



University UMC News

Christ, Campus, & Community

February 2025

Lingering with Libby

Friends,

This month has brought many dramatic changes to our country, some you might be ones you have been hoping for and for some, bring dread and sorrow. I want to remind you no matter what the world says we have a God who loves all of creation dearly and seeks to help us to live a holy life. Which means we must remember who we are and whose we are. This is clearly outlined in Colossians 3:12-14 (The Message), "So, chosen by God for this new life of love, dress in the wardrobe God picked out for you: compassion, kindness, humility, quiet strength, discipline. Be even-tempered, content with second place, quick to forgive an offense. Forgive as quickly and completely as the Master forgave you. And regardless of what else you put on, wear love. It's your basic, all-purpose garment. Never be without it."

This morning I'm trying to imagine what it feels like to wear the garment of love. Science tells us that what we wear directly affects how we act. If we put on a doctor's coat, we will act more knowledgeable about medical issues, if we wear tennis shoes, we feel more athletic and physically able, just to name a few. So, what happens to us when we put on the garment of love? I imagine that first it helps us to see one another and our world through God's eyes. What does that mean? Good question! I believe it means we recognize how the light of Christ shines on and through each person. The light we see allows us to see beyond the surface to what is in the heart of another.

Not in the emotional sense, though that surely is part of it, but God's love that is consistent, and true. Love poured out by God's grace to help us to remember that our work as disciples of Christ is to stay in love with God and to love our neighbors as ourselves rather than getting caught up in the ways of the world focused on money and power. Love that hopes the best for everyone, even those we struggle to engage and/or respect.

To wear the garment of Christ's love is to intentionally begin each day ready to offer compassion and kindness and to do so humility with quiet strength and discipline. This sounds so easy, but it isn't. I have been working on compassion and kindness for years and they continue to challenge me when I experience people are anything but compassionate and kind. This is where consistency and steadfastness help me to keep a secure footing in my faith that is rooted and grounded in love.

I wonder if we could have the greatest Valentine's Day ever by putting on our garment of love and poured out love upon love to all we meet from our family and neighbors to the least and the lost. Love that can be transformative as it reaches those in desperate need.

Grace and Peace, Pastor Libby

Discipleship News

Adult & Youth Sunday School:

Sundays 9:15am

Bible Study: UUMC Boardroom

"The Message of Jesus"

January 14-February 18, 2pm

Faith Outside the Box:

Every 2nd & 4th Thursday 7:30pm

(Ad Astra, 135 N. Santa Fe)

February 8, 1-3pm: UUMC Forum
Community Retreat—Celebration of
Stories

February 12, 7pm: UUMC Boardroom
Leadership Team Meeting

February 22, 10am: UUMC Forum
KWU/K-State Poverty Simulation

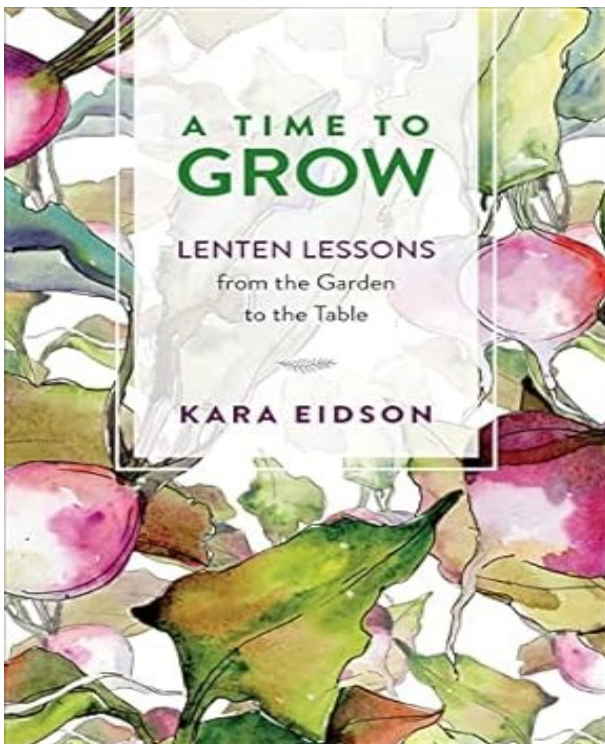


February, 23, 2025 | 1:30pm - 5:00pm

Breakout Sessions

- Living in A Cooperative Parish
- Hospitality/Evangelism
- Clergy/Lay Partnerships
- Creative Connections in the Community for Ministry – Mercy and Justice
- Leadership Lab-Youth Group

Register at: <https://gp-reg.brtapp.com/LaitySummit2025>



SAVE THE DATE!

"A Time to Grow" will be our Lenten Worship Series based on the book "A Time to Grow: Lenten Lessons from the Garden to the Table" by Rev. Kara Eidson.

Lenten Lunch and Learn
Wednesdays, March 12-April 16 | 12-1pm
Church of the Cross - Courtyard Room

Along with the sermon series, Pastor Libby will be offering a Lenten Lunch and Learn. You are invited to bring a sack lunch to talk about the book and the series.

Let's grow in faith together! (pun intended)

If you would like a book please register by contacting office@theuumc.org by March 5.
Suggested book donation is \$10.

Missional Service Opportunities

Volunteer Opportunity



Sunset Elementary School is needing volunteers to help with their Fam Jam event on Tuesday, February 25th from 5:30-7:30pm.

This is an event where kids and their families can experience food from different countries and cultures! You would be helping to serve food at a station from 6-7pm, with set up and clean up prior and after the event. Last year, Libby and Tara were stationed at Sweden and served Swedish meatballs!

If you would like to volunteer, please let Tara in the office know as soon as possible. They would like to get a head count of volunteers by February 15.

Thank you for helping support our community and share the joy of experiencing new cultures!

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>



Let's stock our Blessing Box!

Bring nonperishable food items to church through Sunday, Feb. 16, the week after the Super Bowl, to be counted toward the 2025 Great Plains Sacking Hunger Challenge.

Since our first challenge in 2023, the Great Plains and Missouri conferences have gathered 273,620 pounds of food! The 2024 total exceeded the 2023 effort by almost 63,000 pounds. How much can we donate this year?!

Financial News

Our financial totals for the month of December 2024 are as follows:

Income: \$19,743.00
Expenses: \$14,062.04
Difference \$5,680.96

It is hard to believe we have stepped into a new year. Giving statements were 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



L.E.A.F.

The Kansas LEAF (Legislative Event for Advocacy in Faith), an ecumenical event for people of all faiths, is Feb. 16-17 at Topeka First UMC.

The theme for this year's event is: "Better Lives for Women and Children"

The theme scripture is Matthew 25:44-45

Register here: gp-reg.brtapp.com/KSLEAF2025RegistrationForm

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





THANK YOU to all who donated to the HUGSS tree!

Laura Widen and Pastor Chelsea delivered a total of **109** hats, underwear, gloves, socks, and scarves to Cottonwood, Sunset, and Oakdale Elementary Schools!

They were all very appreciative of the donations and said all items will be used.

February Birthdays

- 1 Julie Edelman
Katelyn Dreiling
- 11 Eloise Sanneman
- 13 Robert Beck
- 16 Janice Halling
- 17 Debbie Williams
- 19 David Leonard
- 24 Vicky Williams
- 25 David Ernsbarger



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Elevator tips & tricks during the winter months

What To Know

- The elevator might be a bit slower to get moving because it's cold.
- Give the elevator extra time
- The elevator might feel "jumpy" or "bouncy" as it settles before opening its doors

If the elevator seems "stuck" and the doors are not opening, try:

- Pressing the same level button you pressed upon entering the elevator
- Try pressing the top or bottom level button and then pressing the level you are trying to get to

Communication Updates

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

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



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




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



North Central Regional Coalition



Kansas Cancer Partnership

Lunch provided!


Regional Coalition PEP RALLY


February 12, 2025
12 pm - 1pm
Tammy Walker Cancer Center
511 S. Santa Fe, Salina, KS

Our pep rally will include:

- An overview of the Kansas Cancer Partnership
- The history of the North Central Regional Coalition and past/current projects
- A review of current cancer data for both the local area and for Kansas

RSVP by February 5: <https://bit.ly/KCPPepRallyRSVP>





REGIONAL FIRST RESPONDER WELLNESS CONFERENCE

Presented by Kansas Wesleyan University's Departments of Social Work and Criminal Justice

Register at www.kwu.edu/firstresponders

Feb. 13, 8 a.m.-5 p.m.
in Fitzpatrick Auditorium
(KWU Campus, Sams Hall of Fine Arts)

FEATURED SPEAKERS:

Jamie Bradway, President
Kansas Concerns of Police Survivors

Annie Boswell
KWU Campus Ministry

Derrin Broome
Assistant Professor of Criminal Justice,
Kansas Wesleyan University

Sean Morton
Deputy Police Chief (retired), Salina


Brooke Philbrook-Riedel
Salina Police Department Dispatch,
Peer Support Wellness Committee

Kansas Wesleyan is proud to host the Regional First Responder Wellness Conference. This event is designed to bring awareness and growth to the mental health challenges faced by first responders on an everyday basis.

Topics will include

- First Responder Wellness
- Support After a Line of Duty Death
- Value of Continuing Education for Officers
- Spiritual Care for First Responders

There is a suggested \$20 fee to cover the cost of an included lunch and provided books.



100 E. Claflin Ave. | Salina, KS 67401 | www.kwu.edu

solidarity WITH THE sojourner

Understanding U.S. Immigration
and Our Call to Respond



#BeUMC



RELIGION & RACE



COMMUNICATIONS



Monday, February 10, 2025 | 7pm

Register at: https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_y5pcxBcoSI-Nc3Ew8sq9LA#/registration

Among the topics to be discussed are:

- How and why the church is called to stand with immigrant communities
- Challenges and opportunities with the current national legislative landscape
- Biblical examples that reflect solidarity and how those examples can be modeled in the local church
- How congregations can be in solidarity with immigrant-led congregations



Event Date:
February 15, 2025

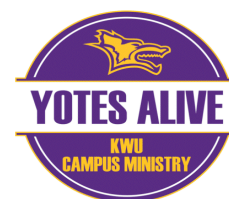
Register by February 8th



Youth Group Rally Night with the Yotes

Schedule

- 3:00pm Check-in @ University UMC (1509 S Santa Fe)
- 3:15pm Worship/Activity
- 4:15pm Supper
- 5:00pm KWU Women's Basketball vs. Southwestern College in Mabey Arena
- You are invited to stay for the Men's Game @ 7pm



Youth Group Rally Night with the
Yotes
Registration Link



RETHINK POVERTY.

Poverty Simulation

University United Methodist Church
1509 S. Santa Fe, Salina

Experience the struggles of a low-income family.
What would it be like to live in poverty for one month?

Saturday, February 22

Registration/Sign-in 12:30pm
Simulation 1-4pm

Registration: <https://tinyurl.com/Feb25PovSim>

Deadline: February 17



REJOICE

Rejoice always is one of the shortest verses in all of scripture. It is also one of the most challenging. What did these words mean to a church community in transition? What do they mean for us today? In this five week series we will find joy in our past, our present and our future as we celebrate our progress and face our challenges.

Each week we will offer a conversation prompt and have some time to discuss the prompt during worship. Objects or pictures can evoke strong memories of joy. Throughout this series we encourage the congregation to bring an object or photo that reminds them of a time of joy.

2/9/25: "Choose Joy, Happiness is not Enough"	Philippians 4:4-9	Please bring a photo or momenta from the past that brings you joy.
2/16/25: "Joy in the Struggle"	James 1:2-3, 1 Peter 1:6-9	Bring something that represents a time of struggle in your life. This can be a symbol, relic, or an item.
2/23/25: "Joy in Our Purpose"	Matthew 13:44, Psalm 16:11	Bring something that helps describe your purpose.
3/2/25: "Joy in Things Hoped For"	Jeremiah 29:10-13, Romans 12:12	Bring an object or picture that helps you rejoice and celebrate in where God is calling you forward.

Prayer List

Veterans & Active Military & Families, 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

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**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