

# Faith *news*

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER | FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH |  
JULY 2025 – WOOD RIVER, NE

## You're Invited!

If you have a birthday or anniversary in the month of July, come receive a special blessing from Pastor Rachel and the congregation on July 13 at 9:00! We want to celebrate you!



## Church Events

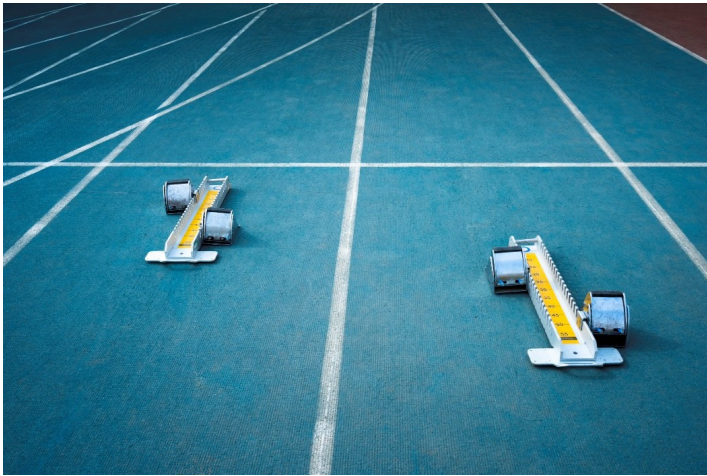
- **July 3 Rachel Circle 1:30**
- **July 4 Independence Day**
- **July 7 Ruth Circle 1:30**
- **July 17 Sewing Circle 9:30**
- **July 24 UWF 1:30**
- **July 28-31 VBS 5:30-8:00**

## WORSHIP TIME CHANGE

Starting July 6, Wood River's worship time will be at 9:00 at the Alda UMC and Shelton, our new sister church, will worship at 10:30.



# Pastor' Pen



July is here! I cannot believe it has already been a year since I was appointed to serve Wood River First and Alda UMCs. You welcomed me with great joy and an open heart, and integrated me into this community when I was just starting my very first appointment.

This first year of ministry to you has been marked by many mo-

ments. Some have been sad, as we've had to bury and celebrate the lives of members who were once part of these congregations. It began with the very first funeral I celebrated in December, and a few more in the months that followed.

These were not the only moments we experienced, for they were also times with fond memories. I presided over my very first baptisms: Maisie (Wood River First) and Addison (Alda) on the same day. What a joy it was to see families come to celebrate these great events in the lives of new babies. My heart was full to see that even in the midst of it all, even without a building in Wood River, God was still able to make a way for us. God was always there, and all we had to do was trust Him.

We had a great youth group, and very dedicated leaders. Some of our Youth have graduated and are moving on to the next stage. I got to know a few of the members and visited them on my visits to retirement homes and hospitals. I did the work according to what the Spirit led me to do. I hope I will continue to show Christ's love to all and that God will continue to use me as a vessel.

May the Almighty continue to bless you all!

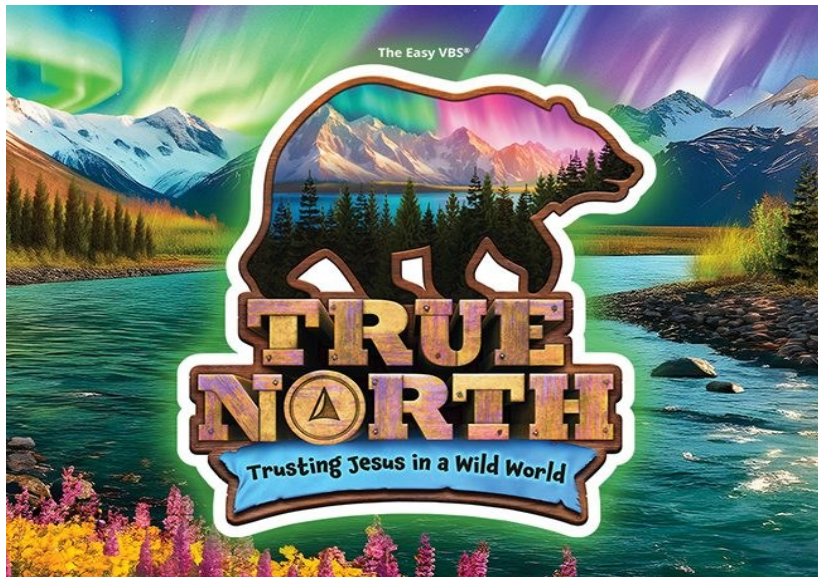
Happy 4th of July  
Pastor Rachel

# Vacation Bible School

**July 28-31, 2025**

All kids PreK-5th grade (2024-25 school year) are welcome!!

We will meet at the WR Community Center for supper starting at 5:30 and 6:00-8:00 we will have fun by doing crafts, singing, and learning Bible stories!



**Bring a white T-shirt  
on the first night!!**

Questions, contact:

Mel Frear at 308-379-3182

Pastor Rachel 931-371-1035

Church office 308-583-2716

Register at:

[woodriverumc.org](http://woodriverumc.org)







United  
Women  
in Faith

United Women in Faith hosted a Mission Study on Saturday, June 21, based on the Mission U Study from 2024, titled 'Welcome Home'. Renae Graham was the study leader. Twelve people were in attendance. The study explored how we can know God as an intimate friend who welcomes us. The day was filled with many activities: Crafts, Music, Prayer Walk, and Bible Study. A jigsaw puzzle was completed by the group, with each answer being a name for God.

In addition to being our Good Friend, the puzzle helped to remind the women that God has so many names. The scripture study was based on Luke 15:11-32 with an in-depth study and discussion of parenting styles. The ladies took turns anointing one another with oil. Pastor Rachel Nkonge served Communion. To close the day, each one present was given a friendship bracelet to represent her relationship with her Best Friend, God. If you see one of the ladies wearing her bracelet, you will know the story behind that bracelet. Thank you to the Wood River Senior Center for the use of their facility for the study. It was greatly appreciated. A big shout out goes to Mary Bilsland and Barb Meguire who prepared the feast for the lunch which was served. It was better than going to a buffet! Thank you to all of the people who attended. Your participation was awesome! I want to issue a special Thank You to the UWF for allowing me the opportunity to present this study.

The 2025 Mission U will be held at Trinity UMC in Grand Island on July 18-19. We have several people in our Unit who are planning to attend. The Study is titled, 'Practicing Hope'. If you are interested in attending, please contact us for further information and a registration form. We have a short turn-around time for registering.

**Renae Graham, President**

# July 2025



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 Julie Schellpeper	2 Bible Study 9:30 Bob & Jane Allan	3 Rachel Circle 1:30 Doug & Phyllis Barker	4 Independence Day 	5 Krystal Babel
6 WR Worship 9:00 Shelton 10:30  Kyle Schultz	7 Ruth Circle 1:30	8	9 Bible Study 9:30	10	11	12
13 WR Worship 9:00 Shelton 10:30	14  Kortni Schaub Barry McCoun	15	16 Bible Study 9:30	17	18	19
20 WR Worship 9:00 Shelton 10:30	21	22 Justin & Brenda Paulk Megan Derner Paul Barker	23 Bible Study 9:30  Bethanny McCurdy	24 UWF 1:30  Nora Hypes Linda Thompson	25	26
27 WR Worship 9:00 Shelton 10:30	28 VBS 5:30-8:00 Bruce & Cindy Howe Paul & Rhonda Barker Jenna Rauert	29 Jennifer Reeder	30 Bible Study 9:30 Bob Almquist	31 Rhonda Sidders		



**Have a safe and happy 4th of July!**

**Pastor Rachel's new office hours**

**(July 1):**

**Monday: Sabbath**

**Tues: Shelton**

**Wed: Wood River**

**Thurs: Shelton**

**Fri: Wood River**

**Giving Report**

**June: \$7513**

**May: \$5349**

**April \$7621**

**Average weekly attendance: 34**



Scan code for a safe & secure online giving option. You will need to create an account and be approved if it's your first time using.

# 4th of July Word Search

F O U R T H A U N I T E D S O  
R R E F I R E W O R K S Y B D  
E I E P A R A D E R W H I R A  
E B E V A S F L A T G A T I T  
N B L E O L U L I B E R E T H  
A S D E C L A R A T I O N A I  
T A U C D J U L Y G J U E I R  
I M E M R E O T O A N M A N T  
O I F A M A M R I G H T S T E  
N C R C A E R A D O S O T H E  
W J E R I G R E D A N S A I N  
H U E A L I B E R T Y R T L I  
I N D E P E N D E N C E E R B  
T D O M E T A C P A T R S T Y  
E A M E R I C A N B L U E W I



AMERICA  
BLUE  
BRITAIN  
DECLARATION  
FIREWORKS  
FLAG  
FOURTH

FREEDOM  
INDEPENDENCE  
JULY  
LIBERTY  
NATION  
PARADE  
RED

REVOLUTION  
RIGHTS  
STATES  
SUMMER  
THIRTEEN  
UNITED  
WHITE

