



# July 2021



| Sun                                                                  | Mon              | Tue                          | Wed                                                          | Thu                                              | Fri | Sat                                                 |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------|------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|-----|-----------------------------------------------------|
|                                                                      |                  |                              |                                                              | 1<br>9am-4pm WIC                                 | 2   | 3<br>6:00pm Worship                                 |
| 4<br>9:15am Adult<br>Sunday School<br>10:30am Worship<br>in the park | 5                | 6                            | 7<br>7:00pm Women's<br>Bible Study<br>7:30pm Trustees        | 8<br>12pm-6pm Blood<br>Drive<br>7:00pm Bible 101 | 9   | 10<br>6:00pm Worship                                |
| 11<br>9:15am Adult<br>Sunday School<br>10:30am Worship               | 12<br>7:00pm VBS | 13<br>7:00pm VBS             | 14<br>9:00am Sew 'N<br>Sews<br>7:00pm VBS                    | 15<br>7:00pm VBS                                 | 16  | 17<br>6:00pm Worship<br>6:45pm Fellowship<br>Dinner |
| 18<br>9:15am Adult<br>Sunday School<br>10:30am Worship               | 19               | 20<br>NEWSLETTER<br>DEADLINE | 21<br>7:00pm Ad<br>Council                                   | 22<br>7:00pm Bible 101                           | 23  | 24<br>6:00pm Worship                                |
| 25<br>9:15am Adult<br>Sunday School<br>10:30am Worship               | 26               | 27                           | 28<br>9:00am Sew 'N<br>Sews<br>7:00pm Women's<br>Bible Study | 29                                               | 30  | 31<br>6:00pm Worship                                |

| DATE   | USHERS                   | SCRIPTURE READER | CHILDREN'S TIME | AUDIO       | SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHER |
|--------|--------------------------|------------------|-----------------|-------------|-----------------------|
| 4-Jul  | WORSHIP                  | ****             | ****            | ****        | NO                    |
|        | IN THE                   | ****             | ****            | ****        | SUNDAY                |
|        | PARK                     | ****             | ****            | ****        | SCHOOL                |
|        |                          | ****             | ****            | ****        |                       |
| 11-Jul | Kevin & Carol McGregor   | Kevin McGregor   | Carol McGregor  | Krier       | Christina Davis       |
|        | Todd Meyer & Kim Wadkins |                  |                 |             |                       |
|        |                          |                  |                 |             |                       |
|        |                          |                  |                 |             |                       |
| 18-Jul | Tyson & Jessica Kier     | Linda Keiper     | Jessica Kier    | Christensen | Stephanie Leisinger   |
|        | Leon & Jennifer Smith    |                  |                 |             |                       |
|        |                          |                  |                 |             |                       |
|        |                          |                  |                 |             |                       |
| 25-Jul | Kevin & Carol McGregor   | Kim Wadkins      | Wendy Evans     | Holcomb     | Amy Holcomb           |
|        | Todd Meyer & Kim Wadkins |                  |                 |             |                       |
|        |                          |                  |                 |             |                       |
|        |                          |                  |                 |             |                       |



- |                     |                       |                           |
|---------------------|-----------------------|---------------------------|
| 01– Deb Costello    | 13– Courtney Zwick    | 23– Pat Rayburn           |
| 02– Ryder Fries     | 15– Fred Reed         | 23– Jennifer Smith        |
| 03– Don Keiper      | 15– Milan Schneider   | 24– Brayden Montgomery    |
| 03– Justin Meyer    | 17– Myrtle Halkyard   | 25– Sandy Schneider       |
| 03– Konner Hyde     | 17– Pastor Mike Evans | 26– Kathy Middleswart     |
| 05– Linda Mercer    | 17– Hannah Cudaback   | 27– Jayda McCall          |
| 05– Colby Leonard   | 19– Rob Smith         | 28– Shirley Thomas-Jaeger |
| 11– Steve Rasmussen | 19– Coltin Brown      | 28– Dawn Montgomery       |
| 11– Kim Grimes      | 21– Jenna Bugee       | 28– Tyson Kier            |
| 11– Crystal McCall  | 22– Mick McConnell    | 29– Jack Buso             |
| 12– Joe Rayburn     | 22– Courtney Larsen   | 29– Mia Hyde              |
| 12– Lonnie Sinner   | 22– McKenzie Libra    | 30– Hannah Miller         |
| 13– Stephanie Brown | 22– Chloe Mitchell    |                           |

# Post-Pandemic church fears and opportunities

OK, maybe it's too soon to say post-pandemic. As we've been planning a summer vacation, there are many areas that still have closures and limitations, not to mention the rest of the world. While things seem to be getting "back to normal" in our little corner of the world, there are places where the pandemic is still raging and ravishing. But, even the idea of "back to normal" is a little misleading.

All restrictions and limitations associated with worship and the ministries of the church were removed more than a month ago. We're still taking some common-sense precautions, but for the most part its business as usual. But even in our local congregation, church doesn't look the same. And some of those differences are for the better. Others will take some getting used to.

There was this underlying hope that as soon as the highest risk was over, everyone would be back and we would pick up right where we were before. That didn't happen. There are still some people who aren't ready to come back yet, some who have just gotten out of the "habit" of worship, and some who just may not come back. As a local church, our May attendance was close to normal, but June is only about 60% of our pre-pandemic average for June.

Of course, there's lots contributing to this. Summer is always a busy time of year. But for many families who were not able to travel during the pandemic, it's time to GO! That completely makes sense and should be expected. My family is ready to travel too! For others, they simply haven't gotten back in the routine. Research shows it takes up to 20 times to make something a healthy habit, and only 6 times to fall out of a healthy habit. That's an uphill battle! But some who stopped attending, won't be back. If church wasn't really meeting their needs before the pandemic, getting "back to normal" isn't a draw! Church decline was already happening and as our Bishop Reuben Saenz said, the pandemic just accelerated what was already happening.

Of course, the post-pandemic church isn't all negative, on the national platform or for our local Faith United Church. Several new volunteers stepped in at the pantry and church during the pandemic, and many are sticking around. Online attendance for worship tripled, and seems to be staying consistent even now. Online giving has become the preferred method for some, and our daily online bible study is a habit several people want to continue. Some people made it a weekly habit to text or call friends in the church to check in on them and have continued that routine. We created a new fund to help families in need in our community, found new sources for food at the pantry, and made connections with new groups who were displaced during the pandemic. We've said it for decades, but the pandemic made us see it's true – The church is not a building!

But what the post-pandemic church really looks like, well that's still playing out. Maybe we'll be more nimble. Maybe we'll treasure the moments of fellowship more. Maybe we won't go "back to normal" because normal wasn't as wonderful as we thought it was. Maybe, just maybe, we'll be a better church. Because who we're becoming as the body of Christ, as Faith United, that's not dictated by a pandemic, the government, or the denomination. Who we will be is up to us. And there's something exciting and hopeful about that realization.



## Joint worship in park set for July 4<sup>th</sup> at Davis

Faith United and Gibbon Baptist will be hosting a joint community worship service on Sunday July 4<sup>th</sup> at Davis Park starting at 10:30am. We look forward to a wonderful opportunity to gather as the body of Christ and worship as ONE church!

We will have music led by a group of both Baptists and Methodists, a joint sermon from both pastors, and a chance to celebrate Holy Communion together.



Following the worship service, everyone is invited back to Faith United Church for a Fried Chicken Feed with chicken from Adam's Market. Volunteers have already planned to bring salads, sides, and desserts, so if you haven't already been contacted to bring something you just need to show up! A free-will offering will be collected to cover the cost of the chicken with any excess funds going to the Gibbon Ministerial Association Fund.

Keep in mind this special event does mean some differences as well. There will be NO Saturday night worship on July 3<sup>rd</sup>. There will be NO formal offering during the worship service. There will be NO attendance pads passed that day. And, because we never know how technology will work, our livestream on Facebook may not be guaranteed. So, please plan accordingly.

## July 25 farewell lunch planned for Gina and family

It was officially announced that Faith United's long-time Administrative Assistant, Gina Christensen, will be moving this summer. Gina has been an incredible asset to our ministry for more than a decade now and we wanted everyone to have a chance to come say thank you and farewell.

We're planning a luncheon and celebration on Sunday, July 25<sup>th</sup> following worship. The SPRC will be providing BBQ (ribs and either pulled pork or brisket) for the main course, as well as drinks and table service. People are asked to bring a salad, side dish, or dessert to share with everyone else. You are also welcome to bring a note, card, or gift of appreciation for Gina and her family.



## Sign-up open for Sunday Fellowship time



It's amazing how cookies and a cup of coffee can make connecting easier. At Faith United we want everyone who worships with us to feel welcome and our snack time is one of the ways to do that. We are working to fill our calendar with people who would help prepare and serve the snack. Go together with another family or two and sign up. Even helping just once a year makes a difference. The signup sheet is in the kitchen if you're willing. On weeks we don't have someone sign up, we won't have a snack, but people are still welcome to Fellowship as they wish.

## August vacation on books for Pastor/family



In an effort to keep everyone “in the loop” about when the pastor is out of town for vacation, or for work related commitments, we put a list of those dates in each month’s newsletter. Things still come up and it’s all but impossible to know every time he will be gone weeks or months in advance, but this is a tool to help keep everyone informed. Currently there are no set pastoral office hours, but the pastor is available to meet by appointment.

Pastor Mike and his family have scheduled a vacation from **August 2-10**. There are also dates in the coming months Pastor

Mike will be busy participating in meetings for the District, Conference, or other ecumenical ministries. The pastor serves on the District Committee on Ministry, the Conference Council on Youth Ministry, the Connecting Council and the Nebraska Walk To Emmaus Board. Dates he will be gone working with these ministries include: **July 21 and 27, August 14 and 21, September 3-5, 11, 13-14, 18, and possibly 23-26.**

## Faith United signed on for Faster Pastor race

Dawson County Raceway’s “Faster Pastor” golf cart race has been moved to August 15<sup>th</sup>.

The event is organized by Gibbon’s own Chad Dolan. Official races begin at 6pm, but we don’t know exact timing yet on when the pastor’s will race. Of course, the real intent isn’t the race (though Brandon Jacques is working on how to “soup up” our ride!). Rather,

it’s to have fun with our church family and others as we raise awareness and funds for different ministries. Faith United will be raising funds for our CAREPORTAL ministry which helps families get back on their feet or avoid having their kids enter Foster Care. The church will have \$2 off coupons to hand out.

For every coupon turned in \$1 is donated to our charity, and people can donate to different charities that night as well. Mark your calendars, grab some coupons and plan to have a great time with us!



## Hospital/Home visits up to you



Most hospitals and care homes are starting to resume clergy visits, but every place is a little different. As a church, we have always relied on individuals and families letting us know when someone is in the hospital. HIPPA laws mean the hospital does not inform us when you or your family are in need of a visit. Whether it’s a hospital visit, care home visit, or in your home visit, we are leaving it up to YOU to call if you want the pastor to stop by. That way, the decision is always in your hands!

## Pork, chicken set for July 17 Saturday Potluck

BBQ is on the menu for our July Saturday Potluck. Our next meal is scheduled for Saturday, July 17<sup>th</sup>. Kelly and Fran Murr will be providing pulled pork and smoked chicken for the main course. We will provide drinks and table service. You're encouraged to bring a salad, side or dessert to share with the group too.

Join us for worship at 6pm or just come for the meal following at approximately 6:45pm. We are so excited to have a chance to fellowship with one another again!



## Vacation Bible School is nearly here



It's time to get signed up for this summer's Vacation Bible School! This year's VBS will be July 12<sup>th</sup> through the 15<sup>th</sup> from 7-8:30pm each evening (please note this is a different time). There will be no meal before VBS again this year, but we will have a snack available for all kiddos.

This year's theme is "Discovery on Adventure Island" and classes will be offered for preschool through 6<sup>th</sup> grades. Our teachers are already committed and planning for crafts, games, story time and music, but we could still use a few adults, or middle/high school students to assist. Contact Carol McGregor or Amy Holcomb if you can help. Pre-registration is helpful but not required. The form is on our website, our Facebook page.

## Don't forget we have Summer Sunday school

This year we're offering children's Sunday school for students all summer long too! There will be no class on July 4<sup>th</sup> (Independence Day and church in the park) or Sept. 5<sup>th</sup> (Labor Day) but all other weeks we have teachers lined up. Our hope is that this makes it easier for young families to worship. Currently our Sunday school class is offered during the second half of worship. Kids are welcome to leave after the children's sermon. This allows parents a chance to worship with a few less distractions if they wish. Of course, we love having kiddos in worship too, so parents are welcome to keep their kids in worship too if they wish. Thanks to all the teachers who stepped in to cover a week for us. You help make our church even more amazing!





United Methodist Women,

Thank you so much for the book. I appreciate it so much!

Brooklyn Murr

Dear Faith United Methodist Women,

Thank you so much for the blanket and the Jesus calling book! I can't wait to use the blanket in my dorm room and start to read the book. Thank you for all of your support! It means the world to me!

Thanks again,

Ashlyn Dealey

Dear Gibbon United Methodist,

What a joy it was to perform and share our gifts with you. We cannot express how grateful we are for your generosity and support. We pray that we can bless you in the years to come.

Blessings,

Kevin & Heidi Cheng

Dear Sew 'N Sews,

My beautiful blanket arrived last week, and I thank all of you from the bottom of my heart. I know your kindness and compassion is expressed in every single stitch, and I will use it and cherish it always.

Warmest Thanks,

Donna Schnase King

Sew 'N Sews,

Thankyou so much for the blanket! It is so soft. I can't wait to bring it to my dorm.

Brooklyn Murr

United Methodist Women,

Thank you all for your graduation gifts and for all you guys do for the church. I'll be sure to put them to good use with college coming up.

Gabe Evans



**Head  
Start**

**Head Start, the nation's premier Pre-K**, is a federally funded preschool program designed to serve the needs of low-income children and families. Head Start has been providing quality Pre-K for 50 years. Our mission is to strengthen children, families and communities through quality education, comprehensive health and family services and by fostering community partnerships.

Families of children with disabilities are encouraged to apply. Daily transportation to the center based program is not provided. Please ask about a referral to transportation resources in your community. If you are interested in applying for Head Start or would like more information about the program, please contact your local center at 308-468-6056.

**The qualifications for Head Start are:**

- \*Your child must be 3 or 4 years of age by July 31
- \*Your family must meet the federal income guideline

**Documents needed at application:**

- \*Family proof of income (pay stubs, W-2, tax return)
- \*Social Security Card for the child
- \*Birth Certificate for the child
- \*Immunization Record for the child
- \*Proof of insurance for the child