



# OUTREACH



Volume 34 Issue 4

First United Methodist Church

April 21, 2022

## *perspective*

I was encouraged to write this article to inform about what is happening with our denomination. The Hays Post and other news outlets have run stories recently about the United Methodist Church, the postponement of General Conference, and the formation of a breakoff denomination. My hesitancy in writing is that I may only complicate the issues by conveying misinformation. That is not my intention.

General Conference is the only body of the United Methodist Church that can officially set policy and make revisions to our Book of Discipline. It has been postponed. This is the third postponement stemming from the impact of Covid worldwide. While Covid has waned and countries are opening back up, the work of granting Visas to enter the US is backlogged. The UMC is a worldwide denomination. There are no viable alternatives to getting a fair representation to the General Conference. Hence the postponement.

A breakoff denomination has been forming over the last several years. The Global Methodist Church is planning to embark on May 1, 2022. In my perspective there are more unanswered questions about the shape this denomination will take than there are answered questions. Everything from who the clergy will be to how clergy will be found for local churches is still unsettled. Additional areas of uncertainty include autonomy for each local church, what does the connection between churches look like, what role will Bishops hold, and until a deciding body is formed, who makes decisions and sets doctrine.

Some congregations have already made moves to disaffiliate with the UMC. Initially it looks like 20 congregations from the Great Plains Conference (Kansas and Nebraska UMCs) will break off. I surmise many of these congregations have been displeased with the UMC for many years and are particularly adamant that the conversations about inclusion of LGBTQ+ cease. Again, my sense is that they also desire autonomy, less connection, and more ability to function independently.

My call to First UMC in Hays is that we are better together. I have found a congregation over the last 8 months that is willing to lean into our differences and walk alongside each other. Sometimes the heat will rise, but the goal is to continue to walk out of the room as sisters and brothers in Christ. While the denomination seeks new paths and reformation, I encourage us to remain steady while conversations continue. Honestly, my focus is on you. What are the conversations we need to engage in for mission and ministry to be vibrant and life changing?

The leadership on the Administrative Board of Hays FUMC is currently engaged in digging deeper into a vision and the values that will carry our congregation into the future. It is a beautiful mix of both conservative and progressive thought. I have been encouraged by the ways we have sat at the table together.

Together, we can continue the work of being Christ's disciples and building up the Body of Christ.

Easter Blessings! Pastor Craig

Please email your OUTREACH item to [haysumc@hotmail.com](mailto:haysumc@hotmail.com) before **Sunday, May 15, 2022**.

Please place the name "*Outreach*" in the subject line...or place your item, clearly labeled **for the Outreach**, in the office by **Sunday, May 15**. The next Outreach should be received by **May 19**.

## Thanks

Thank you to Melissa Pyle and all the Easter butterfly colorers. Almost 300 butterflies adorned our worship spaces Easter morning.



Senior WOW will be Wednesday, May 4 at 4:00 p.m. in the chapel. A light meal will follow. Please sign up if you wish to attend the meal. Pastor Craig will present the program.



**April 19** Last day to register for May 10 vote

**April 25-May 9** Early voting for USD 489 School Bond & Sales Tax vote

**May 10** USD 489 School Bond & Sales Tax vote

## INTRODUCING OUR STAFF

### PROGRAM STAFF

Pastor: Pastor Craig Hauschild  
 Congregational Care Director, Troy Miller  
 Director of Music: Alexander Rome  
 Special Music Coordinator: Meredith Cory  
 Organist: Noah Erichsen  
 Pianist: Sharon Graham  
 Handbell Choir Dir., Shawn Henderson  
 Children's Ministry Director: Jo Swayne  
 Asst. Children's Director: Melissa Pyle  
 Youth Ministry Director: Matt Dumler  
 Outreach Editor: Wendy Beougher

### SUPPORT STAFF:

Administrative Secretary: Beverly Bearley  
 Administrative Assistant: Wendy Beougher  
 Financial Secretary: Liz Harper  
 Childcare Director: Melissa Pyle  
 Building Supervisor: Joe Edwards

## Sympathy

Our sincere sympathy is extended to the family & friends of

Hannah, Jim & Rylea Barrett on the death of Hannah's brother, **John Burdsall**.

## Congratulations

to our newest member, *Hali Bielser* who joined FUMC on April 3. Welcome also to her husband, *Collin*, and son, *Reeve*.

to *Gail & Linda Palmberg* on their 50th wedding anniversary on May 20th.



to the confirmands:

Johanna Jones  
 Aubrey Preston  
 Brett Stieben  
 Brynn Zweifel



to the Hays High graduates:

*Cadence Dickey*  
*Avry George*  
*Mallory Henderson*  
*Jaren Kanak*  
*Abbey Klein*  
*Brooklyn Lewallen*  
*Cameron Roth*  
*Summer Schneider*  
*McKinley Wamser*  
*Garrett Wellbrock*  
*Sage Zweifel*

## Circle News

**Naomi Circle** met on Wednesday, April 13 at the home of Nancy Jones with Linda Stahlman serving as co-hostess. Twelve members enjoyed the program about Easter traditions, including an Egg Knocking event, presented by Pastor Craig. Fifty-seven guests attended the Spring Brunch which occurred on Saturday, April 9th with Sandy Werth and Nancy Jones presenting "Made with Love, A Family History". The graduation reception will be held on Sunday, May 15 in the dining room at 9:30. Our next meeting will be held at 10:30 on Wednesday, May 11 at the church with a joint luncheon at 11:30 with Rebekah Circle.

### Spring Brunch



Fifty-seven ladies attended the United Methodist Women's annual Spring Brunch on April 9. Sherri Smith gave devotions. Johanna Jones blessed us by singing "Simply the Best" and "The Old Rugged Cross". A delightful and informative program, "Made with Love, Sharing your Family History" was presented by Nancy Jones and Sandy Werth. The Naomi and Rebekah Circles provided a delicious brunch. It was such a treat to have so many ladies sharing in the fun and fellowship.

The United Methodist Women would like to send out a big thank you to long time member, Lorena Kellogg! She responded to our Mission Drive with a \$9,000 donation. Along with the other donations received and our Peddler's Fair parlor sale in December, we will now be able to donate \$13,000 to local and UM missions. Lorena was presented with flowers and a UMW Special Recognition pin. Her pin will serve as an outward symbol of her generous heart and her dedication to make a difference in our world.

## Kids Club

**HALLELUJAH, HE LIVES!** By the time you read this we will be catching our breath after a busy Lent/Easter season. We hope you and your family were able to participate in many, if not all, of the wonderful worship services and events at the church during this time.



Next up, Camp Sunday Bake Sale on May 1! All bakers are invited to bring any type of baked goods for our freewill donation bake sale to benefit the Camp Fund. Our generous church decided years ago to pay for half of every child's camp registration fee. This year we are hoping to send more children to camp as a more normal camping schedule opens within the conference. We are excited to talk camp during our three worship services on May 1, so plan to attend so you can find out all the details.

On Sunday May 15, the Education team and United Methodist Women will be hosting a reception for our 2022 High School Seniors @ 9:30 in the dining room. Be sure to stop by and wish our large class of seniors' congratulations and good luck.

Sunday May 29 will be our 5th Sunday Service Project during the second worship service time from 9:45-10:45. Meet in the gym for instructions and prayer before heading out to be the hands and feet of Jesus.

VBS dates have been set for July 19-20-21. Look for more details next month. If you'd like to help with our power packed VBS event, let Melissa and I know as soon as possible because we're on the lookout for great volunteers

Have you tried out your RightNow Media gift? Our awesome church, with the help of our Endowment Committee, has purchased a subscription for you to have access to this amazing online media library! If you haven't received an email invitation, contact the church office because we don't have your information, and an invite will be sent same day.

Thank you for caring about the children of our church. If you ever have questions or concerns, don't hesitate to contact either Melissa Pyle ([whitney\\_melissa@hotmail.com](mailto:whitney_melissa@hotmail.com)) or Jo Swayne ([jo@haysfumc.com](mailto:jo@haysfumc.com)).

### ENGAGING IN THE ELECTORAL PROCESS

**PLEASE REMEMBER TO VOTE ON MAY 10, 2022**

"While declaring our ultimate allegiance is to God, Scripture recognizes that faithfulness to God requires political engagement by the people of God." (United Methodist Book of Resolutions, #5012)

Just as we pursue change by advocating for just policies, so too we are called to faithfully engage in the electoral process. Elections provide an opportunity for us to put our faith into action by engaging candidates, encouraging participation, selecting representatives, and voting on ballot initiatives.

#### VOTING RESPONSIBILITIES

"The strength of a political system depends upon the full and willing participation of its citizens." (United Methodist Social Principles, P164.B)

Voting can be an act of faith. Voting for policies and individuals that uphold our shared values of justice and peace is one way Christians can work for a world that more closely resembles the one God desires for us. With this ability to impact change comes responsibility. A responsibility to actually vote. A responsibility to be informed. Our United Methodist Social Principles state: "The form and the leaders of all governments should be determined by exercise of the right to vote guaranteed to all adult citizens." (United Methodist Social Principles, P164.B).

From: Church and Society, The United Methodist Church, [umcjustice.org](http://umcjustice.org) or [umc.org](http://umc.org)

Dates to Remember:

April 19 Deadline to register to vote

May 9 In person early voting ends

April 25 In-Person early voting begins

May 10 ELECTION DAY

# April OUTREACH

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Hays, Kansas 67601*

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haysumc@hotmail.com  
www.kaysradio.com  
www.HaysFUMC.com

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## UPCOMING EVENTS

|                            |                                                 |
|----------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Wednesday, April 27</b> | <b>Final WOW—Picnic</b>                         |
| <b>Sunday, May 1</b>       | <b>Camp Bake Sale</b>                           |
| <b>Monday, May 2</b>       | <b>Red Cross Blood Drive, 12-6 p.m.</b>         |
| <b>Tuesday, May 3</b>      | <b>Loving Hands/Loving Hearts</b>               |
| <b>Wednesday, May 4</b>    | <b>UMW Executive Board, 10:00 a.m.</b>          |
| <b>Thursday, May 5</b>     | <b>National Day of Prayer, Courthouse, 12-1</b> |
| <b>Sunday, May 15</b>      | <b>Hays High Graduation</b>                     |