



OUTREACH



Volume 35 Issue 12

First United Methodist Church

December 14, 2023

As I sit here on Monday morning knowing there is a front page to the newsletter calling out to me, I am struggling on how to narrow my focus. It is Christmas for heaven's sake, it should be easy! But there is so much that needs our attention.

Of utmost importance to me is that we are living into our call to make disciples for Jesus Christ. With that comes the immense responsibility to feed the hungry, care for the poor and outcasts, to help provide resources for the care of mind, body, and soul for all who enter our doors. Jesus' focus was to bring in the Kingdom of God on earth as in heaven. No small task for the body of Christ, the church, to continue that work.

I celebrate God's call upon my life and upon the church. Next year will mark my 39th year of serving local churches. While the world has changed immensely, the call of Christ upon the church has remained the same. The message that the babe in Bethlehem brought to us is still one that startles poor shepherds in fields at night. It is a message that still causes us, like Mary, to ponder and wonder in our hearts what it means. We have no clue if Joseph ever quite understood what he was a part of in welcoming Jesus into his home. But we do understand the message he received because we too have heard the call and leaned into not really knowing what our next step would be.

What is our next step? What is the next thing that the Holy Spirit will put upon our hearts and call us to act upon for the sake of God's Kingdom? It is both exciting and daunting to think about. But like Joseph, Mary, and the Shepherds we will step out in faith and do our best to proclaim all that God has revealed to us.

Merry Christmas, friends! Take heart and find comfort in the good news that Jesus' brings to us and to the world.

Pastor Craig

Thursday, December 21, 7:00pm Longest Night Service

Share your love and comfort with those who need your prayers and presence, knowing that God's word comes to shine light into our darkness.

Sunday, December 24 – CHRISTMAS EVE

MORNING WORSHIP at 10:00 am

Marking the 4th Sunday in Advent – Praise Band with music from the Chancel Choir and a women's trio.

HISPANIC WORSHIP at 5:30 pm at the Chapel at 507 Elm.

EVENING WORSHIP at 7:00 pm and 10:45 pm Lessons and Carols with Candle lighting

Sunday, December 31 – NEW YEARS EVE

Regular Schedule resumes – Matt Dumler, Director of Discipleship, preaching at 8:30, 9:45, & 10:45

Outreach articles are due the **third** Sunday of each month. Please email your **OUTREACH** item to wendy@haysfumc.com before **Sunday, January 21, 2024**. Items may also be placed in the office, labeled **for the Outreach** by **Sunday, January 21**. The next Outreach should be received on Jan. 25.

Thanks

A Big thanks to all who helped with the Campus ministry this fall semester: Jessica Cutting, Vicki Kelly, Linda Stahlman, Marilyn Wood, Ruth Briney, Mary Meckenstock, Shawn Jeffrey, Sherri Brown, Shauna Zwiefel, Jarilyn Staab, Carol Purdyk Marilyn Davidson, Jacinda Johnson, Virginia Johnson, Bev Bearley, Jill Arensdorf, Kari Schultz, Sarah Schumacher, Dandy Henderson, Diane Wolfe, Sherri Smith, Donna Weaverling, Karol Katt & Wendy Beougher. If you would like to help with the spring semester, call the church office or sign up on the sign outside the office.

Thanks to all who brought a box for Operation Christmas Child. FUMC donated 60 boxes.

Thanks to all who contributed to Feed the Fish. The youth were able to purchase gifts for 16 angels on the Angel Tree.

Feed the Fish will go toward paying outstanding lunch balances for students at 489 this spring.

INTRODUCING OUR STAFF

PROGRAM STAFF
 Pastor: Pastor Craig Hauschild
 Congregational Care Director, Troy Miller
 Director of Music: Alexandra Rome
 Special Music Coordinator: Meredith Cory
 Organist:: Hannah Barrett
 Charlotte Rathke
 Pianist: Sharon Graham
 Handbell Choir Dir. Hannah Barrett
 Marijo Rooney
 Director of Discipleship: Matt Dumler
 Asst. Children's Director: Melissa Pyle
 Outreach Editor: Wendy Beougher

SUPPORT STAFF:
 Administrative Secretary: Beverly Bearley
 Administrative Assistant: Wendy Beougher
 Financial Secretary: Liz Harper
 Childcare Director: Melissa Pyle
 Building Supervisor: Alan Nelson

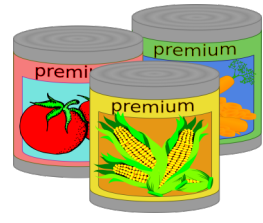
Sympathy

Our sincere sympathy is extended to the family & friends of

Ryan, Laura, Addie & Lane Haffner on the death of Ryan's mother, Donna Mae, on November 18.

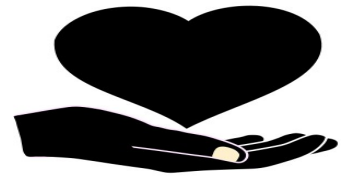
Bob & Earline Fairbank on the death of their nephew, Brett, on December 8.

Remember to donate to the Hays High Food pantry. Holiday food boxes are being prepared as well as food for the holiday break.



The only things that we can truly give to each other are the only things that we truly need-
 an ear to listen,
 a heart to care,
 a word of encouragement
 and a hand to help.

Jimmy Carter



Need a hostess gift?

Cocoa mix, baking cocoa and delicious coffees are available in the office. Purchase benefits UMCOR's Fair Trade.



If you or a family member are in the hospital, please call the church office if you would like to be on the prayer list or to let the pastor know at 625-3408.

Just in time for holiday baking-pecans are available in the church office.



Sunday, December 17

8:45 Breakfast hosted by the Youth as a fundraiser for their summer mission experience.

Enjoy Pancakes & Sausage



10:00 One Worship Service
 Children's Pageant, Spirit Ringers, Praise Band, Chancel Choir and a message by Pastor Craig.

When Christ was born, so was our hope.
 Max Lucado



FUMC Financial Snapshot

	November 30, 2023	Year to Date
Checking Account*	\$46,103	
Operating Gifts	\$54,950	\$529,211
Operating Expenses	\$44,556	\$534,532

Parsonage Mortgage Balance \$133,653

*Also known as Unrestricted Operating Account that funds our operating budget.

Menus for December

December 6

Green bean & dumpling soup
Chili soup
Crackers
Salad
Cookies
Ice Cream cups

December 13

Happy 70th birthday to Susan
Cook's choice

December 20th

Cook's Choice



History & Heritage



The glass windows, all hand painted and kiln burned, were done by D.F Andres of the Jacoby Art Glass Company of St. Louis at a cost of \$30,000. Magnificent in their color, inspiring in beauty and symbolism, the beautiful windows are the finest leaded art glass construction.

The Chancel window is at the north above the altar. The central figure is Christ with outstretched hands and an invitation to all "Come unto Me all ye who are heavy laden and I will give you rest". The four Gospel writers depicted with Christ from left to right are: St. Matthew, St. Mark, St. Luke and St. John. The symbol of each Evangelist is beneath the figure. The winged man is used to represent St. Matthew; the winged lion represents St. Mark, the winged calf represents St. Luke; and the Eagle represents St. Joh. The Angus Dei (Lamb of God) is a very old symbol and speaks to us of our Lord in His sacrificial character. It also carries the banner of victory. This is directly under the figure of Christ.

The windows on the east side symbolize Hope, Faith and Love through the various forms of the Cross-the Anchor, the Crown of Thorns and the flaming Heart. On the west, the Crosses symbolize the world-wide character of the Christian Faith.

The Trefoil stone tracery in the Chancel Window and the east and west transept windows is a modification of three circles of equal size and interwoven to represent the equality and unity of the Triune God. Their form having neither beginning nor end, symbolizes the eternal nature of the Three persons of the Trinity.

In the Trefoil above is the "Ship With Sails Set", which symbolizes the Church moving out into the world. On the left are the "Clasped Hands" which symbolizes the "Brotherhood of Man". On the right is the "Cross on Orb" which signifies the spread of Christianity around the world.

In the West Transept, the Old Testament window, are the "Rama Horn, the Ark of the Covenant and the Seven Branched Candlestick" These are all symbols of Temple Worship and give us the Old Testament background for these Christian symbols. The East Transept is the Children's Window, "for of such is the Kingdom of heaven". The lilies represent resurrection and the harp praise. The figures in the south window depict "The Nativity". On the left of the figures is the "Open bible" and symbolizes "The Word was made Flesh". On the right of the figures is the "Torch With Palms" symbolizing "The Light shineth in Darkness".

December OUTREACH

*First United Methodist Church
305 West 7th
Hays, Kansas 67601*

(785) 625-3408
haysumc@hotmail.com
www.kaysradio.com
www.HaysFUMC.com

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UPCOMING EVENTS

Sunday, Dec. 17	One Service, Christmas Pageant & Youth Meal
Wednesday, Dec. 20	WOW Christmas Fellowship
Thursday, Dec. 21	Longest Night Service
Sunday, Dec. 24	One Service 10 a.m. Christmas Eve Services, 7:00 & 10:45 p.m.
Monday, Dec. 25	Office Closed
Sunday, Dec. 31	Regular services
Monday, Jan. 1	Office closed