

January 2024

Building, Outdoor Worship Pavilion, and Property Use Policy

First United Methodist Church

1656 Colfax Street
Blair, Nebraska
(Updated January 2024)

The building, outdoor worship pavilion, and equipment of First United Methodist Church shall be available for use by church members, church families, and other community groups and organizations following the policies stated in *The Book of Discipline of the United Methodist Church*, current edition. “When a pastor and/or a board of trustees are asked to grant permission to an outside organization to use church facilities, permission can be granted only when such use is consistent with the Social Principles (§§160-166) and ecumenical objectives.” (*The Book of Discipline of the United Methodist Church*, 2012, ¶2533.3, page 744)

- The facilities and grounds of First United Methodist Church shall always be available to any official organization related to the congregation during their event or activity. i.e. Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts, Special Olympics, Relay for Life, etc.
- Outside groups are also welcome to use the church’s facilities. Service or non-profit organizations will be allowed to use our church building free of charge. However, donations toward utilities, supplies and janitorial time would be appropriate and appreciated.
- The church shall not be used by groups or organizations whose primary purpose is commercial, with possible exceptions approved by the Board of Trustees on a case-by-case basis.

Church organizations will have priority in scheduling, but guest groups will be accommodated as soon possible. All arrangements must be made through the church office and placed on the official calendar of the church. All outside groups and organizations must fill out and sign a *Building Use Agreement or Outdoor Worship Pavilion Use Agreement*. It must be returned to the church office prior to the event or at the first regularly scheduled meeting (if the group will be using the church or outdoor worship pavilion on a weekly/monthly basis).

RESPONSIBILITIES OF USERS:

Any individual, group, or organization using our church facilities, outdoor space, and equipment shall be responsible for the following:

- Leaving them in as good of condition as found.
- Replacing all items broken, lost, or damaged.
- Maintaining proper behavior and discipline.
- Closing all windows that are opened.
- Return table and chairs to their original placement or storage area.
- Returning all items to where they were found, turning off lights, returning thermostats to agreed upon settings, etc.

The church secretary and/or pastor will be responsible for:

- Distribution of the *Building Use Agreement and Outdoor Worship Pavilion Agreement*.
- Maintaining the activity calendar for the church building and outdoor space.

RESTRICTIONS:

The pastor or another individual appointed by the pastor will have the right to deny use of any facilities to anyone who is not following this policy or is endangering others. The pastor, church staff, and other individuals appointed by the pastor have the right to ask any individual to leave the facilities.

Use of the building and pavilion are limited to the area that has been reserved.

The elevator is for use by those needing assistance to move between floors. It is not to be used by children without the supervision of an adult.

No alcohol is permitted anywhere in the church or on the church grounds.

No smoking is permitted anywhere in the church building.

SUGGESTED DONATIONS

Item	Suggested Donation
Parlor	\$150 for non-members \$50 for members
Fellowship Hall	\$150 for non-members \$50 for members
Fellowship Hall Kitchen	\$150 for non-members \$50 for members
Kitchenette by Parlor	Any amount
Individual Sunday School Rooms	Any amount
Outdoor Worship Pavilion	\$150 for non-members \$50 for members
Note: No charge for building or Outdoor Worship Pavilion use for non-profit groups.	

****Please note that all Tables, Folding Chairs, and FH Kitchen Equipment are not available for use off-site of Blair First United Methodist Church.***