



GROW

Catalog 2026

Updated 02/2026

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 the 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

Staff:

Rich Anderson	Financial + Information Management Coordinator
Jenny Beukenhorst	Communications Coordinator
Dan Boten	Finance & Building Administrator
Brenda Bowers	Design and Team Support Specialist
Dennis Byerly	Outreach Liaison (volunteer position)
Leah Dinoso	Next Gen & Family Engagement Director
Shane Goughnour	Music & Worship Director
Vikki O'Hara	Caring Ministry Director
Gama Silva	Building Engineer
Dolores Silva	Building Support
Dustin Smith	Student Ministry Assistant
Rev. Cindi Stewart	Lead Pastor

Color Key:

- **Caring Ministries / Health & Wellness**
- **Committees / Teams**
- **FaithGroups**
- **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 opportunities to serve.

FaithGroups / “Creating small caring communities that love and serve Jesus together” is what FaithGroups are 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 **Student Ministry** / Ministries focus on children, students, & 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 as we “**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.

Monday

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

fellowship hall+



5Ms is a *new* men's FaithGroup meeting on **2nd & 4th 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 women 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 & 30s** who typically follow the current sermon series. Contact is Josh Reed.

6:30 pm – Women's Small Group

west entrance, room 226

A small group of women study a book that can support ways of making their own Lent or Advent celebration a more meaningful part of their daily life. Contact is Kathy Jeffers.

TBD – Alpha Course, next course in autumn

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.* Contact Rev. Cindi at 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.

(fourth Tuesday) 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 currently made up of couples, 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 rehearse for 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, *currently in session* **conference room**



This 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 (September to May) **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, *watch for next session* **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 6th – 12th)

Youth in grades 6th – 12th gather in the gym for worship, large group activities, and small group activities (by age). **MidWeek meal provided; see above.**

Faith45 for 4th & 5th graders will be on February 25, March 25, and April 29 from 6:30 to 7:30 pm in children’s large group room.

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

Jen Shatel leads a group of women of all ages for study & support. Typically the group follows the current sermon series. Contact is Jen Shatel.

7 to 8 pm – Chancel Choir **choir room**

Calling all singers! The Chancel Choir meets on Wednesdays for rehearsal 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) 2 to 4 pm – FaithSent Card Ministry

west entrance, room 226

FaithSent crafts handmade cards for those in our congregation who are ill, homebound, or needing encouragement. Contacts are Pam Byerly and Dee Ann Bowen.

(third) 1 pm – Fidget Blanket Ministry

west entrance, caring ministry room

Volunteers will create lap blankets with a variety of safe textures & simple activities providing comfort & engagement for those with dementia, memory loss, and/or development disabilities. Contact is Judi Robinson.

(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!

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 are 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**. 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 is Rev. Cindi.

Learn about your **Love Languages!** Discover your primary **love languages** (words of affirmation, quality time, receiving gifts, acts of service, physical touch) using resources by Gary Chapman. **This is a self-directed class for children, teens, and adults.** Contact is Rev. Cindi.



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

***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
or cindi.stewart@faithwestwood.com

Serving in Family Ministry

Contact: Next Gen & Family Engagement, 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.

Also: Faith45 in the spring for fourth & fifth graders!

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

Special Events:

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

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...

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.

Serving in Caring Ministries

Contact: Caring Ministries Director 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 tie 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.

***New* Fidget Blanket Ministry /** Volunteers will create lap blankets with a variety of safe textures & simple activities providing comfort & engagement.

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 the 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

In addition, the following are listed previously:

Solutions Group (Saturday) / **Tai Chi for Balance** (Monday / 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 fourth Sat in November.

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

Contact: Missions Committee & Vikki O’Hara, Staff

Mission offerings are collected for projects & partnerships every Sunday plus the Greater Love offering on designated days for extra mission needs.

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

Community Partnerships /

Contact: Missions Committee & Vikki O’Hara, Liaison
Dennis Byerly, Outreach Liaison

Central Middle School • Iglesia Comunitaria • 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 pantry patrons or church family members help with local, small home repair projects.

Other Volunteer & Community Partnerships /

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



Serving on Sunday Mornings



Hospitality (formerly Guest Connections) Team /

Contact: Music & Worship Director Shane Goughnour,
Lynn McCulough, Additional laity & 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, and 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 when 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: Music & Worship Director 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 – Play an 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 this space focused on learning as well as 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
and Design & Team Support Specialist 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, FaithWorks Pantry
or Communications, please email info@faithwestwood.com**

Administrative Committees & Teams

Nominations & Lay Leadership

Staff Parish Relations (SPRC)

Board of Trustees

5Ms (Monday Morning Methodist Maintenance Men)
Safety Team

Finance

Endowment
Memorial

Church Council

Strategic Planning Team (completed in January 2025)
Reimagine Team (initiated in 2025)

