

Faith in Action

September

Ways to Increase Worship Attendance

Prepared by Robert Crossman

1. Strive to increase the number of times current member are in worship each year. Start with yourself.
2. Invite church members to make a written commitment to grow one step toward faithful attendance.
3. Know that it is important to respond to absentees before they drop out of active attendance. Once a regular attendee misses six consecutive weeks, it is hard to return to the habit of consistent Sunday worship.
4. Form a worship membership care team to review attendance within 24 hours of each service.
5. Send a handwritten note (signed by the membership care team, not the pastor) to anyone who has missed three Sundays in a row. Say, *"Looking through the attendance slips, we've missed your name! Hope to see you next Sunday."* In a smaller church, the working can be more personal.
6. As a personal friend (a choir mate, Sunday School class member, or someone who sits in the same pew) to telephone people who have missed four Sundays in a row. *"Hi John. We've noticed that Fred has missed church the last four Sundays. Can you telephone him this evening?"*
7. Maintain a loving, invitational relationship with those who have been absent for five or more Sundays. Never by judgmental.
8. Know that is often very difficult to return to worship after the death of a loved one. Form a Grief Support Team to send handwritten notes monthly until the family has returned to regular Sunday attendance.
9. Telephone every household in the church and everyone who has ever visited to invite them to some special event four times a year. Say, *"Hi, we are calling everyone related to First Church this week, reminding everyone that this Sunday the choir is singing the Messiah. I hop you will be there."*

Inside this edition:

Birthdays, TYs & Anniversaries	2
Nurse's Notes	3
Events & TYs	4
Schedules	5
Fall Sermons & FB Definitions	6
Prime & Consensus	7
State of Church	8
Calendar	9

*Receive your newsletter in **COLOR** via email!*

Send your email address to faithumc@kdsi.net.



I would like to thank everyone who sent cards, memorials and food. And for those who visited and called. Your thoughtfulness and prayers for us through Roland's battle with cancer and in his passing, was and is, greatly appreciated. God bless you all. **Eileen Anderson**



Thanks to everyone who helped with the fair concession stand this year. Thanks to the ladies who helped pull the beef, the Brisbins for making all the sloppy joes, to Bob and Selia for helping me find things & keeping an eye on the roasts as they cooked, to those who donated food or money, those who baked all the fabulous pies, Froids for making & delivering gravy every day, Marci

Jo Lambert for organizing the pie deliveries & Suzann Christensen for counting & depositing the money. To Jan Beatty who opened most mornings & provided the microwave. To Michelle & Michael for helping me haul things from the church & get the stand setup. To Penny Buettner for working every night. To the Garrelts who responded to my call for immediate help on Saturday afternoon. & most of all to my family, who helped tote and carry, clean & shop, who worked the stand & supported us through this project. & last but not least, to all the wonderful people who willingly gave up their time to work the concession stand in the horrible heat. The work of many helped to make this fundraiser a success & add to the finances of the church. **God Bless, Sue Divan, Finance Chair**

1 Rick & Jacque Triplet	10 Neil & Denise Miller	13 Lee & Rachel Woollen
2 Rick & Maggie Tighe	2 Bernard & Barb Petska	15 John & Annette Harris
3 Chet & Kim Graham	4 Eugene & Soffia Polhemus	19 Bob & Sherry Krell
4 Keith & Marie Danburg	6 John & Carol Reicheneker	25 David & Bobbie Runge
		15 Roger & Jan Pollat
		21 Merlin & Esther Burgland
		29 Andrew & Angie Olson

- 3- Delores Swift
Jacque Triplet
- 4- Aileen Osborn
Jacob Garrelts
Samuel Reed
- 5- Rhelynn Schriener
Rhidelle Schriener
- 6- Jerry Idt
- 7- Donna Carson
- 8- Robb Carter
- 11- Butch Krotz
- 12- Rex Wiles
Karen McBride
- 13- Marci Gilbertson
Carmen Brewer
Jenny Zwink



- 15- Barb Saum
Chet Graham
Evan Clausen
- 16- Sharon Buck
Dan Brown
- 17- Carl Royle
Julie Royle
Lance Bain
- 19- Wauneta Clark
Rod Bear
- 20- George Brown

- 20- Leon Welsh
Katelyn Korb
- 21- Kristi Vogt
- 22- Vicki Wisch
Heidi Tennant
- 24- Kelsee Graham
Ashley Brown
- 26- Burty Macwan
Andrew Reed
- 27- Lola Mae Johnson
Elma Lohrenz
Peter Rishel
Michael Henderson
Lindsay Divan
- 28- Bob Bradley
- 29- Lynda Henderson

Nurse's Notes



Learning the Alphabet

A - Accepts other people the way they are.

B - Behaves nicely, at all times, in all situations.

C - Cheers others on.

D - Defends others behind their backs.

E - Enriches the lives of others by your presence.

F - Forgives.

G - Grows people into greatness.

H - Helps when needed.

I - Includes, never excludes.

J - Joins, instead of sitting on the sidelines.

K - Kneels, humbly in prayer.

L - Listens, more often than speaking.

M - Motivates when speaking.

N - Notices the good in others.

O - Overlooks the imperfection in others.

P - Provides for the need.

Q - Quiets negativity.

R - Respects the rights of others.

S - Surprises others with small gifts of delight.

T - Tries to be a bigger person.

U - Understands, asking God for greater understanding.

V - Volunteers, giving away oneself in selfless service.

W - Warms the hearts of those near, in the next room, or distant cities.

X - eXpects only good.

Y - Yields, when someone else has a better idea.

Z - Zip in your life, as well as those around you!





U.M.Y.F. KICK-OFF!!!

Wed., Sept. 5 @ 6:30-8:30pm

YOUTH – what you've ALL been waiting for... U.M.Y.F. back on weekly schedule! Our kick-off evening will include DINNER (served promptly at 6:30pm) followed by a Gaga-ball Tourney with other community youth organizations.

September UMYF: 5th, 12th, 19th & 26th ~ 6:30-8:30 p.m.

C.C.F. KICK- OFF!!!



Wed., Sept. 12 @ 3:30–5:30pm

CHILDREN – looking for a way to explore our world thru God's eyes during the week?! Any child Kindergarten thru 5th grade is welcome to join us for weekly adventures that include snack, games, lesson, activity, craft, music, fellowship, and much more! Show-up, pick-up a registration packet, or watch for notes in your backpack for details.

Homecoming Sunday! Sunday, Sept. 9

Join us as we swing back into full-gear as a church family! Children and Youth Ministries will complete the grade-promotions for Sunday School along with starting ALL NEW, interactive curriculum for ALL AGES.



To all at Faith UMC that helped Charlene Francis move: I want to thank all of you. I was humbled and shown the Christ-like behavior that is often shown at Faith. Again, thanks to you for your help. I am truly blessed to be a part of this congregation. **Sincerely, Charlene Francis**

I would like to thank you for the beautiful prayer blanket that was given to my step daughter, Terry Larsen, in June. Terry was very pleased with it, and the blanket meant a great deal to her. Terry was very ill the last few weeks of her life and was not able to write a thank you. Terry went to be with our Lord on July 24, 2012. **Yours in Christian Love, Mary Garrison.**



Chancel Choir Practice
Wednesdays
7:00 p.m.

CCF Helpers

Welcome
Back
Team!



CCF
Wednesdays
3:30 p.m.

Community Meal

September 30,
2012



USHERS

THIS MONTH

8:45 AM

- 2 - Rick & Jacque Triplett
- 9 - Steve & Suzann Christensen and
- 16 - The Brown Family
- 23 - Kathy Larson
- 30 - Please Volunteer!

11:00 AM

- 2 - Mindy Lester & Denise Streeter
- 9 - Brewer Family
- 16 - Chandler Family
- 23 - Please Volunteer!
- 30 - Please Volunteer!

The Worship Committee asks those who are reading scripture to please begin with an introduction to the scripture reading, which will be up on the lectern on Sunday morning before service. Please read the introduction, followed by the scripture for the day which you can read from your choice of Bible or from the sheet printed out for you. The introduction to the scripture is a way to give us some background info and to prepare us to hear God's Word. Thank you.



September Bus Driver Schedule

- 2 - Tony Miller & Ryan Findley
- 9 - Mike Fox & Jake Greder
- 16 - Pat Garrelts & Dan Odens
- 23 - Tony Miller & Ryan Findley
- 30 - Jim Brewer & Pat Slack

Fall Sermon Series



Literally?

Church Definitions of Football Actions

Quarterback Sneak - Church members quietly leaving during the invitation.

Draw Play - What many children do with the bulletin during worship.

Halftime - The period between Sunday School and worship when many choose to leave.

Benchwarmer - Those who do not sing, pray, work or apparently do anything but sit.

Backfield-in-Motion - Making a trip to the back (restroom or water fountain) during the service.

Staying in the Pocket - What happens to a lot of money that should be given to the Lord's work.

Two-Minute Warning - The point at which you realize the sermon is almost over and begin to gather up your children and belongings.

Instant Replay - The preacher loses his notes and falls back on last week's illustrations.

Sudden Death - What happens to the attention span of the congregation if the preacher goes "overtime".

Trap - You're called on to pray and are asleep.

End Run - Getting out of church quick, without speaking to any guest or fellow member.

Flex Defense - The ability to allow absolutely nothing said during the sermon to affect your life.

Halfback Option - The decision of 50% of the congregation not to return for the evening service.

Blitz - The rush for the restaurants following the closing prayer....

Prime Festival Around the Corner

The Kearney Hub has asked Renovations once again to host the concession stand for the Prime Festival on Thursday, October 11th at the Fairgrounds. Because the Fairgrounds will be remodeling the exhibition building where we have Prime, the Fairgrounds told the Hub they couldn't guarantee that we will be able to continue serving the Prime Festival after this year. The Fairgrounds may choose to contract the food for events out to restaurants in the Kearney area like they have done at the new building. SO - this may be our last year to reap the good profit from this fundraiser that we have served since 2001!!!! A poster will be up in the Overflow Room soon with items needed for the soup and sandwiches. We will also want our great variety of homemade pies (crème or fruit) for the event and seed money for bread and paper products. Last year we sold all the soup and pies at the Fairgrounds that day and had a profit of \$3002, so with your help we can do it again in October. Renovations really appreciates your support and if this is our last time to serve Prime we hope to make it another great fundraiser like it has been in the past!!

Items needed:

5 - 32 oz frozen peas	5 - 32 oz frozen corn	5 - 32 oz frozen green beans
5 bunches celery	40 #s potatoes	10 #s carrots
4 heads cabbage	3 large jars pickle relish	7 dozen eggs
Tomatoes	1 gallon Miracle Whip	1 - 24 pkg diet coke
1 - 24 pkg coke	3 - 24 pkg bottled water	2 boxes saltines
Homemade pies	Seed \$ for bread	Seed \$ for paper products

From the Ad Council

Friends in Christ, the consensus building meeting to discuss God's plan occurred on Sunday, August 26. It was a wonderful, uplifting gathering of thirty-eight people affiliated with Faith United Methodist Church. The meeting began a little after 1 p.m. and concluded at 3:15 p.m. **The consensus process clearly identified that handicap accessibility of our church facility is the highest priority.**

Other priorities identified through consensus (**please note** these **are not** in any priority order):

- Place the funds in endowment or investments, utilizing interest generated on identified priorities.
 - Update educational and recreational tools for classrooms and the youth program.
 - Youth minister expanded hours and/or additional staffing.
- Replace or repair the sound and video systems used for worship and activities in the Sanctuary.
- Retire the deficit of FUMC's general budget: expenses have exceeded income for the past few years, leading to a negative balance in the general fund of between \$5,000 and \$10,000.
 - Expansion of our church facility south of the existing building.

These are not in any priority order. It is only a listing of the additional priorities identified.

The Administrative Council is very appreciative of those in the congregation who submitted e-mails or letters with ideas for the consensus process. We received 9 submissions from people who were unable to attend the Sunday session. **Thank you to everyone who shared their Sunday afternoon with us at the meeting!** The Administrative Council will begin taking action on the priority initiative at our September meeting and discuss the scholarship component of the Miller's estate so scholarships can begin being awarded. These meetings are open to everyone. Please come to participate in these conversations. Ad Council meetings are usually the second Tuesday of the month at 6:30 p.m. Our September meeting will be Tuesday, Sept. 11, at 6:30!

Karen McBride - Chair, FUMC Administrative Council

State of the church (Financially)

With the end of the third quarter of 2012 just around the corner, I thought I would share our financial position with the congregation. These figures are from the July financial report and do not include the fair concession income of almost \$5000 or the \$1700 from the Art in the Park concession stand.

On behalf of the Finance Committee we want to thank you for your commitment of giving to Faith United Methodist Church.

- We have paid a little less than half of our Mission Share (formerly called Apportionments) obligated expenses for the year to date.
- Our General Fund planned budget for 2012 is \$236,575 for the year, or an average of \$4549.52 per week or \$19,715 per month
- Our General Fund Income for the 1st 7 months of 2012 was \$119,182 or an average of \$17,026 per month, or an average of \$4257 weekly which is \$18,883 less than what is needed to meet our budget for this period. This means we have had to continue to hold off on some purchases that were budgeted for.
- Our General Fund Expense for the 1st 7 months of 2012 was \$124,411. All committees have been diligent about not spending money unless it's absolutely necessary.

We started 2012 with a negative balance in our General Fund. Because our expenses have been larger than our income this negative balance has become larger. Also, congregational giving is down. We have been able to pay all our obligated expenses because of monies from other funds, such as Memorial Fund and Trustee Fund, in the church's checking account. BUT there will come a time when those other funds will need to be used for their intended purchase and our General Fund will feel the pinch.

Good news!

Receipts are up from last year mostly due to Weight Watchers adding another weekly meeting and they have been using our facilities for the entire year rather than a partial year as in 2011. In addition, the church received the first interest check of \$3347 from the Capital Fund for Trustee use.

This has been another challenging year. We have been operating on a deficit balance for many years. Your stewardship commitments made in 2011 for 2012 are very important to our success in meeting budget needs for 2012. We thank you for your commitment, and ask you to prayerfully consider increasing that commitment for the remainder of the calendar year, if at all possible.

Thank you, Sue Divan, Finance Chair



We will be starting a new bible study group called: Reel to Real. We will be watching popular movies and learning how their story and ours relate to Scripture. This group is open to any high school seniors and college students (IE:18 yrs.-24 yrs.) This group will be led by Rachel Brown, so bring your favorite movie snack and come join us on Wednesday nights at 7 pm in the Youth Room.