



# OUTREACH



Volume 36 Issue 11

First United Methodist Church

November 21, 2024

We are in Advent, a season of waiting and preparing for the arrival of the Christ Child. When I think about preparation, I remember the days we would be waiting for guests. We would join Mom in the exercise of preparing for their arrival. We would weed the flower gardens, clean the house, and wash bedding for the guests. Preparation was a very intentional exercise.

The prophet Isaiah was sent to bring a message of preparation to God's people. In Isaiah 40:3-5 he says, "A voice of one calling: In the wilderness prepare the way for the LORD; make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be raised up, every mountain and hill made low; the rough ground shall become level, the rugged places a plain. And the glory of the LORD will be revealed, and all people will see it together. For the mouth of the LORD has spoken." Yes, the people were discouraged, they had almost lost all hope. It was then that God reminded them to not give up. God was still in control of history and thus they should not succumb to resignation. They are to actively get ready to receive God's deliverance.

This message of preparation was again echoed by John the Baptist. He called people to prepare and wait for the coming messiah. This was during a period when Israel yearned for the promised Savior. A lot had been going on and people had almost lost hope. But God had promised them that he would send a savior. And he made his promise good on that first advent. Many centuries later we too find ourselves waiting with hope and expectation. There is brokenness in the world that threatens to discourage us and dim out our hope. Advent is a time to look forward to the coming of Christ in our midst. To embrace the one who brings joy, hope, and salvation.

The waiting of Advent is not passive; it is active preparation. Just as Mary and Joseph prepared to welcome Jesus into their lives, we are called to prepare our hearts. This preparation happens in two ways:

1. Preparation as prayer and studying God's word. We intentionally slowdown from the holiday crazy and listen to the voice of God as he encourages us to keep on holding to faith, to not give up in our walk with him.
2. Preparation as work. We prepare for Christ's coming by using our hands and feet to serve others. In the same way we joined our mom to prepare for and serve our guests, we prepare for Christ by serving people. Jesus showed us how to live our lives for more than just ourselves. To be kind to others, especially the ones in need. Active preparation by Christians tells the world that there is an alternate kingdom than the kingdoms of this world, where God reigns with justice and righteousness. That there is light in the darkness.

This Advent season, may we actively prepare for Christ's coming. May we be filled with the hope and joy that come from knowing that Christ is nearby. Let this be a time of spiritual renewal, where we open ourselves to the wonder of God's presence among us. And as we approach Christmas, may we be ready to receive the Christ Child with hearts full of gratitude and to share that joy with others, knowing that in Him, we are given the gift of life, love, and eternal hope. Amen

Pastor Susan

**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, December 15, 2024**. Items may also be placed in the office, labeled **for the Outreach** by **December 15**. The next Outreach should be received on December 19.

**Thanks**

*Thank you to our communion stewards who have served so faithfully all year:*

*Kathy Albers, Karol Katt, Carol Purdy, Denise Dennett, Randy & Barb Clinkscales, Meredith Cory, Bob & Sheryl Cox, Sharon Barton, Sherri Brown, Marla Copper, Sheryl Dreiling, Marilyn Wood, Evelyn Zellmer, Linda Stahlman, Jarilyn Staab, and Wendy Beougher.*



Thank you to all who furnished desserts for the Campus Center's Thursday meal:

Marilyn Wood, Mary Meckenstock Gribben, Carol Purdy, Marilyn Davidson, Evelyn Zellmer, Karol Katt, Donna Weaverling, Virginia Johnson, Jacinda Johnson, Jarilyn Staab, Tura Clement, Diane Wolf, Patty Nicholas, Sherri Smith, Kathy Sulzman, Sherri Brown (2), Mary Lou Clark (2), Wendy Beougher (2), Traci Kennemer (3).

I tell myself that every season-whether it's good or bad-has an expiration date. And if you can just get past those hard moments, you'll find yourself. Allison Holker

**INTRODUCING OUR STAFF**

**PROGRAM STAFF**

Pastor: Pastor Susan Murithi  
 Associate Pastor:: Pastor Troy Miller  
 Special Music Coordinator: Meredith Cory  
 Organist:: Noah Erichsen  
                   Hannah Barrett  
                   Charlotte Rathke  
 Choir Direcotr: Garrett Cole  
 Pianist: Sharon Graham  
 Handbell Choir Dir. Hannah Barrett  
                                   Marijo Rooney  
 Director of Discipleship: Matt Dumler  
 Outreach Editor: Wendy Beougher

**SUPPORT STAFF:**

Administrative Secretary: Beverly Bearley  
 Administrative Assistant: Wendy Beougher  
 Financial Secretary: Liz Harper  
 Childcare Director: Melilssa Pyle  
 Building Supervisor: Alan Nelson

**Sympathy**

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

*Shaun, Heather, Brandon, Corey & Meghan Musil on the death of Shaun's father Melvin Musil Sr. on October 23.*

*Bob Lund, on the death of his sister Janell Shorman on October 29.*

*Eric & Charlotte Rathke on the death of Eric's mother, Carol Lindsey, on October 30.*

**Congratulations**

*to Sarah Miller on 10 years of service to Fort Hays State University.*

The Mitten Trees are up so bring mittens, hats, scarves & gloves to benefit students in USD 489. **Deadline is Dec. 1.**



*to Diane Wolfe for her creative crafts and the countless hours she has devoted to Peddlers' Fair. Thanks to the many Women in Faith for baking, making and serving to support missions here in Hays and around the world.*

Thank you so much for putting up with me. It was a great joy working at FUMC. Also thanks for the cards, the cash and gift cards. I don't really have a seven day weekend. I'm finding tons of stuff at home! Love to all,  
 Joe Edwards

**Circle News**

**Naomi Circle** met Wednesday, November 13 with 13 members attending. Debra McDonald was hostess and Glenna Clingsmith was co-hostess. Reflections of the Peddler's Fair and future images of how the Fair may be transformed, were the highlight of the meeting. A shout out to the youth and Alan Nelson for their assistance.

The World Thank Offering program was presented by Julie Giess. The December event of Cookies and Carols will not be held this year due to dwindling attendance over the years; however, on Sunday, December 15 from 4:30-6 there will be a Chili and Craft event.

Our next meeting will be Wednesday, December 11 at 9:15 at the home of Nancy Jones.

**Rebekah Circle** met Wednesday, November 13 at the church. Eleven members were present. Hostesses were Barb Clinkscales & Marla Copper. Carol Purdy presented the program & Kathy Albers conducted the business meeting.

**Maria Circle** met Wednesday, November 13 at 6:15 at the church. Six members were present and they shared a get acquainted time. A card was signed for Joe Edwards. The group discussed the Day of the Dead and the Benefit dinner. Magda was our interpreter.



to  
 Joe Edwards

*for his many years of faithful service to Hays First United Methodist Church. Joe will be retiring from his duties in November.*

**Menus for****December 4**

Chicken enchiladas  
Salad bar  
Corn  
Chips & salsa  
Apple enchiladas

Meals will be served from 5:15-6:00 p.m. in the dining room  
Menus subject to change  
Meals are \$5.00  
Take out meals are available upon request.

**December 11**

Sloppy Joe's  
Seven layer salad  
Chips  
Dessert

**December 18**

Barbeque meatballs  
Potato casserole  
Green beans  
Rolls  
Brownies

**FUMC Financial Snapshot**

	<b>Oct. 31, 2024</b>	<b>Year to Date</b>
Checking Account*	\$26,313	
Operating Gifts	\$38,294	\$450,431
Operating Expenses	\$50,465	\$515,872
<b>Parsonage Mortgage Balance</b>	\$93,818	
<b>Organ Fund</b>	\$5,706	
<b>Summer Giving Campaign</b>	\$13,156	

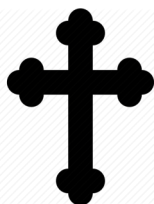
\*Also known as Unrestricted Operating Account that funds our operating budget.

**Reminder about Year-End Giving**

All gifts must be received by the Church or be postmarked by 12/31 to be counted towards your 2024 donation. There is a copy of the Church Year-End Giving Policy in the office. If you would like a copy, please contact the Church office (625-3408).

We're not called to give thanks because everything in our lives is going wonderfully.  
We're called to give thanks because our life itself is a wonderful gift from God.

Adam Hamilton from "*The Walk*"



We remember the saints who have gone before us this year:

Wayne Stewart  
Dale Akers  
Ed Horton  
Paul McRae

Ida Mae Lundy  
Rodney Thacker  
Sharon Carlson  
Harold Plymell

Gary Eller  
Darlene Plymell  
Bill Longpine

## The Art of Hospitality

Yvonne Gentile & Debi Nixon

### Two kinds of churches

In an inwardly focused church, we ask, "What can the church do to make ME more comfortable?"  
Everyone thinks of changing the world, but no one thinks of changing himself. Leo Tolstoy

In an outwardly focused church, we ask, "What can the church do to make OTHERS more comfortable?"  
Don't do anything for selfish purposes, but with humility think of others as better than yourselves. Instead of each person watching out for their own good, watch out for what is better for others. Adopt the attitude that was in Jesus Christ. Philippians 2:3-5

#### Offer Personal attention

10' rule-take responsibility for greeting people standing or sitting within 10' of you.

3 minute rule-spend 3 minutes before or after any church activity talking to someone you don't know as well.

Expand your circle-introduce new people to others you know.

Anticipate & fulfill guests' needs.

There are welcome bags at each entrance for Hays Visitors. If you see someone new sitting by you and they don't have a bag, please get one for them. Take one to a neighbor or friend you would like to invite to church. There are cards and pens for out of town visitors.

Thank you to the following Hays merchants for their support of this year's Peddlers' Fair:

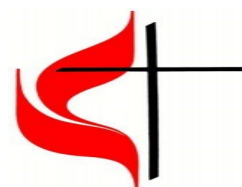
Papa Murphy's  
Fuzzy's Tacos  
Jimmy John's  
Little Caesar's  
Walmart  
Freddy's  
Thirsty's

Jalisco  
Gella's  
JD's Chicken  
McDonalds  
Golden Q  
Taco Shop

Smoky Hill Country Club  
Hays Visitor & Convention Bureau  
Sandy Wyse Massage  
Pheasant Run  
Tri-Central  
Q-doba

### Marks of the Methodist Life

1. Methodists are *happy in God*.
2. In everything Methodists give thanks, knowing that they can trust God even in the most distressing and trying situations.
3. Methodists pray without ceasing.
4. As they love God, Methodists also love their neighbors.
5. Methodists are *pure in heart*.
6. A Methodist has one focus-doing God's will.
7. Methodists avoid evil.
8. Methodists do good to all-neighbors, strangers, friends and enemies.



John Wesley



# Happy Thanksgiving

Our very own Spirit Ringers will be performing on Saturday, December 7 from 11-12 at the Hallmark store on Main Street and from 6:30-7:30 at Historic Fort Hays. Come support our Spirit Ringers.



shutterstock · 1873801660

Ellis County Ministerial Alliance will be opening a cold weather shelter. Volunteers will be needed. The shelter will be at First Baptist Church, 1111 Fort Street. Volunteers will work a 4 hour shift. There will be a training at the Baptist Church on Saturday, November 23 from 9-12 for those who are interested.



**Joy to the World!**

The Church is invited to join the Missions Committee and the Women's Fellowship for caroling, cocoa, soup, and Santa on Wednesday, December 18. Dinner will be served from 5-5:30. We will leave the church parking lot at 5:30. We plan to visit the local nursing homes and assisted living facilities. If you would like the carolers to visit your home, please call the church office at least a week prior to caroling. We need a lot of voices, so feel free to bring a friend or two!

After caroling there will be cookies, cocoa & Santa in the dining room at the church from 7-7:30.

### Women's Ministry

November 22	Friendsgiving Women's Fellowship (Appetizers) at 5:30-7:00 at 1707 Douglas Dr.
December 9	Coffee at Ellis Estates-Red South- 10 a.m.
December 11	Women in Faith Circles
December 15	Chili, craft & conversation, 4:30-6:00 p.m., church dining room, come and go



### News from Eswatini

Rachel Palmberg

At the end of September, our team had our second annual team retreat. The theme of this retreat was Still Waters, referring Psalm 23. In this Psalm, David writes, "The Lord leads us by still waters and restores our souls."

I recently returned from a trip to the US connecting with advocates and supporters in Kansas and Texas. It was a beautiful time giving updates of what's been happening Manzini for the past year.

November and December are busy months as we prepare for Christmas celebrations with our after-hours communities. Please pray for preparations as we enter the holiday season. Thank you so much for all your love and support as we reach our after-hours communities.

For those donating financially from the U.S., your donation is tax deductible. Checks can also be made out to "The Cause, Inc." with Deep Water in the memo and mailed to:

The Cause, Inc.  
4225 Oceanside Blvd.  
Suite H-325  
Oceanside, CA 92056

The Children's Christmas Pageant will be Wednesday, December 11 at 5:45 & Sunday, December 15.

#### Rehearsals:

Sunday, November 24, 5-6:15  
Wednesday, December 4, 5:45-7  
Sunday, December 8, 5:-6:15



Cathedral Christmas Concert  
Sunday, Dec. 8, 3:30 p.m.  
Choirs & musicians from FHSU  
HHS Choir  
Smoky Hill Chorale

# November OUTREACH

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

(785) 625-3408  
haysumc@hotmail.com  
www.kaysradio.com  
www.HaysFUMC.com

**NONPROFIT ORG.  
U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
HAYS, KS.  
PERMIT NO. 97**

Return Service Requested



**First  
United  
Methodist  
Church**

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**Wednesdays 12:10-1**

**Powerhouse Prayer**

**Tuesday, December 3**

**Loving Hands/Loving Hearts**

**Wednesday, December 4**

**UWF Executive Board, 10 a.m.**

**Saturday, December 7**

**Spirit Ringers at Hallmark & the Fort**

**Monday, December 9**

**Women's coffee at Ellis Estates, 10 a.m.**

**Wednesday, December 11**

**Children's Pageant**

**Sunday, December 15**

**Children's Pageant**

**Sunday, December 15**

**Women of Faith, chili, craft & conversation**

**Wednesday, December 18**

**Caroling, Cocoa, Soup & Santa**