



First United Methodist Church



THE MESSENGER

Ogallala, Nebraska 69153

umcogallala@qwestoffice.net

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

MINISTRY TEAM

Ministers

The Worshipping Congregation

Pastor

Chuck Rager

Christian Education Director

Renee Meyer

Administrative Secretary

Karen Nenstiel

Custodian

Herb Ruser

District Superintendent

Kay Alnor

Bishop of Nebraska

Ann B. Sherer-Simpson

Graduate Recognition Sunday



2011 graduates honored on Sunday, May 8, were: (front row) Emily Abbott, Shelby Borer, Holly Delzer, Lacey Murphy, Jessica Kay and Tara Waldhelm. (back rows) Gatlin Moul, Fried Schwarze, Dexter Robertson, Zach McCarter, Trevor Neill, Greg Nawyn, Dane Anderson and Mitch Hartman.

Confirmation Class of 2011



Confirmands who took vows of membership in First United Methodist Church on Sunday, May 22, were: (front row) Kendall Schroer, Emily Kay, Kathryn Draucker, and Jaycee McKnight. (back row) Sophia Arensdorf, Kelsey Crymble, and Shelby Cherrington.



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Christian Symbols



Ram

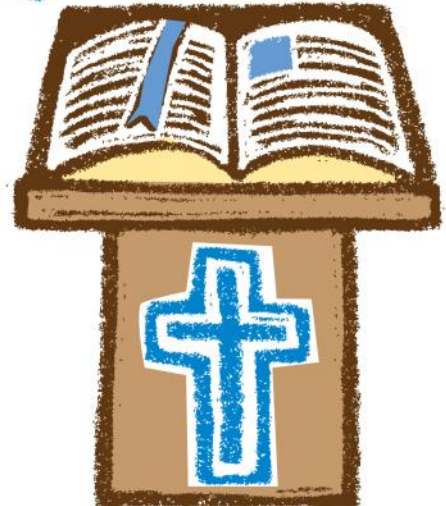
This Old Testament symbol of Christ represents him as the leader of the "herd," as well as a sacrifice for people's sins. Jesus' sacrificial death was foretold in Genesis 22, when God instructed Abraham to kill his only son, Isaac. But God provided a ram to take Isaac's place, just as he provided Jesus, God's only Son, to take our place on the cross.

Mark your calendars!

Sunday June 19, is a day you will want to be in church at First United Methodist Church in Ogallala. Thanks to the miracle and mystery of time travel we will have a very special guest in worship with us that day. Rachel Rager will do an interview with this well known Biblical figure who will attend both services that morning. This special guest will enlighten and entertain you; so mark your calendar and bring your entire family, your friends and neighbors to our church services on June 19th. Cameras are welcome. Don't miss it!

Shalom,

Pastor Chuck Rager



Opportunity to Serve

For various reasons, the list of persons who are acting as *greeters on Sunday morning* has been reduced recently. These folks have a wonderful opportunity to share welcoming hospitality with regular attendees as well as newcomers and visitors to our services.

If you would be willing to be a greeter about once every six to eight weeks, please call the church office (284-2204) or drop a note to umcogallala@qwestoffice.net. Thanks for considering this awesome ministry!

UMCOR Kits Assembled

This year, the Missions Outreach Committee, with the help of donations from the congregation, has assembled 17 school kits (plus a few extra supplies for more kits) to send to Annual Conference for shipment to UMCOR's distribution depots. The UMW circles also put together 20 health kits. Altogether, the estimated value of kits and supplies accumulated came to \$450. The MOC and UMW send thanks to everyone who participated in any way with this mission project. Thanks also to Dave and Christy Baltzell for making sure the kits got delivered to Lincoln!

Nebraska's Oldest Retired Minister Celebrates 100th Birthday

Nebraska's oldest retired United Methodist minister, **the Rev. Donald E. Littrell**, celebrated his 100th birthday on May 30.

A graduate of Wayne State College, he holds advanced degrees from the University of Denver and Iliff School of Theology. Littrell's appointments included Ansley Westerville, Kimball, Omaha Pearl Memorial, Ogallala, Fairbury, Mitchell. He also served as chaplain to students at the University of Nebraska College of Agriculture. He retired in 1981.

In his long and distinguished career, Littrell served as dean of the Nebraska Pastors' School and on the commissions of evangelism, stewardship and worship. He was president of Rotary Club in Ogallala and Fairbury and served on the Governor's Committee for Human Rights and the Governor's Commission on Youth. Littrell

was active with Red Cross and the Boy Scouts of America, and received national honors from the Jaycees. He has been named to Who's Who in America and Who's Who in American Clergy.

Littrell currently resides at Chimney Rock Villa in Bayard, Neb., where he was joined by friends and family members on Sunday, May 29, to celebrate his centennial.

The Rev. Don Littrell served the Ogallala Church from 1957 through 1963. Church historian Minnie Meerse wrote of Rev. Littrell that he "inspired us to assist in the training of young ministers from Iliff School of Theology."

If you would like to send greetings to Rev. Littrell, address them to:

The Rev. Donald Littrell
Chimney Rock Villa
Bayard NE



**HONOR
YOUR
FATHER**

**SUNDAY,
JUNE 19, 2011**



First United Methodist memorial scholarships were awarded on Sunday, May 8, to Greg Nawyn and Jessica Kay.



Seniors who earned scholarships for their service with the O.P.T.I.M.I.S.M. Puppet Team were Holly Delzer and Greg Nawyn.

The Ministry of the United Methodist Women

Although the United Methodist Women are not meeting through the summer, we would like to take advantage of our 125th anniversary year to share a little of our local history.

Even though the group has had many different names — The Ladies' Aid Society, The Women's Society of Christian Service (WSCS), and now The United Methodist Women (UMW) — we have always maintained one main purpose: to serve in the name of our Savior, Jesus Christ.

The Ladies' Aid Society first organized in 1894, and became the WSCS in 1940. Circles were begun in 1947 and continue to this day to be a vital part of the organization.

Just as we do today, the ladies of the Aid and WSCS helped out wherever and whenever possible. From raising money with teas, to helping out at the North Platte Canteen during World War II, to working today on the FunFest and organizing funeral

dinners, making up UMCOR kits, helping youth pay for camp, and furnishing birthday cakes for Indian Hills — the UMW members are involved in all areas of the church and community.

Barbara Cobb, in a written history of the local group, once described the UMW this way: "Theirs is an unbroken line of splendor." We would like to think that our organization will continue to be a group that will always be there for our church.

Jean Slagle
UMW President



Make Gifts to our Church and Reduce Taxable Income

The IRA charitable rollover provision is effective through December 31, 2011. The provision provides that an owner of a traditional IRA may make gifts to their church or any other qualified charity up to \$100,000 per year without the distribution from the IRA being included in taxable income. The distribution will count toward the donor's mandatory withdrawal amount. To qualify for IRA rollover treatment:

1) The donor must direct the IRA manager to transfer funds directly to the church or other charity. (A withdrawal followed by a contribution still

has to be reported as taxable income.)

2) The donor must be at least age 70 ½.



Your accountant can answer any additional questions you may have. You may also direct questions to the Nebraska United Methodist Foundation at 877-495-5545.

Celebrating the Past Welcoming the Future

DID YOU KNOW? An adult Methodist fellowship group was formed on November 13, 1940. The minister at the time was Rev. Sidney McCaig. The name 50/50 was chosen because work of the organization was to be shared equally by both men and women. When the 50/50 Adult Fellowship celebrated its 40th anniversary in 1980, the Rev. Cecil Lackore commended the group for “staying young at heart.” For many years, Agnes Eggers made the annual Church Conference report on the 50/50 Fellowship activities. Her report to the Church Conference in 1997 gave indication that the 50/50 Fellowship was ending. She reported:



“A regular admonition heard often is ‘do not look back.’ But today I want to do just that. In 1993 I likened 50/50 to the Energizer Rabbit — we just keep going and going, but sometimes we missed a beat or two.

“In 1994 I was reluctant to say ‘Ebb tide’ had set in and we would have to ‘yield to time,’ but love and fellowship continued and only joy was present as we gathered together.

“In 1995 it seemed 50/50 was beginning to show ‘age.’ We celebrated our 55th anniversary with several out of town former members attending.

“In 1996 we were still going but our format changed. We scheduled our meetings in harmony with the church activities.

“In 1997 we closed our bank account since we no longer have regular monthly meetings. Now I look ahead. However limited, 50/50 will continue as a Fellowship — meeting periodically in the future as in the past — with God’s blessings.” Agnes Eggers.

There is no 50/50 Fellowship report in the November 15, 1998, annual Church Conference report.

Ogallala First United Methodist Church is celebrating *125 years of ministry* in 2011. Here are some of the events we have to look forward to in our year of celebration:

- ◆ June 26 ~~ An old-fashioned **Ice Cream Social** to celebrate 125 years of being “cool” Methodists! This fellowship event is scheduled on Sunday, June 26, at 4:00 p.m. More details will be coming soon!
- ◆ July 31 ~~ The United Methodist Women will be hosting a good, old-fashioned Box Social. Don’t know how it works? Be watching for more details — it’ll be great fun!
- ◆ August ~~ Ogallala First UMC will be participating in the Keith County Fair with a parade float and a booth. We hope you will want to be involved!
- ◆ September ~~ Celebrating 125 years of Christian Education with the Sunday School KickOff Picnic on Sunday, September 11.

Other activities are planned for each month in 2011. Watch for announcements throughout the year!





Day of Pentecost June 12, 2011

An Activity Page for Younger People

PENTECOST MOBILE

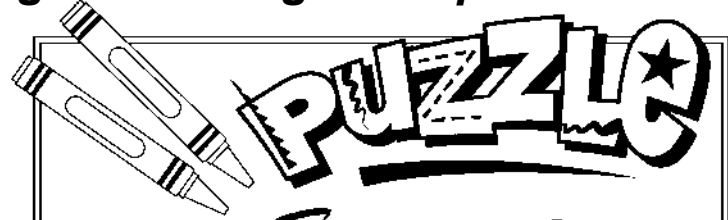
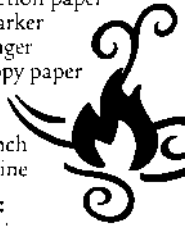
Make this craft as a reminder that God's Holy Spirit is all around you.

What you need:

- Tissue paper (red, yellow, orange), torn into squares
- Plastic transparency
- Craft glue
- Paintbrush
- Construction paper
- Black marker
- Wire hanger
- White copy paper
- Scissors
- Pencil
- Hole punch
- Fishing line

What you do:

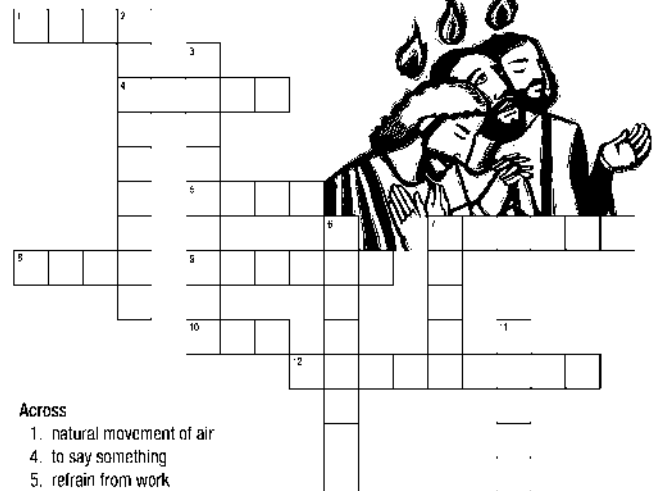
1. Overlap tissue squares as "flames" on the transparency.
2. "Paint" glue (thinned with water) over the squares.
3. Fold construction paper in half. Write out Acts 2:4 at the top, by the fold.
4. Poke the hanger through the middle of the fold.
5. On the white paper, write "Holy Spirit" in English, Spanish (*Espiritu Santo*), French (*L'esprit Saint*), etc.
6. Cut out a flame pattern and trace it on the back of the transparency.
7. Cut out flames and glue the "Holy Spirit" names on them.
8. Thread fishing line through a hole atop each flame and tie flames onto the hanger.



The Spirit Comes

ACTS 2 TELLS ABOUT A SPECIAL DAY WHEN THE HOLY SPIRIT CAME TO THE DISCIPLES.

Use the clues below to complete the crossword puzzle.



Across

1. natural movement of air
4. to say something
5. refrain from work
7. place where God is
8. a combustion or burning that gives light, heat and smoke
9. part of mouth that can taste and lick
10. the time between sunrise and sunset
12. the day the Holy Spirit descended on the disciples

Down

2. followers of Christ
3. moved apart
6. quickly and unexpectedly
7. a building where people live
11. vibrations that travel through the air

Answers: Across 1. wind, 4. speak, 5. rest, 7. heaven, 8. fire, 9. tongue, 10. day, 12. Pentecost; Down 2. disciples, 3. separated, 6. suddenly, 7. house, 11. sound

A Bible Quiz

June is a popular month for weddings. The gospel of John tells about a wedding Jesus attended at Cana. At the reception, he offered a special gift. What was it?

- A. Money
- B. Pottery
- C. Healing
- D. Wine



Answer: D (See John 2:1-11).

Don't Leave Your Church Behind This Summer

If you are planning a summer vacation, the following work taken from *Stories of Life* by G. Curtis Jones and Paul H. Jones might be of interest:

"Blessed are church members who pay their pledges before their vacation cometh.

"Then they go forth with a light heart.

"They wear casual clothing as they wander in pleasant places.

"They anoint their bodies with sun-tan lotion and insect spray.

"They sit beside the still waters hoping the fish will bite and the insects will not;

"They build a fire of charcoal and place savory meat thereon. They eat thereof and are satisfied.

"Night cometh.

"They close their eyes in glad tiredness and thanksgiving to God.

"And their sleep is undisturbed.

"For they know that the good work of their church will not be diminished while they are away."



"Dad, can you make dinner for me and my entire Sunday school class?"

District and Conference Happenings

Peace with Justice Sunday ~ June 19, 2011

The deadliest war since World War III is raging in eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo. The gold, titanium, tantalum and tin that are in our computers, mobile phones and other electronic devices feed this war.

Soldiers from neighboring countries compete for control of and profits from these mines in eastern DRC. They maintain control of the people who live in the communities surrounding the mines through repeated rape and violence.



These "conflict minerals" are carried out of the ground on the backs of the Congolese people and straight out of the country to form essential components in electronics.

In fact, items containing conflict minerals are most likely in your home. They are needed to make mobile phones, MP3 players and computers work. Armed with a grant from the **Peace with Justice Sunday** offering, the Jerusalem Justice and Peace Ministry (JJPM) is assisting communities in the DRC. JJPM workshops educate and empower Congolese people about justice issues in their communities and seek local solutions to close the gap between rich and poor.

When you give to **Peace with Justice Sunday**, June 19, you support ministries in the DRC, the United States and worldwide to remove unjust systems and equip people to live fulfilled lives.

Lay Speaking Seminar Offered June 17-18

Lay ministry goes beyond filling in for the pastor or speaking in public. Lay speaking ministries offer many options for serving: teaching, training, leading, participating, caring, loving and communicating. With so many avenues of training, lay speaking ministry offers valuable education equipping United Methodists for all facets of lay ministry. Explore ministry opportunities and more at the upcoming lay speaking seminar, June 17-18, at University UMC in Topeka. Registration brochure may be found at: http://kansaseast.org/console/files/oFiles_Library_XZXLCZ/CurrentSeminar_W4HF7CJl.pdf

Marriage Encounter Weekend at Camp Comeca

Marriage Encounter weekends are designed for married couples who are looking for ways to make their marriages richer, fuller, and deeper. Marriage Encounter is the official marriage program of the United Methodist Church and is an affiliate member of the General Board of Discipleship.



Location: Camp Comeca near Cozad

Date: September 23-25

For more information, please contact Russell or Lanita Evans: (308)520-1491 or russellevans@internet-usa.net



"A Christian is someone to whom God entrusts all his fellow men."

~~ Dwight L. Moody

STEWARDS FOR JUNE, 2011

June 2011						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

June 5 Greeters 9:00 Judy Cross, Teresa Davis
 Fellowship VBS Hamburger/hot dog feed
 Nursery 9:00 Judy Markussen, Shelly Reil
 Acolyte 9:00 Hunter Reil
 Children's Moment both VBS
 Ushers 9:00 Group 7
 Sound 9:00 Jeff Peterson

June 12 Greeters 9:00 Chip & Jeanne Kay, Jim & Becky Plate
 Fellowship Jean & Ted Slagle
 Nursery 9:00 Sharon Samp, Katherine Draucker
 Acolyte 9:00 Caroline Draucker
 Children's Moment both Ginny Steinke
 Ushers 9:00 Group 8
 Sound 9:00 Chip Kay



Day of Pentecost

June 19 Greeters 9:00 Larry & Mary Cumming, Herb & Karen Knudsen
 Fellowship ? ? ? ?
 Nursery 9:00 Ken & Chris Snyder
 Acolyte 9:00 Cassie Coggins
 Children's Moment both Gigi Berol
 Ushers 9:00 Group 9
 Sound 9:00 Gary Cobaugh

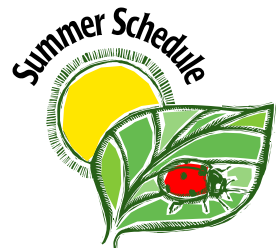
Peace with Justice Sunday

June 26 Greeters 9:00 Norm & Rhonda Duba, Shirlee Knispel
 Fellowship ? ? ? ?
 Nursery 9:00 Pete & Jonnie Peterson
 Acolyte 9:00 Annie Bassett
 Children's Moment both Deb Kuenning
 Ushers 9:00 Group 10
 Sound 9:00 Jessica Kay



July 3 Greeters 9:00 Jim & Dorothy Glenn, Buck & Judy Markussen
 Fellowship ? ? ? ?
 Nursery 9:00 ? ? ? ?
 Acolyte 9:00 Beverly Schroder
 Children's Moment both Greg Beal
 Ushers 9:00 Group 11 (Youth)
 Sound 9:00 Ivan Troxel

July 10 Greeters 9:00 Milly Schwasinger, Roger & Judi Adkins
 Fellowship ? ? ? ?
 Nursery 9:00 Dave & Christy Baltzell
 Acolyte 9:00 Cody Persinger
 Children's Moment both Carmen Troxel
 Ushers 9:00 Group 1
 Sound 9:00 Evan Rudolph



Please note that there are still some openings for fellowship hour servers and nursery attendants. Can you help?



FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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Renee: umcogallala_renee@qwestoffice.net

Pastor Chuck: umcogallala_pastor@qwestoffice.net

Slow Down

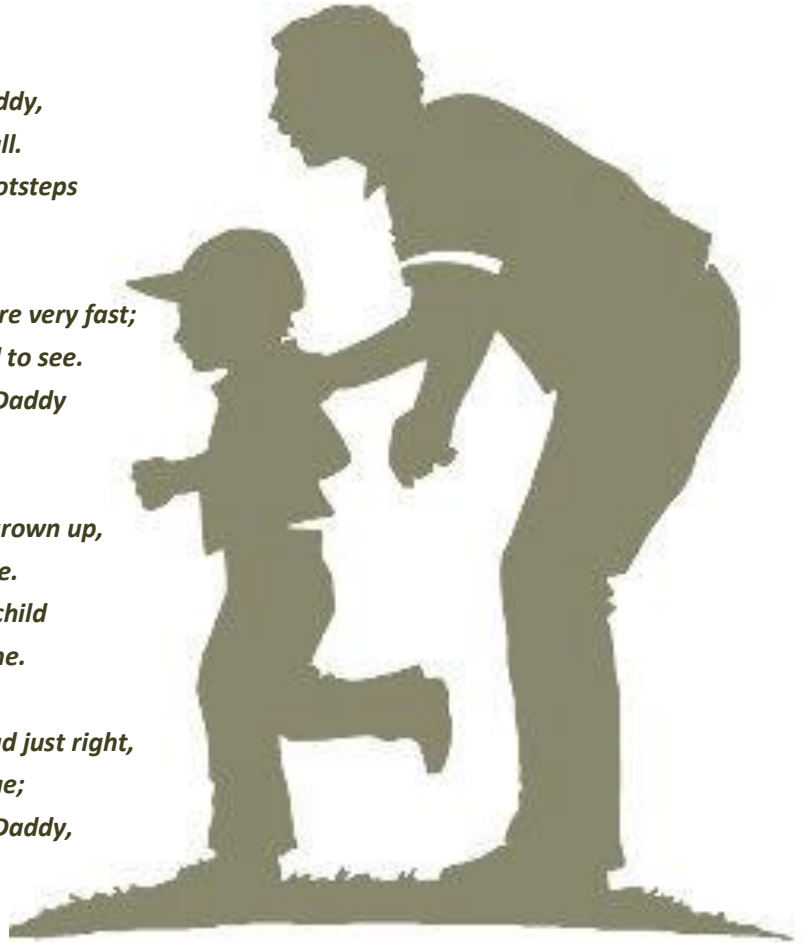
*Walk a little slower, Daddy,
Said a little child so small.
I'm following in your footsteps
And I don't want to fall.*

*Sometimes your steps are very fast;
Sometimes they're hard to see.
So walk a little slower, Daddy
For you are leading me.*

*Someday when I'm all grown up,
You're what I want to be.
Then I will have a little child
Who'll want to follow me.*

*And I would want to lead just right,
And know that I was true;
So walk a little slower, Daddy,
For I must follow you.*

(Author Unknown)



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FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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Permit No. 74

The Best of Summer Blessings to:

Our Vision: "To be a dynamic church, sharing and proclaiming the Gospel of Jesus Christ"

Our Mission: "To love God, love each other and extend that love beyond our church"