



# **GROW**

## **Catalog 2025-26**

**Updated 08/2025**

**FaithWestwood**

**United Methodist Church**

**Omaha, NE**

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**Mission:** Make disciples of Jesus Christ

**Vision:** To be Deep, Daring & Daily Disciples

**Core Values:** Generational, Relational,  
Missional, Practical, Invitational

Welcome to the **GROW catalog** for FaithWestwood UMC. This catalog provides information about so many of the **ministry & mission opportunities** at the church so that you can **GROW** and become **Deep, Daring & Daily** disciples!

Okay, so I have found the catalog...what's next?! Look at the **"Suggested Index"** (on the back of the front cover) and follow the page numbers or **go through catalog** to see the various categories representing our ministry & mission opportunities.

Please note: this **GROW catalog** does not represent an exhaustive list as the church continually develops new opportunities that serve our congregation and the community around us. Have some new ideas? Share them with the **\*new\* Reimagine Team**.

To request more information about any of these ministries and/or mission projects, please email [info@faithwestwood.com](mailto:info@faithwestwood.com)

## **Staff:**

**Rev. Cindi Stewart**, Lead Pastor  
**Brenda Bowers**, Executive Assistant to Pastor  
**Leah Dinoso**, Director of Family Ministry  
**Vikki O'Hara**, Director of Caring Ministries  
**Shane Goughnour**, Director of Music & Worship  
**Dan Boten**, Director of Business Administration  
**Rich Anderson**, Director of Financial & Information Management  
**Jenny Beukenhorst**, Director of Communications  
**Dustin Smith**, Student Ministry Assistant  
**Delores & Gama Silva**, Building Support

## Color Key:

- **Caring Ministries / Health & Wellness**
- **Committees / Teams**
- **FaithGroups**
- **Children & Family Ministry**
- **Student Ministry**
- **Missions**
- **Small Groups**
- **Sunday Mornings: Hospitality, Worship, Music Groups**
- **United Women in Faith (UWF)**

## Definitions:

**Caring Ministries** / FaithWestwood offers many groups under the **Caring Ministries** and **Health & Wellness** umbrella as well as serving opportunities.

**FaithGroups** / “Creating small caring communities that love and serve Jesus together” is what FaithGroups is all about! Most groups meet weekly following the sermon series for a time of fellowship, Bible study, and prayer. FaithGroups serve together within the church and outside the walls of the church. *To be listed as a FaithGroup, it must have 2/3 member/partners from FaithWestwood – and must be led by member/partner.*

**Family Ministry** and **Youth Ministry** / Ministries focus on children, youth, & their families. Also look for ways to serve in **Family Ministry**.

**Missions** / There are many **Mission** projects and community partnerships that the church supports offering numerous ways in which individuals, families, and/or groups can serve!

**Small Groups** / FaithWestwood’s **Small Groups** allow for fellowship as people gather with common interests like arts & crafts, creation care, gardening and much more!

**Sunday Mornings: Hospitality, Worship, Music Groups** / As we provide **hospitality** and **worship** on Sunday mornings, there are many opportunities to serve to “nurture a community of hospitality where all are welcomed, encouraged, and connected.”

**United Women in Faith (UWF)** / This is “a sisterhood acting in faith to tackle the hard work of the world without hesitation.” Women gather monthly for food & fellowship and programs featuring speakers on community & mission projects.

**All groups & ministries listed currently WELCOME new participants & volunteers.**

**Sunday**     *Doughnuts & Coffee nearly every Sunday before & between worship!*

**8 am to Noon – Sunday Mornings**     **foyer, fellowship hall, worship center**  
From **hospitality** to **music** and **worship**, check out **serving opportunities** for more info.

**9 am—FaithGroup: Havens**     **conference room**  
Calling men and women of all ages to explore the Bible with a variety of studies and facilitators. Contact is Brian Havens.

**9 am – Sunday School (ages 3 to 5<sup>th</sup> Grade; nursery available)**     **upper level**  
Children register with KidCheck in the foyer and/or through the app prior to the worship service. Children sit with their parents/families and then attend **Sunday School** after children's time. *Children may be picked up in their rooms immediately following worship.*

**10:15 am—FaithGroup: Boten**     **Micah Center, room 105**  
Dan Boten leads a group of 60+ mature Christians (both couples and singles). They follow the sermon series and tackle service-related projects every year. Contact is Dan Boten.

**10:30 am—FaithGroup: Vyhlidal**     **conference room**  
Sandi Vyhlidal leads a group of men and women, couples, and individuals. They do DVD bible study lessons. Contact is Sandi Vyhlidal.

**10:45 am – Sunday School (ages 3 to 5<sup>th</sup> Grade; nursery available)**     **upper level**  
Children register with KidCheck in the foyer and/or through the app prior to the worship service. Children sit with their parents/families and then attend **Sunday School** after children's time. *Children may be picked up in their rooms immediately following worship.*

**(TBA) 12:15 pm – FaithLink**     **fellowship hall**  
Interested in joining us? **FaithLink** provides “Pizza with the Pastor” *quarterly* for those who are new or newer to the church to learn more about how to become a member/partner in mission & ministry with the church. For more info, contact Rev. Cindi.

**12:15 pm – Financial Peace University, 9/21 to 11/30**     **conference room**



**Financial Peace University** is led by trained church leader to assist church family members & friends with budgeting and getting debt-free. There is a fee for course materials. Led by Katie Snyder.

## Sunday (continued)

### **7:30 pm—FaithGroup: Knudson**

**via Zoom**

This intergenerational FaithGroup, a diverse group of singles and couples, enjoys exploring the Christian faith through reading a wide variety of books written by authors with differing perspectives. Contact is Larissa Knudson.

## Monday

### **(second & fourth+) 9 am – 12 pm – FaithGroup: 5Ms (men)**

**fellowship hall+**



5Ms is a \*new\* men's FaithGroup meeting on **2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Mondays** for fellowship, devotional & prayer (30 minutes) followed by tackling projects around our church building and property. Contact is Mark Tiedt.

### **11:15 to 12 pm – Tai Chi for Balance**

**use WEST entrance**

On Monday (and Thursday) mornings, Tai Chi - a slow, gentle, non-strenuous exercise routine - is offered to those who would like to improve balance and decrease the risk of falls. Suggested donation: \$3 per visit.

### **12 pm – 4 pm—Marj's Monday Group**

**off-site, Brant Senior Living**

On Monday afternoons, a group of women meet at Brant Senior Living (designated social room) for food, fellowship & support. Contact is Sandi Vyhldal.

### **6:30 – 8 pm—FaithGroup: Murphy (women)**

**west entrance, room 230**

Deb Murphy leads a group of women and welcomes anyone interested in joining them. Sometimes they follow the sermon series and sometimes they choose a different study. Contact is Deb Murphy.

### **6:30 pm – FaithGroup: Reed (young adults)**

**student ministry rooms**

Josh Reed leads a group of **young adults in their 20s & early 30s** who typically follow the current sermon series. Contact is Josh Reed. **Fall 2025 participating in Alpha Course.**

### **6:30 – 8 pm – Alpha Course, 9/8 to 11/17**

**student ministry rooms**



Explore the basics of the Christian faith (and/or refresh one's faith) thru meal, video, and small group experience. *Childcare available upon request.* Contacts are Sandi Vyhldal and/or [cindi.stewart@faithwestwood.com](mailto:cindi.stewart@faithwestwood.com)

## **Tuesday**

### **9:30 am—FaithGroup: Jacobsen (women)**

**west entrance, room 226**

Ellen Jacobsen leads a group of women and welcomes others who want to follow the sermon series study guide. Contact is Ellen Jacobsen.

### **(second & fourth) 1 to 3 pm – Book Club (women)**

**library**

This ladies Book Club meets twice a month for discussion about non-fiction and/or fiction books selected by participants. Contact is Carol Satterle.

### **(second) 3:30 to 6 pm – Craft Club**

**student ministry flex room**

Enjoy arts & crafting? Participants work on one to two projects per month for fellowship & fun. Projects are announced on FaithWestwood Craft Club Facebook page! For more information, talk to Rev. Cindi Stewart and/or Lynn Buss.

### **6:30 pm—FaithGroup: Bakewell**

**west entrance, room 226**

The Bakewell Group is made up of couples currently, yet open to anyone who wants to join for Bible studies. Contact is Karen Bakewell.

### **7 to 8 pm – Handbell Choir**

**bell choir room**

Calling all bell ringers! The Handbell Choir meets on Tuesdays to prepare to share at the 9am worship service on the first Sunday of each month (summers off). Training and encouragement are provided. Contact is Gene Torrens.

## **Wednesday**

### **(first) 9 to 11 am—United Women in Faith (UWF)**

**fellowship hall**

Women are invited to gather on the first Wednesday beginning at 9 am for food, fellowship, and program featuring speakers on mission projects.

### **1 pm—FaithGroup: Fowler**

**conference room**

Tom and Linda Fowler lead a FaithGroup of men and women. Anyone is welcome to join them at any time for Bible study & fellowship. Contact is Tom Fowler.

### **(prior to second Thursday) 1 to 3 pm— FaithWorks Pantry**

**gym/pantry**

The **FaithWorks Pantry** serves senior patrons and those with mobility issues **by appointment only** on the Wednesday prior to the second Thursday. Volunteers may greet, serve meals, assist patrons as they shop, and/or carry items to vehicles.

## Wednesday (continued)

### **3:30 to 5:30 pm – Bethel Series Bible Class, 9/3 to completion**

**conference room**



This **\*new\*** class invites you to continue your spiritual growth through a disciplined study of the Bible leading to deeper faith and appreciation of the Bible as a whole, beginning with Old Testament. Fees for class materials. Contact Ken Manning and Jan Snyder.

### **5:15 to 6:30 pm – Midweek Meals**

**fellowship hall**



Enjoy a meal & fellowship *for ALL church family members and guests*. Suggested donation of \$3 / per meal. Punch cards available for purchase (which remain on site). For more info, contact Rev. Cindi or Ms. Leah.

### **5:30 to 7:30 pm – GriefShare, 9/3 to completion**

**caring ministry room**



GriefShare offers a supportive place where people experiencing a loss – whether recent or in the past – can find answers to the many questions in the grief journey. Meetings feature video, discussion, and handbook work. Contact is Vikki O’Hara.

### **6 to 7 pm—FaithGroups: Torrens**

**Micah Center, room 105**

Gene & Becky Torrens lead a small group and meet before Chancel Choir Rehearsal. Their goal is to draw closer to God and each other. Contacts are Gene & Becky Torrens.

### **6:30 pm – MidWeek (youth, grades 6<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup>)**

Youth in grades 6<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> gather in the gym for worship, large group activities, and small group activities (by age). **MidWeek meal provided; see above.** *Faith45 for 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> graders will be coming in January – May.*

### **6:30 pm — FaithGroups: Shatel (women)**

**library**

Jen Shatel leads a group of women of all ages typically following current sermon series for study and support. Contact is Jen Shatel.

### **(second) 6:30 to 8 pm – FaithSent Card Ministry**

**west entrance, room 226**

FaithSent crafts handmade cards for those in our congregation who are ill, homebound, or needing encouragement. All are invited – no experience necessary. Contacts are Pam Byerly and Dee Ann Bowen.

**more Wednesday....**



## **Wednesday (continued)**

### **7 to 8 pm – Chancel Choir**

**choir room**

Calling all singers! The Chancel Choir meets on Wednesdays to rehearse to sing at 9 am worship service typically on the second and fourth Sundays! Contact is Jill R. Anderson.

## **Thursday**

### **11:15 to 12 pm – Tai Chi for Balance**

**use WEST entrance**

On Thursday (and Monday) mornings, Tai Chi - a slow, gentle, non-strenuous exercise routine - is offered to those who would like to improve balance and decrease the risk of falls. Suggested donation: \$3 per visit.

### **12:00pm—Men's Small Group**

**west entrance, conference room**

Men of all ages are welcome to meet over the lunch hour to discuss scriptures in the current sermon series and/or other studies. Bring your own lunch.

### **(second) 5 to 7 pm— FaithWorks Pantry**

**lower-level, gym/pantry**

The **FaithWorks Pantry** serves patrons on the second Thursday of each month. Volunteer tasks include greeting, serving meals, assisting patrons as they shop, carrying items to vehicles, and much more!

## **Friday – Office Closed**

## **Saturday**

### **(fourth) 10 to 12 pm – FaithWorks Pantry**

**lower-level, gym/pantry**

The **FaithWorks Pantry** also serves patrons on the **fourth Saturday** of each month. The tasks include greeting, serving meals, assisting patrons as they shop, carrying items to vehicles, and much more!

### **(fourth) 10 am to 12 pm - Solutions Group**

**fellowship hall**

The Solutions Group is an informational support group designed to help family caregivers manage the challenges of caring for (or being responsible for the care) of an ill or disabled loved one. Sponsored by the church's Health & Wellness Ministry. *Meets six times a year – please inquire about meeting dates.*

## Occasional & Seasonal Opportunities

**FaithWorks Pantry Garden (spring to fall)** / Each growing season, volunteers grow a garden filled with fresh fruits & vegetables to share with the patrons that visit FaithWorks Pantry. New volunteers always welcome! Contact Nancy Vogel.

**Gardening Angels (spring to fall)** / This group loves to see people experience God's love & healing presence among the beautiful plants & flowers on our property! Work is seasonal, and no experience needed. Contact Kathy Jeffers.



You are **Gifted**. FaithWestwood invites all church family members to learn more about their **spiritual gifts, relational style, and life passion** using resources by Rev. Cindi as well as the book *What You Do Best* by Bruce Bugbee. *Spiritual Gifts Descriptions on display and resources available anytime in chapel.* **This is a self-directed class.** Contact Rev. Cindi Stewart.

**\*NEW\* FaithGroup: SoulMates for Young Married Couples /**  
Calling **young married couples** to begin a new journey meeting together for study, support, and fellowship. Contact is Rev. Cindi to get the group started.

**Need more information?  
Looking for something else?**

**Contact [info@faithwestwood.com](mailto:info@faithwestwood.com)  
or [cindi.stewart@faithwestwood.com](mailto:cindi.stewart@faithwestwood.com)**

## Serving in Family Ministry

Contact: Director of Family Ministry, Leah Dinoso  
Student Ministry Assistant, Dustin Smith

**Nursery** / Provide childcare for infants to 2 years old  
(located in Micah Center, room #114)

**Children's Library** / Over 1,600 books available to check out  
(Micah Center, room #113)

**MidWeek (student/youth)** / Prep, lead, and/or assist  
with small groups, provide gym supervision, help with worship, etc.

**MidWeek Meals** / All are invited to enjoy food & fellowship!  
Bring family members, neighbors, and/or friends

**Sunday School** / Prep, lead, and/or assist with teaching Bible lessons  
during 9 am or 10:45 am worship service

**Student Mission Trip** / Prep, lead, and/or assist with student  
mission trips as scheduled during the summer

**Vacation Bible School** / **Help the Petes** plan, set-up, clean-up, decorate,  
lead and/or assist with groups, provide resources, prepare snacks,  
help with registration, prepare stations, and so much more...

### **Special Events:**

**Trunk or Treat** / Donate candy, decorate trunk & more

**LIVE Nativity** / Assist with animals, direct traffic, serve refreshments

**Christmas Pageant** / Assist with music, costumes, rehearsals, etc.

**Pancake Party** / **Help the Petes** make pancakes & sausage and serve them

**Easter Egg Fill-Off and Eggstravanza** / **Help the Petes** donate candy,  
fill the eggs, hide eggs at Oaks Park, and more

## Serving in Caring Ministries

Contact: Director of Caring Ministry Vikki O'Hara

**Angels on Wheels /** Volunteers provide transportation to health-related appointments for those in our congregation who are unable to drive.

**Blanketed with Prayer /** Volunteers knit or crochet women's prayer shawls, baby afghans, and men's fleece prayer blankets given to those in need.

**Care Ministers /** Trained care ministers are equipped to assist with caring ministry tasks including connecting with those homebound or in hospital.

**FaithSent Card Ministry /** Volunteers create handmade greeting cards for those in our congregation who are homebound, ill, hospitalized, etc.

**GriefShare (TBD) /** This national Christian ministry provides help and encouragement after the death of a spouse, child, family member, or friend.

**Health & Wellness Team /** Our faith community nurses work with members of this team to assess and respond to the wellness needs of congregation through education, training, and care of the spirit.

**MealTrain /** Opportunities to provide meals for people in our congregation who are in need. Meal Trains are created upon request.

**Prayer Team and/or Prayer Chain /** If you would like to be a part of the **Prayer Team** and/or would like to receive the **Prayer Chain**, please email: [prayers@faithwestwood.com](mailto:prayers@faithwestwood.com)

**In addition, the following are listed previously:**

**Solutions Group** (see Saturday)

**Tai Chi for Balance** (see Monday and/or Thursday)

**For more information about these caring ministries of support, please contact Vikki O'Hara, Director of Caring Ministries:**

**Pastoral Prayer, Counseling Referrals,  
In-Home or Health Care Facility Pastoral Visitation**

## Serving in Missions

*See below for individual contacts.*

**FaithWorks Pantry** / Contact: Kay Ritz & Rev. Cindi, Staff  
second Thursday (and Wednesday prior) & fourth Saturday

**Thanksgiving Bag Giveaway** – Church family members collect items  
to provide Thanksgiving Meals for 250+ families on 11/23/24.

**Weekly Mission Offering** and **Greater Love Offering** /

Contact: Missions Committee & Vikki O'Hara, Staff  
Mission offerings are collected for projects & partnerships every Sunday  
plus Greater Love offering on designated days for special mission needs.

**Student Mission Trip** / Contact: Leah Dinoso  
(see Serving in Family Ministry)

**Community Partnerships** /

Contact: Missions Committee & Vikki O'Hara, Liaison  
**Central Middle School • Iglesia Comunitaria • Mosaic  
The Furniture Project**

**Outside the Walls** / Contact: Karen Bakewell  
Annual Saturday & Sunday weekend in September  
to engage in projects for community & volunteer partnerships.

**Bless Friends Project** / Contact: Missions Committee & Vikki O'Hara  
Volunteers offer help with local, small home repair projects  
for pantry patrons or church family members.

**Other Volunteer Partnerships** /

**Food Bank for the Heartland • Diaper Bank  
Heartland Kids Against Hunger**

## Serving on Sunday Mornings



### **Hospitality (formerly Guest Connections) Team /**

Contact: Lynn McCullough / Shane Goughnour, Staff

*New Sunday Morning Servers are always welcome.  
Training opportunities to serve are available too!*

**Coffee Team** – (opening & closing teams) – make the coffee and set-up the coffee station before 9 am, then clean up after 10:45 service

**Donut Team** (serving *nearly* every Sunday) – set out and serve the donuts and snacks each week

**Greeters** (at east/main entrance) – offer hospitality and open doors to welcome church family members & guests

**Connectors** (wearing green shirts) – designated to identify new faces, connect with them, and direct them to additional members and/or staff members as well as providing tours of facility

**Ushers** (at worship center, collect offering) – offer hospitality at the doors of our worship center, take attendance, collect the offering and secure it, assist with handouts into worship and/or out of worship

**Plus the Safety Team** (directed by Trustees) – assigned teams will work together to deal with emergencies if they arise. In case of inclement weather, a fire evacuation, a fall, and/or a serious medical emergency, our team is trained to provide help during those critical situations.



## Serving on Sunday Mornings

### **Worship & Music /**

Contact: Shane Goughnour

**Welcome Host** – Help keep our congregation informed by serving as a Worship Host for both the 9 am and 10:45 am services.

**Online Welcome Host** – Connect with online viewers during livestreams.

**Scripture Reading** – Read Scripture at one or both services.

**Hymn Leading** – Lead the congregation in singing hymns for 9 am service.

**Band Vocalist, 10:45 Service** – Sing as lead or backup with worship band.

**Band Instrumentalist, 10:45 Service** – Play instrument with worship band.

**Media Tech (Projector Slides)** – Work with production software to navigate lyrics, pictures, and videos at 9 am and 10:45 services.

**Sound Technician** – Work with our professional sound technicians to balance and equalize sound for both in person and online worship.

**Accompanist, 9 am (Piano or Organ)** – Accompany the Hymn Leader and Congregation in hymns. Self-practiced position.

**Instrumental Musician, 9 am** – Provide special music for 9 am service.

### Other Opportunities to Serve Through Music:

**The Little Drummer Band** – Join in for a fun & easy percussive group for youth ages 2-10. No experience necessary. Don't miss our annual Christmas Eve performance at our family focused service.

**\*Coming Soon\* Instrument Petting Zoo** (Micah Center, room #111) – All ages are invited to come enjoy music and fellowship in a space focused on learning & sharing with instruments & voices.

*Keep an eye out in worship and communication for details/updates.*

## **Serving on Committees & Teams**

Contact: Nominations & Lay Leadership Committee,  
led by Rev. Cindi Stewart & Executive Assistant Brenda Bowers

**Leadership positions & committees are being filled for 2026.**

**Only administrative committees and teams are listed.**

**If you would like to participate in program committees like  
Family Ministry, Missions, or Communications  
please let us know.**

### **Administrative Committees & Teams**

**Nominations & Lay Leadership**

**Staff Parish Relations (SPRC)**

**Board of Trustees**

Memorial, Safety Team, 5Ms

**Finance**

Endowment

**Church Council**

Strategic Planning Team (completed in January 2025)

\*New\* Reimagine Team (initiated in 2025)



**Faith**  
**WESTWOOD**