



# Faith in Action

Faith United Methodist Church  
1623 Central Avenue Kearney NE 68847-6021

www.kearneyfaith.org  
office@kearneyfaith.org  
308.237.2550

## SNEAK PEEK

- ◆ Anniversaries
- ◆ Birthdays
- ◆ Nurse's Corner
- ◆ Announcements



- 12/17 Jimmy Tallent
- 12/18 Ed Foley
- 12/19 David Forney
- 12/19 Wanda Enns
- 12/19 Keegan Shultz-Ramer
- 12/21 Clarence Cafferty
- 12/21 Caleb Schoneman
- 12/22 Emily Wisch
- 12/22 Mario Grim
- 12/23 Bryan Royle
- 12/23 Moriah Chandler
- 12/24 Nina Croskrey
- 12/26 Forrest Holoubeck
- 12/27 LaMoine Meester
- 12/28 Gabe Evans
- 12/28 Tyler Divan
- 12/29 Bret Pettit
- 12/29 Brinlee Pettit
- 12/30 Sandy Townsend
- 12/31 Esther Burgland

## WELCOME to Faith United Methodist Church!

8:45 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. Worship  
9:45 a.m. Sunday School

**GUESTS AND VISITORS:** Please fill out the registration information on the attendance clipboard as it is passed through the pews. More information about Faith UMC's ministries is located on our website at kearneyfaith.org.

**FAITH INFORMATION:** We have several ways for you to seek information about Faith UMC. A great way to see what is happening is to check our website at [kearneyfaith.org](http://kearneyfaith.org). You may also contact the church office ([office@kearneyfaith.org](mailto:office@kearneyfaith.org)) or 308.237.2550 to share prayer requests, update your contact information, or sign up for online giving. We also send e-mails periodically. **If you would like to be added to our e-mailing lists**, please contact the church office.

**PASTOR ROBERT PERRY** is preaching an Advent sermon series.

*We look forward to seeing you in church!*

## STAFF

Faith United Methodist Church Staff  
(308) 237-2550  
[office@kearneyfaith.org](mailto:office@kearneyfaith.org)

**Pastor:** Rev. Robert Perry  
**Director of Christian Education:** Lauryn Gustafson  
**Office Secretary:** Suzann Christensen  
**Custodian:** Bob Eberhard  
**11:00 a.m. Choir Director:** Fran Wilson  
**Musicians:** Mary Nuss (8:45 a.m.) and Kathe Cox (11:00 a.m.)  
**8:45 a.m. Praise Team:** Penny Buettner, Keith Danburg, Jim Haws, Ed Kohel, Jake Maaske, Tari Poorman-Maaske

- 12/16 Phillip & Patricia Hilty
- 12/18 Dan & Leigh Spellman
- 12/30 Bob & Corinne Olmsted
- 12/31 Forrest & Tanya Holoubeck



# Faith UMC

## Christmas Eve Services

5:30 p.m.

Candle Nativity Service  
(designed for children)

7:00 p.m.

Festival of Nine Readings and Carols



## TEAM MEETINGS

Are you interested in what each of the teams (formerly known as committees) is doing at Faith UMC? Faith's teams include Ad Council, Christian Education, Finance, Memorial, Nurture, and Trustees.

Contact the church office, and minutes of team meetings will be e-mailed to you following their meetings (with permission from the team chairpersons).

*Please understand that if topics of a sensitive or confidential nature are discussed, those minutes will not be shared.*

Thank you.



## ADVENT

During Advent, we prepare for, and anticipate, the coming of Christ. We remember the longing of Jews for a Messiah and our own longing for, and need of, forgiveness, salvation and a new beginning.

Even as we look back and celebrate the birth of Jesus in a humble stable in Bethlehem, we also look forward anticipating the second coming of Christ as the fulfillment of all that was promised by his first coming.

The season of Advent, which comes from the Latin word *adventus* meaning "coming" or "visit," begins four Sundays before Christmas and ends on Christmas Eve.

*(taken from www.umc.org)*



10/16/15

Dear FUMC Trustees,

Jon and I wish to thank you for allowing our family usage of the church kitchen for baking and assembling the wedding cake for Eryn's wedding. While we have a nice size kitchen in our home, nothing compares to the two ovens and sinks in the church kitchen for a special baking project!

With Christian Love,  
Jon and Karen McBride

Our gratitude to the church staff for sharing their spaces with Kyle, Kasey and Kealan for a couple of days!

Thank  
you!

USHERS  
Needed



We are seeking ushers for 2016 for the 11:00 a.m. service. If you are willing to serve as an usher, please contact Patty McQueen or the church office at (308) 237-2550. Thank you!

## ADVENT PRAYER

Holy One,  
awaken my heart,  
quiet my mind,  
open the door of my being  
to perceive your presence.

Settle what stirs endlessly within me.  
Quiet the voice of haste and hurry.  
Awaken my inner senses to recognize  
your love hiding beneath the frenzy.

Enfold me in your attentiveness.  
Wrap a mantle of mindfulness  
around every part of my days.  
I want to welcome you with joy  
and focus on your dwelling place.

~ Joyce Rupp

*Joyce Rupp is well known for her work as a writer, a spiritual "midwife", and retreat and conference speaker. She is a member of the Servites (Servants of Mary) community and was a volunteer for Hospice for fifteen years. She currently resides in Des Moines, Iowa.*



Not what I get, but what I give,  
This be the gauge by which I live.  
Not merely joys that come my way,  
But the help I give to those astray.  
Not the rewards of money and fame,  
But the loads I lift in mankind's name.  
This be the pay at the end of the day,  
Not what I keep, but what I give away.

(Anonymous)

***"Your kindness means much more . . . than words could ever say."***

Thank you just doesn't seem like enough words to say.

This blanket means so much to me, you cannot believe. I cried when my sister-in-law (Lynda Henderson) gave it to me. She knows my passion for music and the red for my Huskers.

I used this blanket for my chemo treatment the day before Thanksgiving and will continue to use it at every appointment. My heart is full of joy that your church would do such a wonderful gesture.

Thank you again so much.

Trenna Edwards

*Thank You!*

**THANK YOU to the Renovations Committee for the new cooktop in the kitchen! It is beautiful and so easy to use. Another huge thanks to the Renovations Committee for the new paint in the north church stairwells. What a difference it makes!**

**Thank you, Annette Froid and Renovations Committee members.**

WITH  
*Gratitude* 

## CANDY SALES

Renovation Committee's annual candy sales are underway. All proceeds go toward projects around the church. *(And there's not a corner in the church that hasn't been touched by a Renovations project.)*

Next project: having the sanctuary ceiling fans cleaned in January.

All candy is portioned in 1/2 pound bags.

### Toffee

\$4 per 1/2 pound

### Peanut Clusters (milk chocolate or dark)

\$3.50 per 1/2 pound

### Peanut Brittle

\$3.50 per 1/2 pound

Candy is sold following each worship service in the overflow room.



Each week, a beautiful bouquet of flowers adorns the altar. Each bouquet is in memory of someone, in honor of someone, in honor of a special occasion, or just because.

The bouquets are \$15. Please help provide bouquets for 2016 by notifying the church office and arranging for payment.

Thank you!



I am in the planning stages for a Wednesday Evening Women's Bible Study in my home (in the very near future).

I welcome any suggestions for short series Bible studies (or if you have one that I could borrow).

Finally, I welcome any ladies who are interested to e-mail me directly at:

**Joleen Perry**  
[jln\\_elwell@yahoo.com](mailto:jln_elwell@yahoo.com)  
or call (402) 310-8383



## Men's Bible Study

Men's Bible Study has nearly completed a study of **The Story**. On January 13, they will begin review of Adam Hamilton's **The Journey**. That is a five-week video study that teaches about the travels of Mary and Joseph from Nazareth to Bethlehem. During that time, Bible Study members will select their next study. New participants are always welcome — both men and women during this time. The group will return to men-only study after completing the review of **The Journey**.

If you have questions, please contact the church office (308) 237-2550 or Lee McQueen.  
Thank you.





**THANK YOU** to Faith C.C.F. students who colored the Christmas pages that are posted around Faith. (Be sure to check inside the bathroom stall doors for additional art work.)

**THANK YOU** to Kathy Larson, who posts our reading material for us each month.

*Thank You!*

**BLESSINGS** and **THANK YOU** to those who have stepped up and volunteered to clean the church in Bob Eberhard's absence. (I'm not naming names; you know who you are.)

P.S. If you wish to know who the Church Cleaning Angels are, please contact the church office.

*THANK YOU*

Another Mona's Store at Faith UMC is done for the year. Thanks to SO many volunteers and people who donated items. It was a great time!

Round #1: 28 children (10 were unable to come but the staff picked out gifts for them to give their families) from the Bryant Elementary afterschool program got to "shop" for their family members. A total of 38 kids' families from Bryant Elementary will have an extra gift under their trees this year.

Transition Time: We had awesome "reorganizing help" in between groups, and thanks to Roene Fox, I had a burger for supper!

On to Round #2: we had 21 people from the RAFT (Residential Assistance to Families in Transition) House come and "shop". The kids picked out gifts for siblings and parent(s). The parent(s) picked out gifts for their children and the married couples got gifts for each other.

This was the first year of including the RAFT residence . . . and we will do it again. They were SO grateful and appreciative. One gentleman said he wasn't sure how he was going to be able to get his children a gift, and now he has gifts for his children and his wife.

We also had two boxes of gloves and hats that we gave away. Again, parents and kids were excited to have them.

Thank you again to all who helped with Round #1, with Transition Time, with Round #2, and with cleanup!

This year ROCKED, and I thank every one of you who helped. Another successful year!

~ Dayla Rhodus

### Some Christmas Reminders

- May the Christmas **GIFTS** remind us of God's greatest gift, His only Son.
- May the Christmas **CANDLES** remind us of Him who is the "Light of the world."
- May the Christmas **TREES** remind us of another tree upon which he died.
- May the Christmas **CHEER** remind us of Him who said, "Be of good cheer."
- May the Christmas **FEAST** remind us of Him who is "the Bread of Life."
- May the Christmas **BELLS** remind us of the glorious proclamation of His birth.
- May the Christmas **CAROLS** remind us of the song the angels sang, "Glory to God in the Highest!"
- May the Christmas **SEASON** remind us in every way of Jesus Christ our King!



*A Note From Dayla About Mona's Store:* I was asked why it is called Mona's Store. The first year we partnered with Bryant Elementary at Christmas, a lady from Faith named Mona Ripp was SO excited to help. Mona was a cook at Bryant for years and years. She loved those kids and was thrilled to assist. She said she would help me organize the next year and be there to help. Well, a few months later, Mona died of cancer. Although Mona didn't live long enough to help the next year, I know she is an angel and is smiling down at the program each Christmas season. The best way I could think of to honor her and the love she had for Bryant children was to name it **MONA'S STORE**.

## The Ten Commandments for Christmas

*The following item appeared in a church newsletter (author unknown) and contains some good advice that will help us keep selfishness in check this Christmas:*

- I. Thou shalt not leave "Christ" out of Christmas, making it "Xmas." To some, "X" is unknown.
- II. Thou shalt prepare thy soul for Christmas. Spend not so much on gifts that thy soul is forgotten.
- III. Thou shalt not let Santa Claus replace Christ, thus robbing the day of its spiritual reality.
- IV. Thou shalt not burden the shop girl, the mailman, and the merchant with complaints and demands.
- V. Thou shalt give thyself with thy gift. This will increase its value a hundred fold, and he who receiveth it shall treasure it forever.
- VI. Thou shalt not value gifts received by their cost. Even the least expensive may signify love, and that is more priceless than silver and gold.
- VII. Thou shalt not neglect the needy. Share thy blessings with many who will go hungry and cold unless thou are generous.
- VIII. Thou shalt not neglect thy church. Its services highlight the true meaning of the season.
- IX. Thou shalt be as a little child. Not until thou has become in spirit as a little one art thou ready to enter into the kingdom of Heaven.
- X. Thou shalt give thy heart to Christ. Let Him be at the top of thy Christmas list.



### **One Solitary Life.**

(Author Unknown)

He was born in an obscure village, the child of a peasant woman. He grew up in still another village, where he worked in a carpenter shop until he was thirty. Then for three years he was an itinerant preacher.

He never wrote a book.

He never held an office.

He never had a family or owned a house.

He didn't go to college.

He never traveled 200 miles from the place where he was born.

He did none of these things one usually associates with greatness.

He had no credentials but himself.

He was only 33 when public opinion turned against him. His friends ran away. He was turned over to his enemies and went through the mockery of a trial. He was nailed to a cross between two thieves.

When he was dying, his executioners gambled for his clothing, the only property he had on earth. When he was dead, he was laid in a borrowed grave through the pity of a friend.

Nineteen centuries have come and gone, and today he is the central figure of the human race, the leader of mankind's progress.

All the armies that ever marched, all the navies that ever sailed, all the parliaments that ever sat, all the kings that ever reigned, put together, have not affected the life of man on earth as much as that One Solitary Life.

# How to Help a Grieving Loved One During the Holidays Twelve Practical Tips for Saying, Doing the Right Things

*(From the National Hospice Foundation and the National Hospice and Palliative Care Organization)*

While many people look forward to yearly holiday traditions, gatherings with family and friends and the general good feelings associated with the season, some people dread the holidays. For those who have lost a loved one during the past year, the holidays may emphasize their grief.

The holidays, especially the first ones after losing a loved one, are especially difficult for people who are grieving. Often, friends and family members of those affected by a loss are unsure how to act or what to say to support their grieving loved one during the holidays.

Here are some suggestions:

- Be supportive of the way the person chooses to handle the holidays. Some may wish to follow traditions; others may choose to change their rituals. Remember, there is no right way or wrong way to handle the holidays.
- Offer to help the person with baking and/or cleaning. Both tasks can be overwhelming for one trying to deal with raw emotions.
- Offer to help him or her decorate for the holidays.
- Offer to help with holiday shopping or give your loved one catalogs or on-line shopping sites that may be helpful.
- Invite the person to attend a religious service with you and your family.
- Invite your loved one to your home for the holidays.
- Help your loved one prepare and mail holiday cards.
- Ask the person if he or she is interested in volunteering with you during the holiday season. Doing something for someone else, such as helping at soup kitchens or working with children, may help your loved one feel better about the holidays.
- Donate a gift or money in memory of the person's loved one. Remind the person that his or her special person is not forgotten.
- Never tell someone that he or she should be "over it." Instead, give the person hope that, eventually, he or she will enjoy the holidays again.
- If he or she wants to talk about the deceased loved one or feelings associated with the loss, LISTEN. Active listening from friends is an important step to helping him or her heal. Don't worry about being conversational.... just listen.
- Remind the person you are thinking of him or her and the loved one who died. Cards, phone calls and visits are great ways to stay in touch.

In general, the best way to help those who are grieving during the holidays is to let them know you care. They need to be remembered, and they need to know their loved ones are remembered, too. Local hospice grief counselors emphasize that friends and family members should never be afraid of saying or doing the wrong thing, because making an effort and showing concern will be appreciated.

Many people are not aware that their community hospice is a valuable resource that can help people who are struggling with grief and loss. Hospices provide bereavement support to the families they serve and often offer services to other members of the community as well.

More information about hospice and grief is available from <http://www.caringinfo.org/i4a/pages/index.cfm?pageid=3366>



# MORE JOY, LESS STRESS

(from [www.rethinkchurch.org](http://www.rethinkchurch.org))

What's not to love about the holiday season? People are a little more generous, your favorite coffee shop has its seasonal drink ready, and there are more than enough gatherings to fill a social calendar.

Festive TV specials are running, and stores have their holiday floor sets up to pique the interests of passersby. Our inboxes are filling up with holiday gift guides, reviews for the latest gadgets, and links to Amazon wish lists.

Joyous? Sure. But stressful, no doubt. Before the holiday rush takes your blood pressure up, check out a few ways to make this season a little less frenetic and a little more meaningful.

1. **Card writing for the family.** If sending cards is a big deal in your household, make it a family affair. Get everyone involved in the process, from addressing and stamping the envelopes to drawing pictures and writing the message.
2. **Be realistic.** There's something about this time of year that makes us think we have to do it all and be everywhere. Be realistic about what can and can't be accomplished. Give yourself permission to say "No, thank you. Not this time." Say yes to only the most important things, and then savor every moment.
3. **Be mindful.** Whether you call it quiet time, meditation, or prayer, try starting and ending your day with 15 minutes of focused time just for you. Do the same with your family, maybe over an Advent wreath. Togetherness – the best part of holidays.
4. **Sleep. Get enough.** Sleep too much and you feel lethargic. Sleep too little and you get cranky. Establish routines before bed that allow your body to wind down and turn your brain off. No eating, exercising or watching television right before bed.
5. **Practice presence.** That means be present. Literally. Having a meal with someone? Put the phone away. Taking a walk? Stop thinking about the next thing on your to-do list and appreciate the sights around you. Allow yourself to be fully immersed.
6. **Your clutter is another's treasure.** If you've been storing outgrown clothes and gently used housewares for a garage sale, consider taking them to Salvation Army, Goodwill or another non-profit organization. It's also a great opportunity to model generosity and resource sharing for any little ones in your household.
7. **Eat!** Sure, this is the time of year when folks are worried about gaining a few extra pounds and when exercise routines become more infrequent. But gathering over a cup of cocoa or a shared meal are ways to reconnect with friends and family, or get to know someone new—like the person selling the paper you pass by every day? Perhaps invite her to breakfast one morning. It may just be the blessing you've been waiting for.
8. **Watch *A Charlie Brown Christmas*.** Why does a TV show get its own number on this list? Because Linus has been setting us straight about the true meaning of Christmas for almost 50 years. Watch the Peanuts gang Rethink Christmas and all the gift giving, card sending, and tree decorating central to the Christmas celebration—it just might make you rethink how you're celebrating, too.
9. **Gifts—make 'em count.** You've made your lists. You've made sure there's something for everyone because, well, you don't want your uncle's second cousin to feel left out at the family gathering. Pause. Right. There. Why do you feel the need to give everyone you know a gift? Maybe there's another way to celebrate and honor that relationship? Put the fruitcake back.
10. **YOU time.** Don't forget to take it. Replenishing your inner well helps reduce stress and allows you to be a better friend, spouse, child, parent, sibling, grandparent, partner, neighbor...you get the idea.

***What are some practices that help you remember the reason for the season?***





**TAX PREP**  
(shared by Joleen Perry)

Community Action Partnership of Mid-NE is no longer providing tax assistance. If you make less than \$62,000 total family income you can do your federal and state taxes for free at: [www.myfreetaxes.com](http://www.myfreetaxes.com) This is a state United Way page that offers this tax service for free. Once you log in you are directed to H&R Blocks free service. But you must start at the above link for it to be free. (Some stipulations may apply if you itemize.)

Local Services Providers that are doing taxes are:

**Kearney Public Library**

Address: 2020 1<sup>st</sup> Ave, Kearney, NE 68847

Phone: 308-233-3282

Hours: First come, first serve. Starting February 4<sup>th</sup> every Thursday between 12 pm – 4 pm.

**Peterson Senior Center**

Address: 2020 West 11<sup>th</sup> Street, Kearney, NE 68845

Phone: 308-233-3290

Hours: First come, first serve. Starting February 1<sup>st</sup> every Monday between 12 pm – 4 pm.

**How Do I Request a Free Tax Transcript?**

What is a tax transcript? It has the same information as your tax return but in a different format. It is a generic computer print out that has all the main information from the tax return. In most cases lending agencies and helping agencies can use these in place of an actual tax return and they are FREE.

Go to [www.irs.gov](http://www.irs.gov)

- towards the middle of the page it will state “get a tax transcript.”
- You will need the primary tax return person’s social security number.
- Date of birth of the primary tax return person.
- Street address at the time of the tax return.
- Zip Code at the time of the tax return.
- The transcript will arrive to you within 5-10 days.

Or call 800-908-9946 to complete the above steps over the phone for the same outcome.





# DECEMBER 2015

SUN.	MON.	TUES.	WED.	THURS.	FRI.	SAT.
		1 9:30 Women's Bible Fellowship 4:30 W.W. 5:30 Trustees 6:00 Finance	2 12:15 W.W. 3:30 CCF 6:00 Praise Team 6:30 UMYF 7:00 Choir 7:00 Men's Bible Study	3 5:45 W.W.	4	5 8:30 W.W.
6 10:00 Childrens Christmas Program (One Service) <b>Second Sunday of Advent</b>	7	8 9:30 Women's Bible Fellowship 4:30 W.W.	9 12:15 W.W. 3:30 CCF 6:00 Praise Team 6:30 UMYF 7:00 Choir 7:00 Men's Bible Study	10 5:45 W.W.	11	12 8:30 W.W.
13 8:45 Worship 10:00 Sun. School 11:00 Worship <b>Third Sunday of Advent</b>	14 3:30 Mona's Store 5:30 Ch. Ed	15 9:30 Women's Bible Fellowship 4:30 W.W.	16 12:15 W.W. 3:30 CCF 6:00 Praise Team 6:30 UMYF 7:00 Choir 7:00 Men's Bible Study	17 5:45 W.W. 7:00 P.F.L.A.G.	18	19 8:30 W.W.
20 8:45 Worship 10:00 Sun. School 11:00 Worship <b>Fourth Sunday of Advent</b>	21 5:30 Nurture 6:30 Ad Board	22 9:30 Women's Bible Fellowship 4:30 W.W.	23 12:15 W.W. <b>NO YOUTH EVENTS</b> 6:00 Praise Team 7:00 Choir 7:00 Men's Bible Study	24 Christmas Eve 5:30 Candle Nativity Service 7:00 Festival of Lessons and Carols	25 Christmas Day Faith Office Closed	26 8:30 W.W.
27 8:45 Worship 10:00 Sun. School 11:00 Worship	28	29 9:30 Women's Bible Fellowship 4:30 W.W.	30 12:15 W.W. <b>NO YOUTH EVENTS</b> 6:00 Praise Team 7:00 Choir 7:00 Men's Bible Study	31 5:45 W.W.		