



University UMC News

Christ, Campus, & Community

November 2024

Lingering with Libby

Friends,

As fall has finally reached us in the past month and it has been wonderful seeing the changes in the trees, bushes, and grasses. I hope you have had an opportunity to get out and walk or drive around and see the leaves hanging loosely on branches, just waiting to take flight down to the ground. Leaves that seem to have lost their life only to be swept up by winds blowing them further on and sometimes around and around as they swirling in an autumn dance. I have always loved the fall leaves and have vibrant memories of looking for gigantic maple leaves to press between waxed paper when I was in kindergarten. One year I saved a leaf clear through until spring to try and deter the cold dark days of winter.

As I have grown older, I grow in fascination with trees themselves. I am intrigued by the many different types of trees, but mostly by the way the branches grow. Often with several branches at different levels on the tree that seem to grow in a remarkably similar shape while at the same time there are always some branches that are quite different. I wonder how this can happen, especially knowing that science has shown that it is the wind that has the most impact on how trees grow. When branches at different stages of growth look so similar, it may not be genetic as much as it is the effect of the wind, and I wonder about rhythms in the winds.

When I consider the trees of fall, I realize what a visceral impact they have on me and my understanding of transformation as the Spirit moves us. We let go of beautiful and once necessary items to be open to the changes that come through the ongoing work of the Holy Spirit. We must open ourselves up and be vulnerable as we focus on what God desire for us, knowing that on the other side of transformation there will be new life, fruitful life. Where trees that once seemed nearly dead not only come to life, but they are also fruitful and nourish the world around them.

My fascination with trees may be because it so closely resembles how I understand our faith journey and our call to new life in Christ. A life that is fruitful not just for us but for the community around us, for those who witness the changes in us, the new life that comes day after day and year after year as the Spirit renews us. I try to recall not what I have let go of, but each time I have seen a shift in my perspective that improves and strengthens my relationship with family, friends, the community, and world where I am so blessed by God's creative work.

When I contemplate the work of God in this season the words of the Hymn of Promise echoes in my head, "In our end is our beginning; in our time, infinity, in our doubt there is believing, in our life, eternity." In each transformation in our lives, we grow closer to God and the eternal life promised through Jesus Christ which brings us joy even in hard times. May this autumn season be transformational for each of us and for our greater community.

Grace and Peace, Pastor Libby

Discipleship News

Adult Sunday School: Sundays 9:45am

UUMC Youth Group: Sunday Nov. 10 & 24
at 9:30am

MS Youth Group: Sundays 7-8pm

Bible Study: Tuesdays 2pm (UUMC
Boardroom)

HS Youth Group: Wednesdays 7-8pm

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

KWU Worship Night: November 18,
6:30-7:30pm (UUMC sanctuary)

Hanging of the Greens: November 24, TBD



JOIN US FOR

BEYOND Suffering

A FOUR-WEEK SMALL GROUP LED BY PASTOR CHELSEA. BASED ON THE WORK OF PROFESSOR AMY-JILL LEVINE, WE'LL EXPLORE THE IMPACT OF SUFFERING ON FOUR OLD TESTAMENT FIGURES: HAGAR, NAOMI, DAVID AND JOB.

**Tuesday afternoons, 2-3 PM
University UMC, Boardroom
November 5 - November 26**



SAVE THE DATE

*Standing in the Gap: Rural & Frontier Access to
Mental Health Care, a Faith-Based Approach*

NOVEMBER 12TH, 10AM-5PM
Knights of Columbus Hall
204 N Irving St., Plainville, KS 67663

FREE to attend • lunch provided
As a CEU provider with Kansas BSRB, we will offer 6 CEUs & certificate

[LEARN MORE & REGISTER HERE](#)


A NAMI FaithNet Event

presented by:

NAMI Golden Plains Kansas
NAMI FaithNet
St. Anthony's COUNCIL #1857
NAMI Kansas
SCHMIDT FOUNDATION

The Standing in the Gap Mental Health Summit brings stakeholders from around Kansas to examine challenges in accessing mental health care in rural and frontier areas of the state and to discuss possible directions for reducing those challenges through a faith-based lens. Join the National Alliance on Mental Illness Nov. 12 in Plainville, Kansas.

Learn more and register by going to <https://namikansas.org/get-involved/nami-kansas-events/sitg/>



**THIS IS WHAT
THE LORD SAYS:
I HAVE HEARD
YOUR PRAYER
AND SEEN
YOUR TEARS.
I WILL
HEAL YOU.**

2 KINGS 20:5

Missional Service Opportunities

Sign up for volunteer trip to UMCOR Depot, Jan. 25 to Feb. 1

Our conference UMVIM trip to Sager Brown UMCOR Depot in Louisiana will be Jan. 25 to Feb. 1 (including travel days). Cost is \$290 per person, plus your hotel room and meals while traveling. To secure your spot, \$145 per person is due by Nov. 15. Make your checks payable to the Great Plains Conference, write on the memo line "UMVIM trip to Sager Brown," mail to my attention at PO Box 4187, Topeka, KS 66604.

We are in need of a UMVIM Team to do some electrical and masonry work at one of our churches in Omaha. If you have a mission team looking for some volunteer work, please let me know.

-- Rev. Hollie Tapley, UMVIM coordinator
htapley@greatplainsumc.org



Salina Rescue Mission

- Salina Rescue Mission Community Thanksgiving Meal Prep

Nov. 21, 1-3pm: Help debone and prepare turkey

Nov. 22, 1-3pm: Help peel potatoes and prepare food

- Salina Rescue Mission Thanksgiving Day Meal

Nov. 28:

Breakfast 5:30am-8:00am

Lunch 10:30am-1:30pm

Dinner 4:00pm-7:00pm

Volunteer sign up:

Contact Cheryl at 785-823-2610 or cshermoen@salinarescuemission.com

UMCOR Cleaning Kits Needed

Tornados and tropical storms in the southeastern United States have depleted the number of cleaning kits at the UMCOR Sager Brown Depot in Louisiana.

Go to <https://umcmmission.org/umcor-cleaning-kit/> for a how-to-make guide and list of materials needed. See the church office if you would like a printed copy. Please bring kit to the church office when completed and we will get it to the designated drop-off location.

If you would like to contribute directly to relief kits, use this link: <https://umcmmission.org/advance-project/901440/>



Youth News

Youth Group Update

Middle School: Our middle school youth group is thriving! We've been exploring the *Do Unto Others* series, focusing on the importance of understanding and respecting others.

High School: High school students are diving into a study on spiritual gifts, learning how to use their unique talents to serve both our church and the wider community.

November Youth Meal Fundraiser – Support a Great Cause!

Our next youth meal fundraiser is here, Students are taking orders until **November 10**, and all proceeds from this month's sales will help fund a special Advent project.

Thank you for supporting our youth as they make a difference this holiday season!

YOUTH GROUP ADVENT FUNDRAISER

Tater-Tot Casserole orders due by
November 10th!

Pick up by November 17th after any service!

**HALF OF ALL SALES GO TOWARDS
CHRISTMAS GIFTS FOR CHILDREN IN
FOSTER CARE.**



PRICES:

FAMILY SIZES: \$25

INDIVIDUAL: \$15

Email kylee@triumc.org to order!

In the spirit of giving, our students decided to take a pay cut and donate half of their earnings toward buying Christmas presents for foster kids. Their heart for service this season is truly inspiring, and your support can help bring even more joy to children in need!

Kylee Gragg - kylee@triumc.org

Updates

KWU

Our task force consisting of Brad Anderson, Lori Trow, Rick Dahl, and Pastor Libby have gone over our the gift and use documents we received from KWU and are working on updating the language and lists to include the spaces we need for ongoing ministry. We will then receive advice from our own attorney and the conference chancellor to ensure we have the best arrangement for the partnership. Thank you for all the people who helped to inventory!

Financial News

The giving statements have been either emailed or mailed out to those who have given this year. If you haven't received one, or you don't think it is correct, please let me know. I am in the office on Monday and Wednesday afternoons from 1-4.

Our financial totals for the month of September are as follows:

Income—\$13,180.00
Expenses—\$16,507.30
Difference—(\$3,327.30)

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

Blessing Box

Kat White is finished building the Blessing Box and will be installing it on Claflin to be more accessible to students. She is excited to work with UUMC congregation to create a culture of giving to the box to support KWU students.

We will be collecting feminine hygiene products and ethnic foods in addition to our regular offerings. This will help young women who have to make difficult choices between buying food or hygiene products. We also have a large population of international students on campus and we want to help them have the foods they are familiar with preparing so they will eat well.

Kat is doing this in memory of Robin Talbot whose memorial supports the Blessing Box now.

Dillons Community Rewards

Just a quick update on the Dillons Community Rewards. This past quarter we have 51 households participating with a total of \$239.14 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
- Cling 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!!





November is Native American Heritage Month, a time to reflect on the rich gifts and stories of the Indigenous peoples who have shaped the land on which we live, work, and gather for worship. Many of us may not know that our church buildings stand on land that once was inhabited by diverse tribal nations, each with a particular language, culture, and traditional practices. This month offers the church an opportunity to listen, learn, and humbly build relationships grounded in mutual respect, allyship, and support.

As followers of Christ, we are called to resisting injustice and oppression in all forms. One step toward this calling is listening to and learning from the stories of Indigenous peoples who have been systematically silenced and marginalized throughout history. We can begin the journey toward healing and partnership by building genuine relationships that start with listening.

Here are three action steps you can take during Native American Heritage Month—and beyond—to honor Indigenous peoples and foster deeper relationships:

1. Learn the history of the land your church occupies and acknowledge it regularly.
2. Support Native artists and storytellers; host a community event; amplify Native-owned businesses.
3. Support Indigenous-led initiatives and partner with Native organizations.

November Birthdays

- 6 Makenzie Bauer
- 22 Doty Roeder
- Mark Ryan
- 24 Jeannine Pihl
- 26 Joyce Penland
- 28 Pauline Eaton
- 30 Gordon Maxwell
- Kayson Cooper



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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 November 21 to be included in the October 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.

SALINA RESCUE MISSION THANKSGIVING COMMUNITY DINNER

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 23, 2024

1716 SUMMERS ROAD, SALINA

SERVING 5:00 PM - 7:00PM

Everyone is welcome to join us for....

Roasted Turkey * Cornbread Dressing

Mashed Potatoes and Gravy

Green Bean Casserole * Calico Corn

Dinner Rolls * Pumpkin Pie



We enjoyed some FALL FUN last month with fun decorations, finger foods, and BINGO. Thank you for joining us!



Advent Special Music

The Advent season is quickly approaching!
 If you would like to share special music sometime during advent, please see the church office and we will find a good spot for you to share your gift of music!

Prayers

Veterans & Active Military & Families,
 Leanne Decker, Terry Hauschel, Christina Robin, *Homebound individuals*, Van Lett, Juli, Dennis Darby, Patricia Baldwin, Mike Trow, Vanessa, Janice Paulie

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
785-825-5170 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

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