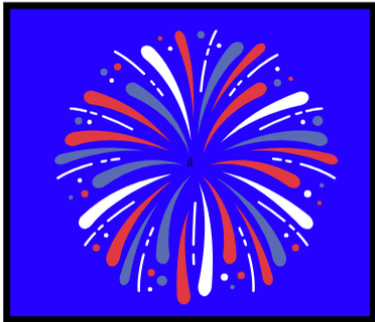


July
2024



First United Methodist Church

Revelation

Pedalings

Well, the last couple weeks have been interesting to say the least. Two weeks ago, I came down with a virus when attending my brother's celebration of life, and a week later (according to the doctor), the ripple effect of the virus inflamed my vocal chords, so now I feel like I'm talking through a fan, which isn't a bad thing considering the air conditioner in the office broke down during the same period of time.

When it rains, it pours, I guess.

On a bright note when it comes to Sunday, I have two words: short sermon!

So, a thought raced through my mind recently, and I feel it strangely pulling me in several directions. Maybe it's the added medications I'm on for laryngitis that has me going rogue squirrel, but I think it's something else.

As I've been working on the message for this week, a thought randomly occurred to me regarding another sermon series. I would endeavor to have this series address a narrowly controlled aspect of the Christian faith, but it would be in response to your responses.

So, here's my thought. I got to wondering today what three things are that has been revolutionary to how I live my life as a disciple of Jesus Christ. Since I really haven't had time to give this much thought before writing this, I am going to share the three aspects of Jesus' teachings that are the first to come to my mind.

First, understanding the context of Jesus' ministry in the first century is important because as we reflect on it 2,000 years later, the contexts are not the same – especially for North Americans. Understanding that Jesus was not white with blonde hair and blue eyes matters; those tend to be European depictions of him. In Jesus' context, ministry was mostly with those living in abject poverty; what I feel Jesus did was heal people of their diseases and conditions and, when possible, provide gateways for the wealthy to connect with the poor. But Jesus NEVER would have been elected to any position in government then or now; any thought of it today and throughout history has been the result of bad and dangerous theology. To add to this, Jesus' ministry was about relief to the poor, comfort to the afflicted, and companionship for those who were forgotten. Is ours?

Second, Jesus was all about community but for people to really thrive in community, they must be vulnerable with one another. Vulnerability means taking risks. It means stepping out of comfort zones. Vulnerability means getting comfortable with things that make people uncomfortable, such as meeting strangers, asking for what you need, and not being so individualistic you think you can do everything without the benefit of anyone else. I think this is what Jesus meant when he said to let your light shine because sometimes God will need your light in those shadowy places, so light will bring illumination – sometimes to others, but often to yourself. Do you let your light shine this way?

Third, following Jesus means experiencing our own deaths and resurrection(s). It means continually confronting in ourselves what isn't true or authentic to the image of God we bear. As y'all know, I've recently experienced some deaths in my family: my oldest brother, and my beloved sister as well as two cousins. Experiencing their deaths (along with another brother's passing in 2020) has meant not just facing my own mortality; it has challenged me to adapt to a life that was heavily influenced by events that happened when I was a 7-year-old. Death and resurrection, for me, means living forward and letting myself be raised to a new life now. I don't know if I can explain it better.

So, in all sincerity: What are your three things you've learned from your faith in Jesus? Please email them to me at rev.mark.crist74@gmail.com. I really hope everyone will share what they have to share. Who knows what an amazing series that could generate – but for that to happen, I need your feedback. Thank you in advance.

Until next month, just keep pedaling.

Pastor Mark Crist

Enhanced Online Giving

Additional options have been enabled for online giving through our web site. You can access [Online Giving](#) or scan the QR code with your phone.



Through online giving, you have the option to give with a credit card or to setup direct deposit from your checking account. These gifts can be setup for a one-time gift or as a recurring gift. There is even an option to increase your gift to cover the cost of credit card processing fees!

We encourage you to create an account using the e-mail address you receive e-mails on from the church so your giving is associated with your account in the ChurchTrac membership system and will appear on your annual giving statement. By creating an account, you will also have access to all of the giving options mentioned above. If you do not want to create an account, there is an option to give as a guest.

Little Free Pantry



Thanks for your continued support of the Little Free Pantry. Please place your donations directly in the pantry, but please be mindful during the summer months to not leave perishable items or canned items in the pantry on particularly hot days. You may also leave food donations in the food box in the entry of the church for future use.

If you prefer, you can also make a monetary donation to help purchase food for the pantry. Donated funds were used in June to replenish our pantry stock! Thanks to Pam Campbell and Lisa Valcure for helping to place food from our store in the pantry daily!

If you are interested in a class on the AED, CPR and Stop the Bleed please Contact Lisa at the Church Office.



Cloud County Resource Center Needs



The Food Bank is open and accepting donations of cash or food items for distribution on **Monday/Wednesday/Friday from 9:00 am – 5:00 pm and Tuesday/Thursday from 1:00 – 5:00 pm**. Starting on March 1st, the Food Bank can be utilized one each month; an appointment must be made 24 hours in advance to pick up food at the Food Bank.

A summer food drive will take place from June 1st – August 1st. Items most in need include: Cereal, Mac & Cheese, Pasta, Pasta Sauce, Canned Fruit, Canned Meats, Baby Food, Body Wash, Bar Soap, and Feminine Hygiene Products. Donations can be dropped off at the CCRC, Travel and Tourism, Senior Center, and Century 21.

A Family Board Game Day will take place on Sunday, July 21st from 2 - 5 pm at the CCRC! Bring your favorite game or use a loaner game. Drinks and snacks will be provided.

The CCRC will be offering School Bags for the 2023-2024 school year. This program is available to all students (K-12) in any school district in Cloud County. A fee of \$3 will be charged for each bag; scholarships are available. Registration will take place 7/1/24 - 8/2/24. Contact the CCRC to register. **Volunteers are needed to help on the following days/time:**

Staging Supplies

July 29th, 1 – 5 pm

Packing Bags

July 29th, 6 – 8 pm

July 30th, 1 – 5 pm

July 31st, 6 – 8 pm

Bag Pickup/Distribution

August 5th, 6 – 8 pm

August 6th, 6 – 8 pm

August 7th, 6 – 8 pm

School Supply Drive



We are collecting school supplies for the CCRC School Bag Program!

Bring your donations **July 7th – 28th!** Items can be left in the Food Box in the church entry.

Missions and Outreach

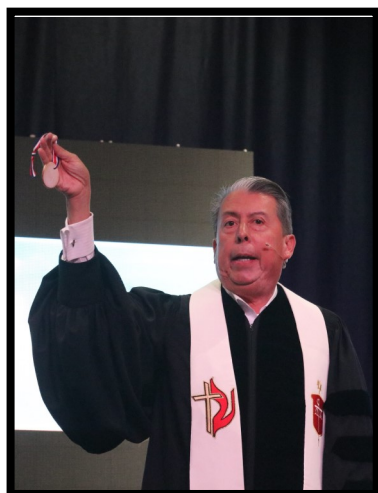
Missions Buckets will be passed on July 21st for the Cloud County Resource Center. Funds collected will be used to assist with purchasing food and school supplies.



Thanks for your generous donations of \$49.45 in June for the Native American Ministries Special Offering. To find out more about this offering, go to <https://www.umc.org/en/content/native-american-ministries-sunday-ministry-article>.



Great Plains Conference 2024



Great Plains Conference was very interesting! This was the 10th anniversary of the merger of the two Kansas conferences and Nebraska's conference creating the Great Plains Conference. The conference has now moved to the new Building in Topeka. Prior to this they were in three separate offices in Wichita, Topeka and Lincoln.

At General Conference it was voted to change the language in the Book of Discipline. This removed the language that prohibited pastors from officiating same sex marriages and also removed the language prohibiting the ordination of LGBTQ persons in the UMC. You may talk to a council member to see how this will be addressed in our local church.

They also decided that Churches will no longer be allowed to disaffiliate. The UMC is now looking forward to the future of our church.

Great Plains Conference has also been redistricted and they have renamed the regions. We are now called the North Central Kansas Region. We were formerly called the Salina-Hutchinson Region. Karen Rice Ratzlaff will remain as our District Superintendent.

We have two firsts in the General Conferences, our previous DS, Dee Williamson has been appointed as the first black woman Bishop! She is now serving in the Louisiana Conference. Our own Bishop David Wilson is the first Native American Bishop for the UMC. (Shown in the Pictures above on the Right and Left sides.

On Saturday morning the Youth were in charge of the Worship Service. Shown above is the Youth Leader, Emma, she gave the sermon, which was amazing! The music was comprised of several of the youth.

Bishop David Wilson and Rev Hollie Tapley talked about the Santee Sioux Nation Reservation in Northeastern Nebraska, they have been under a no drink order since 2019. Donations are being accepted. You can scan the QR code or send them to PO Box 4187, Topeka, Ks. 66604. Any excess money will go into the disaster fund.



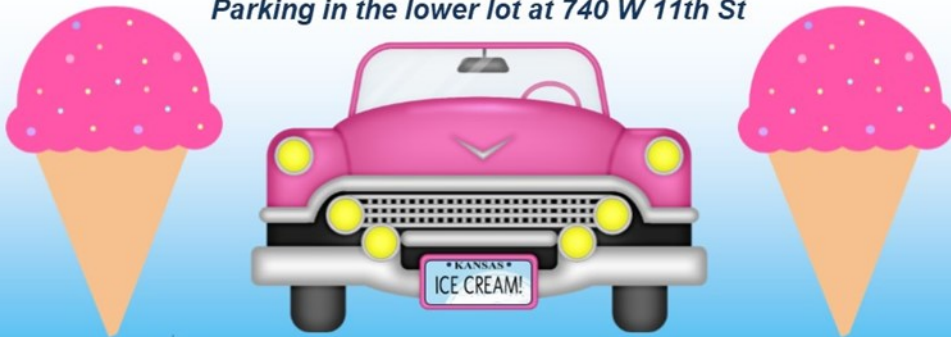
If you want to learn more please talk with Angie or Lisa.

Cruise-In Ice Cream Social

Sunday, August 18th, 5-7 pm

Drive your classic car, golf cart, bike, scooter, or other unique ride and join us for games and sweet treats!

Parking in the lower lot at 740 W 11th St



 **Concordia First United Methodist Church**

Trustees Update

Thank you to the volunteers who participated in the "Power Hour" clean-ups over the past two months!





Adult Retreat near Arkansas City

Thursday-Saturday
Oct 3-5, 2024

Breakfast food provided
Lunches on Site

Evening meals will be a community event.

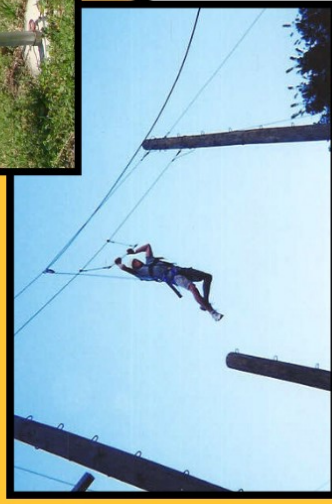
**Devotions led by Pastor Mark
following Dinner.**

Cost of retreat \$150.00 per person

If interested contact Angie
con1umcchristianed@gmail.com
or the Church Office
concordialumc@gmail.com

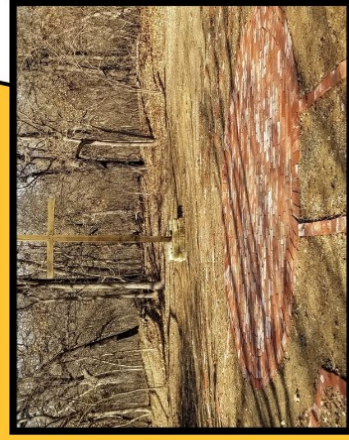
Frisbee Golf

Ziplining



Rope Courses

Prayer
Labyrinth



Hammock
Village



Walking-
Trails



Canoeing



and
much more!

ALL CHURCH



Monday, July 8, 2024
8:00-10:00pm
@ the Concordia
Swimming Pool!

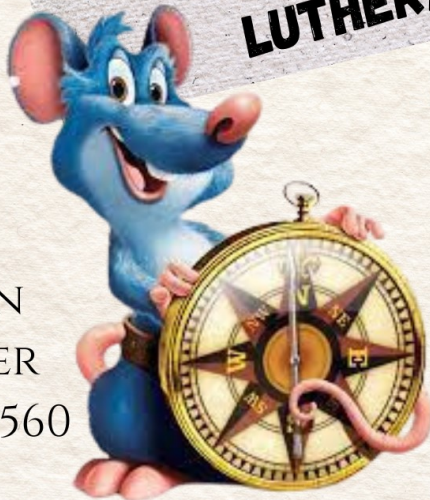
INVITE A
FRIEND!



**SAVE THE
DATE:**

JULY 31ST & AUGUST 1ST & 2ND
AT THE CONCORDIA
LUTHERAN CHURCH

FOR MORE
INFORMATION
OR TO REGISTER
CALL 785-243-4560





UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH

WEDNESDAY, JULY 10, 2024

6:30PM

Ⓐ PATTY MOSHER

521 E 15TH CONCORDIA

RSVP BY JULY 8TH

785-275-1181

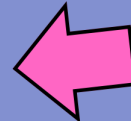
LIGHT DINNER IS PROVIDED



COMMODITIES

WEDNESDAY

JULY 17, 2024



ALL VOLUNTEERS WELCOME

10:00AM MEET IN FELLOWSHIP HALL

OR LOWER PARKING LOT.

11:15AM - 12:15PM LOAD CARS

BOXES ARE NEEDED, PLEASE!



COMMODITIES FOOD DISTRIBUTION

Income Eligibility
Monthly Income must be below:

- 1 \$1,580.
- 2 \$2,137.
- 3 \$2,694

For Each Additional Person
add \$557.

EVERY OTHER MONTH

- JANUARY
- MARCH
- MAY
- JULY
- SEPTEMBER
- NOVEMBER

****Christian Education News****

United Methodist Church Campers

This summer we have three of our children and youth attending Camp Horizon!

*Gannon will be heading to camp on July 1st. He is attending the Mini Camp that is a 2 night camp experience. He has been looking forward to this opportunity for several months now!

*Zac and Dakota will be attending the High School Camp July 14-19. They are also very excited about this upcoming camp. Zac tells me he is looking forward to the whole experience! They will get to go ziplining, climb the high rope maze, get dirty in the mud pit, and explore the Bible more in depth.

Thank you to those in our church that gave to the camp fund so that these three can experience God in our beautiful outdoors with peers their own age.



Vacation Bible School*

Bring your children or grandchildren to the

High Seas Expedition!

JESUS is our Guiding Light!

July 31st, August 1st and 2nd evenings 5:45-8:00 pm

Concordia Lutheran Church

Pick up your Registration at the FUMC office

VBS Helpers Needed

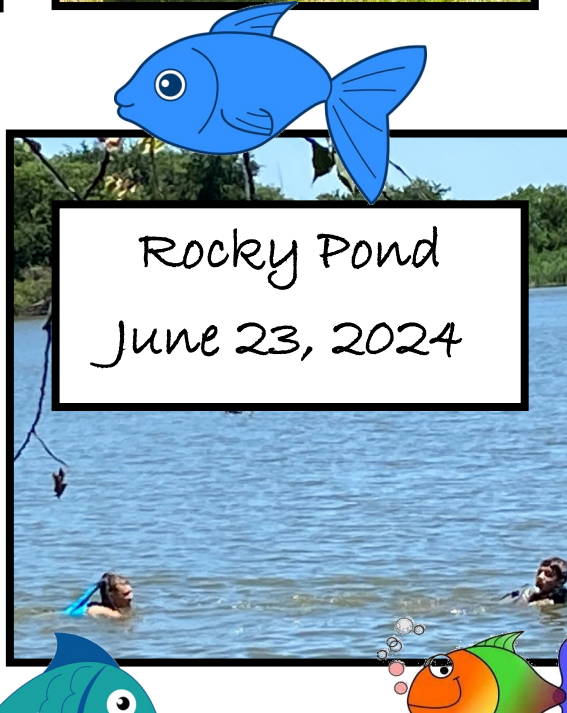
First United Methodist Church is responsible for the Friday, August 2nd meal. We will be providing sandwiches, chips and fruit. A sign up sheet will be posted at the church for the groceries needed and persons to serve the meal that evening.

Adult Camp Horizon Retreat

There are still spots available for this retreat. If you are interested in learning more or want to add your name to the list, please call, text

Or email Angie at con1umcchristianed@gmail.com, 785-275-1232

Angie Gabel-McConkey, Christian Education Director, Concordia FUMC





More Pictures From Rocky Pond!



Summer Book and Bible Study



Sign up sheet on Bulletin Board

Pastor Mark will be leading a summer book and bible study on How to Read the Bible. This will be a 6-week class beginning Sunday, July 14 at 2 p.m. at First UMC. The deadline to sign up for the class is Sunday, June 16, so we can ensure we have the study books available in time. Participants will be asked to pay \$25 for the books.

Those who sign up and take the class will need to bring their bibles, a notebook, and the text for the class (which will be ordered).

Topics covered are:

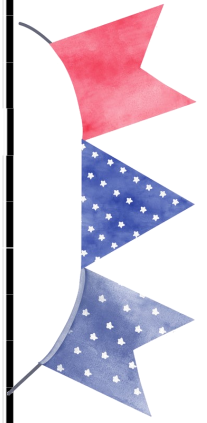
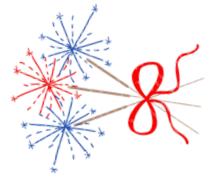
1. Interpretation and good translation
2. The Epistles: Context Matters
3. Hebrew Bible narratives, Acts and "history"
4. The Gospels
5. The Parables, the Law and Revelation
6. The Prophets, the Psalms and Wisdom readings

If you would like more information, please contact Pastor Mark with your questions and he will be happy to answer them.

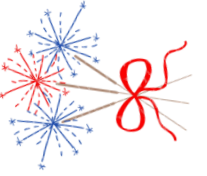
HAPPY BIRTHDAY







- 1~PEYTON JOHNSON
- 2~LANE CAMPBELL
- 4~JESSI KINDSCHER
- 6~LILY TERRILL
- 8~KIRSTIN PELTIER
- 9~BEN RETTER
- 11~BRUNO REHBEIN
- 12~TYLER ANDERSON
- 15~MARY GANTZ
- 20~DONNA REEDY
- 22~DON PEARSON
- 22~JUSTIN POORE
- 23~SAMANTHA TERRILL
- 23~BRUCE NUTTER
- 23~KATHY WOOD
- 24~EUGENE MCDANIEL
- 30~ANGIE GABEL-
MCCONKEY
- 30~LES DETHLOFF
- 30~BRAD NADING



JULY 2024



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3 5:00 Sitting With Jesus 1000pm City Fireworks 	4  4 th OF JULY 	5	6
7 9:30 Crusaders Searchers 10:30 Worship	8 5:30pm FUMC Council 8:00-10:00pm Swim Party 	9	10 5:00 Sitting With Jesus 6:30pm Women in Faith	11	12	13
14 9:30 Crusaders Searchers 10:30 Worship	15 5:30 M&M's (Missions & Ministry)	16	17 10:00 Commodities 5:00 Sitting With Jesus	18	19	20 9:00 Ladies Coffee @ Jitters
21 9:30 Crusaders Searchers 10:30 Worship	22	23	24 5:00 Sitting With Jesus	25	26	27
28 9:30 Crusaders Searchers 10:30 Worship	29	30	31 5:00 Sitting With Jesus Vacation Bible School begins July 31~August 2. 5:45-8:00pm			

Sunday Morning Volunteers

July	7	14	21	28	August 4
Worship Leader	Angie	Loren Swenson	Cindy Kocher		
Sound			Monte Wentz		
Media		Lisa Valcoure	Nancy Wentz	Lisa Valcoure	
Greeters	Deb Ketterman	Ann & Jim Lanoue	Deb Ketterman	Patty Mosher	Jim & Ann Lanoue
Nursery Helpers	Patty Mosher	Patty Mosher	Patty Mosher	Patty Mosher	Patty Mosher
Children's Moment	Cindy Kocher	Melody Leibbrandt	Angie Gabel-McConkey	Pam Campbell	
Scripture Reader					
Ushers	Lyle Pounds	Lyle Pounds	Lyle Pounds	Lyle Pounds	Lyle Pounds
Acolytes	Gannon Brown				
Coffee Bar	Marsha Wentz	Marsha Wentz	Marsha Wentz	Marsha Wentz	Marsha Wentz
Alter Flowers	Donna Reedy	Darlene Pearson	Joyce Swenson	Joyce Swenson	

Sunday Morning Volunteers Please gather for prayer with

Pastor Mark in the Chapel at 10:20am.

Please Contact the Church Office if you can help with any of the Volunteer Opportunities!



Concordia First United Methodist Church

Belong | Believe | Become

Pastor: Rev. Mark Crist

Administrative Assistant: Lisa Valcoure

Christian Ed. Director Angie Gabel-McConkey

Choir Director: Renata Knox

Organist: Pam Campbell

Contact Information:

Email: concordia1umc@gmail.com

Website: www.concordiafumc.com

Pastor's Email: rev.mark.crist74@gmail.com

Facebook: Concordia First United Methodist Church

Church Phone: 785-243-4560

Sunday Services:

Crusaders: 9:30am

Searchers: 9:30am

Worship: 10:30am

Wednesday Night Services:

Sittin' with Jesus 5:00pm