



Open Connection

November 2020

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:

Recent DNA tests reveal that a software engineer from South Carolina shared an exact match to the maternal mitochondrial DNA of King Richard III of England. As you may know, the King's bones were discovered in 2012 under a parking lot in England on land that was once a friary. The bones showed signs of a spinal deformity the king was known to have had. The skull showed wounds consistent with accounts of his death in 1485 at the Battle of Bosworth Field. In March 2015, some 530 years after his death on the battlefield, and after three years of DNA testing, the King finally received a proper royal burial in an Anglican Cathedral church.

Thanks to the precision of DNA testing, David Brinkman, the software engineer from South Carolina, now knows that he has royal blood running through his veins. His friends are having a lot of fun with this information. They are bowing down in his presence and addressing him as "your majesty." Brinkman, for his part, has joined the King Richard III Society, a group that brings together the king's relatives, and is dedicated to improving the king's reputation, which William Shakespeare stained in the play that he wrote about the king.

Imagine what it would be like to be David Brinkman! One minute you're nothing but an average and ordinary software engineer. The next minute you're a descendant of a king. In light of his new identity, I wonder if he stands a bit taller when he walks into a room. I wonder if he gets any additional respect at work or at home. I wonder if he treats his wife like a queen. I wonder if he will name

his next dog Prince! Imagine what it would be like to learn that you have royal blood running through your veins.

The Wigert family descends from Royalty in Sweden. Some of our ancestors are buried in Ridderholmen Church (Swedish: Riddarholmskyrkan) in Stockholm, Sweden. Ridderholmen Church is the church of a formal medieval abbey in Stockholm. The church serves as the final resting place of most Swedish monarchs, beginning with Gustavus Adolphus in 1632.

Does having Royalty in my family lineage and blood make me want to stand taller when I walk into a room? Absolutely not! Having been at Ridderholmen Church in Stockholm, while contemplating my ancestry, I saw how many people walk across the grave markers on the floor of the church. I wondered how many times a day my royal ancestors got trampled daily by visitors and tourists. It sure made me feel humbled; I hope I stay that way until I die.

The "blood line" that I celebrate is belonging to the Kingdom of God and being redeemed and saved by the blood of Jesus Christ, who died on the cross for me, for the forgiveness of my sins, and for the promise of eternal life. This is the ancestry that I claim and celebrate. This, if anything, is reason to walk into a room feeling tall, not because of my lineage of royalty, but because of my lineage to the God of Abraham and Father of my Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. I pray that we all will claim this ancestry—our lineage to God—and celebrate our faith.

Pastor Lee



* Thank you to all of those people who helped the Trustees remove the popcorn ceiling from the basement Fellowship Hall on October 2nd. Your help was greatly appreciated.

The Nominations Committee has met and selected new committee members for those whose term ends in 2020, and for resignations. If your term continues into 2021 (or beyond), you will NOT be contacted. Let Pastor Lee know if you do not wish to finish your agreed upon term.
Pastor Lee

Annual COOKIE SALE



We have decided to cancel the Annual Cookie Sale and Kids Baking Contest this year. Keep your recipes handy; looking for a spring event...if circumstances change!!

Stay Tuned!

Don't Forget! First Sunday Giving

And Receiving



United Methodist Ministries Items
For November:
Animal Crackers



Yes Indeed...It's that time of year to start thinking about "all things Christmas!" We have a wonderful seasonal opportunity for you! Ken Johnson has been busy carving and whittling away Santa ornaments. The plan is to sell one of these adorable originals to you for a free will donation to our church building fund. We are restricting it to one, no more than 2, per family.

You can find the Santa tree display set up in the Sanctuary as you enter. There are 36 Santas so you'll want to claim yours right away as they will go fast. This is a fabulous opportunity to support our church building fund and own an original hand carved treasure created and donated by Ken. If you won't be in church to hand pick one and donate, you may call the church office, 402-296-6905 to make arrangements with Rae Jean.

**Open Hearts
Kitchen**
Will be serving as a
“Pick up” only on
November 12th
5:00 pm - 6:00 pm
(45 people were served On October 22nd)

The Church will not observe
“All Saints Day” this year with
roses due to COVID. We will,
however, honor our members
who have passed with White
Rose buds placed on
the altar during
worship.



We will also not
be purchasing
Poinsettias except
to honor our
members who have passed.
If you would like to bring one
of your own to share, please
feel free.

Stewardship Report for October

Attended, Viewed or Read

	<u>Worship</u>	<u>Sunday School</u>
Oct. 4	152	2
Oct. 11	134	2
Oct. 18	119	0
Oct. 25	159	0

Offerings

	<u>General Fund</u>	<u>Building Fund</u>
Oct. 4	\$2431.00	\$200.00
Oct. 11	\$4230.00	\$100.00
Oct. 18	\$4740.00	—0—
Oct. 25	\$3535.00	—0—

Income as of September 30, 2020
\$108,914.32

Expenses as of September 30, 2020
\$118,648.98



Daylight Savings Time ends November 1st.

BLANKET SUNDAY
NOVEMBER 15, 2020
\$10.00 each

Blanket the World with Love:

In 2019, 118,000 blankets were supplied to those impacted by hurricanes, tornadoes, floods, homelessness or other disasters. Please continue your generous contributions. Buy one or several to help those in need.

A MISSION MOMENT

The United Methodist Women wanted to share with our church members another mission we are supporting. It is the Christian Veterinary Mission for the Pine Ridge and Navajo Reservations. Bill Rishel, a long time member of this church is very involved in this mission work along with many team members. We did an interview with Bill to get an update on the mission work. We thought it would be of interest in how this mission work got started and how it grew from there. Here are Bill's comments.

"I started doing short term mission trips with Christian Veterinary Mission in 1997. I did three trips to Nepal teaching horse health care at the veterinary school and at animal health care worker trainings. Then helped an Indian MD in India by TB testing cattle in her practice area. She was seeing a lot of human TB cases and wanted the cattle tested to see if they might be the source. The next trip was a training of trainers in Uganda. There we learned how to go in to a village and help the community assess their greatest needs. We would then develop a training module to help them attain their goals. Bolivia was next to help in a rural area that was having a problem with brucellosis. Brucellosis is a disease than can be spread from cattle by contact or drinking of their milk. We blood tested the cattle for the disease and when found negative we gave them a certificate so that they could sell the milk. While in Bolivia we also helped a Christian leadership camp in the Andes by doing dental work on their horses. I was 10 days away from taking a vet student group from Washington State to Honduras when there was a government overthrow and the trip was canceled. Our CVM office rerouted us to the Navajo Nation in less than a weeks time. That started my trips to Native American Reservations. So in the last 12 years or so I have done 2-3 trips a year to the Pine Ridge Reservation in South Dakota, the Navajo Nation in Arizona and the White River Apache in Arizona."

Now to the present time: Bill's final comments.

"All three tips were canceled this year. Many team members fly in for the trips and the potential of bringing in the virus was a major concern. Also medical care on the reservations is very limited. If a team member would become sick it would be very difficult to get treatment and get them safely home. Since we were not able to go in person we then searched for options to still help. The churches on

the reservations get most of their funds from groups visiting during the year. On the Pine Ridge we were able to raise funds to give each of the four churches we serve approximately \$1500. They will use those funds for food, car repair, propane for winter, help the homeless that have COVID with no place to stay, maintenance of their buildings and one church is building a new life skills teaching building for the community. The Wounded Knee Church of God, where the team stays, was extensively damaged by an arsonist fire about a month ago. They will need funds for what insurance doesn't cover. Three weeks ago Marilyn and I delivered vaccines, dewormers and food supplies to a couple of churches we partner with. (Just needed to get a hug and say hello). There are check points to stop outsiders but we were allowed to enter to deliver supplies.

The Navajo Nation was harder hit by the virus than the Pine Ridge. The Navajo is much larger than the Pine Ridge. (Larger than the state of West Virginia) Most dwellings have children, their parents, grandparents and sometimes great grandparents staying under one roof. A lot of homes are very remote with no electricity or running water. So at least weekly trips to town and a water source are needed to get food and water for themselves and their animals. Family is everything to them so they do lots of traveling to check on family members and neighbors causing the virus to rapidly spread. There was a high death loss due to a large part of the population having underlying health issues. We asked the team members if they would donate their trip fees toward helping. We were able to buy \$6000 worth of grocery gift certificates for the pastor to hand out. We also sent gloves, gowns, and hand sanitizer. We shipped all our vaccines for dogs, cats, horses, cattle and sheep to the local veterinarians to use. Glad to share more as this is an ongoing project. Hopefully in November I with some other leaders will visit the Navajo. Thank you again for you helping us share Christ's love through veterinary medicine." ~ Bill

Bill thanked us for sharing Christ's love through veterinary medicine. We thanked Bill for a great interview about his mission work. What a passage! It is so interesting where God leads us. The United Methodist Women have been supportive of this mission work. We are encouraging prayers and monetary gift giving to this worthwhile mission work. Prayers of course at the top of the list. Monetary gifts may be given to Bill Rishel. Your gift may be mailed to the church or given at church during offering time. Please stipulate the giving to the Christian Veterinary Mission. If by check make out to Bill Rishel.

Christ's Love,
United Methodist Women

First United Methodist Church

Church Council Meeting

October 14, 2020

Bob Hahn, Council Chair, called the meeting to order at 6:35pm.

Pastor Lee Wigert led the group in prayer.

Minutes of August 12, 2020: the Finance Committee report was corrected to indicate the Memorial and Building Funds reported were actually the Foundation Funds.

*Motion made by Biederman and 2nd by Weber to approve the 8/12/20 minutes as corrected, motion passed.

Trustee's Report (Mike Weber)

1. The Bell Tower came off its mounting by a 45° angle. Repair is being done to get the tower through the winter. The Bell will also be examined to determine if a nylon insert will enable smoother operation. An Engineer will be consulted to determine the support of the tower and function of the Bell in the Spring.

2. East Driveway: The curved (horseshoe) section of the curb will be cut and repaired to make it an easier access for wheelchairs and delivery. Hopefully before Winter.

3. The North sidewalk will be reworked to include an ADA ramp in the Spring.

4. Popcorn ceiling in Fellowship Hall was done, thanks to volunteers.

5. Wainscoting may be done by volunteers instead of a contractor in order to get it done sooner.

6. Service to the Elevator was done.

7. Still waiting for delivery of Exit Lights for replacement.

Finance Committee (Gretchen Dietzel)

The 2021 Budget report shows a 5.80%

increase in the budget. The Pastor's wage will raise 5% and the Administrative Assistant and Custodian will each raise \$2.80/hour. The amount needed each week to meet the budget for 2021 is \$3903.40. J. Blackwell raised the question as to the wisdom of salary raises at this time of COVID financial uncertainty in the church.

*Motion made by G. Dietzel and 2nd by D. Glenn to approve the 2021 Budget as presented. Vote - 7 yes, 1 no, motion passed.

Gail Johnson will resign her position as Building Fund Treasurer at the end of 2020.

Report from Foundation investments: Building Fund is \$27181.00 and Memorial Fund is \$23888.00

Pastor Wigert complimented all of the Financial people on the thoroughness of their reports and dedication of their service.

UMW (Ann Ramming written report/Elly Biederman) Annual Report for the Year 2020:

- ◆ January 9, 2020 the members enjoyed a moving installation ceremony, complete with candles, corsages, prayer, and an encouraging message from Pastor Lee about their role in serving local communities and world missions.
- ◆ Our UMW unit received the Gold Star Award from the District for 2019.
- ◆ The Dedicated Light honors went to Betty Watt and Kristi Shotkoski .
- ◆ The UMW reading program will now function and be controlled by each individual UMW unit.
- ◆ The BoxTop program has ended, thank you to all members who helped collect box tops.
- ◆ Collection of No Frills receipts will continue.
- ◆ COVID-19 caused cancelation of fundraising events, thus causing a reduction in funds for support of community and national missions. Restructuring of the Budget at the October meeting will result in an increased dollar amount in giving to Dr. Bill Christian Veterinary Mission and Epworth Village.

◆ Next meeting will be February 4, 2021.

◆ UMW Fall Spending 2020

Epworth Village = \$300.00

SENCA = \$200.00

Plattsmouth Sr. Center = \$75.00

Dr. Bill Christian Veterinary Mission = \$400.00

FUMC Benevolence = \$100.00

FUMC General Fund = \$500.00

TOTAL = \$1575.00

*Motion made by E. Biederman to Accept and Approve the UMW Annual Report as presented, 2nd by M. Weber. Motion passed.

Congregational Care (Elly Biederman)

Continuing to communicate with members to touch base with them and send information and sermons in whatever format is necessary. Council members thanked Elly for her work in caring for our members at her own expense.

Outreach (Elly Biederman)

SENCA's new director, Ashley Babb, is seeking food supplies for the pantry, list to follow. She is also looking for Volunteer Bell ringers for the Salvation Army. The Bell Ringing will begin November 1st, 90% of donations stay in Cass County. An e-mail will follow showing the sign-up procedure.

OPEN HEARTS will do the first Drive -Thru meal on Thursday, 10/22/20 between 5:00 and 6:00pm. The menu will be a traditional Corned Beef & Cabbage dinner. They hope a good number of the people who need to be served and our own senior members will be served in this "Drive - Thru" meal. The next Open Hearts Drive-Thru meal is scheduled for November 12th!

The Bishop, Cabinet, and our District Superintendent, Chad Anglemyer, have made the decision to have each church do their own Church Conference, instead of the Annual Charge Conference. This meeting is serving that purpose.

Pastor Lee Wigert convened the annual Church Conference meeting at 7:19 pm

1. Motion made by E. Biederman to approve the 2021 budget, including the Mission Shares and Pastoral Compensation as presented and discussed during the Council meeting. 2nd by M. Weber. Vote - 7 yes, 1 no - motion passed.
2. Motion made by G. Dietzel to approve setting the Housing Exclusion at \$45,000, as presented during the Council meeting. 2nd by M. A. Blackwell. Vote - 8 yes, 0 no - motion passed.
3. Motion made by B. Hahn to require the pastor to turn in receipts to receive reimbursement for Professional Expenses and Travel Expenses. 2nd by M. Weber. Vote - 8 yes, 0 no - motion passed.
4. Motion made by M. A. Blackwell to approve the Church's Lay Servants, Elly Biederman and Ginger Tuttle. 2nd by M. Weber. Vote - 8 yes, 0 no - motion passed.
5. Motion made by G. Dietzel to receive the report of Rev. Larry Biederman, retired, as relating to the Church Conference. 2nd by M. A. Blackwell. Vote - 8 yes, 0 no - motion passed.
6. Motion made by M. A. Blackwell to approve the Visions, Mission, and Goals as up-dated by Pastor Wigert. 2nd by B. Hahn. Vote - 8 yes, 0 no. - motion passed.
7. Nominations were opened to the floor for additions. No new nominations were presented. M. A. Blackwell moved Nominations cease. 2nd by S. McKnight, Vote - 8 yes, 0 no - motion passed. E. Biederman moved to accept the 2021 - 2023 slate of nominations as presented. 2nd by G. Dietzel. Vote - 8 yes, 0 no - motion passed.
8. Motion made by B. Hahn for the Membership Secretary, RaeJean Smith, to upload information electronically, to include Membership reports, Attendance, Laity Contact reports and other pertinent reports. 2nd by M. Weber. Vote - 8 yes, 0 no - motion passed.

The minutes of this Church Council/Church Conference meeting will be electronically uploaded to the District.

Motion made by M. A. Blackwell to adjourn the Church Conference/Church Council meeting at 7:36pm. 2nd by E. Biederman (no vote necessary)

Next meeting is scheduled for: 12/9/20 at 6:30pm Attending: Elly Biederman, Jerry Blackwell, Margaret Ann Blackwell, Gretchen Dietzel, Donna Glenn, Bob Hahn, Sandra McKnight, Mike Weber, and Pastor Lee Wigert

** Anniversaries

* Birthdays

November 2020

Activities

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 9:00 - Worship 9:15 - Children's SS 10:15 - Adult SS 7:00 - AA	2 Office Closed ** Harry & Barb Wagner	3 * Ryn Hahn * Diane Wigert	4 8:00 am - Men's Breakfast / Bible Study 7:00 - Board of Trustees * Ruth Brittain	5 * Mike Weber 6:30 pm - SPRC Meeting	6 Office Closed 7:30 - AA	7 * Patrick Hanson
Rae Jean will be out of the Office this week!						
8 9:00 - Worship 9:15 - Children's SS 10:15 - Adult SS 7:00 - AA * Margaret Ann Blackwell * Stephen Jaixen	9 Office Closed 6:30 - Garden Club * Samantha McKnight * Marty Wetenkamp	10 7:00 - Finance Committee * Kimberly Scherlie * Karen Cook	11 8:00 am - Men's Breakfast / Bible Study	12 5:00 - 6:00 - Open Hearts Kitchen "Pick Up Only"	13 Office Closed 7:30 - AA	14 * Lynne Whitmer
15 BLANKET SUNDAY 9:00 - Worship 9:15 - Children's SS 10:15 - Adult SS 7:00 - AA * Ben Sederburg	16 Office Closed	17 Newsletter Deadline * Brayden Tanner * Cole Shotkoski	18 8:00 am - Men's Breakfast / Bible Study * Anthony Blackwell	19	20 Office Closed 7:30 - AA	21
22 9:00 - Worship 9:15 - Children's SS 10:15 - Adult SS 7:00 - AA	23 Office Closed * Kay Bailey	24 * Bob Hahn	25 8:00 am - Men's Breakfast / Bible Study	26 Office Closed for Thanksgiving Holiday  * Mike Buchman * Dottie Engle * Margaret Gilmore	27 Office Closed 7:30 - AA	28
29 9:00 - Worship 9:15 - Children's SS 10:15 - Adult SS 7:00 - AA * Lucas Purdham * Annaliese Reiersen	30 Office Closed					

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

**U.S. POSTAGE PAID
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

**UMW will not meet again until
February 2021**

Important Meetings

**November 4, 2020 -
Board of Trustees
7:00 p.m.**

**November 5, 2020
SPRC Meeting
6:30 p.m.**

**November 10, 2020 -
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

**THE NEXT DAY FOR
OPEN HEARTS KITCHEN
WILL BE
NOVEMBER 12, 2020
5:00 P.M. - 6:00 P.M.
“PICK UP ONLY”**