



University UMC News

Christ, Campus, & Community

March 2025

Lingering with Libby

Friends,

I have been traveling quite a bit in the past month or so for training in Florida and North Carolina as well as to Topeka for the Conference Board of Ordained Ministry. I am in awe of how much it changes not only my perspective, but also me personally as I begin to see the world through a new lens. Not physically like I will soon experience when I get new lenses to correct my cataracts, but the lens of perspective and understanding. In Florida we began work to collaborate ecumenically for justice along with a cohort of area United Methodists Pastors, so I gained perspective on experiences of injustice in our area and the need we have to bring faith-based justice seeking not only to our larger community, but those in rural areas as well.

As I write this I am sitting in the Raleigh, NC airport waiting for a flight back from a couple of days of TIIMS (Transitional Intentional Interim Ministry Specialist) training. This training helped me to learn how to step into churches where adaptive change is needed to walk with the leadership to help the congregation live into who they are in this time as they heal and are restored following any number of circumstances. The hope is through this process spiritual growth will take root and the church will be restored and made new for where God is calling them next. Thank you for the continuing education funds to help with the costs of both these training courses also supported by DART and our Annual Conference.

The other work with the Board of Ordained Ministry was eye opening to see and understand how God has worked through so many circumstances experienced by so many people to bring them to a place of dedicating their lives to be servant leaders. We met with local people, people from other parts of the country and world who are part of God's creative work to bring people in our conference to faith and to grow in faith.

Knowing how these experiences nourished my growth and the growth of colleagues I am excited about the opportunity we must grow together during the upcoming Lenten season. I hope you will consider joining us for our Lenten Worship Series "A Time to Grow: Lenten Lessons from the Garden to the Table" based on the book by Rev. Kara Eidson as well as for the Wednesday Lunch and Learn. Rev. Eidson gives us a whole new perspective on Lent and connects it to the life of a garden, a critical theme in scripture. Our story began in a garden with Adam and Eve. The prophets Isaiah, Jeremiah, and Amos all talk about the significance of gardens. Gardens are found in the writings about and to God in the Song of Solomon and the Psalms. Of course, we find gardens in various ways in the gospels from Jesus talking about being a vine and we are the branches, to the Garden of Gethsemane, and of course the tomb where Jesus was buried would have been in some sort of garden.

Jesus's death and resurrection is the garden of salvation where he gave his life to redeem our sins so we could have eternal life. This is a journey meant for our community so consider how we can walk together this Lent towards Jesus and new life.

Grace and Peace, Pastor Libby

Discipleship News

Adult & Youth Sunday School:

Sundays 9:15am

Faith Outside the Box:

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

Bible Study: UUMC Boardroom

"Witness to the Cross"

Tuesday, March 11-April 15 | 2pm-3pm

Church of the Cross - Courtyard Room

"A Time to Grow" Lenten Lunch & Learn

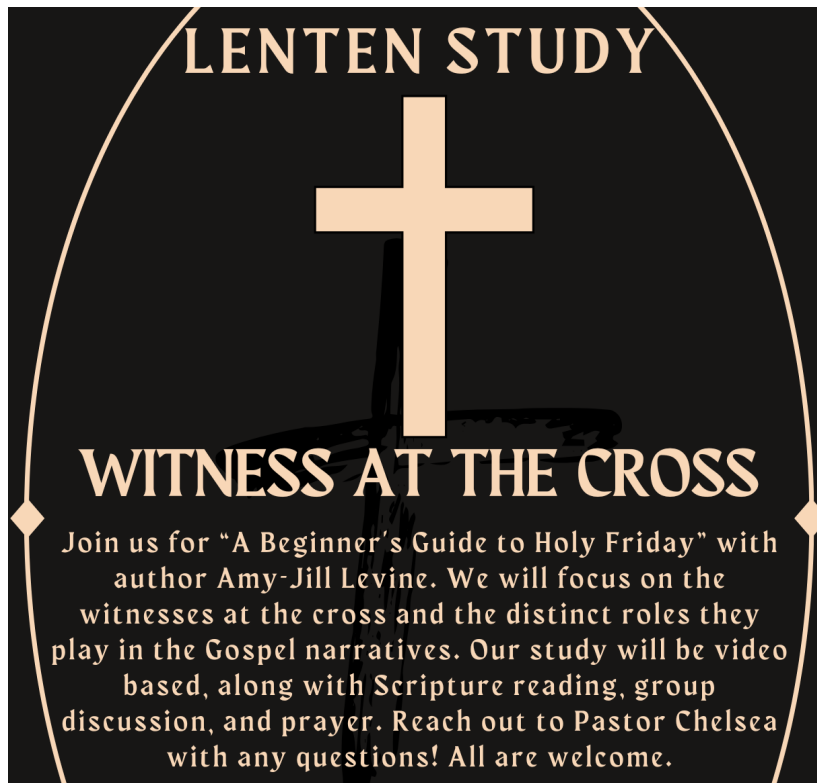
Wednesday, March 12-April 16 | 12pm

Ash Wednesday Services

We will have two services on Ash Wednesday. One will be at noon at Church of the Cross and the other will be at 6pm at University UMC on March 5.

Troop 5 Fundraiser

March 16, TBD



Fifth Sunday Lunch and Congregational Meeting

Sunday, March 30

Following Worship



Everyone is invited to bring something for a potluck meal that will include updates from your Leadership Team and discussion time as we continue to vision for the future.

Debbie Williams is the meal organizer so please reach out to her if you can help.

Lenten Lunch & Learn:

Wednesdays, 12pm-1pm

March 12 - April 16

Church of the Cross -
Courtyard Room

Along with the sermon series, Pastor Libby will be offering a Lenten Lunch & Learn Study.

Bring your lunch to talk about the book and the series. Let's grow in faith together!

Missional Service Opportunities



Salina Fieldhouse
7 am to 6 pm on 03/13/25



www.MatchMadnessGSCF.org
Midnight to 11:59 pm on 03/13/25

Volunteers Needed!

Opportunities include:

- 5th Grade Supervisors
- Concession Stand Help
- Free-Throw Contest Assistant
- Table Setup (Wednesday evening 3/12/25)
- Teardown (Thursday Evening)



Visit the link or scan the QR code to sign up now!

Questions? Give us a call 785-823-1800

<https://salinaareaunitedway.volunteerlocal.com/volunteer/?id=96698>



Location: The Salina Fieldhouse
140 N 5th St. Salina KS 67401

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

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

Financial News

Our financial totals for the month of January 2025 are as follows:

Income: \$7,568.00
Expenses: \$14,742.99
Difference \$(7,174.99)

Monthly Income Budget: \$12,668.00
Monthly Expenses Budget: \$15,553.00
Difference: \$(2,885.00)

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

**SPECIAL
SUNDAY**

“For I was hungry and you gave me food,
I was thirsty and you gave me drink,
I was a stranger and you welcomed me.”

- MATTHEW 25:35



UMCOR SUNDAY

UMCOR Sunday is held the 4th week of Lent—
March 30, 2025.

To donate, please make checks payable
to your local church or give online at
UMCgiving.org/giveUMCOR

Visit umcmission.org/umcor to learn more
about UMCOR!

Dillons Community Rewards

Just a quick update on the Dillons Community Rewards. We currently have 47 households participating with a total of \$255.40 collected. That is great! 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!!

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



2025 UUMC VALENTINES SPECIAL FUNDRAISER



THANK YOU for helping us raise \$455 for the church! We hope you all enjoyed your sweet treats and were able to spread some Valentines joy!

10 Things You Can Try for the Lenten Season

10. Try an electronic fast. Give up TV, Facebook, texting, etc. for one day every week. Use the time to read and pray.

9. Start a prayer rhythm. Each day of Lent, go to the Upper Room's prayer wall (upperroom.org/prayer) and pray for another person.

8. Go deeper. Join us at one of the weekly Lenten study groups starting Tuesday, March 11 at 2pm—UUMC Boardroom or Wednesday, March 12 at 12pm—COC Courtyard Room.

7. Forgive someone who doesn't deserve it (maybe even yourself). Study a book on forgiveness, such as "Forgiveness, the Passionate Journey: Nine Steps of Forgiving Through Jesus' Beatitudes" by Flora Slosson Wuellner.

6. Give up soft drinks, fast food, tea or coffee. Give the money you save to help folks in a different part of the world who are in crisis.

5. Create a daily quiet time. Spend 10 minutes a day in silence and prayer. See how it can help you add spiritual practice to your daily life beyond Lent.

4. Cultivate a life of gratitude. Write someone a thank-you letter each week, and be aware of how many people have helped you along the way. Learn more about the spiritual practice of gratitude at upperroom.org/resources.

3. Visit Sigh Psalms (upperroom.org/sight_psalms) and spend time in visual meditation and prayer.

2. Volunteer one hour or more each week with a local shelter, tutoring program, nursing home, or prison ministry.

1. Pray for others you see as you walk to and from classes or drive to and from work.



March Birthdays

- | | |
|----|--------------------------------|
| 1 | Donita Blackwell |
| 4 | Stella Vanderford |
| 6 | Mary Lou Bowman |
| 7 | Katy Kitchen
Evelyn Maxwell |
| 13 | Barbara Davis |
| 20 | Barbara Harris |
| 24 | Charles Jarboe |
| 31 | Rick Dahl |



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Communication Updates

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

Please submit your newsletter items by March 21 to be included in the April 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.



WALK KANSAS

March 30 - May 24, 2025

Walk with us toward a healthier tomorrow.

Registration opens March 3!

K-STATE
Research and Extension

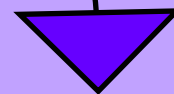
Walk Kansas

walkkansas.org

Let's get walking!

Join the walking group! We will be meeting at Church of the Cross every Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday at 8:30am March 25-May 3.

Just in time to participate in Walk Kansas' **25th** year!



The Greater Salina Community Foundation will host Salina's annual Match Madness giving day on Thursday, March 13, 2025, for the 14th year in a row!

On this day, donations to will be matched up to 50%! University UMC's goal is \$1,000 to go toward a new HVAC system.

- Donate online at www.matchmadnessgscf.org - 12 a.m. to 11:59 p.m.
- Mail cash or check donations (with a completed donation form) to the community foundation at PO Box 2876, Salina, KS 67402-2876. These must be postmarked March 13, 2025.



ARTHRITIS FOUNDATION WALK WITH EASE

WHERE?

Church of the Cross
1600 Rush St

WHEN?

Tuesdays, Thursdays, &
Saturdays at 8:30am
Start: Mar 25
End: May 3

Walking, like many other forms of exercise, offers many benefits for your body and spirit. Besides being inexpensive, convenient and fun, walking can help to:

- strengthen the heart and lungs
- nourish joints
- build bones
- fight osteoporosis
- burn calories
- control weight
- reduce stress
- improve mood
- boost energy

FOR MORE INFO, contact Beks Lohmeier



785-515-6567



blohmeier@ksu.edu

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SPRING BREAK activities

All ages welcome!

12-1:30pm

Monday, 3/17/25 Vision Boards & Rock Painting

Tuesday, 3/18/25 Starting Seeds

Wednesday, 3/19/25 Food Art - Use food to make art!

Thursday, 3/20/25 Game Day - Board/Card Games

2-3:30pm

Saturday, 3/22/25 Family Open Gym & Learn to Juggle

SIGN UP

Scan QR code or go to
bit.ly/SB25COC



CHURCH OF THE CROSS

1600 Rush St. Salina, KS 67401

FB: United Methodist Church of the Cross



Register Here!

See Tara in the office for a paper copy.

Come Learn to Cook

Be a Junior Chef

Where: Church of the Cross
1600 Rush St

When: March 17-21
9:00-11:00am

Contact: Beks Lohmeier
SNAP-Ed Nutrition Educator
blohmeier@ksu.edu



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United Methodist
HealthMinistryFund

FAITHFUL LIVING: CONNECTING & DEEPENING RELATIONSHIPS FOR HEALTH

Please join us for our 2025 Healthy Congregations annual retreat in Salina, KS! This year is all about building connections — with your faith, health, community and each other. You won't want to miss this inspiring, FREE event! Check out our event page for more details and to register.

 **APRIL 10-11, 2025**  **SALINA, KS**

LEARN MORE & REGISTER:
www.HealthFund.org/a/2025HCRetreat

Healthy Congregations
2025 Annual Retreat

**REGISTER
NOW**



the 

**Mar
15**



**FIRE DEPARTMENT vs LAW ENFORCEMENT
CHARITY BASKETBALL GAME**



From Eden to Gethsemane to the garden in which Jesus was buried and raised, our story of faith wanders through much fertile soil. But in our current world of fast food and to-go meals, we often do not make time to explore where our food comes from and how we break bread together. Journeying through the season of Lent with this in mind, the book “A Time to Grow” encourages us to slow down, move through the painstaking process of growth, and end together with great feasting and celebration of the resurrection.

We will explore the intricacies of how faith is required to produce food and how that faith can lead us all to feast at the table on Easter morning.

3/5/25:	Ash Wednesday—“Soil”	Joel 2:1-2; Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21 (3-1-17)
3/9/25:	“Order”	Genesis 2:15-17, 3:1-17; Luke 4:1-13
3/16/25:	“Life”	Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18; Mark 8:31-38
3/23/25:	“Water”	Psalms 63:1-8; John 4:5-42
3/30/25:	“Light”	Samuel 16:1-13; John 3:14-21
4/6/25:	“Restoration”	Ezekiel 37:1-14; John 11:1-45

Prayer List

Veterans & Active Military & Families, Leanne Decker, Terry Hauschel, Christina Robin, Marion Eustice, Steve Blackwell, Kim Duell, Evelyn Maxwell, family of Sarah Toburen Lindblad.

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

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

**Pastor Chelsea Shrack Bell, Assistant
Pastor**

chelsea@triumc.org

Tara Baxter, Administrative Assistant
office@theuumc.org

Diane Werth, Accountant
accounting@theuumc.org

Rick O'Rorke, Custodian