

THE MESSENGER

February 2025

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

23 N. Seneca Avenue, P.O. Box 579

Newcastle, WY 82701

Office 307-746-4119

REVEREND CALVIN HILL

Our mission statement: *Passion for Christ, Compassion for all.*



THE BEAUTY OF LOVE

Pastor Calvin Hill

As we enter this month of February, we are reminded of the beauty of love—love for one another, love for relationships, love for community, and love for God. While most of the world and our community celebrates Valentine's Day with cards, flowers, and candy hearts, we know that true love is rooted in Christ, who calls us to love deeply, selflessly, and unconditionally.

John writes, "*We love because he first loved us.*" (1 John 4:19). This month, my hope is that we take time to reflect on how we can live out this love in our daily lives. We can do this through acts of kindness, prayers, or sharing the hope of Christ with each other. Each of us are called to some role in demonstrating Christ's love to the community and to the world that surrounds us.

Here might be some ways of sharing Christ's love and grow this February:

- Join us at the Pizza Barn on Valentine's Day for a social. Coming to fellowship and passing the love of Christ to one another are sometimes the best engagements with our Church family.
- Join or support our prayer group on Tuesday morning, and pray for all those you love. Prayer is powerful, and it is in that power we need during these times. So, if we pray for God's love to be extended into our church and community, we will see some changes.
- Challenge yourself to spend 10-15 minutes each day reading Scripture and praying for someone you love or maybe even to love yourself better.

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THE BEAUTY OF LOVE

(Continued)

Loving self sometimes feels a little selfish, but it is very healthy to know God wants you to know how special you are.

- Let us not forget our youth. Prayer and sending love cards, heart shaped candy, or other gifts that shows God's love to them is always a very special way to encourage them. It is in these years of our youth that they need encouragement; they need to hear we love them and that we support them all. We might not always agree with them, but they need to know we support and love them.



The list of sharing love this February can go on! You might have a list of your own, and I would encourage you to develop it during your 10-15 minutes of Scripture and prayer time. I am so grateful for each of you and the unique ways you all contribute to our Church family. Let us make this month one of unity, encouragement, and faith as we continue to walk together in God's love.

MEN'S BREAKFAST WITH PRAYER & DEVOTION

Saturday, February 1

All men of the church are invited to a breakfast with prayer and devotion on the first Saturday of each month in the Fellowship Hall at 7am.

Reverend Hill will cook a breakfast for the men to enjoy during this time of fellowship.

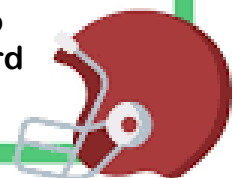


SUPER BOWL PARTY

Sunday, February 9
4pm in Fellowship Hall

Cheer for your favorite team with friends and family.

Bring your favorite game snack to share and also bring your favorite board game.



SPECIAL OFFERING

The Administrative Council voted to have a special offering in February. All donations collected will be sent to UMCOR (United Methodist Committee on Relief) to provide financial assistance/disaster relief for the victims of the California fires.

Checks should be made payable to FUMC with UMCOR written on the memo line. Prayerfully consider how you can help those affected by this disaster.

CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES

Submitted by Carl Sundstrom

Children's Sunday School continues to meet during worship following Children's Time. Our kids continue to grow in their understanding of our faith through Bible stories.

This month we learned about the wise men and their trek to Jerusalem, some of the hardships they would have faced on that journey, their encounter with King Herod and how they avoided reporting to him, and the meaning of the gifts they presented to Christ.

The current lesson is the Battle of Jerico, based on the song. This lesson will be followed by "All God's Critters."

Another of our youth is now taking the "First Communion Class" with the intent of helping to serve Communion to the congregation!



Betty Sample directs Sunday School children to play a variety of drums.

CHURCH SERVICES ON YOUTUBE

Sunday Services are being live streamed on YouTube. Go to www.YouTube.com and type FUMC Newcastle WY in the Search bar. Videos of current and past services are available for viewing.



Friday, February 14
Pizza Barn (party room)
Beginning at 5:30pm

Couples and singles are invited to join together for this Valentine's Day Social.

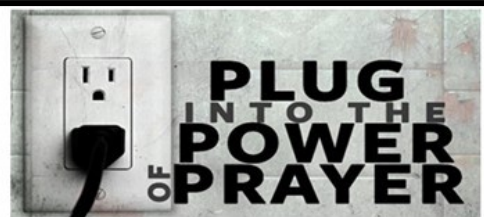
Dinner choices:

- 10 oz. Prime Rib
- Breaded Shrimp
- Chicken Alfredo

Dinner includes salad bar and dessert.

Each couple/individual is responsible for the cost of the dinner plus tip.

Happy Valentine's Day!



First United Methodist Church Parlor
23 N Seneca 746-4119
9:00AM Every Tuesday

ALL are invited to come together for prayer—
for those in need of healing, those
experiencing difficult times, concerns, for joys
Let us be a reflection of God's
goodness and grace!
Join us or call the office with your requests!

YOUTH GROUP PLANS ICE HOCKEY EVENT

Submitted by Phyl Sundstrom

Four youth attended the UMYF meeting on Sunday, January 26. The theme of “building a house on solid rock instead of shifting sand” from Matthew 7:24-27 was discussed for a variety of situations; this continued the study of The Sermon on the Mount. The youth enjoyed having a meditation time at the end of the meeting.

In anticipation of playing ice hockey at the Newcastle skating rink on Sunday, February 2, the meeting activity was broomstick hockey in the Fellowship Hall. Sharon Fridley provided the materials for building goals for each end of the “field” and guided the play. Now we are ready to take our new skills to the rink at 1 p.m. on Sunday, with real equipment instead of broomsticks! Youth in grades 6-12 are encouraged to attend.

The next UMYF meeting will be on Sunday, February 23, from 5:30 to 7 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall.



TRUSTEES DISCUSS ONGOING PROJECTS

Submitted by Carl Sundstrom

The Board of Trustees met Tuesday, January 7, with eight members in attendance. Items discussed included:

- **Cross and Flame Project:** Painting has been completed by Reverend Hill, and the Cross and Flame has been moved to the church for storage until the weather improves enough to install it.
- **LED Lamps:** More information is being sought for replacing LED lamps for the various fixtures in the church.
- **Building Security:** Areas of concern were noted, and work will be done to improve those areas of concern.
- **Facility Use Policy:** The policy is clearly stated in the church’s policy manual and will be followed.
- **Upgrade of Audio-Video System.** A myriad of possibilities are being explored, including applying for a grant.
- **RAN (Renew America’s Nonprofits) Grant:** The application for this grant to renovate the HVAC system for the Sanctuary and Fellowship Hall has been approved and is moving to the second stage of the process.

The Trustees will meet again on Tuesday, February 4, in the Church Parlor at 6pm.

TRUSTEES ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN 2024

Submitted by Carl Sundstrom

The Trustees always seem to stay busy! Our accomplishments in 2024 include:

- Improving the coverage of the lawn sprinkler system, trimming the shrubbery and removing two failed bushes, resulting in a much-improved appearance of the exterior of the Church.
- Re-activating the French drain along the south side of the Parlor wing which has greatly reduced the potential for flooding in the basement.—Thanks to ALL who helped that workday!
- Running new water and control lines for the sprinkler system to replace those displaced when the French drain was repaired.
- Recaulking the windows and doors at the Parsonage.
- Replacing the flooring in the basement of the Parsonage with ceramic tile.
- Replacing the water lines for the restrooms in the Parlor wing, including adding reliable hot water to those restrooms.
- Replacing the exhaust fan and light in one upstairs restroom.
- Repairing ductwork under the stage to improve the efficiency of the heating system and make Fellowship Hall more comfortable.
- Completing the Cross and Flame for the renovation of the old exterior entry to the Parlor wing.
- As always, the ongoing repair of miscellaneous items at the Church.

Our aspirations for the coming year include:

- Re-activating an abandoned heat duct to supply heat to the office and office entryway.
- Installing the Cross and Flame as soon as the weather permits!
- Upgrading the light and exhaust fan in the second restroom in the Parlor wing. This will be done in conjunction with installing the Cross and Flame due to accessibility of the attic above the restroom.
- Lighting the Cross: We have found a contractor willing to work with us and the manlift necessary to accomplish the work.
- Continuing to work with the Media Ministries Committee to upgrade the audio-video system.
- Installation of heat trace in the gutters at both the Church and Parsonage.
- Converting the fluorescent lights to LED lamps for improved lighting, maintenance and energy efficiency.

Many of these tasks were made possible by the continued generosity of the congregation through the Supplemental Giving Basket. The Trustees thank all who have contributed as we have been able to accomplish much more than usual.

LOOKING

AHEAD ...

March 4: Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper, 5pm

March 5: Ash Wednesday Service, 6pm

March 9: First Sunday of Lent

March 12: Lent Study, 5:30pm, Fellowship Hall

UMW: ALL ABOUT MISSIONS

Submitted by Chris French

The United Methodist Women (UMW) focused on mission projects within our church, our community, our country, and our world in 2024. Using the money raised at the “Christmas in Wyoming” bazaar, profits from pecan sales, and very generous donations received throughout the year, UMW financially supported the following:

Church Pledge	2,400.00
UMCOR Sunday	1,000.00
UMCOR Disaster Relief	1,000.00
Ministerial Association	344.00
“40 for Lent”	400.00
Totes of Hope	1,500.00
Public Health (educational materials)	350.00
B.R.E.A.D.	700.00
Silent Auction Benefit	300.00
WCSD#1 Student Meal Debt & School Supplies	2,500.00
WCSD#1 Bookmobile	300.00
Serving Our Lord	250.00
VFW (poppies)	150.00
Siri Karr (medical expenses)	500.00
Senior Gifts (Mondell & Manor)	390.24
Kid’s Shopping	250.00
Pastor/Staff Gifts	500.00

At our meeting on January 8, the women discussed and approved several mission projects for 2025. Additional projects will be considered throughout the year. UMW will meet again on Wednesday, February 5, beginning at 9:30am in the Fellowship Hall.



GiGi's Closet

OPEN
Every Wednesday
9 am—1 pm

Gently Loved Clothing available for Babies to Adults!
All Free/No Cost for All | Come and See!

First United Methodist Church
23 N Seneca | 746-4119
Basement Entrance (by the gazebo)



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- 1: Men's Breakfast, Prayer, and Devotion
7am, Fellowship Hall
- 2: Ice Skating Rink Hosts, 1pm
- 3: Media Ministries, 6pm, Church Parlor
- 4: Prayer Team, 9am, Church Parlor
- 4: Trustees Meeting, 6pm, Church Parlor
- 5: UMW Meeting, 9:30am, Fellowship Hall
- 5: GiGi's Closet Open, 9am-1pm
- 9: Reception of New Members
- 9: Finance Committee Meeting, 11:30am
Church Parlor
- 9: Super Bowl Party, 4pm, Fellowship Hall
- 11: Prayer Team, 9am, Church Parlor
- 12: GiGi's Closet Open, 9am-1pm
- 14: Valentine's Day Social, 5:30pm
Pizza Barn party room (no host)
- 18: Prayer Team, 9am, Church Parlor
- 19: GiGi's Closet Open, 9am-1pm
- 19: Administrative Council Meeting, 6pm
Church Parlor
- 23: UMYF, 5:30-7pm, Fellowship Hall
- 25: Prayer Team, 9am, Church Parlor
- 26: GiGi's Closet Open, 9am-1pm

BIRTHDAYS/ANNIVERSARIES*

- 5: Leroy Dummer
- 13: Richard Epperson
- 14: Ann Cottrell
- 21: Irene Tunnell
- 22: Lucas Hunter
- 23: Don McColley
- 25: Allyssa Hunter
- 26: Nolan Costa
- 27: Rod Petranek
- 28: Judy Anderson
Bill Russell

CHURCH INFO

Office Hours: 8 am-noon M-TH

Pastor Calvin Hill:
406-845-8135
rev.chill.dine@gmail.com

Administrative Assistant:
Audrey Knight
307-746-4119
fumc@fumcnewcastle.com
admin@fumcnewcastle.com

Web: www.fumcnewcastle.com

Facebook: @FUMCNewcastleWY

YouTube: Search for FUMC Newcastle WY

Radio: Sunday Service at
10am on KASL

