

Area residents are invited to an organizational meeting of a family cancer support group at 3 p.m. (MT) on Sunday, Oct. 11, in the fellowship hall of the Imperial United Methodist Church, 420 Holland Street, in Imperial.

The meeting is co-sponsored by the Methodist Church (sponsor Bruce Lantry), the Chase County Community Hospital (Lola Jones, administrator) and the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society Omaha Chapter (Tonya Schroeder, oncology, nurse sponsor).

This first meeting will be to determine the response, when those involved would like to meet and how often they would like to meet. Refreshments will be served after the meeting.

The meeting is for those with cancer, those in treatment, those who have survived cancer and those caregivers and friends of anyone who has had cancer.

The group will discuss what everyone would like to see in a support group and what type of topics they might like to have discussed. There are many side effects of the various treatments, some of which last long after the treatments are over, so there are many areas that could be discussed.

As anyone who has had cancer knows, it is a very difficult time in their life, but also in the lives of family and friends. It isn't easy for anyone to deal with, particularly when the person is first diagnosed with the cancer.

Bruce Lantry of Imperial said he was lucky enough, when first diagnosed with leukemia, to connect with the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society, which has a program called First Connection. He was paired with another person who had survived the same disease that he had, and received calls from both a Nebraska leukemia survivor and one on the national level.

Lantry encourages anyone with cancer, or involved with someone who has cancer, living in this area of the state to come to the Oct. 11 meeting.

Those who have survived cancer are also encouraged to come, since those with cancer now need the support and hope that can be provided by those who have survived the disease.

For more information call Bruce Lantry at 308-882-5929, or the Methodist Church in Imperial at 308-882-5127.