



OUTREACH



Volume 38 Issue 7

First United Methodist Church

July 23, 2026

As a church, we often talk about our mission of making disciples, healing the community, and building relationships as we serve. The summer months provide wonderful opportunities to put that vision into action, and I want to invite every member of our congregation to find a place to participate in the important ministries that are happening in the weeks ahead. One of the most exciting events on our calendar is Vacation Bible School, which will take place July 21–23. VBS is much more than a few days of fun activities for children. It is one of the most effective ways we introduce young people to Jesus and help them begin a lifelong journey of faith. Through Bible stories, music, games, crafts, and fellowship, children learn that they are loved by God and welcomed into His family. We encourage parents, grandparents, neighbors, and friends to invite children to participate. If you know a child who would benefit from a joyful and faith-filled experience, this is a wonderful opportunity to share the love of Christ. If you can volunteer in any way for VBS, please talk to Caitlin Glassman or Jenna Brubaker.

On Sunday, July 26, we will gather for one combined worship service to celebrate what God has done through VBS. Our children will help lead portions of worship as we give thanks for the seeds of faith that have been planted during the week. This special service reminds us that disciple-making is not only the work of pastors, teachers, or parents; it is the calling of the entire church. Every volunteer, every invitation, every prayer, and every act of encouragement helps nurture the next generation of believers. As we celebrate together, we will rejoice in the privilege of helping young disciples grow in their faith.

Our commitment to making disciples is closely connected to our desire to heal the community and serve our neighbors. As such, on July 23, our church will once again lead the Feed Hays program. This ministry provides meals and encouragement to members of our community who may be facing food insecurity or difficult circumstances. We are looking for volunteers to help prepare and serve meals and extend hospitality to those who attend. Sometimes the simplest acts of kindness, like a warm meal, a friendly smile, or a conversation, can become powerful reminders of God's love and care. We invite you to consider how you might participate in this important outreach because your involvement makes a difference.

Looking ahead to August, we invite everyone to participate in Laundry Love on the evening of August 6th. This ministry happens every first Thursday of the month and has become a meaningful way for our church to connect with community members in a practical and personal way. During Laundry Love, volunteers assist individuals and families with laundry and offer a welcoming presence. While helping someone wash clothes may seem like a small gesture, it often opens the door to genuine conversations and relationships. The kindness and friendship that happen through this ministry are important. Laundry Love reflects the heart of our mission. We meet people where they are. Through these encounters, we demonstrate that our church cares about people not only on Sunday mornings but throughout the week as well. As you look at the opportunities before us this summer, I encourage you to prayerfully consider how God may be calling you to participate. Whether it is inviting a child to VBS, helping with Feed Hays, serving at Laundry Love, or simply praying for these ministries, every contribution matters. Together we are making disciples, healing the community, and building relationships as we serve. May God continue to use our congregation to share His love in ways that transform lives and strengthen our community.

May we all be part of “summer serve” and enjoy the rest of the summer months- Pastor Susan

Outreach articles are due the **third** Sunday of each month. Please email your OUTREACH item to wendy@haysfumc.com before **Sunday, August 16, 2026**. Items may also be placed in the office, labeled **for the Outreach** by **August 16**. The next Outreach should be received on August 20.

Thanks

Thanks to all who work on the audio/video tech team to enhance our worship services: Tony Anthony, Mark Kellerman, Marsha Swanson, Chuck Ames, Trey Brown, Neema Murithi, Chris Quint and Gabe Warrick.

If you would like to volunteer for this program, call the church office.

The family of Harl Stump wishes to say thank you to FUMC people for their love, support, calls and many cards. We appreciated those who were able to attend Harl's memorial service. Harl always looked forward to receiving the weekly church bulletin with Bev's note.

LaVena Stump & family

FUMC,
Thank you so much for all the kindness you have shown First Call this year! Whether it's collecting food, school supplies, or delivering meals...we appreciate your support! Your generosity does not go unnoticed. Thank you,
Macey Pfeifer
Executive Director

INTRODUCING OUR STAFF

PROGRAM STAFF

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

SUPPORT STAFF:

Administrative Secretary: Beverly Bearley
Administrative Assistant: Wendy Beougher
Financial Secretary: Marsha Swanson
Childcare Director: Emmaline Leuschner
Building Supervisor:

Congratulations

to Hays FUMC for coming in second in the Battle of the Businesses food collection for First Call for Help.

to Chase Voth & Avery Jones who were united in marriage in the sanctuary on July 11.



WOW, FUMC members, you all have gone above and beyond helping collect food and school supplies this year. We are grateful for everything! Thanks again,

*Laura Shoaff,
Client Service Specialist
First Call for Help*

The Women's Fellowship will have an ice cream social in the church parlor on August 5th at 7:00 p.m. All women of the church are welcome.



There will be one service at 10:00 on Sunday, July 26. This will be VBS Sunday.

Thanks to Alan Nelson for his years of service to Hays FUMC. His dedication and hard work are appreciated.



Do you enjoy the music during worship? Does it bring you closer to God; help you to reflect on your experience with the Lord?

Have you ever considered being a part of that experience by SINGING with Chancel CHOIR?

We want to invite you to a CHANCEL CHOIR KICK OFF EVENT

Sunday, August 23 at 6:00 pm in the Dining Hall

Sandwiches and light supper provided and followed by a reading session of music for this fall season.

We'll share why choir and music ministry is a special part of our worship experience; learn more about the schedule and planning for the fall. Meet and interact with current members – they're good folks!

Come and join us --- we aren't professional musicians – just members who love to
"Make a joyful noise to the Lord".

Questions, contact Charlotte Rathke
call/text 785-259-1422 or
Crr61.16@gmail.com

Thank you for the cards and prayers for Betty Swanson during her recent hospitalization. She is home now recuperating.

Marsha Swanson

Congratulations to Dylan Bryant on being promoted to Lt. Col.

Thanks to Sharon Graham, Louise Reese & Sharon Irvin for helping with Feed Hays and Vickie Unruh for helping with Laundry Love.

FUMC Financial Snapshot

	June 30, 2026	Year to Date
Checking Account*	\$74,538.16	
Operating Gifts	\$32,751.28	\$325,604.29
Operating Expenses	\$46,767.41	\$306,320.54
Organ Fund	\$11,906.79	

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

The sustaining gift for the Altar Foundation 2026 is \$153.



Dillon's Rewards

We want to encourage all parishioners who shop at Dillon's to sign up for the Community Rewards Program. At no cost to you, Dillon's designates a quarterly contribution based on those who participate in this program. The average contribution has been about \$271 a quarter. This is over \$1,000 a year and could go higher as

more people sign up.

To sign up, you go to www.dillons.com. There you either sign in or create an account using your email address. In the search bar, type 'Community Rewards' and search for the First United Methodist Church Hays. I found it on page 45. Then you just click on the button under our church's name, and from then on, any transactions you make going forward will be applied to our account for future contributions from Dillon's.

This is an easy and painless way to increase your support of your church. Please consider enrolling in this program. Thank you.

Marsha Swanson, Financial Secretary

Capital Campaign Project Update

1. The balance of the mortgage on the senior pastor's parsonage on Fillmore Drive has been paid in full. A "mortgage burning" celebration is scheduled in August.
2. Sealing of the stone on the church sanctuary, office and parlor is scheduled for this summer by Mid-Continental Restoration Co., Inc., Ft. Scott, KS.
3. A contract has been signed with Schudio Sound LLC, Hays, for a new sound system in the sanctuary. Installation is expected in the fall.
4. Bids are being accepted to upgrade the current inefficient steam boilers to more efficient hot water boilers. This is a major project requiring removal of asbestos in the boiler room by a licensed asbestos abatement firm and replacing obsolete steam pipes and registers in the sanctuary, office and parlor.
5. A contract for kitchen cabinet modification and cabinet addition in the Fellowship Hall has been awarded to PWC, Hays. Cabinets and walls in the kitchen and Fellowship Hall will be painted by Carillo Painting & Remodeling LLC, Hays. Installation of epoxy flake flooring in the kitchen, service area, and at the base of the stairs entering Fellowship Hall will be done by Cutting Edge Concrete Design, Hays. These projects will proceed later this summer. Bids for dishwasher replacement and other appliances in the kitchen have not yet been sought.
6. Assessment and bids for other projects (pipe organ and parlor update) are progressing.

July OUTREACH

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UPCOMING EVENTS

Monday, August 3	Duck Derby practice, Aquatic Park
Wednesday, August 5	Duck Derby, Aquatic Park
	Women's Fellowship, Ice cream social in parlor
Sunday, August 30	New Beginnings Sunday & Church luncheon
	Confirmation Sunday
Tuesday, September 1	Red Cross Blood Drive