

OCTOBER  
2024



First United Methodist Church

# Revelation

## Pastor's peddling's:

Recently, there have been some minor tweakings to our worship service, and I'm curious to know who has noticed? Last Sunday (September 22) was the first Sunday for the tweakings: holy conversation and sharing the mission/ purpose statement.

The first tweaking incorporated what we're calling a "Holy Conversation" question. The Holy Conversation is a focus question based on the passage or passages I will be preaching from that day to start a conversation before the message is given.

The idea is a result of the Small Church Advantage workshops that Pam, Lisa, Angie, and I have attended since February (there were three workshops in total). Part of the reason for the conversation is to invite folks to think about what their answer(s) would be to the question. Another part of the reason for the conversation is to inspire and encourage folks, so worship is more participatory. Eventually, I hope folks in the church will one day submit questions they'd like to invite others to discuss.

And really, discussion that leads to action is what the Christian faith is all about, isn't it? By discussing things, we get to know one another better. Sometimes by discussing things, we get to know something about someone in the pew next to us we never knew, and sometimes discussion helps us learn another's story, which fosters understanding and friendship.

Something I really like about the Holy Conversation is that it is something folks can take home with themselves or something that can generate conversation when folks go out for lunch after worship. As a former journalist, one of the things I appreciated most about that professional pursuit was asking people the "who, what, where, why, and how" questions, so I could learn about them and their story. Stories are what connect us. Jesus knew this, that's why he told parabolic stories to explain what he was endeavoring to teach. I'd never go back to journalism, but I definitely appreciated that aspect of the work.

Something else I'm looking forward to doing is developing a story a month for the newsletter about members of the church like I might have as a journalist, and then publishing their story in the newsletter. I had wanted to do this with Beth Whisler when she was diagnosed with stage 4 cancer almost a year ago, but the timing of everything never transpired. The story could be about a hobby someone has (like gardening, painting, woodworking, etc.) or about their personal story, for those willing to share it.

Lastly, the second tweaking was thanks to the administrative council, where we participate in saying the church's mission and belief statement to wrap up the service, as a reminder of who we are as Concordia First United Methodist followers of Christ, and what we can do to invite others to join us. I heard some really positive feedback about that last Sunday.

So, I would welcome having folks participate in this. Please let me know what inspirational stories you have to share or know others may have to share, so they can be something everyone can enjoy.

Until next time, 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

## Little Free Pantry



Continued support of the pantry is much appreciated. Please place your donations directly in the pantry. 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!

## 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 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.



Club 81 activities are restarting at the CCRC! If you know of a young adult in 5<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> grade that is looking for fun activities, contact the CCRC today! A fall outdoor gardening club will start meeting after school weekly on September 24<sup>th</sup> along with a Little Free Seed Library that will launch on September 30<sup>th</sup>! A crafter's retreat will also take place after school on October 17<sup>th</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup>.

The holiday season is fast approaching. Watch for more details in the November newsletter about ways you can volunteer to help pack Thanksgiving and Christmas baskets and donate food for those who are in need in our community.



## Annual Layette Set Project

Thanks for supporting missions activity in our church! In September, we collected \$48.46 for our annual Layette Set project!

**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!

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.

Thanks to Peggi Barrett, Janice Swenson, Christy Hasch, Connie Bentz, and Marsha Wentz for sewing blankets again this year!

**Please join us to assemble Layette Sets right after church on October 13<sup>th</sup>!**

## Missions and Outreach

Missions Buckets will be passed on October 6<sup>th</sup> for the World Communion Sunday Special Offering. For more information about this offering, visit <https://www.umc.org/en/content/world-communion-sunday-ministry-article>



## Annual Thanksgiving Dinner

**Mark your calendars for the Annual Thanksgiving Dinner on Sunday, November 17<sup>th</sup>!** This tradition has taken place for more than 40 years. What will be different this year? The opportunity to invite the community to see our newly renovated kitchen! Also, we will be asking the ladies of the church to bring pies to serve to those who dine-in, so get your rolling pins ready! Look for sign-up lists to help in later October.



## Trustees Update

The kitchen renovation project is underway! The cabinets have been sanded and are ready for paint, flooring is being installed, and the counter tops are ready to install. Many are curious about when the project will be completed. The hope is to be done by November 1<sup>st</sup> to allow plenty of time to clean and re-load everything in the kitchen well before the Thanksgiving Dinner on November 17<sup>th</sup>. Watch for more details on how you can help!



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.**

## Safety Team Update

In June of 2023, Lyle Pounds and Nancy Wentz attended a seminar hosted by the Cloud County Emergency Preparedness team and learned about how to make our facility safer. The same day as the seminar, a representative from the DHS Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency completed an assessment of our facility and surrounding property. A safety team was subsequently formed to discuss and address security concerns. The team members include: David Edwards, Marcy Johnson, Amanda Morgan, Lyle Pounds, Loren Swenson, Monte Wentz, Nancy Wentz., and Rev. Mark Crist.

The team has implemented a security plan and provided training to the congregation. The team also spent significant time gathering estimates on upgrades and equipment to harden our facility and make it safer. In May of 2024, a grant application was submitted to the Non-Profit Security Grant Program administered through FEMA. **Recently, the team was notified that Concordia FUMC is a grant recipient!** The process for finalizing estimates and learning how the grant program works will start this fall. Work will start next year and continue through 2027. Watch for more details in the coming months!

## Commodities Distribution

**Thank you to the 20 Volunteer who came from all over the community on such a nice day to help with the Commodities Distribution. We served 223 to people with 118 boxes. Singles 64, Couples 26 and Families 28. Thanks again for making a difference in our community.**



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

## **Wednesday Night Table Talk**

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 would be happy to put you to use as an aide with the kids or help in the kitchen prepping meals.

**IMPACT Youth:** Jason Johnson and Deb Ketterman are our Youth leaders. The Youth have started a Fathom study on *The Birth of the Church*. This will be a 4 week study of the Old Testament and the New Testament. These lessons will allow our Youth to learn about the foundation of our church. They will also be building and running a Haunted House this fall to help fund their Mission Trip for 2025.

**The Rock Upper Elementary:** Cindy Kocher is leading our 3rd through 6th graders. She is excited to try out our new curriculum *Big Faith*, which has a Bible story lesson and activities to keep the middles interested in learning about Christianity.

**JAM Pre K-2nd grade:** Mary has had lessons with the youngest group on Noah's Ark and Naaman and the servant girl. In October, they will hear about John baptizing and the Disciples following Jesus.

Donna Reedy and Julie Cory will help where needed in the JAM and The Rock rooms.

Note: There will be no Table Talk on Wednesday October 16th. No School.



## **Hay Rack Ride**

October 20th, Loren Swenson will be taking us on a Hay Rack Ride! We are in the process of finalizing the details, but be sure to put this fun activity on your calendar!

Christian Ed will be providing the Hot Dogs, Buns, Condiments, Tableware and the makings for SMORES! You are welcome to bring a side dish. Meet at the church parking lot at 3:30 or Loren and Joyce's farm at 4:00. Looking forward to seeing you!

## **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."*

Several of our adult members are off on an adventure near Arkansas City, Ks for a weekend at **Camp Horizon**. Thursday, October 3 to Saturday, October 5 we will have the opportunity to form deeper relationships through outdoor experiences such as ziplining, kayaking and hiking. The group of 8 is planning to cook the two evening meals together and Pastor Mark has promised to make us breakfast on Saturday. We will finish off our evenings with a devotion time with Pastor Mark while making smores over the campfire!





### United Women In Faith

United Women in Faith concluded our Bible Study on Psalm 77, *I Cry Aloud to God: Lament and Hope in the Face of the Climate Crisis*. Many of us have found these monthly meetings to be rewarding and have found this a powerful way to build relationships with each other as women in our church. Pam will host our next meeting here at the church on Saturday, October 12th at 9:30 am. Our lesson will be: *See God's Image in Everyone*. Scripture reading Matthew 25: 34-40

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in Him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. – Romans 15:13

*Angie Gabel-McConkey*

*Christian Education Director-FUMC*

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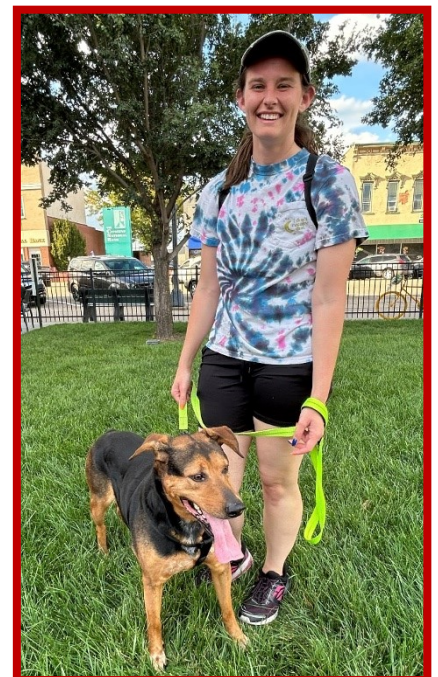
### Church on the Plaza





# Blessing of the Animals

Several dogs, and pictures of cats and horses were brought to the Plaza on September 18th for Pastor Mark to Bless. We also received 6 bags of food, 2 boxes of treats, 2 dog dishes and \$37.00 in Cash for O'Conner Animal Shelter. Thank you for your donations!







CELEBRATE WITH US AS  
WE SAY FAREWELL TO  
WAYNE & ALBERTA NEEL  
IN THE PARLOR  
SUNDAY, OCTOBER 6, 2024  
9:30AM  
ENJOY YOUR NEW HOME!  
WE MISS YOU!




**UNITED WOMEN  
IN FAITH**  
SATURDAY,  
OCTOBER 12, 2024  
9:30AM  
PAM CAMPBELL  
IN THE PARLOR  
BREAKFAST PROVIDED

JOIN US FOR A  
*Baby Shower*  
FOR  
*David & Kyra Strait*  
OCTOBER 13, 2024  
AT 2:00PM  
IN THE PARLOR



REGISTERED  
AT AMAZON

CONCORDIA FIRST UNITED CHURCH  
740 WEST 11TH  
785-243-4560



**CARD SHOWER FOR  
PASTOR APPRECIATION DAY  
OCTOBER 13, 2024**



*Thank You*



**PASTOR MARK CRIST**





# Coffee OFFICE

JITTERS

THURSDAY MORNINGS

10:00AM

WITH PASTOR MARK



## Haunted House!

The IMPACT youth group will be renewing their traditional Haunted House this year in the Fellowship Hall. The process of building will begin on Sunday, October 20<sup>th</sup>, and continue right up until Halloween. The Haunted House will be open to the public for only one night this year on Halloween itself.

More to come in the next week or so regarding the need for potential donations and help as we make our plans, assess our current supplies, and pick out our themes for this year. This will be our kick-off fundraiser leading up to camps and mission trip in the summer of 2025.





## Thank you for helping with the FUMC Fall Fest Food Booth!

It takes all of us from the donations of delicious treats and monetary donations, to setting up and breaking down the booth, to cooking and serving the food, and collecting and counting the money.

And then there were those of you who supported us by buying what we served. Couldn't do it without anyone of these pieces of the mission.

We did have leftover food, and it will be used at the Hayrack Ride and at Table Talk.

Don't think we made as much money this year as we have in the past, but every dollar helps when supporting the work of FUMC.

(And don't think for one minute-- that we didn't miss the leadership of Marcy and Randy Johnson. We thank them for their guidance. We muddled through.)

Thanks again,  
Cindy, Mary & Angie







# October

1~JANET LOWELL  
1~JANICE SWENSON  
2~DEVIN PEARSON  
5~BRANSON WILCOX  
6~LYLE MCMILLAN  
6~NOLAN SOWARD  
12~JASMINE UKENS  
13~STEPHANIE HAKE  
14~JOYCE SWENSON  
15~ADAM KROHN  
15~SUSAN RETTER  
15~GANNON BROWN  
16~JEFF KROHN  
16~HOBBS HUTCHINSON  
28~JANET ISTAS

**Happy**  
**BIRTHDAY**



# OCTOBER 2024



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2 Flu Clinic 5:00 Sitting With Jesus 5:30 Choir Practice 6:00 Table Talk Meal 6:30 Classes Begin	3	4	5
6 9:00 Choir Practice 9:30 Reception for Wayne and Alberta Neel 10:30 Worship	7	8	9 5:00 Sitting With Jesus 5:30 Choir Practice 6:00 Table Talk Meal 6:30 Classes Begin	10	11	12 9:30 Women in Faith
13 9:30 Crusaders Searchers 10:30 Worship 2:00pm Baby Shower for David & Kyra Strait 5:30 Yoga	14 5:30pm FUMC Council	15	16 10:00am Commodities 5:00 Sitting With Jesus 5:30 Choir Practice NO Table Talk tonight.	17	18	19 9:00 Ladies Coffee @ Jitters
20 9:30 Crusaders Searchers 10:30 Worship 3:30pm Hay Rack Ride Start work on Haunted House	21 5:30 M&M's (Missions & Ministry)	22	23 5:00 Sitting With Jesus 5:30 Choir Practice 6:00 Table Talk Meal 6:30 Classes Begin	24	25	26
27 9:00 Choir Practice 9:30 Crusaders Searchers 10:30 Worship 5:30 Yoga	28	29	30 5:00 Sitting With Jesus 5:30 Choir Practice 6:00 Table Talk Meal 6:30 Classes Begin	31		



# Sunday Morning Volunteers

<b>December</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>Nov. 3</b>
Worship Leader					
Sound					
Media					
Greeters		Jim & Ann	Don & Darlene		
Nursery Helpers	Patty Mosher	Patty Mosher	Patty Mosher	Patty Mosher	Patty Mosher
Children's Moment	Mary Thoman	Cindy Kocher	Mary Thoman	Melody Leibbrandt	
Scripture Reader					
Ushers	Lyle Pounds	Lyle Pounds	Lyle Pounds	Lyle Pounds	Lyle Pounds
Acolytes					
Coffee Bar	Marsha Wentz	Marsha Wentz	Marsha Wentz	Marsha Wentz	Marsha Wentz
Alter Flowers	Joyce Swenson	Joyce Swenson			

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](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