



# November 2020



| Sun  | Mon  | Tue                                      | Wed  | Thu                                 | Fri   | Sat   |
|--|--|--|--|-------------------------------------|---|---|
| <p>1</p> <p>9:15am Adult Sunday School<br/>10:30am Worship<br/>7:00pm Women &amp; Youth Bible Studies</p>  | <p>2</p> <p>9am-4pm WIC<br/>6:30pm Girl Scouts</p> | <p>3</p> <p>8am-8pm<br/>Election Day</p> | <p>4</p> <p>6:15pm Confirmation<br/>7:30pm Youth Group<br/>7:30pm Trustees</p>     | <p>5</p>                            | <p>6</p>  | <p>7</p> <p>9am-1pm Sew 'N Sews Bazaar<br/>6:00pm Worship</p>   |
|  |  |  |  | <b>PASTOR MIKE VACATION</b>         |   |   |
| <p>8</p> <p>9:15am Adult Sunday School<br/>10:30am Worship<br/>7:00pm Women &amp; Youth Bible Studies</p>  | <p>9</p>   | <p>10</p>                                | <p>11</p> <p>9:00am Sew 'N Sews<br/>6:15pm Confirmation<br/>7:30pm Youth Group</p> | <p>12</p> <p>7:00pm Bible 101</p>   | <p>13</p>   | <p>14</p> <p>6:00pm Worship<br/>6:45pm Fellowship Dinner</p>  |
|  |  |  |  | <b>PASTOR MIKE VACATION</b>         |   |   |
| <p>15</p> <p>9:15am Adult Sunday School<br/>10:30am Worship<br/>7:00pm Women &amp; Youth Bible Studies</p> | <p>16</p>  | <p>17</p>                                | <p>18</p> <p>9:30am UMW<br/>7:00pm Ad Council<br/>7:30pm Youth Group</p>           | <p>19</p>                           | <p>20</p> <p>NEWSLETTER DEADLINE<br/><br/>Boy Scout Lock-In</p> | <p>21</p> <p>4:00pm Eagle Scout Ceremony &amp; Reception<br/>6:00pm Worship<br/>Boy Scout Lock-In</p> |
| <p>22</p> <p>9:15am Adult Sunday School<br/>10:30am Worship<br/>7:00pm Women &amp; Youth Bible Studies</p> | <p>23</p>  | <p>24</p>                                | <p>25</p> <p>9:00am Sew 'N Sews</p>  | <p>26</p> <p>HAPPY THANKSGIVING</p> | <p>27</p>   | <p>28</p> <p>6:00pm Worship</p>   |
| <p>29</p> <p>9:15am Adult Sunday School<br/>10:30am Worship<br/>7:00pm Women &amp; Youth Bible Studies</p> | <p>30</p>  |  |  |                                     |   |   |

| DATE   | USHERS                 | SCRIPTURE READER | CHILDREN'S TIME   | AUDIO       |
|--------|------------------------|------------------|-------------------|-------------|
| 1-Nov  | Kevin & Carol McGregor | Nancy Kollars    | Pastor Mike Evans | Catlin      |
|        | Glenn & Nancy Kollars  |                  |                   |             |
|        |                        |                  |                   |             |
| 8-Nov  | Gina Christensen       | Cindy Peabody    | Brandon Jacques   | Miller      |
|        | Abby Christensen       |                  |                   |             |
|        | Emma Christensen       |                  |                   |             |
| 15-Nov | Ron Catlin             | Sandy Sell       | Amy Holcomb       | Holcomb     |
|        | LaRue Goossen          |                  |                   |             |
|        | Mick McConnell         |                  |                   |             |
| 22-Nov | Gina Christensen       | Kathy Pierce     | Wendy Evans       | Rockefeller |
|        | Abby Christensen       |                  |                   |             |
|        | Emma Christensen       |                  |                   |             |
| 29-Nov | Ron Catlin             | Kevin McGregor   | Carol McGregor    | Catlin      |
|        | LaRue Goossen          |                  |                   |             |
|        | Mick McConnell         |                  |                   |             |
|        | Harry Husman           |                  |                   |             |



02– Kathy Leisinger

13– Samuel Kucera

22– Debra Fox

03– Pam Godberson

16– Carol McGregor

23– Sean Chism

03– Brandon Jacques

16– Gabe Evans

24– Heather Smallcomb

03– Eddie Winchester

17– Delphina Kollars

25– Terry Carr

04– Jacob Kucera

17– Kaleigh Carr

26– Ryan Milks

05– Daniel Leisinger

19– Jack Shuler

30– Lance Bailey

07– Jazmyne McCall

19– Baylee McAtee-Kern

30– Aiden McCormick

07– Ray Winchester

19– Emma Christensen

30– Kasey Whiteface

09– Nancy McGregor-Jader

19– Mercedes Vasquez

30– Carlyne Swanson

10– Caly Kenkel

21– Bob Owen

# Surviving the dreary seasons of life

I have always enjoyed being outside in nature, especially on those really beautiful weather days. Growing up I worked as a lifeguard, on a hay crew, and for a rancher. While most of my work anymore seems to happen at a desk, I still love being outside when the weather allows it. Anymore my outside time seems limited to yard work or my walks. Whether it's with my family or just some time to reflect on my own, I have really come to enjoy those walks. But that makes this time of year even harder on me. The sunny and 70's of fall is disappearing and we find ourselves with more cold, dreary days as winter arrives. And already I'm feeling the effects of it.



I have a friend in ministry who is open about his struggle with seasonal depression. I've never felt my winter blues were severe enough to call it depression, but I won't pretend I don't understand what he was talking about. The reality is every winter I gain weight – which is an added frustration this year as I find myself still 15 pounds away from my weight loss goal. Being “stuck” inside more isn't great for my mental state either. Sometimes it's simply feeling lazy, other times I'm downright grumpy with the world. It's nothing new for me to feel this way, but it sure seems to be coming on quicker.



Maybe that shouldn't be surprising this year. With all the chaos going on in our world right now, I don't think it's just the weather that has me, or others feeling down sometimes. Still, it doesn't take very long of me moping before I start feeling bad about feeling bad. What do I have to complain about?

There are so many people in this world going through much tougher struggles. For those battling a huge illness, those adjusting to life without a loved one, or those who can't work right now, their dreary season of the soul seems much more legit than my winter blues.

But, then again, maybe how we cope with those struggling seasons aren't that different in the end.

Maybe the answers are still the same – some extra prayer, time doing an activity we love, sharing our struggles with a friend, or getting a little sunshine – even if just through the window. I can't claim to understand what each person is going through. But God understands. So, whether you're struggling with the dreary weather outside, or a dreary season for your soul, remember you're not alone. Part of what makes the church incredible is that we never have to journey alone – no matter the “weather.”

# Nov. 18 set for Church Conference votes

Connectional, and congregation led. That's part of what makes United Methodism so unique. Usually fall means Church Conference time. This annual meeting open to the entire church is where we live into this vision of a congregational-led church. It's not the pastor, or even just a few leaders who make the decisions for the church – but every member who wants to! This is where we approve the budget, set salaries for the pastor, and affirm the nominations for next year's leaders.

The meeting is normally overseen by the District Superintendent or an Elder from another church. But, because of COVID restrictions, we'll use a different format in 2020. All items requiring a church vote will be addressed in a special meeting **Wednesday, November 18<sup>th</sup> at 7pm.**

This meeting is open to all members of the church. Pastor Mike had previously said that all members could vote on these items, but this was incorrect. In order to adhere to the Book Of Discipline, when the Administrative Council acts as the Executive Agent of the church, only those on the Council can vote. Anyone is still welcome to attend and share your thoughts, questions or concerns. We want and need your input, but in this odd season, we're still trying to make sure we do everything "right" as well. A packet of information will be available to pick up the weekend before the vote for those interested. Then, following the special session, the Ad Council will have their normal meeting for updates and any other decisions that need to be made.



## Church Conference

# Ham/Turkey on menu for Nov. Saturday meal



The Saturday night crew will be serving pulled turkey and ham on Saturday November 14<sup>th</sup> at 6:45pm for anyone who wants to join. This takes the place of our normal potluck.

In an effort to keep everyone healthy and comply with guidance from the CDC, state, insurance company, and Great Plains Conference, we've decided that instead of a potluck, we'll make all the food, and serve you at your table just like a restaurant! Our Fellowship Hall is set up to allow 6 feet between tables, and up to 8 people sitting at each table. Just like at a restaurant, you can choose if you dine with

friends or extended family, or if you'd like to be at a table with just those in your own household.

Anyone is welcome to attend. You can join us for worship at 6pm, or just come for the meal afterward at approximately 6:45. Our menu this month will include hot ham or turkey sandwiches, cheesy potatoes, green beans, salads, drinks, and a dessert. Come, find your seat, let us serve you and enjoy some socially distanced fellowship!

# Pantry part of Give Where You Live again

The Gibbon Free Pantry will be part of the Give Where You Live campaign for 2020 on December 3<sup>rd</sup>. This one-day community-wide fundraiser offers a chance for different organizations and non-profits to showcase their programs and secure online donations.



But the program, organized by the Kearney Area Community Foundation, has become even bigger. In addition to the gifts from individuals, every online gift qualifies our organization for a variety of additional gifts such as matching donations, random "golden ticket" winners and special "power hour" winners every hour of the day. So every gift also gives the Free Pantry a shot at additional funding too! You can find out more details about these additional ways to win from the Give Where You Live website.

This year has, of course, been much busier at the pantry. With many people suffering from layoffs, limited hours, or loss of income from required quarantines, we've doubled the number of families served each week and month. Right now nearly 120 different families get assistance each month. While we've been blessed with some wonderful donations this year, distribution struggles have also meant we've purchased more food locally than ever before. Adam's Market is a blessing, adding the items we need to their orders. But those added costs add up!



Since we opened our doors in January of 2018, an estimated 500 different families have used the service, and we have handed out close to 100,000 lbs of food. Help support this incredible ministry through this unique fundraising opportunity!

## Reinstated DHM's mean minimal changes

Faith United is committed to offering the best worship and fellowship opportunities possible while continuing to safely follow the guidelines set forth in this unprecedented season. We continue to review and revise our policies to make the best decisions possible as a community of faith. On October 21 some Directed Health Measures were reinstated. But, as we've continued to be cautious and follow the recommendations set out for churches, it means minimal changes.



So, **what's the same?**: We still encourage masks for when you enter and exit (those times you are within 6 feet of each other) and masks are required for congregational singing. It's irritating, but safest. We still won't pass attendance books or offering plates, or have hymnals in the pews. Still no passing of the peace in worship. And we'll still only use every other pew to keep 6 feet between groups. We will continue to bring your food to you for meals and fellowship time and our enhanced cleaning continues.

**What has changed back?:** The only impact on our current policies from these DHM changes is reducing back to groups of 8 or less. So, this means we can have a maximum of 8 individuals in a pew or at a table in the Fellowship Hall. If Sunday school classes, bible studies, and other groups can socially distance, then they can continue to meet.

We want to bring as much "normalcy" to church as we can, but still be safe in what we're doing. We also understand that some people just aren't comfortable being in church yet. We respect that choice and strongly encourage you to stay connected by watching worship online or participating in our online bible study.

## Next Pastoral vacation on books for fall



Pastor Mike has scheduled a vacation for November. He will be gone from November 5<sup>th</sup> through the 12<sup>th</sup>. During those times our Administrative Assistant Gina Christensen or Lay Staff member Linda Keiper can be contacted. If a specific Pastoral need comes up, an area pastor will be available to meet with you. Pastor Mike will be gone again in early January, but those exact dates are still to be determined.

Please also note that the Staff Parish Relations Committee has updated their policy on pastoral office hours. Pastor Mike will no longer have set office hours, but will be available by phone, text or email whenever possible, and will be available to meet by appointment.

## Sew 'N Sews Bazaar takes on a "to-go" model

Fresh rolls, homemade pies, assorted baked goods, homemade runzas, and more will be available during the Sew 'N Sews fall Bazaar, but it will look a little different in 2020. This year's event will be on Saturday, November 7<sup>th</sup> from 9am-noon with all items packaged to go. With concerns over COVID, the group debated whether to have the event at all or not. But, ultimately they decided making it a "to-go" format was better than nothing at all.



There will not be a chance to "dine in" so to speak, but the plan is to have fresh rolls baked for you to take home. There will be limited crafts and no gift baskets this year, but still plenty of baked goods, canned goods, and of course those incredible pies, homemade runzas, and soups this year!

In the last year the Sew 'N Sews have contributed to the Parsonage project, supported the Food Pantry, Care Portal, provided money for the Gibbon Public School's discretionary fund and FBLA, gave to Flood Relief and our new Community Assistance Fund just to name a few. Not to mention the incredible number of quilts they have provided. These ladies do amazing work for our church and community. Let's support them as they support others! Stop by and help this group to help others!

## No GMA Community Thanksgiving this year



Due to restrictions and concerns related to COVID, the Gibbon Ministerial Association (GMA) will not be having our annual Community Thanksgiving meal this year. We still have so much to be thankful for, and have an incredible community, but we want safety to be our top priority.

Unfortunately, the free-will offering at this meal is also the largest "fundraiser" each year for our GMA fund. This joint account allows the Gibbon churches to work together in assisting people in our community. The funds are used for everything from buying gas for stranded travelers to paying utility bills or buying prescriptions for people in need in the Gibbon area. If you feel led to give a gift to the GMA to help replenish funds in this account, we would welcome your gift!

## Ring Christmas Bells!

Make a  
Joyful  
Noise!



With the limitations on singing and the need for social distancing, it has not been feasible to have our choir as part of the musical ministry of Faith United yet this year. However, we can have a BELL CHOIR! We would love to have the bells perform one Sunday in December, but we will need ringers. No experience is necessary. For the most part, as long as you can count to four you can play. Well, maybe a little more than that, but not much. Once we have our ringers, we can determine which Sunday we will play as well as practice times. Probably no more than 2 or 3 practices. And we are flexible. For more information, contact Deb VanMatre or Amy Holcomb.

## New custodian sought as Cindy retires

After 2 years serving at Faith United, our custodian, Cindy Peabody, has decided it's time to slow down. Cindy did a wonderful job taking over for Sue Webster who had been our custodian for nearly 2 decades.

Cindy has graciously offered to stay on and help train our replacement, hopefully to be hired and started before Christmas. The Staff Parish Relations Committee (SPRC) created a job description found below. We have also created a variety of "checklists" so the expectations are easy to know. Please prayerfully consider if you might be the right person for this position or if you might know the right person!

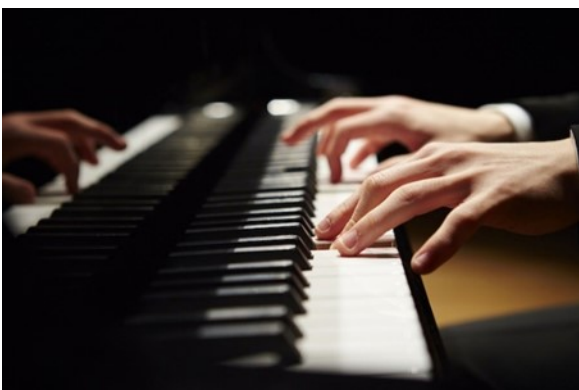
Duties would include, but are not limited to: dusting, vacuuming, mopping, trash removal and cleaning of bathrooms. This job requires approximately 8 hours of work each week. Starting salary is negotiable and the work hours are flexible.

Please send or drop off a cover letter and resume (or list of references and qualifications) to Faith United Methodist Church; 203 Garfield Street (PO BOX 159); Gibbon, NE 68840. These items can also be e-mailed to [faithumc@nctc.net](mailto:faithumc@nctc.net).

All resumes received by November 23rd will receive full consideration. Start date would ideally be early to mid-December but can be flexible. For questions, please contact Pastor Mike by calling 308-468-5521 or emailing him at [mevans@greatplainsumc.org](mailto:mevans@greatplainsumc.org) anytime.



## Saturday Night Worship pianist needed



We are looking for a Saturday night pianist to help lead worship. For many years, Joan Hemmerling graced us with her gift. But as she retired, we have not been able to find a replacement. Currently we are singing along to recordings, but we would love to have a pianist again. If you or someone you know might be interested in sharing and serving in this capacity, please contact Pastor Mike by calling 308-468-5521, or emailing him at [mevans@greatplainsumc.org](mailto:mevans@greatplainsumc.org) for more information.