



**First United Methodist Church**

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**Sidney First United Methodist Church**

SEPTEMBER 2021

**PASTOR'S PONDERINGS**

"No one can lay any foundation other than the one that has been laid; that foundation is Jesus Christ. Now if anyone builds on the foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw - the work of each builder will become visible, for the Day will disclose it, because it will be revealed with fire, and the fire will test what sort of work each has done. If what has been built on the foundation survives, the builder will receive a reward. If the work is burned up, the builder will suffer loss; the builder will be saved, but only as through fire." [1Cor. 3.11-15]

Jesus must be the foundation for all we think, do and say. Some might say this sounds trite, or impossible, or nothing more than pie-in-the-sky-by-and-by optimism, but as Christians it's the life we should choose.

Our Great Plains Annual Conference motto is: "Great churches. Great leaders. Great disciples. Transformed world." This is our mission: "Making disciples for Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world."

At first glance, this looks like a good focus for us as Kansas/Nebraska United Methodists - and it is! It's a motivational statement which inspires us towards evangelism and seeking the lost and marginalized. There's nothing wrong with this statement or our goal for the churches in our conference, but I have often wondered if we haven't somehow started in the middle somewhere...

As Christians we are called to be evangelists - we're called to actively seek out those whom the world may have pushed aside, and invite them to become part of the Kingdom of God! We have no purpose, indeed, no existence, without Jesus Christ as the Author and Perfecter of our faith - in fact, He is our cornerstone - our foundation stone, if you will. So, if we're gonna be a part of "making disciples for Jesus Christ..." I'm thinkin' we need to return to the starting point - not somewhere in the middle...

Our founder, John Wesley, understood this. Wesley was a focused, intentional, God-fearing man. He set his sights on North America in the mid 1730's to evangelize the "heathens" - the native Indians. After failing miserably as an evangelist, as a pastor, and even as a potential suitor to Sophey Hopkey, Wesley barely escaped bein' tarred and feathered by hoppin' a ship back to England in 1738. On that long miserable journey back home with his tail tucked between his legs, Wesley commented, "I came to save the Indians, but who will save me?"

OK - let me put all this together for you. We cannot give what we do not have. It really is that simple - you must have the Holy Spirit of God living within you or you can do nothing that will make any difference in your own life, in the lives of other people or the Kingdom of God! Without the Holy Spirit in your heart, everything you do will be made of straw. Jesus came to teach us everything we will ever need to know about loving and serving God. He laid the foundation - He IS the foundation - everything must spring from Him and everything must be built on Him. Remember, you are the Temple in which the Holy Spirit of God resides. God does not live in some brick and mortar building somewhere - He lives within your heart!

Wesley thought it was a great idea that he should go and make converts of a "God-less people." The problem was - it was his idea! Everything we know about Wesley tells us he was intentional about being a man of God. However, his words on the way home from that fruitless journey tell a different story about his heart - he tried to give something he did not have! In the next few weeks after returning home from America, very depressed and unsure of himself or his future, Wesley journaled these words, "In the evening I went very unwillingly to a society in Aldersgate Street, where one was reading Luther's preface to the Epistle to the Romans. About a quarter before nine, while he was describing the change which God works in the heart through faith in Christ, I felt my heart strangely warmed. I felt I did trust in Christ, Christ alone, for salvation; and an assurance was given me that He had taken away my sins, even mine, and saved me from the law of sin and death."

So I'm thinkin' we need to re-prime the pump - if we are called to make disciples, shouldn't we FIRST be disciples? Our conference motto is impossible without Jesus as our foundation stone! You cannot give what you do not have. You cannot build on your own wisdom or your own strength.

As we get this Fall's flurry of activities off and rolling, I would ask you to take inventory of your building materials and the foundation upon which you are building. Make sure your heart is warmed by the Holy Spirit. Then, and only then, can you do anything that will help others come into the Kingdom of God!

Peace, Pastor Corey

**September 2021**

First United Methodist Church

Our Mission:  
Make disciples of Jesus Christ  
for the transformation of the world.  
(Matthew 28:1-20)

Our Vision:  
To know God, to love God,  
and to serve God and our neighbor.  
(Luke 10:27)

Open Hearts  
Open Minds  
Open Doors

Sign up to be a Lector, Greeter  
Help with Facebook  
on Sunday mornings.  
Bring snacks for  
Fellowship Time



**Sunday Worship Time**

9:30am - Sanctuary

**Sunday School**

8:30 am—Adult Sunday School

**Weekly Bible Studies:**

**Tuesday**

6:30am - Son-Rise Group by Fireplace

**Wednesday**

7 am - Men's Breakfast & Bible Study -  
Grandma Jo's

**SOUND**

Sept 5 Loren Hoekema  
Sept 12 Brian Slagle  
Sept 19 Allen Aurich  
Sept 26 Bill Napier

**MUSIC**

Sept 5 Nan & Carolyn  
Sept 12 Marva & Valerie  
Sept 19 Marva & Valerie  
Sept 26 Nan & Carolyn

**USHERS**

Sept 5 JS Elwell, Kevin Sittner,  
Ron Jessen, Brian Sprenger  
Sept 12 James Harmon, Allen Aurich  
Greg Sprenger  
Sept 19 Loren Hoekema, Stan Flessner,  
Mike Mitchell, Drew Glover  
Sept 26 Lanny Schiessler, John Eastman,  
Brian Slagle

**POWER POINT**

Sept 5 Kristin Simmons  
Sept 12 Julie Slagle  
Sept 19 Kevin Sittner  
Sept 26 Wanda Talich

**KIDZ TIME**

Sept 5  
Sept 12 Julie Slagle  
Sept 19  
Sept 26

**LECTOR**

Sept 5 Julie Slagle  
Sept 12 Bret Whartman  
Sept 19 Julie Slagle  
Sept 26 Chuck Liess

**ACOLYTES**

Sept 5  
Sept 12

**PRAYER FOCUS ~ Lay Leadership**

Pastor Corey, Diane Michie,  
Loren Hoekema, Carol Mason,  
Carolyn Hays, Daryl Conger

**CHURCHES PRAYING  
FOR CHURCHES -**

Garden Prayer - Tim McCrary  
Bushnell - Roger Gillming  
Kimball - Roger Gillming  
Benkelman - Rod Heilbrun

Continuing Prayers for:  
Emmalyn Tran

**September 2021**

**Monday**

Shepherds Staff - Sept 13 & Sept 27 @ 6 pm

**Tuesday**

Sonrise Bible Study @ 6:30 am  
Sept 7 - NOW Team @ 5:30 pm

**Wednesday**

Men's Breakfast & Book Study @ 7 am (Grandma Jo's)  
Sept 8 - Backpack Blessings @ 5:30  
Sept 15 - Women in Mission @ 6:30 pm

**Thursday** - September 16- Grief Support Group @ 6 pm

**BLESSINGS OF THE BACKPACKS**

**ALL STUDENTS and members of FUMC are invited.**

On Wednesday, September 8 @ 5:30 pm here at the church. Bring your backpack and stay for "Walking Tacos" Immediately following the blessing. We will have drawings for prizes!



*Just wanted to thank you for your prayers and cards.  
It means a lot to know people care.  
Nancy Liess*

**Hospitality Sunday Morning**  
Please sign up to help provide  
treats for

Sept 19  
Sept 26

**A World on Fire**

Isaiah 43: 1-4

California has fought wildfires for decades which normally start around October, but they have had so many devastating wildfires in recent years that it's hard to believe there is anything left in that state to burn. Recently there have been a few fires closer to home... much too close. Looking at the Weather-Bug fire map on my cell phone it is showing one that it is only 28 miles away and the smokey air quality is chasing all of us back indoors.

Actually, the whole world is on fire... both literally and figuratively. So many people are "fired up" with hate and anger. There is fighting on social media and in our streets, nations against nations, beliefs and religions over other beliefs and religions, politics divided by left and right, etc. it nearly makes your head spin. I have cats who get along better than people, sure they will spit and growl then go their separate ways.

So, I looked up "fire" in Strong's Exhaustive Concordance and it has 549 listings in the Bible. That's probably about how many "fires" of one sort or another that is currently going on around the world.

A favorite Scripture about "fire" is Isaiah 43: 1-4 (NRSV)

*But now thus says the Lord, He who created you.... Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine. When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you; **when you walk through fire you shall not be burned, and the flame shall not consume you.** For I am the Lord your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Savior... Because you are precious in my sight, ... and I love you.*

That's what we should be doing - the "and I love you" part. Jesus said, "This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you." (see John 15:12). This might be one way to put out the "figurative fires." Putting out all types of fires will take lots and lots of continuous prayers lifted to Christ Jesus. Won't you join me in praying daily for God to quench the fires with rain and love?

Prayer: Mighty and Most Merciful God, you have seen the turmoil in our world. There are wildfires burning in many nations. Please send soothing and healing rain upon the land to put out the burning and scorching embers. Keep all the firefighters safe from harm and give them the stamina, knowledge, and skill to fight these fires. The fire of hate and anger in the land is another wildfire burning. Putting this fire out will take more than men in a haz-mat suit. I don't have the words or even know what to ask of you, Lord. I only know that we need you, help us Lord, come quickly. Remember your remnant and have mercy on us. In the name of Jesus, our Strength and Redeemer. Amen and Amen

.....Rilla Draper

Flu Immunization Clinic

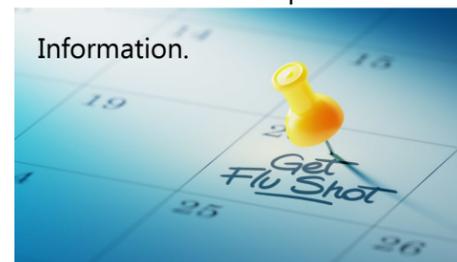
Provided by Safeway Pharmacy

Here at FUMC in October

Please check church bulletins

And Face Book for updated

Information.



**Methodist Women in Mission** - September 15 @ 6:30 pm

Hostess: Sandy Long & Rebecca Napier

**ROMANS BIBLE STUDY**

RETURNING SOON IN SEPTEMBER  
STAY TUNED FOR STARTING DATE.....