

**June 2023**

**Worship Service:**

**Sat. @ 5:00 p.m.**

**Sun. @ 9:30 a.m.**

# Connections

**Connecting People @ First UMC**



**“Yes, I am the vine; you are the branches. Those who remain in me, and I in them, will produce much fruit. For apart from me you can do nothing. John 15:5**

Greetings to you in the name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ! This past month of May we've been showing a video on the construction of our church. Ground breaking ceremonies were held on May 19, 1946. The first spade of earth was turned by Beech Coleman, a veteran of 40 years and a member of the Board of Trustees. His daughter tells how for several days prior to the ground breaking, Beech was hauling water over to the site to soften the dirt in order to make the ground breaking easier. As I watch that video, I see the incredible work ethic and passion of our people to build something that would last well into the future. It was hard work, caused extreme stress on the pastor and the church leaders. Sacrifices were necessary in order to be successful. One person, Mrs. A. K. Warrick, had rented out all the rooms in her home and was sleeping on a cot in her kitchen so she would be able to make substantial financial gifts to help her church along. According to our first 100 year history book, Mrs. Warrick sold her farm and gave it to the church in order to pay for the beautiful stained glass Rose window so dearly loved by all who worship with us. These sacrifices are only a small example of those made by so many in our church.

Our church grew and grew over the years. You have all heard the stories of the glory days. I've heard them too. When I first moved to Scottsbluff and was able to spend some time getting to know you, these were the stories you shared with me. People longed to go back to those days when the church was full of families and children, when we were humming on all cylinders, active and alive. A lot has changed in the past 50 years. Even 23 years ago, we had a membership of nearly 1800 people, according to our history book of the first 100 years. Today our membership is at 487, almost a fourth of what it was. We look forward to this new direction. I feel God has guided us to this merger that is before us, creating one church in four locations, with a centralized leadership team, combining our resources and energy in order to grow and to give us new life.

## CHURCH EVENTS

- **June 17 - Charge Conference**
- **June 18 - Father's Day**
  - Pies during fellowship hour
- **June 25 - Celebration Potluck**
- **July 4 - Happy 4th of July**
  - Office Closed July 3 & 4.
- **July 5 -8 - Church Photo's**
- **July 9 - 1st service at The Vine UMC**
  - Trails West Pavilion

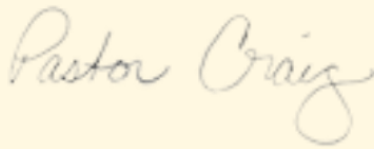


A new name indicates a new life and a new purpose. God changed the names of many individuals when he set them on a path with a new purpose. Our new name, The Vine United Methodist Church will set us on a path of planting, growing, producing fruit, and multiplying. When we are connected to the vine through faith in Christ, we come alive and grow spiritually. Then we are able to connect others to the vine, to help them place their hope and trust in Jesus Christ and our church will grow.

The good news is none of us attend this church because of the name. We attend because we love this church. We love what this church has meant for our family. For our marriage. For our kids. For our community. For our relationships. And mostly for our relationship with Jesus. That's why we love this church. We could call it anything we want and that would not change.

I love our stained glass windows. Click [here](#) to see them. From our first 100 years history book, Marjorie Arterburn says, "Now in each window if you will look at the one close to you, you will see grapes at the top of the window. Grapes and fish were food of the people in Jesus' time. Jesus said ... 'I am the vine and you are the branches.' The grapes in the grapevine symbolize the unity of the church." I pray for just such unity in our church. United we shall remain connected to the Vine, Jesus Christ. As we remain in him and him in us, our church will thrive and grow and be here for our ancestors and our community for years to come. Lord, in your mercy... hear our prayer.

Blessings and Love, Rooted in Christ,



## Upcoming Events:

- We will have a unifying charge conference on Saturday, June 17 at 1 pm in the fellowship hall where we will vote on our leadership teams, our budget, name, and finalize our merger. All members of all four previous churches are encouraged to attend.
- We will have a service celebrating our past and looking forward to our future on June 25, at our regular time of worship. If you have church memories you would like to share, please contact Pastor Craig (672-3241).
- We will have church photos taken July 5 through the 8th for our online directory. Universal Church Directory photographers will be at the Morrill church July 5 from 2 to 8:30, then in Scottsbluff for the 6th through the 8th. Each family will receive a free 8 X 10 photo and have the opportunity to purchase additional photos.
- Our inaugural worship service for The Vine UMC will be on July 9th at the open air pavilion at Trails West south of the Zoo. Worship will be at 9:30 followed by a meal and fellowship. We have rented the pool for everyone to enjoy.

## Administrative Corner

- The newsletter deadline for the July issue is June 16th. Please email articles to [rgies@firstumcsb](mailto:rgies@firstumcsb).
- If you have a change in your address, phone number or email, please let the office know or list it on the attendance pad so we can update our directory.

### May Financial Giving

April week 5: \$6,490

May week 1: \$7,569

May week 2: \$4,952

May week 3: \$4,972

Giving YTD: \$140,157

vs. 2022: \$155,918

### Mission Shares

We have paid - \$6,675 of \$36,867

District is 100% paid at \$1,364.00

**SERVE**

GOD

**HELP**

OTHERS

**GROW**

SPIRITUALLY

## Stephen Ministry Caring Corner

Stephen Ministry offers a proven and effective way to organize, equip, and supervise a team of congregation members called Stephen Ministers to provide high-quality, one-to-one, Christ-centered care to people in the congregation and the community experiencing life difficulties. Currently we have 8 active Stephen Ministers and 4 active Stephen Leaders.

Stephen Ministry provides emotional and spiritual care for people dealing with a wide range of life difficulties. Some common caregiving situations for Stephen Ministers include helping a person dealing with: grief, a major medical crisis, job loss, divorce, break-up, broken relationships, family caregiver stress, end of life, hospice, long-term illness, financial difficulties, major life transitions, etc. Through Stephen Ministry, people experiencing these types of crises can receive excellent care for as long as needed.

Stephen Ministers provide emotional and spiritual care and support-not practical assistance such as medical care, home maintenance, transportation, or childcare, although they may help care receivers explore and identify other ways to meet those needs. They also do not minister to couples, families, minors, or dealing with addictions or mental disorders.

Consider getting involved in Stephen Ministry either as a trained Stephen Minister or a Care Receiver. Contact one of our Stephen Ministry Leaders: Barb Ropp, Megan Massey, Julie Schaff, or Marg Dredla for more information. We look forward to growing this ministry as we add Mitchell, Morrill, and Henry Churches. Spread the word about this Ministry within our church.

## Merger Update

The votes have been counted for our new church name. The name with the most votes is The Vine United Methodist Church! Thank you to all who participated in the voting process. The count was as follows: Disciples – 18, New Vision – 81, Faith – 87, and The Vine – 93, with a total of 279 persons participating.

The transition team, which is made up of all four church's Ad Councils (and a few others) have confirmed the name, and it will now come before the Charge Conference as our new name in the merger documents.

We have contracted with a Logo company to create our logo. We are evaluating various curriculum for our children and student ministries. We have bids out to church insurance companies, and will have our new church budget complete and ready for approval at our charge conference scheduled for 1 pm on June 17th. We are making plans for our inaugural worship service to be held at Trails West pavilion on July 9. The transition team continues to work hard and will keep everyone updated on the progress of our new church. Stay tuned!

## June Outreach

The June Outreach mission benefits the Soup Kitchen and Wednesday Sack Lunch programs.....

The Soup Kitchen provides meals three times a week at three different sites: Monday at Our Lady of Guadalupe, Wednesday at the Gering Methodist Church and Thursday at the First Presbyterian Church. FUMC is responsible for the meal on the second Thursday of each month at the Presbyterian Church.

Wednesday Sack Lunches began as a way to feed the hungry during the pandemic. FUMC alternates with St. Francis Episcopal Church in handing out sack lunches on 20th Street.

The Soup Kitchen can use sturdy paper plates, bowls, napkins, 6 or 8 oz plastic cups and plastic silverware. Sack Lunch program needs monetary donations to pay for the lunch contents. Please place donations in the outreach bin in Fellowship Hall or leave donations in the office or offering plates..

Make checks payable to FUMC & mark Soup Kitchen or Sack Lunches in the memo line.



## OUTREACH

We had a wonderful time celebrating the Mother's in our lives here at the church by giving 90 tomato plants out. The plants were donated to us from Peaceful Prairie Nursery located in Mitchell. Let's see if we can beat last year's last tomato brought in. It was brought to us in October, by Judi Facinelli!

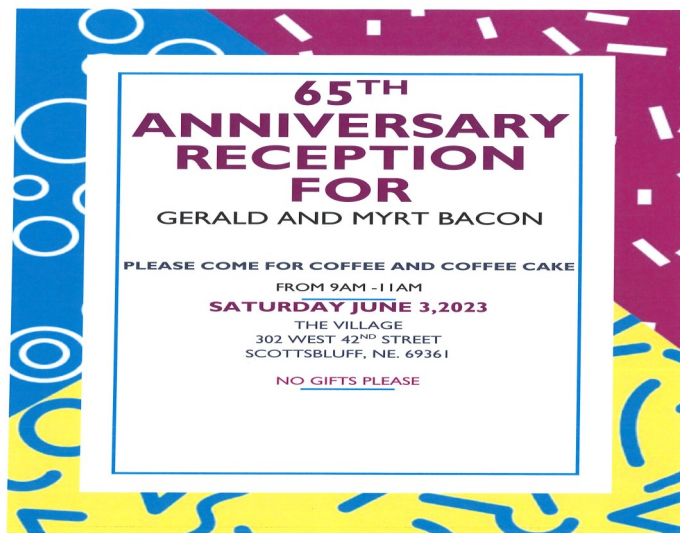
Our monthly Outreach meeting will be held June 15<sup>th</sup> at 10 am. We will be discussing upcoming events that include Father's Day June 18<sup>th</sup>. We will be having homemade pies the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> to celebrate the men in our lives. There will be a Sign-up Genius link made available for anyone of you wonderful bakers willing to make homemade pies. We also finish discussing the potluck on June 25<sup>th</sup> to celebrate and honor the end of one journey. Then we are going to celebrate all together as one The Vine UMC on July 9<sup>th</sup> at the YMCA Trails West Pavilion. Let all the kids know we are going to have the pool available! There will be more details to follow for this event.

We all enjoy fellowship hour after church. It gives us a chance to catch up and get closer. We are going to try something different. We are going to try to have people sign up for a Sunday and they will be responsible for making sure everything is ready for fellowship hour and clean up. There is a sign-up genius made available and also printout sign-up sheets posted in the kitchen. Our hope is that we, as the church, will embrace this and come together to keep this time going. We are also in need of cookies for fellowship.

We have some new and exciting things in store for us and I am so excited to be apart of it. God Bless!



Tom Donahue.....	1
Jana Barker, <b>Donna Considine</b> , Jace Douglass, Olivia Erdman.....	2
Harrison Gauthier.....	3
<b>Doris Rush</b> , Dan Barrett.....	5
Mary Lafler.....	7
Katherine Medina.....	8
Vicki Burbach.....	13
<b>Carr Trumbull</b> .....	14
<b>Myla Schwartz</b> .....	16
<b>Kent Greenwalt</b> , Joan Haslow, Jann Johnson.....	17
<b>Marilyn Betancur</b> .....	18
<b>Nancy Derr</b> , Alice Tuttle.....	20
Livia DeLunger.....	21
Don Hickox, Michele Parks.....	22
<b>Jon Gillen</b> , Whitney Larsen.....	23
<b>Paul Blome</b> , Lex Larsen, Anna Teghtmeyer.....	24
Kenton Cardiff.....	25
Mary Trenkle, Tom Connot.....	27
Mary Garwood.....	29



## CONGRATULATIONS

When Candy Hubbard headed to the Torrington High School auditorium for a special assembly, she had no idea she was to be honored as Goshen County School District Teacher of the Year. Hubbard was also surprised to find her son Brady, his wife and two grandchildren in attendance along with her twin sister, Cindy ... and her husband Eldon who is currently Torrington High School principal.

Hubbard has been the 9th-10th Special Education instructor at Torrington High School for nine years. Prior to taking the job, she was a teacher, principal and administrator with the Gering Public Schools. "I have a passion for learning and I love to see that "light bulb" moment come into a student's eyes. Especially those kids with challenging behaviors," said Hubbard.

Hubbard loves working with kids because "Education is the building block and foundation for success in society. A student has to believe in themselves to move forward and building that relationship - - teaching problem solving and communication is huge in making that happen."

To become "Teacher of the Year," teachers must first be nominated by someone in the district, fill out a questionnaire, be interviewed and then selected based on their work and community involvement.

Hubbard graduated from Scottsbluff High School and the University of Nebraska and did post graduate studies at Chadron State College.

See Torrington Telegram, May 18, for a more in-depth story.....

## STELLAR VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

SHINE JESUS' LIGHT

July 23-26, 6:00-8:30 pm



It is that time again to start thinking about the summer's activities and we would like to invite your child (or children) to "STELLAR - Let us Shine Jesus' Light"

It is scheduled for Sunday, July 23-Wednesday, July 26 from 6:00-8:30 pm.

It is open to anyone from pre-school (potty-trained) to 5<sup>th</sup> grade. 6<sup>th</sup> Grade and older get to be our Crew Leaders. Please pre-register as soon as possible! We will be having a Kickoff BBQ at the Church from 4:30-6:00. This will be the only night we will be serving supper.

If you would like to help volunteer, we need all the help we can get, so please let me know what area you would like to help in!

# June 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 6:30am UMM	2	3 <b>Communion</b> 5:00 Sat. Night Worship
4 <b>Communion</b> 9:30 Worship 10:30 Bible Study, P	5 9:30 COOL Committee 1:00 UMW Board, WH	6 6:00 Stephen Ministry	7 11:30 Free Sack Lunches	8 6:30am UMM 5:00 Soup Kitchen@ Presby.	9	10 5:00 Sat. Night Worship
11 9:30 Worship 10:30 Bible Study, P 11:00 Trustee	2 9:30 COOL Committee	13 4:00 WWIP Bible Study	14 <b>Flag Day</b>	15 6:30am UMM 10:00 Outreach	16 <b>Newsletter Deadline</b>	17 1:00 Charge Conference 5:00 Sat. Night Worship
 18 <b>Happy Father's Day</b> 9:30 Worship— pies during Fellowship 10:30 Bible Study, P 11:00 Finance	19 9:30 COOL Committee 1:30 Caring Circle	20 6:00 Stephen Ministry	21 8:00 Kids First Board, L 11:30 Free Sack Lunches	22 6:30am UMM	23	24 5:00 Sat. Night Worship
25 9:30 Worship 10:30 Bible Study, P 10:30 Potluck Celebration 11:00 Ad Council	26 9:30 COOL Committee	27 4:00 WWIP Bible Study 5:00 SPPRC, W	28 11:30 Free Sack Lunches	29 6:30am UMM 9:00 Newsletter Folding, L	30	

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PERIODICAL



**JUNE  
OUTREACH**  
SOUP KITCHEN & WED. SACK LUNCHES

ITEMS NEEDED FOR SOUP KITCHEN:  
DISPOSABLE PLATES,  
BOWLS, NAPKINS, CUPS, &  
PLASTIC SILVERWEAR AND/OR  
MONETARY DONATIONS



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06-19-2009

THE SON AND THE HOLY SPIRIT ALWAYS PICK  
UP THE CHECK ON FATHER'S DAY