



MONTHLY NEWSLETTER | WOOD RIVER FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH | MAY 2025

You are invited!

If you have a birthday or anniversary in the month of May, come receive a special blessing from Pastor Rachel and the congregation on May 11 at 10:00. We want to celebrate you!



Church Events

- May 1 Rachel Circle 1:30
- May 5 Ruth Circle 1:30
- May 8-11 Pastor Rachel out of the office
- May 11 Mother's Day
- May 15 Sewing 9:30
- May 22 UWF 1:30
- May 26 Memorial Day-office closed



Happy new month!

As we enter this new month of May, we are reminded of the many blessings and beautiful aspects that this season of Spring brings. A few weeks ago, we celebrated Easter, remembering that this is a time of renewal. A renewal brought to us by Christ risen from the dead, who gives us new life.

What I found most interesting was that there were people who played a part in bringing about this new life. The book of John 20 tells of Mary of Magdala, who approached Jesus' tomb

at dawn before realizing it was empty. Her courage and determination prompted her to come out at that dark hour, when no one else could or would. This proactivity also made her **the first messenger of the Gospel**. Like Mary, we have people around us who always take the initiative to care for and support us in ways we cannot even imagine. Women through whom God is at work in our lives.

We have many of them around us: Our grandmothers, with whom we spend many hours and through whom we become believers. We follow in their footsteps, inheriting their courage, as do our teachers, our neighbors... In the same way, I think of all the mothers in the world. Those who became mothers by adoption, biologically. There are stepmothers, and all those who have played a mother role figure through their care and advice. The month of May is dedicated to you. The new life you were sent to bring to the world is something we experience in so many people, and for that we are grateful. You were the first to break the news, and we are glad that you continue to fulfill this mission to this day.

May God bless all the mothers of the world!

*"You are a fearful and wondrous creature;
your works are marvelous. Psalm 139:14*

Happy Mother's Day and Month!

United Women in Faith

Renae Graham, President

April was a busy month for UWF. Mary Bilsend, Susie Powell, and Renae Graham attended the Central Nebraska United Women in Faith Spring Retreat held on Saturday, April 26 in Albion. The Theme was 'Carrying Our Faith Forward – TOGETHER.' Mary won a drawing for a Scholarship, including a textbook, for this year's Mission U to be held in July.

The Ladies' Annual Salad Supper was held April 30 at Babel's Barn. Following the meal, the youth participated in the Style Review, always a highlight of the evening. Everyone enjoys seeing the lovely Winter Ball and Prom dresses. The evening's program was presented by 'Master Gardener' Nick Lammers. His wife Pat joined him in a duet of 'In the Garden', which was the 2025 Salad Supper theme.

Upcoming UWF events: (more details will follow)

- Mission Study presented by Renae at the Wood River Senior Center on June 21. Study will be 'Welcome Home'.
- Nebraska Mission U on July 18 and 19 at Trinity UMC in Grand Island. Study will be 'Practicing Hope'.

Thank you to everyone who was in **any way** a part of making this year's Salad Supper event a success. It takes so many to make this happen. Please accept our gratitude for giving of your time, your skills, and most of all your heart! God's Blessings to each of you!

Church Update!

We are one step closer to having the church repairs begin! Praise the Lord! The inspectors, adjustors, engineers, contractors and trustees all have assessed and determined the repairs that are needed. Another blessing is that the damage was not as extensive as originally thought. Once the necessary repairs were agreed upon, the building inspector was to issue the permit (which should have been received by the time this newsletter comes out). Next, we get on the contractor's schedule so repairs are planned to begin in May. Barring any supply chain or unforeseen delays, we hope to have the repairs completed by around mid-July.

Thank you again for your continued prayers and support while we navigate the challenges, obstacles blessing, and successes of dealing with the aftermath of the explosion. Pray for the workers who will be making the repairs. Once the actual repairs have begun, we will continue to provide updates.

If you have questions or concerns, please let us know.

Susie Powell- Ad Council Chair

Brian Hayes- Trustee Chair

Curtis Rohrich- SPRC Chair

May 2025



Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

				1 Rachel Circle 1:30 Mark Miller	2	3
4 Worship 10:00 Gary Camp	5 Ruth Circle 1:30	6 Brandon Thompson	7 Bible Study 9:30 Haley Redding	8 Brad & Sherry Desel	9 Dianne Thompson Marc Howe	10 Betty Gall
11 <i>Mother's Day</i> Worship 10:00	12	13	14 Bible Study 9:30	15 Sewing 9:30 Macy Heise Garret Reeder	16 Caleb Paulk Brett & Deb Baxter	17 Kennedy Tiarks
18 Worship 10:00 Dawn Brandt	19 Lacey Smith Bryce Sidders	20 Annika Reitz	21 Bible Study 9:30 Cherie Smith	22 UWF 1:30 Ron & Esther Rickert	23 Shae Hinrichs	24 Joshua Bilslend
25 Worship 10:00 AJ Soto Bailey Baxter	26 Memorial Day Office closed Ivan & Mary Bilslend	27	28 Bible Study 9:30 Tim Camp Julie Hayes Knox Arnett	29 Brady Summers	30 Greg Burnett Keith Desel	31

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- The Great Plains Annual Conference is coming up June 5-7 in Salina, KS. Registration is now open. Register before May 23 to avoid any late fees. The theme this year is "Loving God".



A big thank you goes out to all those who made Senior Sunday a success!



"There is no role in life that is more essential than that of motherhood."

- Town & Country Magazine

Giving Report

April: \$7,261
March: \$6,786
February: \$5,562

Average weekly attendance: 41



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