



University UMC News

Christ, Campus, & Community

December 2024

Lingering with Libby

Friends,

I hope you all had a great time over Thanksgiving weekend, to gather with family and friends. I always enjoy trying all the various dishes folks bring and if you are like me, you ate too much. More important than the food was the time I had to consider all I'm grateful for. I hope you have had time over the holiday to consider what you are grateful for as well. When friends and family are gathered around it is so good to connect and just be present with one another. Fortunately, I got to sit at the kids' table, and it was a great way to catch up with all the kids, some I don't get to visit with often. I enjoy learning about their lives, the things they love and the challenges they face. I'm amazed at how well they seem to navigate the world around them, even when things are not what they had hoped for. I believe they are inherently grateful.

I also considered how grateful I am to be your pastor as I continue to get to know more of you and about you each day. To worship with you and to dream with you as we share our lives, and our faith is such a beautiful gift. I love to see how everything comes together as we faithfully listen to the words God has written on our hearts, leading us to faithfully live like Jesus Christ, focusing on relationship and connection for the good of the community. It takes great commitment by our members and Leadership Team to have a vision that directs our work to help us to faithfully follow in Jesus' footsteps trusting in God to be with us throughout our journey, even when sometimes we don't feel like we know where we are going.

Sunday, we began a journey through the season of Advent as we stepped into our Advent worship series "Waiting Room" based on the Lectionary Readings from Luke. Our focus this season will be on what it means to create room for waiting and what we need to do in the liminal waiting season. To consider who are the people playing minor yet essential roles in Jesus' story and in our stories too. (The scriptures and focus are found on page 6.)

Since we are focusing on the Gospel of Luke this Advent season, I would like you all to join me in reading the Gospel of Luke beginning December 1. If we read one chapter a day until Christmas Eve, we will have read the whole gospel preparing us in more meaningful ways to receive Jesus, the Son of God at our Candlelight Service at 4pm on December 24. This gospel is a powerful witness to prepare us to find Jesus in our story and ourselves in Jesus' story.

Grace and Peace for the Journey,
Pastor Libby

Discipleship News

Adult Sunday School: Sundays 9:45am

UUMC Youth Group: TBD

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)



UUMC Christmas Caroling
12/15/24, 4pm

Help spread Christmas cheer to our homebound members and local nursing homes! Meet at UUMC at 4pm to carpool. Coffee and hot chocolate at Moka's afterward. Please let Lori Trow know you plan on joining.



ADVENT SMALL GROUP

JOIN US FOR THIS FOUR-WEEK STUDY ABOUT THE ANGELIC VISITS OF THE CHRISTMAS STORY. BASED ON THE TEACHING OF SUSAN ROBB IN HER VIDEO SERIES, "THE ANGELS OF CHRISTMAS: HEARING GOD'S VOICE IN ADVENT". LED BY PASTOR CHELSEA..

TUESDAY AFTERNOONS, 2-3 PM
UNIVERSITY UMC BOARDROOM
DECEMBER 3- DECEMBER 24

JOIN US DEC 31 FOR A BONUS WEEK AND NEW YEAR'S EVE PARTY!

Blessing BOX

REVERSE ADVENT CALENDAR

Each day until Christmas collect an item for your local blessing box.

1 Can or Packet of Tuna or Salmon	2 Toothbrush and Toothpaste	3 Peanut Butter and Jelly	4 Loaf of Bread
5 Individual sized Packages of Nuts	6 Canned Beans	7 Vienna Sausages	8 Granola Bars or Trail Mix Packages
9 Can or Packet of Chicken or Ham	10 Canned Soup	11 Canned Fruit	12 Canned Veggies
13 Boxed Stuffing Mix	14 Instant Mashed Potatoes	15 Mac and Cheese	16 Breakfast Bars
17 Pop Tarts, Little Debbie Snack Cakes, Cookies.	18 Box of Cereal	19 Packages of Cheese or Peanut Butter Crackers	20 Pancake Mix and Syrup
21 Socks and or Mittens	22 Shelf Stable Milk	23 Canned Chili or Ravioli	24 Pasta Sauce and Pasta

Skip to my Lou.ORG

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

EmberHope Foundation

Dear Salina UUMC,
The passion and unwavering support of our church partners have allowed EmberHope to flourish and serve those most at-risk for close to 100 years. With your endless prayers and offering, EmberHope continues to grow and provide quality, faith-based services to help meet the complex needs surrounding the ever-evolving forms of trauma affecting our children, youth, and families today.

Last year UUMC donated \$1400 to the EmberHope Foundation.

Please contact Mitch Drees at 785-643-3890 or mdrees@emberhope.org to donate.



HUGSS Tree

Hat - Undies - Socks - Scarves

The HUGSS tree is in the little sanctuary where the above items can be placed. All donating items will be delivered to our local elementary schools.

Please place items at the HUGSS tree by no later than 12/23/24.



Financial News

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

Income: \$12,302.14
Expenses: \$15,564.28
Difference (\$3,262.14)

It is hard to believe that it is almost the end of the year. Giving statements were sent out the end of September. Now is the time to get your donations in. We can accept all donations through December 31st to be counted in the 2024 year. 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

Blessing Box

The Blessing Box is now moved to Claflin at the entrance to UUMC parking lot!

Thank you to Kat White for all her hard work!

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.



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
- 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!!





December Birthdays

- 8 Karen Buhler
- 13 Joan Rehmert
Mike Starr
Mechelle Fuller
- 14 Abby Boyles
- 28 Amanda Noller



Communication Updates

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

Please submit your newsletter items by December 21 to be included in the November 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.

“Waiting Room” Advent Worship Series

Advent is the liminal season between Thanksgiving and Christmas. Advent is all about what was and what is to be - what has already happened and what has yet to occur. It’s a time of anticipation and expectancy. To live the Christian journey with expectancy at a most basic level is to be a resident of two worlds separated only by a thin veil until heaven and earth are joined as one.



12/1/24: Luke 21:25-36	The coming Kingdom means “Waiting in Hope for Transformation”
12/8/24: Luke 3:1-6	Shifting our direction and priorities means “Waiting in Love for New Life”
12/15/24: Luke 3:7-18	Repent and follow means “Waiting in Joy for Redemption”
12/22/24: Luke 1:39-55	Magnifying the Lord means “Waiting in Peace for Inclusion”
12/24/24: Luke 2:1-20	God meets us means “Waiting in the Margins for the Prince of Peace”
12/29/24: Luke 2:40-52	Contemplating Jesus’ silent years means “Waiting in Silence for guidance”

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

Tuesday, 12/24/24 at 4:00pm

After weeks of waiting, come join us for the celebration of the arrival of baby Jesus, Emmanuel! We hold on to hope that God is always with us.



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, Chris Dahl

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

Libby Themis, Lead Pastor

libbythemis@gmail.com

**Pastor Chelsea Shrack Bell, Assistant
Pastor**

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Tara Baxter, Administrative Assistant

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Diane Werth, Accountant

accounting@theuumc.org

Rick O'Rorke, Custodian