



University UMC News

Christ, Campus, & Community

January 2025

Lingering with Libby

Friends,

Happy New Year! We are already on day two of the New Year and so far, it has been wonderful except for the flock of birds who flew over and left their mark on my windshield in a big way. It is interesting that as the year begins, we often find ourselves looking for signs and this could have been an unbelievably bad sign for me. Fortunately, I had a friend with me who immediately said do let that be your sign.

So, this made me think about how to find my best self in the present. This is not about resolutions though for some it could look like it, it is about focusing more on God's abundance. On whom God wants me to be and what God wants me to be doing, not really something new for me, but certainly with a new level of thought and commitment.

I believe this is important as I consider the abundant blessings I have received in the form of cards, gifts, greetings, hugs, and treats shared for Christmas and New Year's, especially from so many of you! I was blessed this year to spend Christmas day with my daughter and her family and another day celebrating Christmas with my son's family, which I have not done for a long time. I have felt grateful for so much that God has given to us, especially the way we love and care for one another. Then a simple gift, the giant leaf in a frame pictured here as a reminder of the frailty of life, human life and, the beauty found in celebrating someone's life and resurrection.

I wonder if this same thing might be on your minds, as it seemed to be on the minds of my two children. For Christmas, unknowing what the other was giving me they both gave me a book called, "Mom I Want to Hear Your Story." For me this was a humbling moment, even though I hear this is a "thing" now I was thankful they wanted to know more about me as not just their mom but as a person. Though we have shared a lot of life together we often forget some incredibly special moments.



With all of this in mind, I'm going to ask you to save February 8 on your calendar. I'm going to offer a two-hour community retreat from 1-3pm at University UMC called "A Celebration of Stories" for us to gather our individual stories. This will be a great follow up to our current Worship Series, "Reset" where we are claiming the fresh start God makes available to us as we rediscover our true identity in the love of God. It will also help us to dive more deeply into our next Worship Series, "Rejoice." The "Rejoice" series focuses on finding joy in our past, our present and our future as we celebrate our growth despite the challenges we face, remembering to rejoice always.

+Grace and Peace, Pastor Libby

Discipleship News

Adult Sunday School: Sundays 9:15am

UUMC Youth Group: TBD

Bible Study: January 14-February 18,
2pm at UUMC Boardroom

Faith Outside the Box:

Every 2nd & 4th Thursday 7:30pm
(Ad Astra, 135 N. Santa Fe)

January 5 - after Sunday worship
Special Charge Conference

January 9: Redbird Circle 9:30am at
Donita Blackwell's home

SPECIAL
SUNDAY

“Life’s most persistent and urgent question is,
‘What are you doing for others?’”

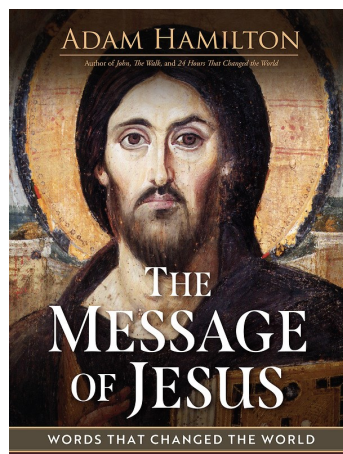
- REV. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR.



HUMAN RELATIONS DAY

Join Pastor Chelsea for Bible Study!

We will kick off our next small group study with Adam Hamilton's new study, "The Message of Jesus: Words That Changed the World."



This 6-week study explores six of the most important themes in Jesus' teachings, why they matter, and how they speak to us today. The study will run weekly on Tuesdays starting January 14 - February 18, 2-3pm in the UUMC Boardroom.

January 19, 2025

What is Human Relations Day?

Generally celebrated the Sunday before Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday, it is a special Sunday across the United Methodist denomination, focused on fostering better relationships and supporting community and youth outreach.

Did You Know?

For over 50 years, United Methodists have observed this special Sunday to honor the message Jesus lived out: that every one of God's children matters. One of the beautiful things about the United Methodist Church is that, together, we can accomplish far more than we could on our own.

We encourage you to give to this special offering on January 19 or anytime in the month of January. Simply add a note to your check, envelope or online giving that your gift is for Human Relations Sunday.

How can you continue to bring Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s vision of a "beloved community" to life?

Missional Service Opportunities

Disaster Response: A new opportunity

What is CERT? Community Emergency Response Team is a nationally supported, locally implemented program that teaches people how to be better prepared for hazards that may affect their communities and trains them in basic disaster response skills such as fire safety, light search and rescue, team organization, and disaster medical operations.

Join us for a special conversation on Jan. 9 at 6 p.m. CT via Zoom to learn more about the CERT program and how this program will enhance our ministry and communities.

Email Rev. Hollie Tapley, htapley@greatplainsumc.org, to be placed on the registration list. This conversation will be led by the Kansas Department of Emergency Management.

Salina Area United Way Volunteer Platform

A Salina non-profit organization has launched a volunteer platform which will empower community members to easily find and engage with organizations that are actively seeking support.

To view the current list of organizations offering volunteer opportunities, visit: salinaareaunitedway.volunteerlocal.com/volunteer

Early Response Team Training (ERT)

Mark your calendars!

April 26, 2025, 8:30am-4:00pm
Trinity UMC | 901 E Neal Ave. Salina, KS 67401

Not a first response group of emergency workers nor a recovery rebuild or repair team: the purpose of ERTs is to fill the specific need in the early days after a disaster of being a Christian presence of the church. ERTs respond only after they have been requested by the affected community.

Come learn where United Methodists are involved, what is a disaster, how do we prepare for a disaster, what we can do when a disaster strikes, how the disaster response plan is activated, and how to be a caring presence in communities facing disaster recover.

Learn more and register at:
<https://gp-reg.brtapp.com/ERTSalina042625>

How can we serve others?

United Methodists have long participated in God's work in the world. We pray, worship, and offer well wishes. We also serve, lend a hand, and meet a need. Through our service, we often find healing for ourselves as the Holy Spirit moves in and through us.

A great guide for finding ways to minister to our neighbors is Jesus' story of the sheep and goats in Matthew 25:31-46. Jesus tells the helpers that they served him by serving those in the greatest need.

- Give to the Blessing Box
- Embrace love, care for the elderly, do no harm on social media
- Donate clothing, give blood, care for your neighbors
- Work for justice, learn about prison ministry, support addiction and abuse ministries

Financial News

Our 2025 Budget approved by our Leadership Team is as follows.

Income: \$142,500
Expenses: \$180,557
Difference (\$38,057)

This budget included paying for interns who engage in ministry with us out of our own funds. Income has declined as is the case in many churches. We expect our budget will improve when we gift our building to KWU.

UUMC Leadership Team

It is hard to believe we have stepped into a new year. Giving statements will be sent out in January. If you have any questions or need to know where you stand on your giving, call me. I am in the office Monday and Wednesday afternoons from 1-4 PM.

Diane, UUMC Treasurer
Office Hours: Mon. & Wed. 1-4pm

Dillons Community Rewards

We receive a good return when you add us as a community rewards non-profit. If you still haven't signed up for this free benefit, please do.

The easiest way to do this is:

- Go to your Dillons App
- Click on the 3 bars in the top left corner
- Click on Rewards
- Click on Community Rewards
- Now, sign up. We are University United Methodist Church
- You will need to scroll down to find the correct church by its address.
- That is all you need to do.

In the future you can check and see how much you contribute on that same page. If you have any problems or just need some help, stop by and see me in the office and I can help get you started. You will need to have the app downloaded to your phone before you get started. I can help you with that too! What a great way to help the church raise money!!



VISIT OUR WEBSITE



www.theuumc.org



YOU CAN NOW ACCESS:

Have you been to our church website recently? Check it out!

- Sunday Bulletins
- Monthly Newsletters
- Upcoming Events
- Give Online
- And MORE!





Pastor Chelsea and the Bible study group welcomed in the New Year on 12/31/2024 with a New Year's Eve Party!



THANK YOU to all who donated to the HUGSS tree!



January Birthdays

- 4 John Marietta
- 5 Velma Howie
- 6 Patricia Baldwin
- 10 Avonne Anderson
LaVelle Frick
- 18 Kelly Clark
- 20 Dell Mettlen
- 22 Barbara Marsha
Nickell
- 25 Bishop Talbott
- 26 Bonnie Alexander



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God of the ages, you have blessed us with another year.

Help us to make room for the blessings that are in store for us in the coming months.

May we be open to learn the right lessons, even if they hurt a little.

Help us to be patient so that we won't miss divine opportunities.

Show us how to be fulfilled without material possessions, so that we will not miss what it means to be a blessed people.

Enable us to be a blessing so you will recognize us as the ones who gave you bread when you were hungry, drink when you were thirsty, and clothes when you were naked.

In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

Adaptation of a prayer by the Rev. Kevin B. Smalls



Open Hearts. Open Minds. Open Doors.
The people of The United Methodist Church®

Communication Updates

If you have items for the newsletter please send them to Tara at office@theuumc.org.

Please submit your newsletter items by January 21 to be included in the February newsletter.

Would you like to receive the monthly newsletter by email? Email Tara at office@theuumc.org.

Remember we will not regularly send out mid-week news, but will send out reminders and new opportunities that we don't hear about until after the newsletter is published.

**Thank you card from
Schilling Elem. School**



Thank you so much for the donation of clothes for our kids here at Schilling. This donation is much appreciated as a school nurse. Being able to provide the clothes and sizes needed for my kids when they need it, is wonderful.

Happy holidays!
Schilling Elementary

A Special Thank You

We extend our gratitude to everyone who helped make our Advent season truly meaningful.

- **Musicians:** Thank you to Dr. Gustavo do Carmo for your inspiring preludes and postludes as well as the special music for Reader's Theater and accompanying others. We are also deeply grateful to Rachel Everitt and Jane Anderson for leading our singing and offering special music. Thanks to Barbara Harris for playing your harp and Sarah do Rosario for sharing your special music on the violin.
- **Reader's Theater:** We are thankful for Jane Anderson for organizing and leading the theater presentation. Thank you to the readers; Jane Anderson, Barbara Marshall, Jayden Kitchen, and Pastor Libby. We appreciate all of Tara's hard work to find the best pictures that were not copyrighted.
- **Advent Candle Lighting:** A special thank you to all who participated in lighting the Advent candles each Sunday and on Christmas Eve, enhancing our worship experience with this cherished tradition.
- **Christmas Coffee and Fellowship:** Thank you to Karen Buhler for organizing and hosting and for all the people who helped provide the delectable food.
- **Hanging of the Greens:** Thank you to everyone who helped with the hanging of the greens including the Men's Bowling Team who helped bring down decorations and put up trees. Thank you to Rick Dahl for the gift of the Advent Wreath and the poinsettias
- **Our Church Family:** Finally, we are deeply grateful for all who participated in our worship services and were a part of our church family this Advent season. Your presence brought warmth and joy to our gatherings.

Your dedication, faithfulness, talents, and fellowship have enriched our community, and we are truly blessed by your gifts.

FAMILY OPEN GYM

Need to get out of the house but it's too cold outside? Come play in a warm, safe place during the winter months with us!
All ages welcome!

January 4 & 18
February 8 & 22 2-3:30pm
March 8 & 22

Toys and games provided. Bring your own basketball to shoot hoops.

Church of the Cross
1600 Rush St. Salina, KS 67401
FB: United Methodist
Church of the Cross

YOU'RE INVITED!

COMMUNITY BIRTHDAY PARTY

Sunday
10AM 1/12/25

Church of the Cross
1600 Rush St.
Salina, KS 67401

Bring a dish to share
potluck style and
celebrate upcoming
birthdays!

Want to host a table?
Scan the QR code or
go to bit.ly/3PiqiMW to
sign up and/or let us
know you're coming!



Make fall safety a top priority this winter season with these tips



- 1) Use special care when getting in and out of vehicles
- 2) Plan ahead and give yourself sufficient time to get to your destination
- 3) Use your vehicle for support when entering and exiting
- 4) Avoid carrying items that reduce your ability to see the ground in front of you
- 5) When entering a building, wipe your feet to remove as much snow and water from your shoes as possible
- 6) Scan the path six or more feet ahead of you for trip hazards
- 7) Watch for black ice. Try tapping your foot on potentially slick areas to see if they are safe to walk on
- 8) Wear footwear with slip-resistant soles
- 9) Walk slowly and take small steps
- 10) If you happen to slip, avoid using your arms to break your fall. If you fall backward, tuck your chin to keep your head from hitting the ground

Trivia Night

JANUARY 18
FEBRUARY 8
MARCH 8

6:30 PM

Grab some friends to make a team or form a team with others when you arrive!
Know you're going to be there? Sign up by emailing tara.baxter@coc-salina.org

Church of the Cross
1600 Rush St. Salina, KS 67401
FB: United Methodist Church of the Cross



God's mercies are new every morning! But sometimes it is easy for us to get stuck in the same old routine. This New Year let's hit the "reset button," so we can claim the fresh start God makes available to us. As we rediscover our true identity in the love of God, we will discover new purpose and, guided by the compass of God's values, head off in an exciting God-given direction!

1/5/25: "Soul Reset" are.	Luke 3:21-23	Resetting you soul begins with remembering who you are. In baptism, God calls us beloved.
1/12/25: "Reset Purpose" God's	Mark 1:32-39	Spending time with God enables us to start our year with intention. Centered living comes from understanding purpose in this season.
1/19/25: "Reset Values"	Galatians 5:24-6:10	What does it mean to live by God's Spirit and not our own, to live according to God's values and not those of the world?
1/26/25: "Reset Direction"	Acts 9:1-15	Whether we've been in the church for a long time or are exploring the faith, Jesus sometimes calls us to move in a new direction, even when we think we are already heading in the right direction.

Prayer List

Veterans & Active Military & Families, family of Royce Rehmert, Leanne Decker, Terry Hauschel, Christina Robin, Marion Eustice.

Homebound individuals, Van Lett, Dennis Darby, Patricia Baldwin, Mike Trow, Vanessa Dickson, Janice Paulie, Chris Dahl, Kristi Hansen, Kim Duell.

How can we pray for you?

Send your prayer requests the following ways:

Pastor Libby
785-564-1977 libbythemis@gmail.com

Pastor Chelsea Shrack Bell
620-546-6059 chelsea@triumc.org

Church Office
785-825-9505 office@theuumc.org

Church office hours:

Monday 1:30pm-3:30pm

Wednesday 1:30pm-4pm

Friday 9:00am-10:00am (may vary)

Phone: (785) 825-9505

Email: office@theuumc.org

Please call and leave a message or email us at the addresses to the right to set up an appointment outside of office hours.

Church Staff

Libby Themis, Lead Pastor

libbythemis@gmail.com

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Pastor**

chelsea@triumc.org

Tara Baxter, Administrative Assistant

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Diane Werth, Accountant

accounting@theuumc.org

Rick O'Rorke, Custodian