them to

### **September Giving Report**

I got quite a shock when our church's bank statement came out last month. Our general fund stood at \$22,832.74, by far the lowest amount in many, many years. Our pastor and finance chair sent a letter encouraging you to help and I'm happy to report almost \$32,000 has made its way into our bank account.

Being a part of God's family is sometimes hard work. We have all promised to love one another and find ways to help others by praying for others, finding ways of serving, being present in worship, and sharing gifts to help others.

**Chuck Leypoldt,**  
*Church Treasurer*

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support legislation providing for people in need. You are welcome to use the supplies we make available, or bring your laptop or tablet to send emails. This is your chance to help feed the hungry. This is your chance to be part of a modern day miracle.

**Alan Eighme**



**Holy Spectrum:** This series is designed to explore the Rainbow and the social issues, topics, spiritual growth and possibilities contained in it.

**Holy Spectrum: Red; Sunday  
September 26, 2021**

8:30: Psalm 124  
10:45: Psalm 124, Mark 9: 38-50  
**Preacher: Kirstie J. Engel**

**Holy Spectrum: Orange; Sunday  
October 3, 2021**

8:30: Psalm 26  
10:45: Psalm 26, Mark 10: 2-16  
**Preacher: Kirstie J. Engel**

**Holy Spectrum: Yellow; Sunday  
October 10, 2021**

8:30: Psalm 22: 1-15  
10:45: Psalm 22:1-15, Mark 10: 17-31  
**Preacher: Kirstie J. Engel**

**Holy Spectrum: Green; Sunday  
October 17, 2021**

8:30: Psalm 104: 1-19, 24, 35c  
10:45: Psalm 104: 1-19, 24, 35c,  
Mark 10: 35-45  
**Preacher: Kirstie J. Engel**

**Holy Spectrum: Blue; Sunday**



**First United Methodist  
Church, Fall, 2021**

We welcome you to join us on Wednesday evenings starting on September 15, 2021.

Meal at 5:30 – 6:20  
Communal Prayer at 6:20 – 6:30  
Book Study at 6:30 – 7:15  
Choir at 7:15 – 8:00

Co-Leaders: **Dr. John Spilker and Terri Storer**  
[john@firstumclincoln.org](mailto:john@firstumclincoln.org) /  
[tstorer@neb.rr.com](mailto:tstorer@neb.rr.com)

We open to the movement of the Holy Spirit as we are invited to love with our whole BODY and HEART (**Compassionate Conversations**), MIND (*Emergent Strategy* by adrienne maree brown), and SPIRIT (*Invitations of Jesus* by Trevor Hudson).

**Compassionate Conversations: Pause and Prayer** will continue through the fall on Zoom. Our time together has become a safe space for sharing; learning and engaging in dialogue; and being present to God, to ourselves, and to others.

**October 24, 2021**

8:30: Psalm 34: 1-8, (19-22)

10:45: Psalm 34: 1-8, (19-22), Mark

10:46-52

**Preacher: Kirstie J. Engel**

**Holy Spectrum: Purple; Sunday**  
**October 31, 2021 ( All Saints Day)**

8:30: Psalm 146:1-19

10:45: Psalm 146: 1-19, Mark 12: 28-34

**Preacher: Kirstie J. Engel**



In August, our church family collected school supplies to donate to our neighbors at Huntington Elementary. The donations continued to appear outside of my office for about three weeks and it took a cart to unload all of the supplies for the students and teachers (AMAZING!) Being a part of a community means lifting each other up and supporting one another. The relationship between First UMC and Huntington Elementary is a special relationship. Some of you live in this neighborhood, others have taught at Huntington, and everyone clearly holds these students close to the heart. Personally, I was overwhelmed with joy to see the generosity and love that appeared in these gifts and I am looking forward to experiencing the continued growth in our

Tuesday evenings, 6:30 - 7:30. Contact Terri Storer for the Zoom link.

The following two book studies will alternate each Wednesday, so you can participate in one or both. All are welcome to join anytime. You don't have to start a group from the beginning. These books are designed to come as you are. Books are available from Amazon.

***Emergent Strategy*** – We will slowly engage in the content of this book through next April as adrienne maree brown invites us to consider what we know, and don't know, to align our visions of social justice as we co-create the future working together. She gives us many tools for emergent strategy facilitation. (09/15/2021 – 04/27/2022)

***Invitations of Jesus*** – Trevor Hudson leads us to see where Christ is touching our lives and calling us to deeper relationships with God, self, and neighbor. (6 sessions – 09/22/2021 – 12/08/2021)

Together we are building capacity to thrive as self and community deepening our relationship with the divine and humanity. We create a safer space around Parker Palmer's Circle of Trust Touchstones to broaden our understanding of doing God's work on earth as it is in heaven . . . beyond the four walls of our church. (See separately in this newsletter.)

relationship with our neighbors across the street. Thank you so much for your active gifts, service, presence, witness, and prayers.

**Caitlin Bentzinger**

Pictured in photo: Terese Anderson and Mary Gilliland



**The Stewardship and Finance Committee** has been monitoring the Church's financial situation during the last two years. In 2020 during the ten months of shutdown, giving was moderately reduced, but so were the expenses. However, in 2021, as the church resumed in-person worship, committee and other activities, and five-day office hours, expenses have increased, but the giving has remained flat and fallen behind. The Stewardship and Finance Committee is developing a plan to address this situation. Some deficiencies in financial information, in communications and reporting, and coordination have been identified. Following are some of the steps we are taking:

- The Church has purchased new and more robust software for bookkeeping and accounting
- Mike Coffey is setting up the new software and will be working with Chuck Leypoldt in learning the Treasurer's duties.
- The Committee will be continuing to develop and analyze the data on giving/income, including historical comparisons over the

Sept 15: *Emergent Strategy* pp. 1-23 Intro  
Sept 22: *Invitations of Jesus* Chapter 1  
Sept 29: *Emergent Strategy* pp. 23-40 Intro  
Oct 6: *Invitations of Jesus* Chapter 2  
Oct 13: *Emergent Strategy* pp. 41-50 principles & elements  
Oct 20: *Invitations of Jesus* Chapter 3  
Oct 27: *Emergent Strategy* pp. 51-66: fractals  
Nov 3: *Invitations of Jesus* Chapter 4  
Nov 10: *Emergent Strategy* pp. 67-82: intentional adaptation & 236-243 (tools)  
Nov 17: *Invitations of Jesus* Chapter 5  
Nov 24: pause for Thanksgiving  
Dec 1: *Emergent Strategy* pp. 83-102: interdependence & decentralization  
Dec 8: *Invitations of Jesus* Chapter 6  
Dec 15: *Emergent Strategy* pp. 103-122: nonlinear & iterative  
Pausing for Christmas and resuming on January 5, 2022



**First UMC Trunk Or Treat**  
Sunday October 31st  
12:00-1:00  
Come to 10:45 service and

past several years.

- The Committee will develop a draft budget for 2022 and will be soliciting input from the various program committees, Trustees, and Staff/Parish Relations Committee.
- The Committee will be drafting a comprehensive “Financial Policies and Procedures” handbook that will restore FUMC to conformance with the United Methodist Discipline, provide clarity to roles and responsibilities, and address security, segregation of duties, internal controls, and financial reporting.
- The Committee will be evaluating whether to do an in-house or outside audit.
- In November, the Committee will conduct the Stewardship Campaign for 2022.

**Glenn Johnson and Aaron Raymond,** Co-Chairs



### October Birthdays

1 Daniel Cadenbach

2 Amanda Turner

Gracy Seefeld

Kyler Karr

3 Amber Seitz

Joe Grenfell

Lydia Reynolds

5 Kristen Witham

6 Greg Turner

Judy Brhel

Michael Reynozo Jr.

7 Mikhaila Hosler

wear your costume! Join us after in the east parking lot for lots of fun and candy. We are still in need of people to hand out candy if willing please call the office or email [charity@firstumclincoln.org](mailto:charity@firstumclincoln.org).

### Wednesday Children's Church is Back!

Kids of all ages! Come join us for dinner from 5:30-6:20 and then for bible study and games on Wednesday nights until 7:30.

**Please note - Dinner is with family, should you be dropping off your children for this please drop off no earlier than 6:00pm. Dinner will still be served.**

This is during the adult study time and if you are interested in helping or have questions please contact Charity Helter or the church office.

### Meditation Garden Update

We are hard at work cleaning and preparing a space for prayer and meditation at the church. We recently set a no school date of Monday October 18th to work on the landscaping of the area. If you have a youth who would like to spend that day from 10:00-2:30 at church working with us please contact me at 402-560-4251 or email [charity@firstumclincoln.org](mailto:charity@firstumclincoln.org). Sack lunch provided and transportation may be available if needed.

8 Darin Turner  
Doug McLeese  
Heidi Beattie  
9 Gannon Holland  
Levi Stiles  
Mike Coffey  
10 Leul Howell  
11 John Westerholm  
12 Briella Zeff  
13 Anne Bowman  
Brandon Vculek  
Max Steiner  
14 Chris Leypoldt  
Grace Francis  
Terri Storer  
15 Andrew Edwards  
16 Glenn Higgins  
Tim Van Meveren  
17 Greg Lyons  
Hayden Eslick  
Paula Latas  
19 Marisa Westerholm  
Mark Sass  
Matt Markowski  
20 JoAnn Knight  
Ray Pont  
21 Shannon Fisher  
23 Abrianna Eilers  
Jackie Redmond  
Leila Zila  
Morgan Glenn  
24 Maxine Case  
25 Lane Allen  
26 Deb Faith  
Gayle Angus  
Heidi Brokenicky  
John Uland  
27 Judy Clark  
Ben Leypoldt  
28 Emily Cardin  
29 Amanda Jakub  
Beth Brady-Wendt  
Hailey Franzen  
Holden Franzen  
Marvelyn Wuster  
30 Kristi Cadenbach  
31 Tony Fulmer  
Joshua Reynolds



## United Methodist Women

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

Greetings UMW, First Church Family and Friends,

Our UMW Unit would like to extend a warm invitation for you to become a member of United Methodist Women. Our purpose is to know God, develop supportive fellowship and participate in global missions. We provide resources to grow spiritually, equip women and girls to become leaders, advocate to change unfair policies, and provide educational experiences that lead to personal change. It is easy to join! Just contact the Church Office, 402-466-1906, or **Peggy Hall,** [peggysintek.hall@gmail.com](mailto:peggysintek.hall@gmail.com).

Another way to join UMW is to come to the Unit meeting on November 4th at 12:00 in Black Fellowship Hall. Rachel Circle will be serving lunch, and Audrey Back, a staff member at Fresh Start, will give the program that was cancelled in September. Audrey shares passionately about her work



**Prayer Requests:**

*Wallace Gant*, Brookside Rehab Center

*Dale Case*, Maxine's son, 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

at this non-profit where women are given support and opportunities to make a 'fresh start.' Please bring the new children's board book you have been saving since last month as a gift for Audrey to take back to Fresh

Start. When children visit their mothers, these new books will be on hand for them to enjoy together and grow in literacy.

We have two important giving opportunities coming soon. First, each member's personal Pledge to Mission may be carefully discerned in these weeks prior to December 3rd when pledge money needs to reach the hands of Secretary, Paula Latas. Our individual pledges support our Unit's pledge of \$7000, all of which goes to local and global missions.

Secondly, we may respond to God's abundance and grace with our gifts of gratitude given to the World Thank Offering. Circle members may give offerings during their November meetings, and Members-at-Large may leave gifts labeled 'World Thank Offering' in the church office, or mail to Paula Latas. Thank you, friends.

Blessings,  
**Peggy Hall**

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**First United Methodist Women are selling nuts and candies again for the Annual Nut Sales!**

Orders will be available in November.

All nuts & candies will need to be preordered this year and will be

available for pickup in November. There will be no in person sales except Mission Christmas.

All products are available in one pound bags.

All profits made from this sale go to support mission projects locally and around the world.

Thank you for your support of our Annual Nut Sales!

Make Checks payable to: **First United Methodist Women**

Click on the **Nut Order Form** link below. **You can print this form, fill it out, attach check, and mail it to Paula Latas, 5027 Walker Ave, Lincoln, NE 68504, to order.**

Nut Order Form

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❖ *Sacred Saturday* ❖

November 6, 2021 – 8:30 a.m. to Noon

*Pause on the Path . . .*

*Retreat from the outer world.*

*Breathe deeply into a space of stillness.*

*Nurture mind, body, and spirit.*

*Quiet your Soul.*

*Gather in community with time for solitude,  
Contemplation, reflection, and (optional) prayer practices.*

Questions? Register by November 1, 2021

Terri Storer ❖ Certified Spiritual Director

[tstorer@neb.rr.com](mailto:tstorer@neb.rr.com) ❖ 402-440-4696

First United Methodist Church - 2723 N. 50<sup>th</sup> Street – Lincoln, NE

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On All Saints Sunday, October 31, the lives of First Church members and friends who have died during the past year will be remembered during the worship services. They include: **Dean Barnell, Donna Barnell, Sue Jean Brooks, LaRue Jacobson, Lucy Munden, Lynn Nickol, Ed Schneider, Howard Wieggers.** The church will provide a red rose for each one and arrange them in a vase near the Altar.

If you have loved ones who have died anytime in the past and you would like to honor their life with a rose, please click on the **Rose Order Form** below. **You can print this form, fill it out, and submit to the Church office or in the offering plate along with payment.** These roses will be arranged in vases in the Chancel area. Their names will be added to the bulletin or listed on the monitor screen in the Sanctuary. Roses are \$3.50 each.



**Worship online or in person with FIRST UMC LINCOLN Sundays at 8:30am and 10:45 am! Please wear a mask. 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!**