



October 2020



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3 6:00pm Worship
4 9:15am Adult Sunday School 10:30am Worship 7:00pm Women's & Youth Bible Study	5 9am-4pm WIC 6:30pm Girl Scouts	6	7 6:15pm Confirmation 7:30pm Youth Group 7:30pm Trustees	8 7:00pm Bible 101	9	10 6:00pm Worship
11 9:15am Adult Sunday School 10:30am Worship 7:00pm Women's & Youth Bible Study	12	13 6:00pm Mayoral Debate	14 9:00am Sew 'N Sews 6:15pm Confirmation 7:30pm Youth Group	15	16	17 6:00pm Worship 6:45pm Fellowship Dinner
18 9:15am Adult Sunday School 10:30am Worship 3:00pm Church Conference 7:00pm Women's & Youth Bible Study	19	20 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE	21 9:30am UMW 6:00pm SPPRC 7:00pm Ad Council 7:30pm Youth Group	22 7:00pm Bible 101	23	24 6:00pm Worship
25 9:15am Adult Sunday School 10:30am Worship 7:00pm Women's & Youth Bible Study	26	27	28 9:00am Sew 'N Sews 6:15pm Confirmation 7:30pm Youth Group	29	30	31 6:00pm Worship

DATE	USHERS	SCRIPTURE READER	CHILDREN'S TIME	AUDIO	REFRESHMENTS
4-Oct	John & Michelle	Michele Kucera	Pastor Mike	Catlin	Laci Bentley
	Kucera				
	Todd Meyer &				
	Kim Wadkins				
11-Oct	Leon & Jennifer	Jennifer Smith	Jessica Kier	Miller	Sew 'N Sews
	Smith				(Bobbie Cline)
	Tyson & Jessica				
	Kier				
18-Oct	John & Michelle	Kim Wadkins	Michele Kucera	Holcomb	Charlotte Burr
	Kucera				Gina Christensen
	Todd Meyer &				
	Kim Wadkins				
25-Oct	Leon & Jennifer	Jessica Kier	Carol McGregor	Rockefeller	Hospitality
	Smith				(Linda Keiper)
	Tyson & Jessica				
	Kier				



02– Jason Tracy	13– Treyvon Davis	23– Jim Myrick
03– Zachery Peters	14– Bill Manfull	24– Vernon Piehl
06– Lee Power	14– Wendy Evans	24– Jeri McKeon
06– Faith Tracy	14– Trinity Carr	25– Deborah VanMatre
06– Mitchell Sell	16– Karen Fox	25– Taylor Godberson
07– Susan Webster	16– Lynn Ferguson	25– Morgan Wadkins-Meyer
08– Kim Hodge	19– Susan Bailey	27– Richard Leisinger
08– Portia Kollars	19– Kingston Vasquez	29– Valera Heydenberk
11– Titus Tracy	21– Kinley Kern	29– Samantha Montgomery
12– Makenzie Krajewski	22– Abby Christensen	30– Tristan Kollars

Turning privilege into purpose

OK, so I am guessing some of you may have felt the hairs bristle on your neck a little just from reading that headline. With the racial tension in our culture right now, certain words and phrases are causing some pretty bold division in our country. Some saw the word privilege and immediately went to “white privilege.”

Now, let me start by saying I’m not here to jump on the political bandwagon for either “side.” And for many, that means they’ll say I’ve picked a side – whatever side they are not on. We’re living in an era where everyone seems to have this “you’re either for us or

you’re against us” mentality, and I think it’s an unhealthy place for Christians to be. I certainly agree being silent in the face of oppression is wrong. But I also believe blindly jumping on a bandwagon without prayerfully considering the implications can cause more harm than good. For some, the emotion surrounding this topic and situation has them on edge, so to speak. And because of that, some will be offended by my words.

Like so much in politics or religion, I find myself in the middle. Yes, I am by nature a people pleaser, but we live in a time where there’s little chance of pleasing everyone! Some think it makes me a “fence-setter” as well. But, I honestly believe prayerfully considering all sides of a situation and trying to find the truth in what everyone is saying is the hardest position to be in. If we can clearly draw a line of right and wrong, or black and white (I know, a horrible word choice in this day and age), then there’s little moral dilemma. But it’s the shades of grey where most of us live. The old caricatured good guy vs. bad guy isn’t real. There’s a reason why people are how people are and why people believe what people believe. And striving to find that “why” behind it all is incredibly challenging – and also what I believe Christ calls us to do!

But let me take a little different approach and say this— privilege exists. Now, the current argument is over whether privilege exists in this country based on skin color. Educational or economic privilege are realities we’ve been able to acknowledge more universally. But where does the line stop? In athletics natural ability plays a role, but we don’t consider them privileged do we? In our general health, genetics plays a much bigger part than we ever knew before. Do some people have a genetic privilege? I don’t say this to poke fun or belittle the real struggle over privilege that exists, but want to use it to illustrate that the issue is more complicated. And for me, the real question is less about how we “delineate” what’s privilege and ask the question “so how are you using what you have to better your life and the life of others?”

I grew up in a loving 2-parent home in a wonderful small town packed with caring people. I know far too many people who didn’t have that. That’s privilege. Yet, in reality, having clothes and food makes all of us more privileged than billions in this world. Rather than debating or arguing about what “allowed” me that privilege which others didn’t have, I keep coming back to “so what are you doing with it?” See, one of the keys to this thing called Christianity is recognizing that we can all make a difference. We all have some privilege we can turn into purpose as well. Because that’s how we change the world!



Questions continue on church COVID policies

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. Although the state Directed Health Measures have changed again, the recommendations and guidelines are quite similar.



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?: We removed the "social distancing sticks" in pews, so it's up to you whether you sit close to other families. The Fellowship Hall is set up with seating on both sides with up to 10 people at a table. It's up to you if you are comfortable sitting with others or not.

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.

Church Conference changes amidst COVID



Church Conference

Connectional, and congregation led. That's part of what makes United Methodism so unique. 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. A district telecast will be held with all churches in the Gateway district on **Sunday, October 18 at 3pm** that is open to everyone. Then, before our November Ad Council meeting on **Wednesday, November 18th at 7pm** we will have a special meeting open to everyone to approve the needed business of the church for 2021. We'd love to have everyone join us for both these times.

Ad Council meetings open to anyone

Committee meetings get a bad rap. In the busyness of life, it often feels like meetings are just one more task to complete. But these are also great opportunities to celebrate and dream for the future. Faith United's Administrative Council meetings are almost always on the 3rd Wednesday of each month at 7pm. These meetings are open for anyone to attend. There are specific leaders in the church who can "vote" during these meetings, but everyone is welcome to attend and participate in the discussion. Our church is constantly changing, and the best changes happen when we work together! Join us and be part of shaping how our church changes lives today, tomorrow, and into the future!

Saturday meal offers meatballs and more in Oct.



The Saturday night crew will be serving BBQ meatballs on Saturday, October 17th 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 10 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 meatballs, mac 'n' cheese, salads, drinks, and a pumpkin 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 3rd. 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!



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 7th from 9am -1pm 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.

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 over the years. These ladies do amazing work for our church and community. Let's come support them as they support others! Stop by and help this group to help others!

Sew 'N Sews still making and selling pies

The ladies have been busy continuing to make a variety of pies this fall. Some varieties are already sold out for the year and others, such as pumpkin and Pecan, are just around the corner. But as much as we enjoy satisfying our sweet tooth with these pies, it is just as sweet to know how the proceeds from these pies touch lives. So far this year the ladies have given to the school's discretionary fund, helped give scholarships for kids to attend summer camp, and helped make the youth mission trip



a reality, just to name a few. Buy a pie and help support these types of ministries in our church and community. This year the varieties available include: Apple, Cherry, Peach, Strawberry-Rhubarb, Pumpkin and Pecan. Sugar-free versions of some varieties can also be ordered. Contact Bobbie Cline, Nancy Kollars or one of the other Sew 'N Sews ladies to get your order in.

Next Pastoral vacations on books for fall



Pastor Mike has scheduled a vacation for November. He will be gone from November 5th through the 10th. 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.

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.

Thank You

We would like to thank the Sew 'N Sews ladies group for the beautiful prayer blankets we received. We feel so blessed to be covered in prayer from our faith community.

May God Bless you for your generosity.

Carla Smallcomb

Thank you for the quilt. It was very thoughtful and appreciated.

God Bless you all.

Lana Soker

I want to express my appreciation for the lovely prayer quilt from your group and delivered to me by my sister-in-law Linda Brodine. It is a beautiful quilt, and I know it is covered with your prayers and good wishes.

Thank you for your kindness!

Connie Larsen

Our son, Jason Kuster, recently received one of the beautiful prayer quilts made with loving hands by the members of your church. We want to thank you so much for your prayers for him, and our family, during these challenging days of his cancer journey. We find our peace in knowing that we can rest in the capable hands of our Savior, and the knowledge that so many friends, family, and church bodies are praying daily for God's healing touch. This quilt offers a tangible presence and reminder that we are not alone, and we are deeply grateful.

Love in Christ,

Gerald, Jenni, Jason &
Brandon Kuster

Thank you ladies so much for the beautiful prayer quilt you sent me. That is so kind of you. I have had all my tests and meet with the surgeon this week. Will be having my surgery soon. I will take the quilt with me all the time (except in the surgery room, I suppose).

Your kindness is very much appreciated.

God Bless you all!

Evon Koops

The family of Alice Vollenweider would like to thank all those who took the time to attend the service, sent cards, memorial money, texts, food, for the phone calls of care and support, or gave us hugs, and for your prayers. Thank you Pastor Mike for the wonderful service. Your words of comfort and care during the service and before were so appreciated. Thank you to the ladies who helped serve the delicious luncheon and for all the work that you went to. Thank you to all the others that have helped in some way or another. We deeply appreciated our church family so much! We are truly blessed to have you in our lives!

Love,

Glenn & Nancy Kollars &
Family

Thank you so much for letting us use your facility for the American Red Cross blood drive on August 27th. We were able to exceed our goal, with donors providing 52 life-saving donations. We couldn't have done it without your help!

Sincerely,

Gibbon FBLA

Confirmation Sunday



Thank you so much for the Bible. I really liked it. I appreciated the support you have shown me.

Sincerely,

Kreyton Rockefeller

Thank you for the wonderful Bible and cookie I received on Confirmation Sunday. Also, thank you for all the support I have received.

Sincerely,

Emma Christensen

Graduate Sunday



Thank you all so much for the cozy blanket and prayer book.

Much Love,

Baylee Rockefeller

Thank you so much for the beautiful, comfortable blanket and the Prayers & Promises book. They are both great. Also, I would like to thank everyone for the support you have given me throughout the years.

It is nice having such a great church family!

Sincerely,

Abby Christensen

Thank you for the blanket and book. I appreciate all the support I have received through elementary and high school. The church has shaped me into the person I am today and for that I am grateful.

Thanks again!

Nathan Holcomb

Thank you for the cozy prayer blanket and book you gave me for graduation. Thank you for supporting me with your love and prayers over the years.

Sincerely,

Chris Mercer