



OUTREACH



Volume 34 Issue 12

First United Methodist Church

December 15, 2022

perspective

I begin this article with a word of thanks for a job well done. Jo Swayne has been our Children's Ministries Director for the last 10 years. She has loved on our kids and made a great impact in raising our children into disciples for Jesus Christ. Jo is feeling called in new directions and has resigned her staff position. Her words are the best:

The past ten years in which I have served the children and families of this church have been an experience filled with growth and love, one which I will always cherish. However, after much prayer, I have decided to follow a new path which the Holy Spirit has slowly been revealing to me. I have thoroughly enjoyed my time with the children and have been blessed by this church family. I am sorry to leave the position behind but feel my successor can give new ideas and fresh perspective to this ministry.

December 20th is her last day on staff. On Sunday, December 11, after services, please stop by the parlor to offer her words of thanks. In addition, on Wednesday, December 14, during the WOW meal from 5-6pm, the children will have some additional opportunities to share their thanks.

The Staff-Parish Relations Committee is in the process of reviewing our current staffing plan. All ministries with children will continue. Please pray for Jo as she experiences insight into how God is leading her, and please pray for a new way forward in reaching and teaching children the faith.

January 1 begins our journey into The Bible Year. There are a few devotions remaining. We ask that you take one per household. In this newsletter there is a page that outlines each day's readings. You can use this in case you do not have a devotional. This will be sent each month.

This exercise in reading will take strength and endurance. Some days you will wonder what in the world is being said or talked about. Be patient with yourself. Remember you might be experiencing some parts of the Bible you have never heard or read before. There are several keys to helping make this a good experience for you:

- Find a version of the Bible that is readable. Some of you will choose the old standby, King James Version. I applaud your effort. I would choose something that is easier to comprehend: NIV, NRSV, Contemporary English. If you really want a different version, try The Message. · For those of you who are electronically gifted, go to www.biblegateway.com. Here you will find every version under the sun.

- Don't pressure yourself to understand everything you read.

- The Bible is not a history book. It speaks of ancient history, but it is not in order historically. Remain calm. If something seems contradictory to the God of love you have come to know, chances are good there is something to be learned from that contradiction.

Can't wait to join together around the Bible in 2023!

Pastor Craig

Please email your OUTREACH item to haysumc@hotmail.com before **Sunday, January 15, 2023**. Please place the name "*Outreach*" in the subject line...or place your item, clearly labeled **for the Outreach**, in the office by **Sunday, January 15**. The next Outreach should be received by **January 19**.

Thanks

Thanks to Linda Palmberg, Wendy Beougher, Nichole Younger, Vicki Kelly, Sheryl Cox, Evelyn Zellmer, Carol Purdy (2), Marilyn Wood, Donna Weaverling, Karol Katt, Sharon Graham, Sherri Brown, Marcia Bannister, Jarilyn Staab, Barb Clinkscales, Patty Nicholas, Donna Cooper, Jacinda Johnson, Jessi Luck (2), Marilyn Davidson, Sherri Smith, and Linda Stahlman for providing food for the Campus Center's Thursday night meal.

If you would like to help with this ministry to our college students, call the church office to sign up for next semester. Thank you church!

Thanks to Harvey & Susan Jansonius for providing pies for the Community Thanksgiving dinner.

The Trustees and the church family send a big thank you to Steve Paul for fixing & sealing the Sanctuary doors.

Thanks to all who donated hats, gloves & scarves to the USD 489 mitten tree.

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. Hannah Barrett
 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

Marion Jordan who died December 2.

Carol Pitner, whose husband, Tom, died December 5.

Congratulations

to Tom & Elaine Ford who joined FUMC on November 20th.

Hays FUMC,

Thank you so much for all your love & support this year! Have a wonderful Christmas & New Year!

Rachel Palmberg

Thanks to Leta Stukesbary, Carol Purdy, Phil & Linda Stahlman, Sharon Graham & Mary Lou and Norman Clark & family for helping to serve the Thanksgiving dinner at FUMC.



We cannot begin to thank you enough for your church's donations to our food pantry. Because of your generosity we are able to provide for many families here in our school. Thanks again for your kind hearts and generosity.
 Hays High Counselors

The Bible. 365 days. You.

Yes, you! Not the type to sit down and read the entire Bible? Yes, the goal is to read the whole Bible in a year, but think about it in terms of smaller, daily goals. Think about a commitment to read a short selection from the Bible plus a concise devotional every day. You can do that – especially since *The Bible Year* has it all mapped out for you day by day. Plus, you'll also get summaries of key themes and ideas to help you better digest and understand your readings. So you're not just reading verse after verse, you're enriching your spiritual life, developing a deeper faith and forming a closer connection to God and to each other.

I am so excited to see how God will use this opportunity. We hope to offer classes and develop our worship alongside our readings. An entire year of journeying together around the scripture.

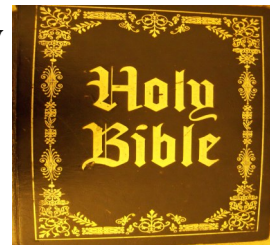
The Endowment of our church has invested in this journey by purchasing 150 of *The Bible Year* Devotions – one for each household. If you desire more than one, we will direct you how to purchase additional copies. Copies are available now in the church office. Additional details and class offerings will be announced when available. Our start date is January 1, 2023.

Need a stocking stuffer or hostess gift? Fair Trade coffees, cocoa mix and baking cocoa are available in the church office.



Kids Club

AND THAT'S A WRAP.....WOW kicked off January 12 with every age group digging deeper into their Bibles. Everyone from families to G1 and Youth to adults, were encouraged to attend classes which helped them specifically "go deeper" into Scripture by learning how to use their Bibles, study their Bibles or intentionally study a certain book or books of the Bible. Sunday School, following the Deep Blue curriculum, continued to meet from 9:45-10:45 and teaching teams of four were regrouped to allow for an older and a younger age class to be offered.



During Lent, RightNow Media was approved by the Endowment Committee and offered as a free gift to everyone in the church at Ash Wednesday service. "Declare" Youth Rally was held at Hays High School March 26 for all community youth and local churches. A mini-service WOW in April had us cleaning up the church and installing a trash can on the playground. We also spent the Lenten season coloring, cutting, laminating, hanging up and stringing up rows of butterflies in the worship spaces. A HUGE thank you to Melissa Pyle for all her hard work spearheading this project! During Holy week, many opportunities were offered: worship services for Palm/Passion Sunday, Holy Thursday, Good Friday that culminated in a festive Easter Sunday celebration, complete with Easter egg hunt for the kids!

Our Camp Sunday Bake Sale at the beginning of May raised \$1,800 (a record donated!) and helped send six campers to church camp this summer. The Gathering worship service at 9:45 continued to be the hands and feet of Jesus by "leaving the building" on 5th Sundays and visiting our shut-in members. Education and UMW hosted a brunch for our 2022 graduating seniors and their families on May 15.

Summer activities were numerous, beginning with an all-church outdoor worship at the park on June 19 and a float in the Wild West Fest parade July 2. VBS kicked off with games on the lawn and The Local Food truck stopping by for an evening of hot fun, food, and fellowship on July 10, followed by a church night at the Hays Aquatic Park on July 17. VBS had 40 kiddos and about as many volunteers for our "Food Truck Party." The kids collected non-perishables and generous donations from The Local Food Truck and several church members had us giving a full box of food items and \$240 to each of the four elementary schools!

A special flower memorial chime project was installed just in time for WOW kick off August 24 and The Gathering 5th Sunday project was a prayer walk around FHSU campus. Our annual trip to Pa's Pumpkin Patch on October 5 was a gorgeous evening of fun and fellowship, followed by another amazing Trunk or Treat on October 26. Our church family turned out with 21 trunks, The Local Food Truck once again joined us, as well as a couple of Hays policemen!

The Youth shared their gifts in all worship services with their "Sacrifice" theme on November 13 and November 20 they hosted a taco bar after third service. To end the year, Catherine Miller wrote and directed "The Lamb of God" pageant for 21 children who shared their gifts from the perspective of the sheep on December 18.

It's been a fun ride church. My last day as the Children's Ministry Director will be December 20. I thought about writing about the last ten years of my ministry but decided I'd rather the focus be on what we accomplished this year and not dwell on the past but look forward to the future. It has been an honor working with the staff, leadership, Education committee and especially all the children and their families! My prayer is that something we've done in these last ten years has made a difference. While I'm not leaving the church, I am retiring this "hat" and look forward to watching the children's ministry program flourish under new leadership and direction, with Melissa retaining her support position. I'm not sure yet what the Holy Spirit has in mind for me, but I am listening.

A very Merry Christmas and Happy 2023! Always, blessed to serve – Jo



January Menus

January 11


Taco burgers, Spanish rice & refried beans, chips & cheese, dessert

January 18

Chicken & noodles, mashed potatoes, rolls, corn, dessert

January 25th

Chili soup or cheesy potato soup, relish tray, crackers, cinnamon rolls

Date			Daily Reading			Day			<i>Coming Together Around the Scripture</i>			Date			Daily Reading			Day		
Jan. 1	Genesis	1:1-3:24	1		Jan. 17	Exodus	5:1-7:13	17												
Jan. 2	Genesis	4:1-5:32	2		Jan. 18	Exodus	7:14-12:30	18												
Jan. 3	Genesis	6:1-9:17	3		Jan. 19	Exodus	12:31-15:21	19												
Jan. 4	Genesis	9:18-11:32	4		Jan. 20	Exodus	15:22-18:27	20												
Jan. 5	Genesis	12:1-14:24	5		Jan. 21	Exodus	19:1-21:36	21												
Jan. 6	Genesis	15:1-17:27	6		Jan. 22	Exodus	22:1-24:18	22												
Jan. 7	Genesis	18:1-20:18	7		Jan. 23	Exodus	25:1-27:21	23												
Jan. 8	Genesis	21:1-23:20	8		Jan. 24	Exodus	28:1-30:38	24												
Jan. 9	Genesis	24:1-25:18	9		Jan. 25	Exodus	31:1-34:35	25												
Jan. 10	Genesis	25:19-28:9	10		Jan. 26	Exodus	35:1-40:38	26												
Jan. 11	Genesis	28:10-30:43	11		Jan. 27	Leviticus	1:1-4:35	27												
Jan. 12	Genesis	31:1-36:43	12		Jan. 28	Leviticus	5:1-7:38	28												
Jan. 13	Genesis	37:1-41:57	13		Jan. 29	Leviticus	8:1-10:20	29												
Jan. 14	Genesis	42:1-45:28	14		Jan. 30	Leviticus	11:1-14:57	30												
Jan. 15	Genesis	46:1-50:26	15		Jan. 31	Leviticus	15:1-18:30	31												
Jan. 16	Exodus	1:1-4:31	16																	

“...the joy of the Lord is your strength.” Nehemiah 8:10

Christmas was near, but it wouldn't be the same for us this year. Our son Harrison was [studying in Ireland](#) and was unable to travel home. My sister Keri's kids couldn't be with us for our traditional celebrations either. There would be no full-house holiday gatherings, no late-night talks with Harrison, no [elaborate Christmas dinner](#) when I looked around the table and saw my mom and dad smiling in the candlelight with all their family circled round. I was deep in the throes of doom and gloom when the call came.

“Hello.”

The sweet Southern accent on the other end could not be mistaken. I immediately knew it was Wanda, my 96-year-old friend.

“Honey,” she said. “Have you heard the news about the Christmas Star?”

“Well, no,” I answered.

“It hasn't been seen on earth for 800 years,” she said. “I am promising you this, honey. In the middle of a difficult time, God himself is sending us a message. Just like the rainbow with Noah. God is sooo good, darlin'.”

We talked for a few minutes more, and as soon as we hung up, I started googling. And there it was. The Christmas Star. There were scientific articles about the phenomenon, and reports from astronomy magazines and renowned planetariums, along with various reflections on the star's relation [to the birth of Jesus](#).

We all have memories of not-so-perfect Christmases, but Wanda's phone call relayed a powerful message, much bigger than any temporary disappointments. I stood in the backyard with my family on a cold, crisp night. We set our eyes on the Christmas Star. There would be lonely times and empty seats ahead, but Wanda's words won out over all: “God is soooo good, darlin'.”

Father, your signs sustain us. Your messengers, like Wanda, make us strong. —Brock Kidd

In This Miracle, All Miracles Are Born

A God becomes Child to save the children,
Shepherds chant with the tongue of Angels,
Salvation is described in a Mystery,
Heaven and Earth mingle into one Soul this night

Prophecy is the point of a Star.
Cherubim bow with the neck of Shepherds.
A cave becomes the Gate of the Universe
While kings search for the bed of a Beggar.

A Maiden becomes the Mother of Grace;
Life has been given another Life.
The Child reaches out, takes hold of the world
And smiles the Innocent Smile.

In this Miracle all miracles are born-
The blind receive sight and the deaf have song.
The cold and homeless have shelter
And pilgrims cease their wanderings.

In this Creation all creation is born
And all creatures have a voice.
We find ourselves kneeling alongside the Magi.
The Child turns, looks and recognizes.



December OUTREACH

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UPCOMING EVENTS

Sunday, December 18

One Service, 10:00

Children's Christmas Pageant

Wednesday, December 21

Longest Night Service, 7:00 p.m.

Saturday, December 24

Christmas Eve Service, 7:00 p.m.

Christmas Eve Service, 10:45 p.m.

Sunday, December 25

One Service, 10:00 a.m.

Monday, December 26

Church office closed

Sunday, January 1

One Service, 10:00 a.m.

Monday, January 2

Church office closed

Wednesday, January 11

WOW resumes