



THE CORNERSTONE

A Newsletter to provide information & inspiration for the members & friends of First United Methodist Church

April Special Addition 2020

Please be aware that the information may be subject to change.

We at First United Methodist Church come together to be a Christian community guided & empowered by the Holy Spirit to:

- Make disciples for Jesus Christ,
- Serve our neighbor,
- Enjoy our fellowship.

Blair First UMC
1656 Colfax Street
Blair, Nebraska 68008

Phone:
402-426-2165

E-mail:
office@blairumc.org

Website

Listen to Sermons online
We are hoping to post recorded videos too.
Read Newsletter and See Upcoming Events and Calendar at: www.blairumc.org

Church Office Hours:

Monday thru Thursday
9am-3pm

See article to the right for online options. At this time All Worship, Meetings and Activities are suspended until April 1st and that date could be extended.

Worship Times

9:00 - Worship and Sunday School
10:00 Coffee Fellowship
10:30 Worship

Greetings Everyone!

Since there are a lot of unknowns, we are sending a Special Edition of our newsletter. At this time, we do not know what April will bring so we wanted to give March updates now. We will be experimenting with Facebook live worship as well as videoconferencing. We will try to record worship and upload to the website. Please bear with us as we figure out the technology. You will find worship options as follows:

FACEBOOKWORSHIP OPTIONS :

FACEBOOK LIVE AT 9:00 AM – Go to the Facebook page - Blair First United Methodist Church - and watch: If you've ever considered getting a Facebook page this may be the time to do so. You can always disable the account once we are able to worship in the Sanctuary again. With Facebook you just go to the Blair United Methodist Church page and watch. Also, friend Pastor Gina: Regina Miles Gile and she will add you to the church page. **VIEW IT ON THE WEBSITE AFTER IT IS UPLOADED**

ZOOM OPTIONS FOR MARCH 22 AND MARCH 29:

There are two options for ZOOM. You can log-in for Video Conferencing or dial in for Audio Conferencing. Please sign up before Sunday to make sure you are able to view, you may have to download an app or other steps to view.

March 22 - Video Conferencing Info Here:

<https://zoom.us/j/359031514?pwd=cHFkcXFwaElKTDBBZlIwcEdlWFlhWQOT09>

Topic: Sunday Morning Worship - March 22

Time: Mar 22, 2020 10:30 AM Central Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/359031514?pwd=cHFkcXFwaElKTDBBZlIwcEdlWFlhWQOT09>

Meeting ID: 359 031 514

Password: 305960

March 22 - Audio Conferencing Info Here:

Dial in by using one of these numbers. You will be prompted to give the Meeting ID

+1 253 215 8782 US

+1 301 715 8592 US

Meeting ID: 359 031 514

March 29 - Video Conference Info Here

<https://zoom.us/j/672190746?pwd=RW4zOFFHZkpiR0JsVlcZVEJyUVNVZz09>

Topic: Sunday Morning Worship - March 29

Time: Mar 29, 2020 10:30 AM Central Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/672190746?pwd=RW4zOFFHZkpiR0JsVlcZVEJyUVNVZz09>

Meeting ID: 672 190 746

Password: 475496

March 29 - Audio Conferencing Info Here:

Dial in by using one of these numbers. You will be prompted to give the Meeting ID

+1 253 215 8782 US

+1 301 715 8592 US

Meeting ID: 672 190 746

ADDITIONAL INFO

If you are having technical difficulties, please try to solve those on your end first. After each session we will receive your feedback. However, be aware we are working with the technology and devices we have available at this time. Our hope is to improve the experience each time.

Schedule for Worship and Meetings Subject to Change

Sunday Helpers

Wednesday Lenten Worship April 1st

Acolytes: 6:45 Katherine Casto, Sam Geise

Worship April 5th

Worship Leader: - Pastor Gina Gile

Confirmand Scripture Reader:

9:00 & 10:30 - Brady Thomas

Greeters Both Services

Sanctuary: TBD

East Doors: TBD

Acolytes: 9:00 Colton Nixon & Baylor Barrow

10:30 Mallory McGree

Coffee Hosts: Thomas Family

Maundy Thursday Worship March 9th

Acolytes: 7:00 Beckett Scott, Tommy Scott

Easter Worship April 12th

Worship Leader: - Pastor Gina Gile

Greeters Both Services

Sanctuary: Brady Thomas and Family

East Doors: TBD

Acolytes: 9:00 TBD

10:30 TBD

Coffee Hosts: TBD

Worship April 19th

Worship Leader: - Pastor Gina Gile

Confirmand Scripture Reader: TBD

Greeters Both Services

Sanctuary: Linda and Roger Howland

East Doors: TBD

Acolytes: 9:00 Tacey Belina & Katherine Casto

10:30 Joe Grabowski

Coffee Hosts: Sue Gerdes, Connie Barnes

Generations Worship April 26th

Worship Leader: Pastor Gina Gile

Greeters Both Services

Sanctuary: Brady Thomas and Family

East Doors: TBD

Acolytes: 9:00 Becket Scott & Tommy Scott

10:30 Revlyn Rasmussen

Coffee Hosts: Thomas Family

April Usher Teams

9:00 Roger Lorsch's Team

10:30 Ron Rewert's Team



**All Community and Lenten Meals have
been cancelled.**

Men's Book Club

We will be meeting about once every month or two (coordinated thru e-mail). Each member will pick a book and a month to host. Anyone interested can contact Craig Folkers (402-306-3730) for more details or to be added to the Club.

Next Meeting:

April 19th, 5:30 PM @ Glenn Coates' House.

Education by Tars Westover

Faithful Book Worms

Meets Monthly on the 1st Tuesday at 9:30 in the Parlor.

On April 7th we will be reviewing *The Hate You Give* by Angie Thomas

New readers always welcome in both groups!

United Methodist Men

Next Meeting:

April 14th - 7:30 am in
Fellowship Hall.

"Come & join the group for
breakfast, Christian
fellowship, fun & Devotions"

All men are welcome!

United Methodist Women

April 15th @ 9:30 AM
Hostess: Marilyn Urwin
Project: Polish Silver
And Clean

These events and above meetings may be subject to change.

April 5th is Palm Sunday. All children will be involved in our Palm Parade around the sanctuary.

Senior Moments: April 9th at 5:00 for Potluck and meeting.

United Methodist Men Need Volunteers

for the Washington County Recycling Center

On Saturday, April 11th, the United Methodist Men will be serving at the Washington County Recycling Center located at 440 South 3rd Ave. in Blair. This is an All-Church Volunteer Opportunity for our congregation. The UMM is asking for volunteers to sign up at the Information Station for 2-hour shifts or as long as you wish to stay. The center is open from 8am-Noon. Everyone is welcome - adults and children. Children under 12 years of age need to be accompanied by an adult.

Cancelled Events

Creighton/Nebraska Baseball Game: This has been canceled. We will patiently wait for next year.

New Bible Study: "Short Stories by Jesus" has been postponed for now.

EASTER Sunrise Service and Youth Breakfast April 12th:

Sunrise Service at Black-Elk Neihardt Shelter has been cancelled by the City of Blair.

Youth Breakfast is Cancelled.

OFFICE HOURS

The office will have limited hours. If you need something from the office, please reach out to Deb Foust, M-TH 9:00-Noon, office@blairumc.org or 402-426-2165. She will return calls and emails when she is in the office.

I wrote the following article for the April Newsletter before I left for our daughter's wedding. It was about seeing God in the chaos of life. That practice is ever more important now. Our lives are being disrupted by the Coronavirus pandemic. In this time of unknowns what better opportunity is there to teach our children and youth about relying on our faith in times of unknowns and unexpected things. Quote from article: *Actually, long before those unexpected things occur in our lives God is there, God knows the unexpected details of our lives, some of the details we would like to leave out, but, nonetheless, God knows.*

ORIGINAL NEWSLETTER ARTICLE:

Scripture: In the first day of the week, when we met to break bread, Paul was holding a discussion with them; since he intended to leave the next day, he continued speaking until midnight. ⁸ There were many lamps in the room upstairs where we were meeting. ⁹ A young man named Eutychus, who was sitting in the window, began to sink off into a deep sleep while Paul talked still longer. Overcome by sleep, he fell to the ground three floors below and was picked up dead. ¹⁰ But Paul went down, and bending over him took him in his arms, and said, "Do not be alarmed, for his life is in him." ¹¹ Then Paul went upstairs, and after he had broken bread and eaten, he continued to converse with them until dawn; then he left.



I've always been amused by this Scripture passage from Acts. It describes some of those first house church gatherings. It also points to evidence that children have always been present during church as far back as the ancient church.

This poor boy described in our passage from Acts has most likely tried his best to stay awake during Paul's incredibly long, boring, sermon (Sound familiar?). They call it a "discussion" in our passage, but Paul was a preacher by nature. It had to have been a sermon. It had to have been church because of the gathered people and the "discussion" was most likely one sided with everyone listening Paul. No longer able to listen to Paul, the boy nods off and falls out the window. The congregation rushes to his aid, but Paul is not the least bit concerned and says, "Do not be alarmed for his life is with him." Paul heads back upstairs, eats a snack and gets right back at it and preaches until dawn!! Can you imagine a church worship service going on that long!

I'm asked quite often how old a child needs to be before they are "allowed" in church, typically meaning the age they need to be before attending the church worship service. My general reply, "There is no age limit, children are always welcome in church." However, I understand the reason the question is asked. It can be difficult sitting in a church worship service with young children. Children have their own ideas of how they are going to spend their time in worship. Children by nature are curious. Children, by nature, like to explore. However, what better place is there for their curiosity and exploration than a worship service. What better place is there for them to learn about their faith through their curiosity and exploration than sitting through worship. Regardless of age and ability at which children begin their faith journey, their growth requires a familiarity in the life of the faith community.

My sermon title and topic for Christmas Eve was "Not so Silent Night." Our Christmas Eve family friendly service this year was noisy, chaotic with lots of energetic kiddos present. I enjoyed every minute of it! I cut my sermon short because sometimes visuals make a point more than words. The Christmas Eve service visual reminds us that our lives are sometimes noisy and chaotic with unexpected things occurring. However, God is present and meets us right in the middle of our noisy, chaotic lives where unexpected things occur. Actually, long before those unexpected things occur in our lives God is there, God knows the unexpected details of our lives, some of the details we would like to leave out, but, nonetheless, God knows.

I think having children in church and as a part of worshiping community is crucial to their faith development and ours. As you continue your personal Lenten Journey of faith examination, may you look for ways to pique your curiosity and desire for exploration.

Blessings,
Pastor Gina

TITHES/GIFTS

We have had some members contact us concerned about giving and our budget during this time. It is a concern for our church leadership, as well. You can mail your tithes/gifts to the church at: 1656 Colfax St., Blair, NE, 68008. We currently have an electronic giving option. You may sign up via our website: www.blairumc.org. You may also sign up by contacting the church office.

Thank you for your commitment and generosity during this difficult time!

First United Methodist Church
Office Hours– M-Th 9am-3pm
Church Office: 402.426.2165
Church Website:
www.blairumc.org
Email: office@blairumc.org

Blair First UMC Vision Statement : “We are a faith-centered, welcoming congregation that serves God, our community, & the world through our diverse ministry & mission work. We are real people, with real lives, & real faith. We dig deep into the Word so that we are prepared to



Wednesday Night Schedule
April 15-29

6:00-7:00 - Kingdom Kids - 3rd,-5th Grade.
 6th & 7th Grade Youth;
 8th Grade Confirmation;
 Celebration Bells.
7:00-8:00 High School Youth
 Chancel Choir

**All Activities are subject to
 change during this time.**

**We will communicate changes
 by email, Facebook and web-
 site as much as we can.**

**Office Hours are tentatively set
 9:00-Noon M-TH**

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 4:30 Chiming Joy; 5:00 Joyful Ringers 5-6:30 Soul Café - Cancelled 6:00 Kingdom Kids; MS Youth; Confir- mation 6:45 Lenten Service 7:15 HS Youth; Chancel Choir	2 9:30 FISH 6:00 TOPS 6:30 FIT- “Faith in Thee” 6-7:30 Girl Scout Leaders Meeting	3 Office Closed	4 7:30 United Method- ist Men 9:00 Cleaning Crew
5 Palm Sunday 9:00 Worship/ Palm Pa- rade/Chapel Choir & Sun- day School 10:00 Coffee Fellowship 10:30 Worship/Palm Pa- rade 6:00 Sr. Moments	6 6:30 Short Stories Bible Study Post- ponied.	7 9:30 Faithful Book- worms 6:00 Chair Meeting for Committees listed below. 6:30- Small Groups, Worship, MOC, Missions	8 10:30-2:30 WIC No Wednesday Night Youth or Children’s Activi- ties (Holy Week) 7:00 Chancel Choir	9 Maundy Thursday 9-4:00 TOPS Noon-7:00 Self- Guided Journey to the Cross 6:00 Con- firmation 7:00 Worship	10 Office Closed 8-11 AM 7 I- 4PM Self- Guided Journey to the Cross Noon WCMA Good Friday Service Here.	11 8:00-Noon All Church Recy- cling Center 9:00 Cleaning Crew
12 Easter 7:00 Sunrise is Cancelled Youth Breakfast CANCELLED 9:00 Worship & Kid Zone 10:30 Worship 11:30 SPRC	13 6:00-7:30 Girl Scout #50549	14 6:00-7:30 GS #58115 6:30 Children’s Ministry 7:00 Youth Council	15 9:30 United Meth- odist Women <i>Wednesday Night</i> <i>Schedule see box</i> <i>upper left</i>	16 10:00 Carter Place Bible Study 6:00 Trustees, TOPS 7:00 Finance	17 Office Closed 6:00 PM-1:00 AM High School Lock In.	18 8:00 Busy Women’s Breakfast @ Gerdes’ House.
19 Newsletter Deadline 9:00 Worship & Sunday School 10:00 Coffee Fellowship 10:30 Worship 5:30 Men’s Book Club @ Glenn Coates’	20 6:30-8:00 Girl Scout #50512	21	22 1:00 Legacy Meeting <i>Wednesday Night</i> <i>Schedule see box</i> <i>upper left</i>	23 WIC 10:30-2:30 6:00 TOPS 7:00 Church Council	24 Office Closed	25
26 8:00 Teacher Apprecia- tion Breakfast 9:00 Generations Wor- ship & Kid Zone 10:00 Coffee Fellowship 10:30 Worship	27 6-7:30 Girl Scout 50549	28 6:00-7:30 Girl Scout #58115 7:00 Baseball Outing Creighton/Nebraska Is CANCELLED.	29 <i>Last Regular Meetings</i> <i>for Kingdom Kids.</i> 6:00 Celebration Bells 6:00-8:00 End-of-Year Youth Party @ the Depot 7:00 Chancel Choir	30 6:00 TOPS		