



# First United Methodist Church

## Faith & Fellowship Newsletter

### September 2026

## **IGNITE SUNDAY**

### **FALL PROGRAM LAUNCH**

**SEPTEMBER 13**

All systems are GO as we welcome back our children, youth, and families for another exciting year filled with opportunities to grow in faith, build friendships, serve others, and have fun.

**WELCOME BACK TO SUNDAY SCHOOL**

**9:45–10:45 A.M.**

We offer developmentally appropriate classes for children from preschool through 6th grade each Sunday.

You do need to **register** your child every year to ensure that we have up-to-date information. If you registered for VBS, you are good to go for the 2026-27 program year. Forms are at the **Welcome Center desk** or online at [norfolkumc.org/vbs](http://norfolkumc.org/vbs).

**THIRD GRADE BIBLE PRESENTATION**

**11:00 A.M. WORSHIP**

We invite all third-grade students to receive their very own Bible during worship. Even if your family hasn't yet joined our congregation, we want to include your third grader in this special celebration. Please contact Tammy Brabec at 402-750-7722 if you know of a third-grade student who needs a Bible.

**TACO BUFFET**

**NOON IN WESLEY HALL**

Following the 11:00 a.m. worship service, everyone is invited to join us for an **Ignite Sunday meal in Wesley Hall!**

The meal is provided, so simply come, enjoy a delicious meal, and spend time with your church family. Afterward, children and families can enjoy **games and fun activities in the basement.**

**WE HOPE YOU WILL JOIN US FOR THIS SPECIAL DAY OF WORSHIP, FELLOWSHIP, FOOD, AND FUN!**

## **Wednesday Night Ministries**

**Start September 16**

Our Wednesday evening ministries are all about relationships, relationships with each other and our relationship with God.

## **Pure Joy & God Squad**

**5:30–6:30 p.m. in Room 201**

Everyone in 3rd through 12th grade is invited to join us for **Pure Joy & God Squad!** Our time together is centered around **making crafts, building friendships, and learning about God** in a fun and welcoming environment.

Come check us out and see what we are all about! We would love to have you join us.

## **Youth Bowling & Pizza Party**

**6:30–8:00 p.m. at Kings Lanes**

Youth in 7th through 12th grade will kick off the new school year with an evening of **bowling and pizza.**

After our kickoff night, youth group will meet every Wednesday from **6:30–8:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall.**

Each week we enjoy a meal together, grow in faith, ask questions, and build strong friendships in a supportive and welcoming community.

**We can't wait to see you this fall!**



## **Mission/Evangelism**

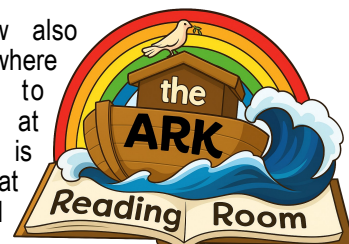
**Team**

Team Members have been busy reaching out to people by delivering Visitor bags and sending out cards for birthdays or illness. We coordinate the coffee on Sundays, and we love to have additional help. On average, Everyone Eats is serving 90 meals a week, and we have served as many as 90 on a single night. The Orphan Grain Train greatly appreciates our help sorting and boxing clothes. Come help on September 18 or 25 anytime between 1:00–4:00 p.m.

## **STEPHEN MINISTRY**

We can never know when we will need to care for an aging family member or listen to a friend in crisis. Stephen Ministers are equipped for situations like these and more. Would you like to be trained as a Stephen Minister? Not only will you be supporting your fellow church members, but you will also enhance your communication and listening skills, strengthening ALL of your relationships. Call Vauri Henre at 402-371-7449 or Melva Kube at 402-371-8469 to learn more.

The Children's Library now also includes a Parents' Corner where materials are provided to encourage faith formation at home. Another new addition is our faith based activity kits that can be checked out and completed as a family throughout the week. Come check out our new exciting additions!



# 37th & Eisenhower Survey

## Sunday, September 27

In February, we surveyed the congregation regarding the land at 37th & Eisenhower. In response to those survey results, the Church Council, Finance Committee, and Board of Trustees conducted additional research and are considering next steps.

In short, the February survey indicates:

A broad consensus agrees that the land will not be used for its intended purpose.

Only 11% believe the church might eventually move west, and less than half that number believe that a relocation study would be reasonable.

A significant majority favor selling the property.

75% support selling the property, while only 5% are prepared to consider relocating. It is reasonable to assume that 15% to 20% value the property for its investment potential.

If we sell the property, there is general agreement that any sale proceeds should be protected and invested to provide the church with sustainable income.

Those identifying themselves as major or significant donors favored using the investment income solely for building and property expenses.

If we keep the property, can the current farm revenue be increased?

After consulting with a farm manager, the Trustees learned that each year we might be able to net \$3,000 to \$4,000 after taxes and fees. These higher numbers would require removing the hedgerows on the property.

The farm manager advised that selling the property and investing the proceeds would generate significantly more income without the burden of property taxes or farm management fees.

What is the sale value of the property?

In all probability, our initial market estimate of \$250,000 to \$300,000 is significantly low. A land broker advised us to keep the new price range confidential because a sale would likely be conducted by sealed bid.

How would the proceeds from a potential sale be invested?

The funds would be invested in a segregated account with the Nebraska United Methodist Foundation. Distributions to the church would be based upon a 3-year rolling average of the fund balance. Each year, the church would receive a distribution of 4.5% of the average account value. Using this method avoids the "feast or famine" of annual interest distributions. The annual draw allows for continued distributions even in a down market and avoids the windfall of a major market upturn. 4.5% is well below the average annual return on investment. Earnings in excess of the annual distribution are reinvested, allowing the fund to grow over time.

What is the potential return on investment?

We cannot know how much someone will bid for the property, nor do we know how the market will perform, so as an example, we will use the conservative estimated value of \$300,000 coupled with the NUMF Equities Fund actual net return on investment for the past decade.

| Year | Annual Net Return | Value After Income | Annual 4.5% Draw | Value After Draw |
|------|-------------------|--------------------|------------------|------------------|
|      |                   |                    |                  |                  |
| 2016 | 9.11%             | \$327,330          | \$14,096         | \$313,234        |
| 2017 | 19.43%            | \$374,096          | \$15,125         | \$358,971        |
| 2018 | -10.04%           | \$322,931          | \$14,706         | \$308,224        |
| 2019 | 23.94%            | \$382,013          | \$15,506         | \$366,507        |
| 2020 | 5.44%             | \$386,445          | \$15,682         | \$370,763        |
| 2021 | 17.76%            | \$436,611          | \$17,348         | \$419,263        |
| 2022 | -16.30%           | \$350,923          | \$16,861         | \$334,061        |
| 2023 | 17.21%            | \$391,553          | \$16,919         | \$374,634        |
| 2024 | 13.97%            | \$426,970          | \$16,783         | \$410,187        |
| 2025 | 16.17%            | \$476,514          | \$18,640         | \$457,874        |

In the first year, the church would receive over \$14,000, and the fund would be worth over \$313,000. In 10 years, the fund balance would grow to \$457,874, and the annual distribution to the church would be \$18,640. For every \$10,000 invested the annual distribution to the church increases by \$470 to \$620, and the 10-year fund value increases by 52% beyond the initial deposit. Just like the disclaimer on a brokerage advertisement, past performance is not indicative of future returns, but it is a guide.

If the church adopts this kind of an investment/distribution plan, can it be changed?

We would adopt the investment plan at a Church Conference where all full members of the church are eligible to vote. The policy would stipulate that it may only be amended by the same. Because of this, the Foundation would not be able to approve any request for funds beyond the automatic annual distribution without a set of Church Conference minutes.

Our generation chose to continue investing in our current facility. A future generation could choose to purchase land and relocate. By protecting and growing the fund, we provide them with meaningful options, while utilizing a portion of the income in the meantime.

In summary:

If we keep the land, it will likely increase in value and could generate up to \$4,000 in usable income.

If we sell the land, the investment will likely increase in value and reasonably generate over \$14,000 in usable income.

**PLEASE KEEP IN MIND THAT NO DECISIONS HAVE BEEN MADE, AND NO SALE OF THE PROPERTY CAN TAKE PLACE WITHOUT A CONGREGATIONAL VOTE.**

We will conduct a survey during worship on Sunday, September 27 to gauge the congregation's inclination regarding the property. The survey is not a final vote, but will help church leadership determine readiness to proceed before requesting that the District Superintendent convene a special Church Conference to consider the sale.

# First United Methodist Church

# September 2026

Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |                                                                                                                                                                                   |                                                             |           |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|
| <b>30</b><br><b>8:30 AM</b> Worship Service<br>- Sanctuary<br><b>9:45 AM</b> Retirees and Wannabes<br>Adult Sunday School<br>Room 110<br><b>9:45 AM</b> Fellowship Coffee<br>- Wesley Hall<br><b>11:00 AM</b> Worship Service<br>-Sanctuary / Online                                                                                                                                                  | <b>31</b><br><b>7:00 PM</b> Troop 122<br>- Wesley Hall                                                                                                                                                                                                               | <b>1</b><br><b>1:00 PM</b> Staff<br>- Room 110<br><b>5:30 PM</b> Everybody Eats<br>- West Entry<br><b>6:30 PM</b> Open Door<br>- Fellowship Hall                                                                      | <b>2</b><br><b>6:30 PM</b> Community Garden                                                                                                                                                                       | <b>3</b><br><b>6:45 AM</b> Early Risers for Christ<br>- Wesley Hall                                                                                                               | <b>4</b>                                                    | <b>5</b>  |
| <b>6</b><br><b>8:30 AM</b> Worship Service<br>- Sanctuary<br><b>9:45 AM</b> Retirees and Wannabes<br>Adult Sunday School<br>Room 110<br><b>9:45 AM</b> Fellowship Coffee<br>- Wesley Hall<br><b>11:00 AM</b> Worship Service<br>-Sanctuary / Online                                                                                                                                                   | <b>7</b><br>Labor Day<br>Office Closed                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | <b>8</b><br><b>1:00 PM</b> Staff<br>- Room 110<br><b>5:30 PM</b> Everybody Eats<br>- West Entry<br><b>6:30 PM</b> Methodist Identity Intro<br>- Fellowship Hall<br><b>7:00 PM</b> Trustees<br>- Room 110              | <b>9</b><br><b>6:15 PM</b> Choir<br>- Sanctuary<br><b>6:30 PM</b> Community Garden                                                                                                                                | <b>10</b><br><b>6:45 AM</b> Early Risers for Christ<br>- Wesley Hall                                                                                                              | <b>11</b>                                                   | <b>12</b> |
| <b>13</b><br><b>8:30 AM</b> Worship Service<br>- Sanctuary<br><b>9:45 AM</b> Children's Sunday School<br>- Floor 2<br><b>9:45 AM</b> Retirees and Wannabes<br>Adult Sunday School<br>- Room 110<br><b>9:45 AM</b> Fellowship Coffee<br>- Wesley Hall<br><b>11:00 AM</b> Worship Service<br>w/3rd Grade Bibles<br>-Sanctuary / Online<br><b>12:00 PM</b> Ignite Sunday<br>Taco Buffet<br>- Wesley Hall | <b>14</b><br><b>1:30 PM</b> UWF Unit Meeting<br>- Wesley Hall<br><b>3:00 PM</b> Jesus is Lord Study<br>- Room 110<br><b>6:00 PM</b> Jesus is Lord Study<br>- Online<br><b>6:30 PM</b> Children & Youth Team<br>Room 201<br><b>7:00 PM</b> Troop 122<br>- Wesley Hall | <b>15</b><br><b>1:00 PM</b> Staff<br>- Room 110<br><b>5:30 PM</b> Everybody Eats<br>- West Entry<br><b>6:30 PM</b> Methodist Identity Study<br>- Fellowship Hall<br><b>7:00 PM</b> Pack 124<br>- Wesley Hall          | <b>16</b><br><b>5:30 PM</b> God Squad<br>-Room 201<br><b>5:30 PM</b> Pure Joy<br>-Room 201<br><b>6:15 PM</b> Choir<br>- Sanctuary<br><b>6:30 PM</b> Community Garden<br><b>6:30 PM</b> Youth<br>- Bowling         | <b>17</b><br><b>6:45 AM</b> Early Risers for Christ<br>- Wesley Hall<br><b>10:00 AM</b> - Bel Air<br><b>11:00 AM</b> - St Joe<br><b>5:15 PM</b> Mission/ Evangelism<br>- Room 110 | <b>18</b><br><b>1:00 PM</b> Mission<br>- Orphan Grain Train | <b>19</b> |
| <b>20</b><br><b>8:30 AM</b> Worship Service<br>- Sanctuary<br><b>9:45 AM</b> Children's Sunday School<br>- Floor 2<br><b>9:45 AM</b> Retirees and Wannabes<br>Adult Sunday School<br>- Room 110<br><b>9:45 AM</b> Fellowship Coffee<br>- Wesley Hall<br><b>11:00 AM</b> Worship Service<br>-Sanctuary / Online                                                                                        | <b>21</b><br><b>3:00 PM</b> Jesus is Lord Study<br>- Room 110<br><b>4:00 PM</b> Stephen Ministry<br>- Room 110<br><b>6:00 PM</b> Jesus is Lord Study<br>- Online<br><b>7:00 PM</b> Troop 122<br>- Wesley Hall                                                        | <b>22</b><br><b>1:00 PM</b> Staff<br>- Room 110<br><b>5:30 PM</b> Everybody Eats<br>- West Entry<br><b>6:30 PM</b> Methodist Identity Study<br>- Fellowship Hall                                                      | <b>23</b><br><b>5:30 PM</b> God Squad<br>-Room 201<br><b>5:30 PM</b> Pure Joy<br>-Room 201<br><b>6:15 PM</b> Choir<br>- Sanctuary<br><b>6:30 PM</b> Community Garden<br><b>6:30 PM</b> Youth<br>- Fellowship Hall | <b>24</b><br><b>6:45 AM</b> Early Risers for Christ<br>- Wesley Hall                                                                                                              | <b>25</b><br><b>1:00 PM</b> Mission<br>- Orphan Grain Train | <b>26</b> |
| <b>27</b><br><b>8:30 AM</b> Worship Service<br>- Sanctuary<br><b>9:45 AM</b> Children's Sunday School<br>- Floor 2<br><b>9:45 AM</b> Retirees and Wannabes<br>Adult Sunday School<br>- Room 110<br><b>9:45 AM</b> Fellowship Coffee<br>- Wesley Hall<br><b>11:00 AM</b> Worship Service<br>-Sanctuary / Online                                                                                        | <b>28</b><br><b>3:00 PM</b> Jesus is Lord Study<br>- Room 110<br><b>6:00 PM</b> Jesus is Lord Study<br>- Online<br><b>6:00 PM</b> Finance<br>- Fellowship Hall<br><b>7:00 PM</b> Ad. Council<br>- Fellowship Hall<br><b>7:00 PM</b> Troop 122<br>- Wesley Hall       | <b>29</b><br><b>10:00 AM</b> Farm & Ranch Clinic<br>- Room 110<br><b>1:00 PM</b> Staff<br>- Room 110<br><b>5:30 PM</b> Everybody Eats<br>- West Entry<br><b>6:30 PM</b> Methodist Identity Study<br>- Fellowship Hall | <b>30</b><br><b>5:30 PM</b> God Squad<br>-Room 201<br><b>5:30 PM</b> Pure Joy<br>-Room 201<br><b>6:15 PM</b> Choir<br>- Sanctuary<br><b>6:30 PM</b> Community Garden<br><b>6:30 PM</b> Youth<br>- Fellowship Hall | <b>1</b><br><b>6:45 AM</b> Early Risers for Christ<br>- Wesley Hall                                                                                                               | <b>2</b>                                                    | <b>3</b>  |

In July the Youth Group got together and packed Christmas boxes for Orphan Grain Train that will be distributed over seas. The youth were also amazing about helping at VBS!!

They got together in August for an ice cream social and games. It was a fun time for everyone to catch up

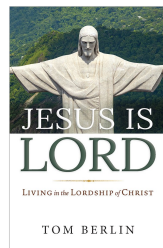
If you are interested in providing a meal for Youth Group there is a sign up sheet available at the Church with open dates .

# Youth

**JESUS IS LORD: Living in the Lordship of Christ**

Mondays at 3:00 p.m. & 6:00 p.m.

Starting September 14



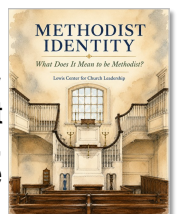
Before the adoption of the ancient creeds, "Jesus is Lord" was already a foundational declaration of the early church. To live this confession is to open the door to genuine transformation. This study explores how embracing Jesus as Lord has reshaped the lives of people in biblical times and today.

**METHODIST IDENTITY: What Does It Mean to be Methodist?**

September 8, introduction and materials, 6:30 p.m.

September 15, study begins, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.

Pastor Bridget will lead an eight-session study using video presentations from United Methodist scholars, the writings of John and Charles Wesley, and group discussion to connect our history with the beliefs that distinguish us as Methodists.



## Good Neighbors Food Pantry

Our congregation is staffing the Food Pantry in October.

Shifts are Monday-Friday, 9:30AM – 11:30AM.

There is a sign-up sheet on the Welcome Center desk.

Or you can call the church office at 402-371-2785



First United Methodist Church  
406 West Phillip Ave.  
Norfolk, NE 68701-5250

Non-Profit Organization  
US Postage  
PAID  
Permit 204  
Norfolk, NE 68701



**SEPTEMBER 13**

**WORSHIP 8:30 AM & 11:00 AM**

**SUNDAY SCHOOL 9:45 AM**

**THIRD GRADE BIBLES 11:00 AM**

**TACO BUFFET 12:00 PM**

United Women in Faith  
Unit Meeting  
September 14  
1:30 p.m.  
A Call to Prayer and Self Denial

