



University UMC News

Christ, Campus, & Community

April 2025

Lingering with Libby

Throughout this Lenten season, we have been focusing on the book “A Time to Grow: Lenten Lessons from the Garden to the Table” which seems so truly relevant for our times. This is definitely a time when we need to focus more on God than on all we see happening in the world. As we delve deeper into our relationship with God, we are called to remember our connection to the earth and all creation and remember the abundant blessings we have received because of God’s grace. Blessing that are multiplied when we gather as community to break bread together and remember Jesus’ sacrifice for us.

Gardening season is just beginning, and transitions begin as the first seeds are planted and nurtured have begun to the process of forming plants. We as the church find ourselves in a time of transition where seeds of faith which have been planted and nurtured are being prepared for further growth and harvesting in the coming season. A growth process that is not easy as we let go of what has been our norm and our pastoral leadership to do the groundwork to prepare for our new pastoral leadership.

Unlike plants in a garden when we as human beings face transitions and times of growth, we often experience grief and loss. For some the grief is just a simple acknowledgement of the loss and for others it can be devastating. Since grief is unique in these ways for each person, I invite each of us to be kinder and gentler with one another in this season. I encourage you to take time with God to share what you are feeling about the changes in our congregational community and listen for what God might be speaking. Also, it is important to draw close to this community who shares your experience, so we are walking together. When we are grieving or are fearful of change it is sometimes difficult to remember God is always at work we may just need to pause and be aware of God’s presence and faithful friends can help us.

The lessons and messages we have shared this Lenten season in our Time to Grow series can be a real source of healing, remembrance, and strength. We come from the dust from which God created us we, ordering us in a unique way to be the people of God. This ordering that prepared us for the God given breath of life which empowers us through the Holy Spirit to live the life we have been called to. Not just any ordinary life, but life eternal that is fully ours as Jesus Christ offers us life-giving water. It is in the life-giving water that we find our hope, like the woman at the well who knew that even though Jesus knew her whole life which hadn’t been the best he welcomed her into relationship. Not just a relationship for a few minutes at the well or a few days in community, but an eternal relationship where she was assured of one day feasting at the heavenly banquet because she drank from the life-giving water Jesus offered her. My prayer is that we will all choose life-giving water and be strengthened and sustained for a deeper relationship with God.

+Grace and Peace, Pastor Libby

Discipleship News

Adult & Youth Sunday School:

Sundays 9:15am

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 23 | 12pm

Leadership Team Meeting: Boardroom
April 2, 7pm

Redbird Circle: May's house
April 3, 9:30am (2009 Highland Ave.)

KWU Worship Night: Sanctuary
April 21, 6:30pm

UNIVERSITY UMC

HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

UUMC

April 13 | Palm Sunday | 10:30am

UUMC

April 17 | Maundy Thursday | 5:30pm

COC

April 18 | Good Friday | 5:30pm

KWU
STADIUM

April 20 | Sunrise Service | 7am

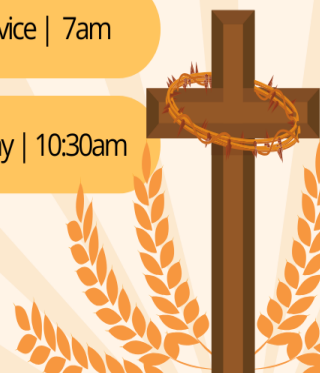
UUMC

April 20 | Easter Sunday | 10:30am

www.theuumc.org

UUMC - 1509 S Santa Fe

COC - 1600 Rush Street



24 hrs. of Worship

April 14-15, Noon-Noon

Hauptli Student Activities Center

Praise Bands, Choirs, Individuals
or Group of friends

why

1. Because Jesus is worthy.
2. Bring a music, intercessory prayer & scripture for Salina.
3. Be an evangelical witness to the goodness of God.

What can you do:

*Provide Music (group or solo), read
scripture, pray, dance, artistic expression*

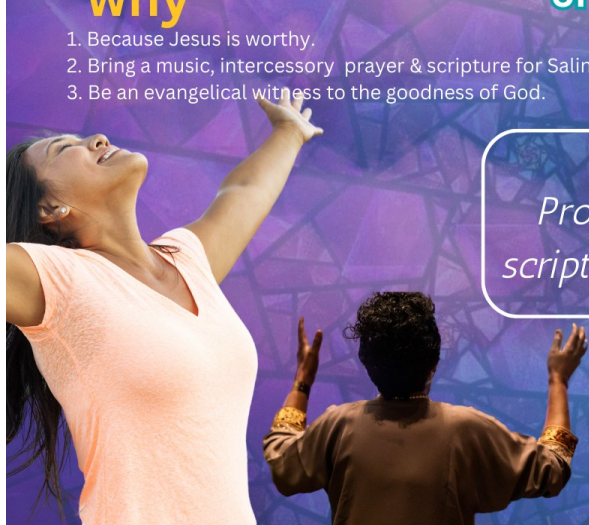
Registration Link



hosted by:



KANSAS
WESLEYAN
UNIVERSITY



Missional Service Opportunities

Early Response Team Training (ERT)

April 26, 2025, 8:30am-4:00pm

Trinity UMC | 901 E Neal Ave. Salina, KS 67401

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>



Saline County Sheriff's Office

Saline County Sheriff's Office is partnering with Simple Outreach Solutions to obtain the resources needed to educate our community's children about topics such as Crime Prevention, Bicycle Safety, Staying Drug-Free, Internet safety, etc. This will be done during school visits, station tours, patrol car tours, and many other event throughout the year.

We will utilize various educational material offered by Simple Outreach Solutions, such as coloring books, fingerprint ID kits, slide charts, story and sticker books, etc. to teach and encourage all our children to make informed, life-changing decisions. To do that, we need your financial support to obtain these materials.

100% of your support will be used for the materials distributed by our agency in our community!

25 kids - \$100

50 kids - \$200

100 kids - \$400

Checks MUST be made payable to Simple Outreach Solutions, otherwise they will be returned to you for correction. Please address your envelope the following:

Saline County Sheriff's Office
S.O.S. Child Safety Program
PO Box 1606
Salina, KS 67402

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 financial totals for the month of February 2025 are as follows:

Income: \$45,134.00
Expenses: \$14,132.02
Difference \$31,001.97

Monthly Income Budget: \$12,668.00
Monthly Expenses Budget: \$15,825.00
Difference: \$(3,157.00)

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



THANK YOU to all who donated at Match Madness!
THANK YOU to Sam who made 5 free throw shots and made \$50 for University UMC! With the 50% match from the Greater Salina Community Foundation and \$50 free throw shots, the total fundraised was \$3,052.87!

Leadership Team Updates

Our Leadership Team has already been quite busy this year. We look forward to continuing our conversation with the congregation on Sunday, March 30 following worship. We will focus on how we can align our mission statement with the values we previously expressed.

As we have continued our conversations with Kansas Wesleyan about gifting our building to them, we are now on a pause until next year. While we are on a pause, we will continue to rent KWU the space at the church they have been using for the past few years, and we are now renting them our parsonage for some non-traditional students who are working with the farming program.

We have agreed that to improve our communications we will only allow items to be posted in the elevator once the pastor has approved them.

We also want to remind everyone that if you want to use a space in the church to please reserve the time and location with Tara. You can stop by the office on Monday or Wednesday afternoon, call her at 785-825-9509, or email office@theuumc.org and she will happily get the space reserved if it is available.

We had a great conversation with the Boy Scout Leader, Terry Hill, about continued use of our space and received their request to have ownership of the trailer. Since the trailer is for Boy Scout's use our Leadership Team voted to give the trailer to them. We are in the process of getting a new title in order to complete the gift.

We authorized the consolidation of some of our bank accounts while continuing to separately account for them in our finance system. This allows us to invest funds for a higher return instead of sitting and collecting very minimal interest. In other financial news we also set an amount that can be transferred from the Greater Salina Area Foundation for expenses as needed when giving falls short of expenses. When a transfer is made the Leadership Team will then be notified so we have a clear picture of our finances.

We received estimates for the sanctuary air conditioning repair and our Leadership Team approved a bid and the equipment is being ordered. Our hope is that it will be in place by early to mid-June. Fortunately, from previous giving for the air conditioning we should have enough in our reserve funds to pay the full amount without further fundraising efforts.



**Brad Anderson shooting
the half-court shot!**



**Sam, Pastor Libby's son-in-
law, shooting free-throws
for UUMC!**



April Birthdays

- 3 KayDee Eustice
- 4 Judy Weber
- 5 Bailey Talbott
- 9 Ed Howie
- 14 Norman Pihl
- 15 Connie Gibson
- 17 Jady Kitchen
Jennifer Redding
- 18 Mike Trow
- 23 Jennifer Boyles
- 25 Della Mettlen
- 26 Van Lett
Sabrina do Rosario
- 28 Mike Durall
Hazel Henry
- 29 Jim Ryan

Communication Updates

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

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



The Salina Rescue Mission

Stutzmans
Greenhouse & Garden Centers

PLANT SALE FUNDRAISER

20% of the proceeds benefit the Salina Rescue Mission

**April 23-26, 2025
8AM-7PM**

Save the Date

**Central Mall Parking Lot
Southwest Corner
(Magnolia & 9th St)
SALINA, KS**



**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.

REGISTER NOW

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

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

Healthy Congregations
2025 Annual Retreat



WALK KANSAS

March 30 - May 24, 2025

Walk with us toward a healthier tomorrow.

Registration opens March 3!

K-STATE | Walk Kansas | walkkansas.org
Research and Extension



**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

K-STATE
Research and Extension
This institution is an equal opportunity provider.



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.

4/6/25:	“Restoration”	Ezekiel 37:1-14; John 11:1-45
4/13/25: Palm Sunday	“Time”	Luke 19:29-40; Luke 22:66-23:56
4/17/25: Maundy Thursday	“Remember”	Exodus 12:1-4, 11-14; Luke 22:14-20
4/18/25: Good Friday	“Fast”	John 18:1-19:42
4/20/25: Easter Sunday	“Feast”	John 20:1-18

Prayer List

Our Country, 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