



THE CORNERSTONE

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

July Special Addition 2020

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

Pastor Gina Gile
ggile@greatplainsumc.org
620-794-1345

Website
View the Video Sermons online
And find the Current Newsletter
at: www.blairumc.org

Church Office Hours:
Monday thru Thursday
9am-Noon
Call Ahead for Assistance.

Online Worship Times

9:00 - Worship
Facebook Live

10:30 Worship
Zoom Devotion and
Conversation.

6:30 PM Outdoor Worship
Information for meeting
sent by email. Contact the
office for more information.

Online Sunday School Options for Elementary
Ashley @
education@blairumc.org
MS/HS Amy @
youth@blairumc.org



~~Hymn of Promise~~

*In our end is our beginning; in our time, infinity;
In our doubt there is believing; in our life, eternity.
In our death, a resurrection; at the last, a victory,
Unrevealed until its season,
something God alone can see.*

We often sing the *Hymn of Promise* on Easter Sunday. One of the Highest Holy Days in the church is Easter. This year for many churches, including ours, Easter was a little different. Our Easter Worship Service was all online, meaning that we did not gather on-site at the church. We did not gather in person in Sanctuary.

I will admit this year's Easter celebration was a little strange for this pastor. On a typically Easter Sunday the church would have been packed with everyone in their Easter finery. The worship music would have been outstanding. Of course, the closing hymn would have been *Christ the Lord Has Risen today*. The sermon would have been inspirational, full of hope in the Resurrected Christ. The spirit of the Lord would have filled our hearts as we heard the *Good News* once again that the tomb was empty. Christ is Risen Indeed!

Instead, this year, Easter worship consisted of me preaching in my living room to a camera to a congregation that was "out there" watching (probably in their pajamas) from the comfort of their homes. I will admit, I had pajama like clothes under my clergy robe. Still, we celebrated that Jesus rose from the dead and the tomb was empty. The pandemic could not stop Easter. We celebrated with joy because we are Easter People.

As Easter People and amidst a pandemic we find our hope in Christ.

The words found in the last verse of the Hymn of Promise remind us of hope. They remind us that in our end is our beginning. In our doubt there is believing; in our life, eternity. In our death, a resurrection; at the last, a victory, Unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.

In this season of pandemic, know that you are a bulb and a seed and as you grow in your faith you become the flower or a tree—just what God wants you to be. Right now you may be experiencing a tough growing season but God already knows you and loves you and redeems you. God sees you not just as you are but as God made you to be. Believe the promises of God—they are for you. Thanks be to God who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. CHRIST IS RISEN! HE IS RISEN IN-DEED! ALLELUIA!

Prayer for and with you,
Pastor Gina

Tithes/offerings: Thank you for your continued financial support of Blair First UMC. Please continue to mail your tithes/gifts to the church at: 1656 Colfax St., Blair, NE, 68008. Also, 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.**



Vanco Online Giving Option

We invite you to consider our VANCO online giving option. You will find the link on our website: www.blairumc.org. Scroll to the bottom of the home page and then click on the "Give now" tab. It's secure and easy. Also, the church office is happy to assist you.

July Worship Services

Facebook Live will continue at 9:00 AM and Zoom Worship @10:30 AM will be reconfigured into a Devotional Sermon-plus conversation. Information on these online options will be sent out each week through email.

During the month of July we will begin worshipping outdoors on Sunday evening at 6:30 PM. We will be offering two options. Both options require reservations. Reservations will help us facilitate the safety guidelines and requirements. Reservation details will be emailed each week prior to the outdoor evening worship service.

OPTION ONE

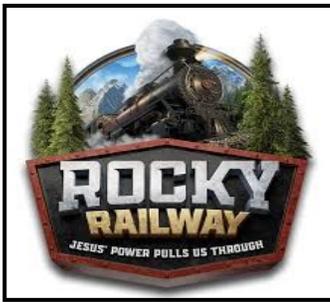
Parking Lot Only—where you stay in your car and listen on your radio. Each week after you have reserved a spot, parking and radio station info will be given to you.

OPTION TWO

Worship on the Greens—where you and your family unit will congregate on the grassy area north of the church building. **We ask that you arrive no earlier than 6:15 PM.** Safety guidelines and procedures will be in place and we ask those choosing this option to adhere to the following:

- Upon your arrival, ushers will guide you to an area on the grass.
- 6-foot distancing (family units) required.
- Masks required.
- No contact hugs and/or no contact handshakes.
- Bring your own lawn chairs/blankets.
- Bring your own water/beverages.
- No bulletins or printed materials will be distributed.
- There will be no worship music or singing.
- Since it is an outdoor worship with social distancing, shaded areas may be limited. Attendees may want to bring a canopy or umbrella for protection from the sun.
- Restrooms inside the building and across from church office will be available for use on July 5th. West entrance doors will be the only access into the building. Only two persons at a time in building/restrooms. All other areas inside the church building will be off limits.
- Stand-alone receptacle for tithes/offering will be available (no collection plates will be passed).
- There will be an immediate dismissal once worship concludes. No lingering.
- If attendees wish to socialize longer, we will ask you to do so off-site.

We look forward to worshipping with you!



Blair First United Methodist Church online VBS

We will be having VBS this year, but it will look a little different! Every family that registers will receive a color coordinated packet for

the week. Each color will represent a new day full of surprises and fun! Every evening we will come together, through ZOOM, and talk about the day's adventures and wrap up each night together! The packet will include everything you would normally be receiving at VBS! Packets will be available for pick up Sunday, July 19 from 3-5 in the Methodist Church Parking Lot!

Registration by July 3rd is required to receive a packet for the week

When: July 20-23 Where: Your home
Ages: PreK-5th Grade

What to Expect:

- *Skit, Bible Story & KidVid Videos
- *Awesome VBS music
- *Gizmo experiments
- *Family Games

Please register online at: <https://vbspro.events/p/events/46a1ca>

If you have any questions, please contact Ashley Bacon at education@blairumc.org or call 402-307-0519

Lion's Park Food Distribution

The Salvation Army is working with the Food Bank to provide meals to families in need and beginning this July, one of our locations for distribution will be at Lion's Park in Blair.

A few things to know about this opportunity:

The meals are bagged by the food bank and are handed out to families in a drive thru fashion so the activity is largely contact-free.

Gloves are available on site and volunteers are encouraged to bring and wear masks.

The time commitment for each shift is 1.5 hours with distribution taking place on Thursdays (7/9-8/6) from 12:30pm to 2pm.

The age requirement is age 16 and up without an adult. Children age 12 to 15 can also sign up with a supervising adult.

The Salvation Army has restricted the number of volunteers at each site to adhere to CDC recommendations, therefore each volunteer needs to be signed up and confirmed before showing up on site.

If you or someone you know has interest in volunteering any amount of time to this outreach, click on the link below and sign up through our volunteer website Better Impact.

After signing up, you will receive an email from me with any follow up needs as well as confirmation of your schedule.

Lion's Park Meal Distribution <http://bttr.im/9krwe>

Feel free to share this email with others and reach out to me with any questions at any time.

Thank you so much for your consideration and help in this community!



Direct Your Dollars We Have Received

\$100,000 towards \$150,00
for our next \$1,000!

Thank you for your support! Keep up the Great Work!

If you shop at Family Fare, please save your receipts!

Support Washington County Food Bank



Cruise For Food

Drive Thru Food Collection

Saturday, July 25th

9:00am-Noon

Family Fare Parking Lot

Help us fill the trailer with non-perishable food. We will also be collecting cash donations for Washington Co. Food Bank

Volunteers will be on hand to collect and hand out "Needs Lists"

Sponsored by Blair First United Methodist Church

Needs List for Cruise for Food

Canned Green Beans and Corn

Breakfast Cereal

Boxed Individual Instant Oatmeal Packets

Macaroni and Cheese

Spaghetti Noodles & Spaghetti Sauce

Boxed Instant Potatoes

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 work in the world & to help change lives in the name of Jesus Christ. We are Blair First United Methodist Church.”

JULY 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p style="text-align: center;">Outdoor Worship Register to attend online or call Church Office 402-426-2165 Website www.blairumc.org has more information on Safety Guidelines.</p>			1	2	3 Office Closed	
5 9:00 Facebook Live Worship 10:30 Zoom Worship. 6:30 PM Outdoor Worship in the green space bring your own chair or blanket.	6 6:30 PM- Ashley's Amish Adventures Book Read. Meet on the Green north of the church. Bring a chair or blanket.	7	8	9	10 Office Closed	11
12 9:00 Facebook Live Worship 10:30 Zoom Worship. 6:30 PM Outdoor Worship in the green space bring your own chair or blanket.	13 6:30 PM- Ashley's Amish Adventures Book Read. Meet on the Green north of the church. Bring a chair or blanket.	14 9:30 Faithful Bookworms meeting outside on the green space. 7:00 PM - Church Council Meeting TBD Zoom or in person	15	16	17 Office Closed	18
19 9:00 Facebook Live Worship 10:30 Zoom Worship. 6:30 PM Outdoor Worship in the green space bring your own chair or blanket. Newsletter Deadline	20 6:30 PM- Ashley's Amish Adventures Book Read. Meet on the Green north of the church. Bring a chair or blanket.	21	22	23	24 Office Closed	25
26 9:00 Facebook Live Worship 10:30 Zoom Worship. 6:30 PM Outdoor Worship in the green space bring your own chair or blanket.	27 6:30 PM- Sensible Shoes Book @ Black Elk-Neihardt Park. Bring a chair will practice Social Distancing.	28	29	30	31 Office Closed	