

September

2024

FALL

First United Methodist Church

# Revelation

When I came to Concordia a little over a year ago, one of the things that really impressed me was the fact First UMC had its own purpose statement: *Belong, Believe, Become*. I think that is one of the coolest purpose statements I've ever seen.

Over the course of the last year (or so), one of the things I've wrestled with is what does "*Belong, Believe, Become*" mean, and how do we go about fulfilling it? How do I, as a pastor, grow into it and invite others to grow into it? That is a conversation I plan to have with the administrative council in September. (I meant have the discussion in August but I was kinda brain dead at the meeting after attending a workshop all day.)

Clearly, there has been some intentional planning going on before I was blessed to move to Concordia, so people have a place to belong, believe and become through healthy congregations and the neighboring programs, *Change the World Sunday*, and other ministries. But, again, I ask the question: What does belong, believe, become mean and how do I, as your pastor, fulfill it, and invite others to grow into it?

It isn't that I'm questioning whether it is or has been, fulfilled. In some ways I think people discover they can belong, believe, and become part of First UMC and it's ministries. What I am also saying, however, is that I am evaluating steps forward. Maybe there is a personal side of this for me given my life circumstances, but in visiting with one of my mentors, I think there's something more. It's like an itch that needs scratched.

One of the ways to scratch that itch was suggested by Bishop Ruben Saenz when he was the Great Plains bishop. Bishop Saenz met with Kansas NAMI director Sherrie Vaughn to learn about how caring for those living with mental illness and family members with loved ones who struggle with mental health can be cared for by the church.

Years ago, I was shocked to learn how the Gerasene demoniac was likely an alcoholic who had been rejected by his first century community until Jesus came and healed him. I remember another occasion where Jesus healed a woman who was possessed by demons. And there are countless other stories of the healings Jesus performed with a variety of people. That suggests, to me, that offering healing to others should be a central part of what we do as a church, and that requires stepping out of our comfort zones.

For that reason, I invited NAMI to present its *Standing in the Gap* presentation last month – and thank you to everyone who helped with it – and for that reason I am taking part in conversations to explore avenues of community care with those living with mental illness, addiction(s), and poverty. There are clear links between the three areas, and I think they're best addressed by including several folks in the discussion, and it's why I'm working with NAMI to establish something more detailed for North Central Kansas. If some of you want to be involved in this, please feel free to email, call, text me or visit with me in person. I'd welcome the feedback.

One final note: Since moving to Concordia, I have to confess I've been a little lazy getting back into eating and exercising like I should for my health and self-care. For those of you interested in prioritizing your self-care and fitness, please let me know. Maybe there's something we can work on together. Once I am back up to snuff, I will be back on my bike regularly again.

So, 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



Continued support of the pantry is much appreciated. Please place your donations directly in the pantry, but please be mindful that it is still warm, so please do 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 Valcoure for helping to place food from our store in the pantry daily!



## T-Shirts

Do you have a FUMC T-Shirt? We have all sizes available for a suggested donation of \$5 each. Stop by the church office to pick one up today.

If you have a gently used shirt that no longer fits, please consider dropping it off at the church office.

## Cloud County Resource Center Needs

**The CCRC packed 298 school back in August! Thanks to those who donated supplies, funds, and helped at the packing events.**

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 1<sup>st</sup>, 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.



If you need more information about activities or would like to volunteer at the CCRC, please contact Tonya Merrill at 785-243-1065 or [ccrc@nckcn.com](mailto:ccrc@nckcn.com).

## Missions and Outreach

Thanks for supporting missions activity in our church! In July, we collected \$72.63 for our Good Samaritan Fund!

**We have received a grant from the Cloud County Community Foundation to help with our Layette Sets Project again this year!** Our church is the only organization that makes the layette sets and our goal this year is to make 60 sets (each set costs about \$45 to make).



Donation of items needed for Layette Set includes:

- Diapers (size 1 or 2) – MOST NEEDED ITEM!
- Baby Wipes
- Baby Shampoo (full size bottles)
- Onesies – one piece undershirt with snaps (size 0-3 or 3-6 months)
- Baby Socks (size 0-3 or 3-6 months)

Please no premie size diapers, onesies, or socks! The layette sets may not be delivered immediately after birth and we want the items included to fit the baby!

Items can be left in the baby carriage in the church entry starting on **Sunday, September 15<sup>th</sup>**. Please bring all items by **Sunday, October 6<sup>th</sup>**. We know that it may be difficult to get out to purchase or even find these items. **If you prefer to make a monetary donation, Missions buckets will be passed on September 15<sup>th</sup> for this project.**

We also need volunteers to sew blankets again this year. All of the fabric has been purchased and will be cut to size in advance. **Please contact Nancy Wentz if you would like to help sew blankets!**

Watch for more details in the October Newsletter on assembly of the sets!

## Trustees Update

The kitchen renovation project is underway! New cabinets have been installed under the serving counter and a new ventilation fan has been completed. Re-enameling of stove burners and drip pans is in-process and painting of walls and cabinets will start soon.

Thanks to all who have helped clean out the kitchen and sort items to determine what needs to be replaced. There are a few “treasures” for pickup outside the church office – check them out next time you are at the church! They are free for the taking as long as they aren’t returned to the church! Any items not taken by September 15<sup>th</sup>, will be donated.

The majority of this project is being funded by a directed gift received in April from the family of Anita Chartier. While this generous gift will fund the majority of the project, there are additional items that the Kitchen committee along with the support of the Church Council would like to see completed at the same time. We are therefore asking you to consider an extra mile gift to help fund these improvements. Please make a note of “kitchen” on your gift.





# **\*\*Christian Education News\*\***

## **Church on the Plaza**

Join us for our annual Church on the Plaza at the Broadway Plaza on September 8th. We will begin the day with a potluck breakfast at 9:00 am followed by worship. After worship, we will have activities and games for all ages.

## **3rd-5th Grade Bibles**

If you have a child grades 3rd-5th grade, please plan to attend Church on the Plaza, September 8th. We present them with their own Deep Blue Bible during this worship service!

## **Wednesday Night Table Talk**

Beginning September 11th

Our Children and Youth Christian Education Program begins at 6:00 pm with a meal provided by a great group of ladies from our church. We have an amazing team of Christian educators and exciting curriculum to begin the year. If anyone would like to join our team, we could use another aide or more kitchen help.

**Youth:** Jason Johnson and Deb Ketterman are our Youth leaders. The Youth will begin with a Fathom study on The Birth of the Church. This will be a 4 week study of the Old Testament and the New Testament. This lesson will allow the students to compare today's Church to church in its conception. They will also be building and running a Haunted House this fall to help fund their Mission Trip for 2025.

**Upper Elementary:** Cindy Kocher will lead this group of 3rd to 6th graders. The upper elementary students are getting a new curriculum called Big Faith. This new curriculum has bible stories, videos, student participation and hands-on activities. We are excited to try something new this year!

**Pre K-2nd grade:** Mary Thoman along with Donna Reedy and Julie Cory will once again lead this group of young children in learning and participating in bible stories. We will continue to utilize previously used VBS curriculum to make these lessons age appropriate and interesting to young learners.



**CHURCH  
ON THE **Plaza****



SEPTEMBER 8, 2024  
9:00AM BRUNCH  
9:30AM WORSHIP &  
ACTIVITIES FOR ALL AGES!

STAY TUNED FOR MORE  
INFORMATION!



**WEDNESDAY NIGHT TABLE TALK BIBLE STUDY  
CLASSES BEGIN  
SEPTEMBER 11TH**

6:00PM~MEAL  
6:30PM~CLASSES



IMPACT GROUP~JR./SR. HIGH  
THE ROCK~3RD-6TH  
JAM~PRESCHOOL-2ND



## Adult Camp Horizon Retreat

*“The mission of Camp Horizon is to provide a natural setting for the church to make and strengthen disciples of Christ.”*

We still have space for a couple more campers... Currently we have about 8 of us traveling to South-Central Kansas to **Camp Horizon** Thursday, October 3 to Saturday, October 5. This will be 3 days and 2 nights of nature-filled fun and fellowship time. The camp has several hiking trails and we plan to make use of the campfire pits to relax outside in the evenings. There is an 18-hole Frisbee golf course, a bike trail if you wish to bring your bike and canoes to float down the Arkansas River. If you are daring, you can try out the low and high rope challenge courses available which include ziplining. The Rope Courses are an additional fee. If you have decided to join us, please let me know soon! Call, text or email Angie at [con1umcchristianed@gmail.com](mailto:con1umcchristianed@gmail.com), 785-275-1232.

## United Women In Faith

United Women in Faith has been going strong for 4 months. It is a fun and educational time with fellow Christian women. Our next meeting is hosted by Christy Hasch on September 7th at 9:30 am in the church parlor. That will conclude our study on Psalm 77. Our discussion will revolve around how COVID-19 has impacted our lives today.

Proverbs 9:9

Give instruction to a wise man and he will be still wiser, teach a righteous man and he will increase in learning.

*Angie Gabel-McConkey*

*Christian Education Director-FUMC*

[con1umcchristianed@gmail.com](mailto:con1umcchristianed@gmail.com)



## UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH

SATURDAY,  
SEPTEMBER 7, 2024  
9:30AM

CHRISTY HASCH  
AT THE CHURCH  
RSVP BY SEPTEMBER 4  
785-243-0183  
BREAKFAST PROVIDED





# Cruise-In Ice Cream Social

August 18, 2024





# Reception for Amy Gerber

## August 11, 2024

Amy has moved to Lincoln Nebraska to be closer to her family. She would love to receive cards and letters from her friends!

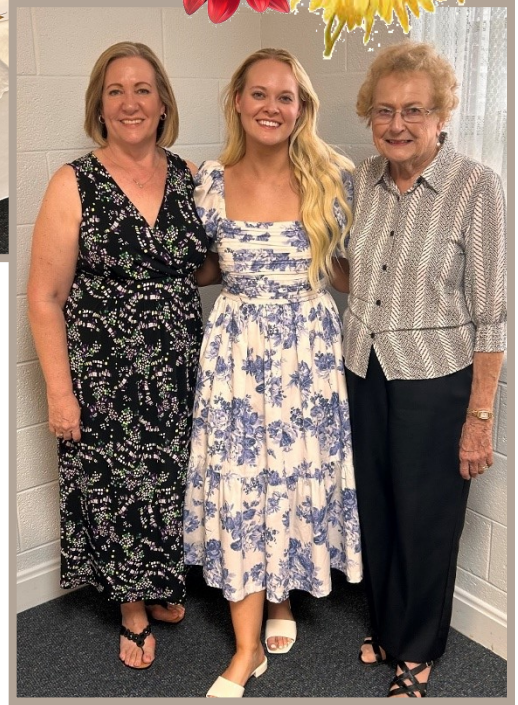
Country House Residence  
5720 South 25th St.  
Lincoln, Nebraska 68512







***Congratulation  
Erica!  
Bridal Shower  
August 11, 2024***







# LABOR DAY BLESSING OF THE WORKERS



SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 1, 2024

DURING WORSHIP



BRING AN ITEM THAT

REPRESENTS YOUR OCCUPATION.




## BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS

④ BROADWAY PLAZA  
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 18  
5:30PM

ALL PETS BIG OR SMALL!!! ARE INVITED TO BRING THEIR HUMANS IF YOUR PET IS UNABLE TO MAKE IT TO THE PLAZA BRING A PICTURE!

**BRING AN ITEM TO DONATE TO THE O'CONNOR ANIMAL SHELTER**




## LADIES *Coffee*

SEPTEMBER 21, 2024  
9:00AM  
④ JITTERS






# COMMODITIES



WEDNESDAY  
SEPTEMBER 18, 2024  
ALL VOLUNTEERS WELCOME  
10:00AM MEET IN FELLOWSHIP HALL  
OR LOWER PARKING LOT.  
11:15AM - 12:15PM LOAD CARS  
BOXES ARE NEEDED, PLEASE!



# FALL FEST

SEPTEMBER 28, 2024

FUMC FOOD BOOTH

ALL HELP IS WELCOME!

SIGN UP SHEET IS ON THE BULLETIN BOARD FOR HELP,  
BROWNIES AND RICE CRISPIES TREATS!  
MONETARY DONATIONS WELCOME.



# Coffee OFFICE

JITTERS

THURSDAY MORNINGS

10:00AM

WITH PASTOR MARK





Frisbee Golf



Ziplining



Rope Courses

Prayer  
Labyrinth



# 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  
[conlumccchristianed@gmail.com](mailto:conlumccchristianed@gmail.com)  
or the Church Office  
[concordialumc@gmail.com](mailto:concordialumc@gmail.com)

Hammock  
Village



Walking  
Trails



Canoeing



and  
much more!



## Emotionally Healthy Spirituality

If you are interested in learning more about Emotionally Healthy Spirituality, please sign up for this class led by Pastor Mark. This 6-8 week class invites participants to evaluate their emotional and spiritual health, using three different books. You will develop a better understanding of your thoughts, feelings and behavior. Those who have already taken the course are welcome to participate as a refresher. Sign up now so materials can be ordered by September. You will be notified when the books arrive. Classes will start Sunday September 22, 2024 at 6:30pm. \$50.00 for books.





WE ARE LOOKING FOR PEOPLE WHO WOULD LIKE TO DO SPECIAL MUSIC FOR SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP. CONTACT THE OFFICE AT 785-243-4560 OR PAM CAMPBELL AT 785-275-2157



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



WEDNESDAY NIGHT TABLE TALK BIBLE STUDY CLASSES BEGIN SEPTEMBER 11TH 6:00PM~MEAL 6:30PM~CLASSES



IMPACT GROUP~JR./SR. HIGH THE ROCK~3RD-6TH JAM~PRESCHOOL-2ND







**Happy Birthday!**

# SEPTEMBER

- 1~DANIEL HUFF
- 3~EMMA WATERMAN
- 3~DAVID LAHODNY
- 7~SHIRLEY JOHNSON
- 8~JOAN LAWTON
- 12~RACHEL HASCH
- 13~HERSHEL HUTCHINSON
- 15~CRYSTAL WILSON
- 16 JODI REHBEIN
- 17~CODY HALFHIDE
- 17~JIM LARSEN
- 17~BRETT ERKENBRACK
- 18~JAN NOVLAN
- 20~JEREMY COONS
- 21~MARISSA PARKER
- 26~AMANDA WATERMAN
- 26~MADELYN STILES
- 27~MICHELLE JOHNSON
- 29~KALE PEARSON
- 29~BRANDON RUUD
- 29~CURTIS WILSON



# Sunday Morning Volunteers

September	1	8	15	22	29
Worship Leader		Jason	Christy Hasch		
Sound			Monte		
Media	Janice	xxxxxx	Andrea		
Greeters	Patty	Deb	Don and Darlene	Deb	Patty
Nursery Helpers	Patty Mosher	Patty Mosher	Patty Mosher	Patty Mosher	Patty Mosher
Children's Moment		Jason	Melody		
Scripture Reader					
Ushers	Lyle Pounds	Lyle Pounds	Lyle Pounds	Lyle Pounds	Lyle Pounds
Acolytes					
Coffee Bar	Marsha Wentz	Hospitality	Marsha Wentz	Marsha Wentz	Connie & Phil
Alter Flowers					Monte Wentz

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!

# SEPTEMBER 2024



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 9:30 Crusaders Searchers 10:30 Worship	2	3	4 5:00 Sitting With Jesus	5	6	7 9:30 Women in Faith in the Parlor
8 Church on the Plaza 9:00 Brunch 9:30 Worship followed by activities for all	9 5:30pm FUMC Council	10	11 5:00 Sitting With Jesus 5:30 Choir Practice 6:00 Table Talk Meal 6:30 Classes Begin	12	13	14 9:00 LadiesCoffee @ Jitters
15 9:30 Crusaders Searchers 10:30 Worship	16 5:30 M&M's (Missions & Ministry)	17	18 10-00 Commodities 5:30pm Blessing of the Animals at the Plaza 6:00 Table Talk on the Plaza	19	20	21
22 1ST DAY OF FALL 9:30 Crusaders Searchers 10:30 Worship	23	24	25 5:00 Sitting With Jesus 5:30 Choir Practice 6:00 Table Talk Meal 6:30 Classes Begin	26	27	28 Concordia Fall Fest Downtown
29	30	<b>NOTES:</b>				



# 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](mailto:concordia1umc@gmail.com)

Website: [www.concordiafumc.com](http://www.concordiafumc.com)

Pastor's Email: [rev.mark.crist74@gmail.com](mailto: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