



# OUTREACH



Volume 37 Issue 12

First United Methodist Church

December 18, 2025

## A Fresh Beginning for a New Year

The covenant commitment of the first Sunday in January has been a Methodist tradition throughout their history. This day was a clear reminder that their journey with God was intentional. It is something they chose and reaffirmed at every opportunity they got. John Wesley and early Methodists met to recommit themselves to be faithful in their walk with God. Their practice which has continued through the years is backed by scripture where God continually calls his people to remember his faithfulness and recommit their lives to him.

In honor of this tradition, we at Hays First UMC will have a covenant Sunday at the beginning of the year 2026. We will pause to remember God's promises to us and declare our desire to follow Christ with renewed faith. On Sunday January the 4th, we will remember our calling and reaffirm our commitments. In essence, we will be saying to God: "Here I am. Use me. Lead me. Shape me." It will be a holy reset, a fresh start with God on the lead into the new year.

Covenant renewal time also becomes a perfect moment to consider how we can serve God in the life of the church. Volunteering matters because it is one of the clearest ways we put our faith into action. Whether someone helps with the upcoming capital campaign, greets at the door, teaches children, helps with music, serves during worship, visits the sick as a CCM, or joins any other ministry team, each act of service is a gift that strengthens the body of Christ. When we offer our time and abilities, we are doing more than just helping out. Offering our service to the church is participating in God's mission. It is responding to the vision that God gave us of being a vibrant and transformative community where every member follows Jesus by making disciples, healing communities, and building relationships with each other and with God, and fulfilling our Mission to Gather, Grow, Share, and Serve.

This January, I invite you to prayerfully ask a simple but important question: "Lord, where do You want me to serve you?" When we genuinely seek an answer to that question, God reveals places where our gifts and passions can make a real difference. Not just filling a slot on a schedule but living a life that positively impacts the kingdom of God. Your presence and your gifts matter. Remember, your willingness to step forward can encourage others and bless our congregation while extending the reach of God's love. As we move into a new year, may we remember whose we are and what we are called to do. Let this season of covenant renewal lead us into richer faith and committed service. May we follow Christ with renewed energy, ready to serve wherever he leads. Purpose to renew your covenant with the Lord this coming month. Happy New Year 2026!

Pastor Susan Murithi

**Outreach** articles are due the **third** Sunday of each month. Please email your OUTREACH item to [wendy@haysfumc.com](mailto:wendy@haysfumc.com) before **Sunday, January 18, 2026**. Items may also be placed in the office, labeled **for the Outreach** by **January 18**. The next Outreach should be received on January 21.

## Thanks

Thanks to all the bakers who helped with the Thursday meal at the UM Campus Center this semester: Jarilyn Staab, Tura Clement, Elaine Ford, Diane Wolfe, Jacinda Johnson, Evelyn Zellmer, Bev Bearley. These lovely ladies signed up twice: Sherri Brown, Shanda Preston, Jessica Luck, Kathy Sulzman, Marla Copper, Vicki Kelly Joey & Haley Roth and Wendy Beougher.

The Hays Police Department would like to express our heartfelt gratitude for the support, kindness, and strength you have shown to us during this difficult time as we navigate our loss as a department. Your support is greatly appreciated and will never be forgotten.

Dear Friends at FUMC,

Thank you for supporting our mission at First Call for Help and for the many ways First United Methodists have invested in our community this year. We are grateful to serve alongside you. Wishing you all renewed hope, peace, and joy in 2026. Laura Shoaff, Michelle Ghunn, Macey Pfeifer

## INTRODUCING OUR STAFF

### PROGRAM STAFF

Pastor: Pastor Susan Murithi  
 Associate Pastor: Pastor Troy Miller  
 Special Music Coordinator: Meredith Cory  
 Organist: Hannah Barrett  
     Charlotte Rathke  
 Pianist: Sharon Graham  
 Handbell Choir Dir. Hannah Barrett  
     Marijo Rooney  
 Director of Discipleship: Matt Dumler  
 Children's Ministry Coordinator: Jenna Brubaker  
 Outreach Editor: Wendy Beougher

### SUPPORT STAFF:

Administrative Secretary: Beverly Bearley  
 Administrative Assistant: Wendy Beougher  
 Financial Secretary: Marsha Swanson  
 Childcare Director: Melissa Pyle  
 Building Supervisor: Alan Nelson

## Sympathy

*Our sincere sympathy is extended to the family & friends of*

*Peggy & Lary Stull on the death of  
 Peggy's brother, Daniels Heinze, on  
 November 26.*

*LeAnn Eltze, former member, died  
 November 29.*

United Women in Faith would like to thank the Middle School Youth Group and Alan Nelson for all of their wonderful help with the Peddler's Soup Luncheon and Bake Sale. We appreciate their willingness to share some of their valuable time to help with our fundraising efforts, allowing us to support the missions of our organization. They are THE BEST.

*Thanks to Callie, Josh & Ella Thomas, Charlotte Rathke, Hannah Barrett, Meredith Cory, Raymond Brent, Keith & Renee Elits and Vickie Unruh for donating their time to decorate the sanctuary so beautifully for Advent.*

To Pastor Troy & those who provided refreshments during Aaron's funeral, we thank you so much. Also, thank you to those who crocheted the prayer shawl.

God bless,  
 Vicki Pflaum & family

*The prayerful support of our church family during this difficult time is a true blessing.*

*Thank you,  
 The Cooper family*

## Circle News

**Naomi Circle** met Wednesday, December 10th at the home of Debra McDonald with Glenna Clingsmith serving as co-hostesses. Seventeen members answered roll call "What is your favorite Christmas tradition?"

Two food baskets will be ordered through the Community Assistance Center and available funds will be shared with two local organizations. Spring Brunch is an upcoming event, but no date has been secured. Our next meeting will be held Wednesday, January 14, 2026.

*Leora Forssberg will be celebrating her 90th birthday on January 4. Her family is requesting a card shower. Cards can be sent to 2524 Donald Drive.*

I will honour Christmas in my heart, and try to keep it all the year.

Charles Dickens



Sign up for Feed Hays on Thursday Evenings next year. Sign up sheet is across from the office.



Please continue to stock the Hays High food pantry, as the need is great.

*FUMC will be responsible for delivering Meals on Wheels*

*January 19-23. If you would like to help with this important ministry, call Vicki Kelly at 785-434-6150.*



## FUMC Financial Snapshot

	November 30, 2025	Year to Date
Checking Account*	\$31,805.86	
Operating Gifts	\$44,393.58	\$473,293.70
Operating Expenses	\$40,221.97	\$533,333.67

<b>Parsonage Mortgage Balance</b>	\$74,659.77
<b>Organ Fund</b>	\$ 8,329.99

\*Also known as Unrestricted Operating Account that funds our operating budget.

**Stay Strong, Stay Healthy Level I** is an evidence-based program that teaches essential balance, stretching, and strength-training exercises. Join us for the first class on January 5 at 9:30 a.m. at the Cottonwood Extension district, 601 Main. The cost is \$20.



to the ushers who have served faithfully this year  
 Carol Purdy    Dave Hendrickson    Dylan Bryant    Harvey Jansonius  
 Shane Preston    Tom McDonald    Wendy Beougher    Jarilyn Staab  
 Sarah & Noah Schumacher    Eric Leuschner    Carl Miller

A special thanks to Jarrod Jones who will be retiring from ushering after several years to serve on other Committees.

**The Great Plains Conference's annual Local Church Leadership Training** is scheduled for 7-8:30 p.m. C.T. January 20-22 via Zoom. The three-night virtual event will offer focused training for leaders serving on Ad Boards/Church Councils, Finance Committees, Staff-Parish Relations Committees, Boards of Trustees, Nominations/ Leadership Development, and church using a One-Board/Simplified Structure model.

Ad Board, Tuesday, January 20th

Finance, Tuesday, January 20th

Lay Leader, Wednesday, January 21st

Trustees, Wednesday, January 21st

One Board, Staff Parish, & Nominations, Thursday, January 22

Register at <https://gp-reg.brtapp.com/LocalChurchLeadership26>

We are in the Western District



## Menus

Serving time is 5:00-6:00  
 Five dollars per person  
 All menus are subject to change  
 To go meals are available-call 625-3408

### January 7

Chili, Green bean dumpling soup  
 Veggie tray  
 Cinnamon rolls

### January 14

Sloppy Joe's  
 Mac & cheese  
 Salad bar  
 Dessert

### January 21

Chicken or beef enchiladas  
 Spanish rice  
 Chips & cheese  
 Salad  
 Corn & black beans  
 Dessert

### January 28

Roast beef & mashed potatoes  
 Green beans  
 Pea Salad  
 Rolls  
 Dessert



# First United Methodist - Hays

# FEASIBILITY STUDY

## RESULTS

Dear Hays First,

*This past fall our church contracted with Church Development, an organization that has helped hundreds of congregations plan capital campaigns, to do an official feasibility study regarding a proposed capital campaign for needed renovations in our building and expanding the ministry of our church into the community. Thirty people were interviewed and over 100 people participated in the survey.*

*Sincerely,*

*Campaign Management Team*

*Carl Miller / Shane Preston / Sarah Schumacher / Phil Stahlman*

*and Pastor Susan Murithi*

### THE REPORT INDICATED MANY POSITIVE THINGS ABOUT OUR CHURCH:

**94%** of those responding believe the church meets their spiritual needs. Church Development likes to see this percentage be above 60%.

**94%** of those responding believe the church meets their fellowship needs for community. Again, Church Development likes to see this percentage be above 60%

**88%** of those responding believe the pastor and the leadership of the church are able to make wise decisions about the future of the congregation.

### FINANCIAL FORECAST FROM CHURCH DEVELOPMENT

In addition, while many members need more information regarding the scope and costs of the projects listed in the survey, there is overwhelming support for the vision of renovation and connecting with our community. Based on information about supporting financially a capital campaign, Church Development believes if we held a capital campaign we have a **90% probability of raising over \$1,000,000!**

These results led our church to contract with Church Development to come alongside and help us conduct a successful capital campaign to support the mission of God within us.

# SAVE-THE-DATE

## Campaign Volunteer Organizational Meeting

February 1 - 12:00 PM

### HOW WILL THE CAPITAL CAMPAIGN BE ORGANIZED? HOW CAN I HELP?

***Everyone is encouraged to come and join a campaign team.***  
Serving on a team is a short-term commitment as each team will meet only 3-4 times over a 12 week period.

#### **Below is a list of the six working campaign teams.**

**PRAYER** - The Prayer Team creates a special prayer we can pray together throughout the campaign.

**EVENTS** - The Events Team plans parties for smaller groups to gather and exchange information about the campaign.

**THANKS** - The Thanks Team has a great job: figure out how to say "Thank you!" to those who contribute to the campaign.

**YOUTH** - The Youth Team discerns how to involve youth in the vision of our church and how to cultivate generosity and gratitude.

**AMBASSADOR** - The Ambassador Team makes connections with members before Commitment Sunday to make sure they have all the information they need, and they answer any questions.

**COMMUNICATION** - The Communication Team works on the campaign slogan, logo, newsletters, and campaign brochure.

*These six teams — Prayer, Events, Thanks, Youth, Ambassador, and Communication — form a memorable acrostic "PETYAC."  
Every church needs a healthy PET-YAC!*

# December OUTREACH

**First United Methodist Church**  
**305 West 7th**  
**Hays, Kansas 67601**

(785) 625-3408  
[haysumc@hotmail.com](mailto:haysumc@hotmail.com)  
[www.kaysradio.com](http://www.kaysradio.com)  
[www.HaysFUMC.com](http://www.HaysFUMC.com)

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## UPCOMING EVENTS

**December 24**

**Church Office Closed at noon**

**December 25-26**

**Church Office Closed**

**December 24**

**Christmas Eve Services, 5:30 & 7:30**

**January 19-23**

**FUMC delivers Meals on Wheels**

**December 31 & Jan. 1**

**Church Office Closed**