

# Faith *news*

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
MARCH 2026

## You're Invited!

If you have a birthday or anniversary in the month of March, come receive a special blessing from Pastor Rachel and the congregation on March 8 at 9:00!

We want to celebrate you!



## Church Events

Mar 2 Ruth Circle 1:30

Mar 4 Youth Group 6:30

Mar 5 Rachel Circle 1:30

Mar 6 World Day of Prayer 9:30  
(hosted by us)

Mar 8 Daylight Savings; Young  
Disciples 5:00

Mar 15 WRMA Soup Supper 5-7  
(hosted by us)

Mar 18 Youth Group 6:30

Mar 19 Sewing 9:30

Mar 22 Young Disciples 5:00

Mar 26 UWF 1:30



## Pastor's Pen

One thing that fascinated me after moving to Nebraska was the birds' migration. Before moving here, I spent time on the net trying to learn more about the new place I was going to live in, and among the many photos and articles, I found, the birds caught my attention. I was looking forward to this season. In February last year, I could not help but tell my family about the birds I saw landing in the fields while I was driving. The sight was beautiful to me.

I also realized that people came from different states just to watch the cranes during this season. I met several visitors during a guided tour at the Crane Trust: People from Washington, Virginia, and nearby cities in Nebraska. It is intriguing to see that outsiders often appreciate what residents take for granted. Birds are simply part of what many consider "usual" in this region.

As time passes, the local person I once "judged" for not fully appreciating what they have, has in a way become me. After almost two years here, the excitement about the birds is still there, but it's not quite the same. I still sometimes slow down while driving just to watch them land. I still watch them in the sky, but it's slightly different. This also happens when we become too accustomed to what God offers us. We begin to take for granted the love and grace that those who do not share our faith sometimes appreciate more readily than we do. Every year, we celebrate Easter and observe Lent. How attentive are we to the different ways God reveals Himself to us during this time?

Lent lasts 40 days, and to help us prepare for it more intentionally, we have divided these 40 days into weeks, each with a specific challenge that you are invited to take up. So far, we have covered the first Sunday in Lent, but here is the full layout:

First Sunday in Lent, February 22: Giving Something Up (Matthew 4:1-11)

Second Sunday, March 1: Taking Something Up (Genesis 12:1-4)

Third Sunday, March 8: Faithful Expression (Psalm 51)

Fourth Sunday, March 15: Closeness—Forming a relationship (John 9:1-41)

Fifth Sunday, March 22: Commitment — The path to the cross (John 11:1-45)

Following Christ can sometimes seem burdensome, and Lent can seem demanding. However, I hope that each week's challenge will bring you closer to God as we prepare to commemorate his death and celebrate his resurrection at Easter.

Grace and peace be unto you,  
Pastor Rachel



United  
Women  
in Faith

The UWF Unit met on February 26. The ladies are presently working on some upcoming projects.

World Day of Prayer will be hosted at the Wood River First United Methodist Church on March 6 at 9:30 a.m. with other Community Churches taking part.

On March 15, the Wood River Ministerial Association's Annual Soup Supper will be hosted by the United Methodist Church. The Pastors of the Wood River Churches will serve the food and the congregations will join together to provide soups, salads, and desserts. It will be a 'Free Will' offering event from 5:00-7:00 p.m.

At the Unit Meeting on March 26, the 'Call to Prayer and Self-Denial' program will be presented.

The Ladies' Annual Salad Supper has been scheduled for April 22 and will be held at Babel's Barn in Wood River. We issue an invitation to Ladies to consider hosting a table. This year's theme is 'God's Gifts'. More information will be coming as our plans progress.

Our Annual Mission Study will be presented on Saturday, June 20. It will be held at the Wood River Church from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Lunch will be provided. The title of the study is 'Practicing Hope'.



It's that time of  
year already!  
Spring is almost  
here :)

**Wood River Ministerial Association**

# **Soup Supper!**

**Sunday, March 15 ~ ~ 5-7pm**



**\*\*Free will offering\*\***

**All proceeds benefit local families in  
need & the food pantry.**

Hosted by:

First United Methodist Church

1105 Main St ~ Wood River, NE

# March 2026



**Sun**

**Mon**

**Tue**

**Wed**

**Thu**

**Fri**

**Sat**

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
WR Worship 9:00 Shelton 10:30  Ashley Gewecke	Ruth Circle 1:30  Renae Graham	Hannah Turek Kiernan Paulk Carson Schultz	Bible Study 9:30 Youth Group 6:30  Spencer Rohrich	Rachel Circle 1:30  Steve Powell	World Day of Prayer 9:30 (Hosted by us)	
8 WR Worship 9:00 Shelton 10:30 Young Disciples 5:00  DAYLIGHT SAVINGS Sophia White Bull	9	10	11 Bible Study 9:30  Donna Bilsend	12	13  Sara Arnett Bruce Howe	14  Ron Saner Chanda Miles
15 WR Worship 9:00 Shelton 10:30  WRMA Soup Supper 5-7 (hosted by us!)	16  Bailey Landanger	17	18 Bible Study 9:30 Youth Group 6:30  Jackie Riley	19 Sewing 9:30  Mike Smith Kenna Thompson Taylor Glenn	20  Cody Brandt Matt & Lisa Devore Dave & Julie Ogden	21  Brad Earnest Deb Rohrich
22 WR Worship 9:00 Shelton 10:30 Young Disciples 5:00	23  Jerry Shears	24  Cassie Lechtenberg	25 Bible Study 9:30  Charles & Judy Mead Larry Powers	26 UWF 1:30  Craig Anderson Lisa DeVore	27	28  Sean Smith Shane Smith
29 WR Worship 9:00 Shelton 10:30  Palm Sunday	30  Matthew Duval	31  Kaye & Cathy Doane Addison Oster Courtney Smith				

# Announcements

>>Save the Date! The Youth Group's 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Pancake Feed will be held April 19, 11-1 here at the church! Freewill offering. Funds go towards the group's activities and field trips.

From The Young Disciples Club: We could really use an extra hand at our meetings with the young disciples! Most of the tasks are simple: walking the younger ones to the restroom, or helping everyone move smoothly from meals to classes. We take things at a relaxed pace, so it's not too overwhelming. If you can help out or bring a meal, please put your name on the sign-up sheet below. We'd love to have you with us! (look for the link in your emails)

<https://doodle.com/sign-up-sheet/participate/e62b4c04-4862-4892-8b2a-ba23f40fccf8/select>

## Holy Week:

March 29 Palm Sunday

April 2 Maundy Thursday Worship 7:00 at WR

April 3 Good Friday Worship 7:00 at Shelton

April 5 Easter Sunday—Sunrise service TBD, WR worship 9:00; Shelton 10:30

# Giving Report

Feb: \$6,567

Jan: \$12,135

Dec: \$13,177

Average weekly attendance: 44

February monthly expenses: \$11,482.05



For online giving, scan code with smartphone. You will need to create an account and be approved if it's your first time using.