

# Open Connection

April 2021

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH, PLATTSMOUTH, NE.

402-296-6905

OFFICE HOURS: 8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. (Tues. Wed.) 8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. (Thurs.)

Mon. & Fri. - CLOSED

**CHURCH MAILING ADDRESS: P.O. BOX 485, PLATTSMOUTH, NE. 68048-1855**



Pastor to People:

The Season of Lent is coming to a close. The last week of Lent is Holy Week. In Christianity, Holy Week is the week immediately preceding Easter. **It begins with Palm Sunday and the Triumphal Entry**, then proceeds to **Holy Tuesday, Holy Wednesday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Holy Saturday. Easter Sunday, which begins the season of Eastertide**, is not part of Holy Week.

Holy Week calls us into a spiritual journey, following the footsteps of Christ in his last week on Earth until his Resurrection appearances. We will worship together on Palm Sunday, singing our “Hosanna’s” and celebrating the Triumphal Entry into Jerusalem. We will gather again for worship on Maundy Thursday, celebrating the Last Supper.

On Good Friday (I always wondered why they call it “Good” Friday, the day they crucified my Lord!), I invite you to spend part of the day in reflection and contemplation. The Crucifixion only makes sense in light of the Resurrection. And the Resurrection on Easter morning only makes sense in light of the Crucifixion. We must live out the whole drama of Holy Week.

On Easter Sunday we will gather together to sing “Christ our Lord is Risen Today,” “Up From the Grave He Arose,” and other hymns of celebration, joy and promise. I invite you to attend as many services as possible, given the continuing concern over the coronavirus and many still waiting to receive the COVID-19 vaccine.

The Sunday following Easter, April 11<sup>th</sup>, I will begin teaching a new Confirmation class immediately following worship until 11am. Please read the note elsewhere in the newsletter for more detailed information. We will be

studying the scriptures, the history of the UM church, the Sacraments, United Methodist theology and doctrine, and what it means to be a Christian.

Lately I have been contemplating how we can expand our ministry and mission at FUMC, Plattsmouth. There are so many needs among our members, in our community, and throughout the world. Christ calls us to be active in ministries of love, mercy and justice. If you have ideas and or concerns to share, please contact me at (402) 984-7186.

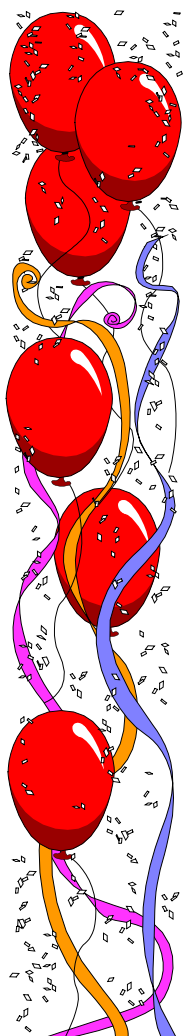
Some of you have asked me about when other area United Methodist churches opened for in-person worship. I learned recently at a district meeting that many of our area UM churches returned to in-person worship in March. We will continue to have in-person worship, and record the worship service on Facebook for those unable to attend in person.

On a final note, I completed a virtual workshop on Preaching in the Purple Zone. The central theme was that most social issues are also religious and political ones, too. However, we should not address them in a partisan way in the church. The focus was on how to address these issues in the church in a non-partisan way. Not from a blue or red perspective or ideology-but purple!

As a prophetic preacher, I am deeply concerned about the social, political and religious divisions in our country. I work hard to not take a partisan stance. I have tried hard to warn against partisan politics. If you feel I have ever crossed the line, I apologize. Please feel free to contact me to schedule a time of open and honest dialogue. Reconciliation is a vital part of our faith.

I work hard to preach from my Christian convictions (not from partisan politics), encouraging healing, wholeness and loving one another as Christ first loved us. I have at time, taken Dietrich Bonhoeffer’s advice, “to comfort the afflicted, and to afflict the comfortable.” Christ has done the same for me. It creates growth in Love, growth in the Spirit, and growth in Christ. ~ Pastor Lee

## A 90th Birthday Card Shower !!



We will honor longtime member,  
**Doris Landon**  
as she celebrates her 90th birthday on

**April 7th, 2021.**

**Please send cards to:**

**14015 24th Ave.  
Plattsmouth, NE 68048**



The UMW is still collecting “No Frills” receipts. Please bring your receipts to the Church office or let Ann Ramming, UMW President, know that you have them.

402-595-8358

## **Don't Forget! First Sunday Giving**

### **And Receiving**



**United Methodist Ministries Items  
For April:**

**Garden Tools**

### **Please note:**

If you personally order something to be used at the church, please have that item delivered to your own residence. Many times these things are meant to be delivered to the church, and end up going back to the main office, because we are not here when they are delivered.

Also, for our safety and for yours, if you need to come to the church during the week, please call Rae Jean in the Church Office (402-296-6905) before you come. Masks will be required at all times in the Church.

**Thank you very much!**

Line Item	2021 Budget	Yr to date	Percentage
<b>EMPLOYEE COSTS</b>			
Pastor's Salary	\$47,629.00	\$7,938.13	17%
Housing Allowance	\$17,304.00	\$2,884.00	17%
Travel	\$2,000.00	\$0.00	0%
Health Insurance	\$15,850.00	\$2,641.68	17%
Pension	\$5,843.97	\$974.00	17%
Prof exp/Cont Ed	\$1,060.00	\$0.00	0%
Pastor's Subtotal	\$89,686.97	\$14,437.81	16%
Secretary Salary	\$18,720.00	\$2,768.00	15%
Custodian Salary	\$15,028.00	\$2,313.62	15%
Organist Salary Both Services	\$4,590.00	\$765.00	17%
Choir Director	\$3,000.00		0%
Nursery Coord			
Financial Secretary	\$1,044.00	\$174.00	17%
Payroll Taxes	\$3,245.00	\$0.00	0%
Pulpit supply	\$250.00		
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$135,563.97</b>	<b>\$20,458.43</b>	<b>15%</b>
<b>FACILITIES</b>			
Utilities	\$16,130.00	\$1,732.45	11%
Capital Improvements	\$1,250.00	\$0.00	0%
Insurance	\$11,000.00	\$2,262.17	21%
Mowing/Snow Removal	\$2,000.00	\$665.00	33%
Maintenance & Repair	\$2,500.00	\$308.72	12%
Kitchen/Custodial Supplies	\$500.00	\$0.00	0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$33,380.00</b>	<b>\$4,968.34</b>	<b>15%</b>
<b>OFFICE EXPENSES</b>			
Supplies	\$2,000.00	\$77.80	4%
Postage	\$750.00	\$55.00	7%
Machine Maintenance	\$1,500.00	\$11.78	1%
Copy Machine Lease	\$1,670.00	\$278.00	17%
Telephone	\$2,500.00	\$393.58	16%
Advertizing	\$250.00	\$0.00	0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$8,670.00</b>	<b>\$816.16</b>	<b>9%</b>
<b>PROGRAMMING</b>			
Education	\$750.00	\$0.00	0%
Music/choir	\$235.00	\$0.00	0%
Annual conference	\$1,000.00		0%
Youth	\$0.00		0%
Witness/Evangelism			
Worship	\$500.00	\$0.00	0%
Congregation Care	\$500.00	\$0.00	0%
Stewardship	\$200.00		0%
Special Programs	\$100.00	\$0.00	0%
Leadership Development	\$250.00		0%
Outreach/Missions	\$0.00		0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$3,535.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>0%</b>
<b>APPORTIONMENTS</b>	<b>\$20,004.00</b>	<b>\$3,334.00</b>	<b>17%</b>
<b>DISTRICT ASKING</b>			
District Programs	\$1,824.00	\$304.00	17%
Youth Service Fund			
Camping Fund			
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1,824.00</b>		<b>0%</b>
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>\$202,976.97</b>	<b>\$29,880.93</b>	<b>15%</b>

## Stewardship Report for March

### Attended, Viewed or Read

	<u>Worship</u>	<u>Sunday School</u>
Mar. 7	150	NA
Mar. 14	142	NA
Mar. 21	161	NA
Mar. 28	NA	NA

### Offerings

	<u>General Fund</u>	<u>Building Fund</u>
Mar. 7	\$6964.00	\$100.00
Mar. 14	\$2495.00	\$200.00
Mar. 21	\$2475.00	-0-
Mar. 28	NA	NA

**Income as of February 28, 2021**  
\$22,353.00

**Expenses as of February 28, 2021**  
\$29,880.93



### CONFIRMATION CLASSES

Confirmation classes will begin on Sunday, April 11th, following worship. We will meet in the Blue Room. Since there were no classes last year due to the pandemic, all students in grades 6-12 are welcome. If you have a younger child who you feel is mature enough for confirmation classes, please contact Pastor Lee at (402) 984-7186, Also any adult is welcome to attend too.

# CHURCH COUNCIL MINUTES

## MARCH 10, 2021

### Member present:

Bob Hahn, Chairperson

Mike Weber

Donna Glynn

Elly Biederman

Pastor Lee Wigert

Bob Hahn called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. Pastor Lee was eating KFC so he asked Elly Biederman to open with prayer. She offered a meaningful prayer.

### Committee Reports:

Trustees: Michael Weber reported that Midwest Alarm gave an estimate of \$6,500 for the security system. This would include 8 cameras, contact closures on doors. However, the system requires a "central locate" to monitor the cameras at a cost of \$48 a month.

Concept AB (the company who installed the sound system) will provide an estimate this week. They will bid on 6 cameras inside the church, and two cameras outside the church (one pointing at the front door, and one at the parking lot)> A camera for SENCA would be located in the upstairs hallway.

The bell will be removed by Terry Kerns who has a 65-foot boom, and he will replace it after the bell is fixed. The roof will be repaired while the bell is down with new railing installed. The cost of the above project will be in the \$5000-\$7000 range.

Horseshoe driveway. Mike Weber will borrow a concrete saw from the City of Omaha to cut the concrete and prepare the area to lay new concrete to the curb the first week in May. The drive will be widened for wheel chair capacity. New railing will be installed next to the street.

The southeast sidewalk will be torn out and replaced according to ADA requirements. Concrete is presently \$124/yard. We would need around 3 yards.

Sanctuary Lighting. Mike Weber reported that Sprague Electric wants \$8000 for sanctuary spot lights. They will lower the 4 present spotlights and change the bulbs to LEDs.

Choice Electric gave a bid of \$5000 to put in 8 LED lights.

M & E Electric will replace the 4 present spotlights with Dual LED bulbs and put in 4 more spotlights with Dual LED bulbs for \$2,278.80.

Finance: Gretchen Dietzel was absent. Attached is her report from the Finance Committee last evening.

Budget. Gretchen Dietzel reviewed the January and February financials. Her computer she has used for four years to create the financial spreadsheets is dead. They cannot recover the material.

All Bills were paid in January, including Mission Shares and District Askings. In February income was 104% of budgeted need. In addition, money from other sources came in. A large carry-over from 2020 helped with low offerings in January.

Kristi Shotkoski reported that February started off with a bang and the whole month was very good. Over \$17,000 went into the account.

Kristi S. also reported that we had a great week the first of March with an offering of \$6,934 plus \$1,234 for the benevolence fund. Off to a good start again.

Bob Hahn commented that we are in very good shape financially.

UMW. No Report.

Congregational Care. Elly Biederman reported that she is making phone calls to homebound members and those in care centers.

Worship Team. We have returned to in-person worship. Masks and social distancing still required. Services are recorded during the week on Facebook. Discussion about having Maundy Thursday services. They are tentatively being planned.

SPRC. Pastor Lee reported that the next meeting will focus on 2021 CHURCH VITALITY AND PASTORAL/MINISTERIAL LEADERSHIP ASSESSMENT.

Nominations. No report.

New Business. The basement remodel looks great. The council members gave a special "thank you" and a round of applause to Mike Weber.

Pastor's Report. Pastor Lee thanked the Council members and the congregation for their faithful financial giving to the church in 2020 and in the beginning of 2021. He announced that he would be conducting a Memorial service for former member Peg Kellison on Saturday, April 3rd. The Lunch will be catered as Pastor Lee did not want our women exposed to the coronavirus, or have them work Easter weekend.

Next Meeting, May 12, 2021 at 7:00 p.m Meeting adjourned. ~ Pastor Lee

**\*\* Anniversaries**

**\* Birthdays**

# April 2021

**Activities**

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				<b>1</b>  5:00 - 6:00 pm Open Hearts Kitchen Pick-Up Only  7:00 - Maundy Thursday Service  * Scott Cundall	<b>2</b>  Office Closed  7:30 - AA	<b>3</b>  Peg Kellison Funeral
<b>4</b> EASTER SUNDAY 9:00 am - Worship NO Children's SS 10:15 - Adult SS  7:00 - AA  ** Bill & Shirley Wilson	<b>5</b>  Office Closed  ** Ron Sr. & Romelle Copenhaver	<b>6</b>  * Della Brasuhn * John Petty * Larry Robbins	<b>7</b>  8:00 am - Men's Breakfast / Bible Study  7:00 - Board of Trustees  * Shirley Thompson * Doris Landon	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>  Office Closed  7:30 - AA  * Mike McCoy Sr.	<b>10</b>  ** Scott & Trisha Reierson
<b>11</b> 9:00 am - Worship No Children's SS 10:15 - Adult SS  7:00 - AA  * Rod Jenkins	<b>12</b>  Office Closed  6:00 - Garden Club  6:00 - 7:30 - Girl Scouts	<b>13</b>  7:00 - Finance Committee	<b>14</b>  8:00 am - Men's Breakfast / Bible Study  * Nikole Jaixen	<b>15</b>  5:00 - 6:00 pm - Open Hearts Kitchen Pick-Up Only  * David Mayer ** Paul & Linda Cisco	<b>16</b>  Office Closed  7:30 - AA  * Doug McKnight	<b>17</b>  * Harry Danner * John Beadleson * Roberta Copenhaver ** Steve & Della Brasuhn
<b>18</b> 9:00 am - Worship No Children's SS 10:15 - Adult SS  7:00 - AA  * Julia Chadwick	<b>19</b>  Office Closed  * Linda Sederburg ** Larry & Kristi Shotkoski	<b>20</b>  Newsletter Deadline  6:30 - 8:00 - Soccer Board Meeting	<b>21</b>  8:00 am - Men's Breakfast / Bible Study  * Ben Clark	<b>22</b>  * Elly Biederman	<b>23</b>  Office Closed  7:30 - AA  * Josh Foster * Mickey Carroll	<b>24</b>  * Kaelyn Williams ** Rick & Merry Hadfield
<b>25</b> 9:00 am - Worship No Children's SS 10:15 - Adult SS  7:00 - AA	<b>26</b>  Office Closed  6:00 - 7:30 - Girl Scouts	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>  8:00 am - Men's Breakfast / Bible Study  * Elizabeth Glynn	<b>29</b>  * Meredith Hansen ** Ben & Ashley Clark	<b>30</b>  Office Closed  7:30 - AA	

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
P.O. BOX 485  
PLATTSMOUTH, NEBRASKA 68048-1855

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Non - Profit  
Permit #64

**Schedule:**

9:00 a.m. - Worship  
9:15 a.m. - Children's Sunday School  
10:15 a.m. - Adult Sunday School  
fumcplattsmouth1@gmail.com  
www.fumcplattsmouth.com  
Facebook: FUMC Plattsmouth Church

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



## United Methodist Women

**The UMW will not meet until further notice.  
Please watch your Newsletter for further updates.**

### Important Meetings

April 7, 2021  
Board of Trustees  
7:00 p.m.

April 13, 2021  
Finance Committee  
7:00 p.m.

All meetings are held in the  
Fellowship Hall,  
Social Distancing is observed,  
and everyone needs to wear a mask.

### Important Dates

**OPEN HEARTS KITCHEN**  
For April  
1st & 15th  
5:00 - 6:00 p.m.  
“PICK UP ONLY”