



OUTREACH



Volume 30, Issue 7

First United Methodist Church

July 19, 2018

Perspective

Yikes! Recently, I was getting ready for a renewing getaway to western Ohio to attend my nephew's wedding. Needing a break, I was especially grateful because I didn't have to officiate this one. I typically officiate 12 to 20 weddings a year, and while I generally enjoy leading them, they can be stressful and draining. So, this would be a time I could recharge the old batteries, get away from the busy-ness and business of church life, relax, refresh, and renew. We would be staying in a hotel with a pool, and so, as I packed, I thought I'd try on my good old bathing suit, just in case I decided to go for a dip in the pool and to lounge around thereabouts with family. But after putting it on I quickly decided against it with one look in the mirror.

Now you have to understand that I'm not a 'Speedo-kind-of-bathing-suit-guy' to begin with, but even my conservative swim suit that covered me generously from the waist to the knees couldn't hide the 'muffin-top overhang' that was wa-a-ay too evident. I knew that I'd put on about 10-15 pounds since some surgery I had a few years back, but now I could see exactly where they were located... and it wasn't a pretty picture. I wasn't that youthful man with an athletic physique any longer, and I had given up walking two miles each morning, talking to God as we began the day together. As I looked, the old quip came to mind... "I have furniture disease... my chest fell down into my drawers!" I was definitely disheartened.

When I'm 'disheartened', I pray that God will provide scripture to speak to me in a way that is 'heartening', providing something that renews me and gives me hope.... and out of the blue, 2nd Corinthians 4:16-18 came to mind...

"So we do not lose heart. Even though our outer nature is wasting away, our inner nature is being renewed day by day. For this slight momentary affliction is preparing us for an eternal weight of glory beyond all measure, because we look not at what can be seen but at what cannot be seen; for what can be seen is temporary, but what cannot be seen is eternal."

As I read and reflected on it, I had to laugh. At first I thought my "outer nature was not wasting away" actually, quite the opposite". Then I got the pun. "Yes, Lord", I thought, "my waist is getting away from me; inasmuch, you're right, I've been 'waist-ing' away". But it was the next phrase was wonderfully 'heartening' because my "inner nature is being renewed day by day". Surprised as I considered that renewal, I thought, "You know, I am much stronger in my faith than I've ever been at anytime in my life", and I thanked God for that. Reading and reflecting the next line was even more appropriately assuring. "For this slight momentary affliction is preparing us for an eternal weight of glory beyond all measure". In my 'momentary affliction' and the measure of my waistline, what I was vainly worried about was nothing compared to the promise of the 'eternal weight of glory', for it is a growing faith and spirituality that is of eternal importance. In my mind's eye, I could see God wink at me as I read the last line of scripture, "for what can be seen is temporary, but what cannot be seen is eternal."

Renewed and refreshed by God's Word, God's sense of humor, and of God's amazing presence and promise in my life, I packed my old swim suit in my suitcase, knowing full-well that it would probably remain there throughout the trip, which it did. Tomorrow morning, I will begin anew, a commitment to walking two miles in the morning, not only for my waistline, but for my morning talk with God. Who knows? I might even invest in a new swim suit....but if I do, I promise you, it won't be a Speedo!

Please email your OUTREACH item to haysumc@hotmail.com before Sunday, August 19 2018.

Please place the name "Outreach" in the subject line...or place your item, clearly labeled **for the Outreach**, in the office by **Sunday, August 19, 2018**. The next Outreach should be received by August 23.

Thank You

Thank you so much for letting our organization host an informational meeting in the dining room. Thanks for supporting our community!

Sincerely,
Tabitha Wolf
Lyndsey Crisenbery
CASA of the High Plains

Thank you for allowing us to stay overnight. We appreciate it greatly!

Boy Scouts
Troop 130
Golden, Colorado

The family of Bill Barker wishes to thank our church family for your thoughts and prayers during Bill's illness and death. We also want to thank Pastor Mike for the beautiful service and to thank the Rebekah Circle for serving the lunch.



Sympathy

Our sincere sympathy is extended to the family & friends of

Barbara & Wayne Roberts on the death of Barbara's mother, **Harriette Cronn**, on May 25.
Larry Good, who died June 23. Larry had been a member here for 48 years.
Bob & Sheryl Cox on the death of Bob's brother, **A.B. Fisher**, on July 4.

Congratulations

to **Abbey Homburg and Charles Stieben** who were married June 23.
to **Brittany Ballou and Colton Barton** who were married July 14.



to **Joe & Jan Edwards** who celebrated their 40th wedding anniversary with a reception on July 8th.
to **Banks John Steffen** who was baptized on July 8th. Banks is the son of Drew & Dani Steffen. Shirley & Duane are great-grandparents.
to **Lauryn Kay Yates**, who was baptized on July 15th. Parents are Robert & Valerie.
to **Aaron & Tessa Van Der Wege** on the birth of **Maggie**



"The Hundred Days of Summer", Hays High School Food Pantry, is located in the parlor. Please bring food items that are not outdated and will be good until the end of the year. Leave your items on the designated shelves in the parlor. Thank you for your generosity.

We've been overwhelmed by the love & concern that has been shown to us by our church family during Harold's illness. We thank each of you for your prayers, food, cards, phone calls & visits. Thanks also to Pastor Mike for visiting Harold in Wichita & Salina Rehab.

Joe & I would like to thank all those who made our 40th anniversary wonderful! Thanks to Rebekah Circle for hosting the reception and to Meredith Cory for making the cupcakes. Thanks to those that came and for the cards.

Joe & Jan Edwards

Thanks to **Gordon's Carpet Center** for donating a portion of the sanctuary flooring.



Stop by the parlor and see Marcy Allenbaugh's beautiful hand painted porcelain in the parlor cabinet.



INTRODUCING OUR STAFF

PROGRAM STAFF

Pastor: Pastor Mike Rose
Director of Music: Johnny Matlock
Special Music Coordinator: Meredith Cory
Organist:: Charlotte Rathke
Pianist: Alexis Robinson
Handbell Choir Director: Shawn Henderson
Children's Ministry Director: Jo Swayne
Asst. Children's Director: Rebecca Kuehl
Youth Ministry Director: Matt Dumler
Outreach Editor: Wendy Beougher

SUPPORT STAFF:

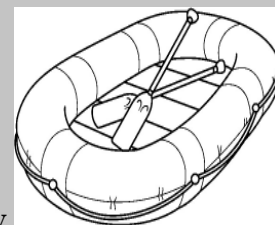
Administrative Secretary: Beverly Bearley
Administrative Assistant: Wendy Beougher
Financial Secretary: Don Forssberg
Childcare Director: Sandy Henningsen
Building Supervisor: Aaron Van Der Wege

KIDS CORNER

As I'm typing this we have 65 kids registered for our "Rolling River Rampage" VBS next week, July 16-19! Not only is that awesome, but so are the 40+ volunteers that have already agreed to help out which doesn't even count the many others that have donated items or contributed in other ways. What an amazing church family we have! Thank you so much for supporting our Children's Ministry.

Then join us for VBS Sunday, July 22 to hear all about our week and how we learned that "When you pass through the waters, I will be with you." Isaiah 43:2.

We are implementing a brand new electronic check-in and check-out system called Kid-Check. We've been experimenting this month and will put it to the test for VBS. We truly appreciate your patience as we learn all the ins and outs of this new system. The purpose of implementing KidCheck is because nothing is more important to us than the safety and security of our children.



New Beginnings Sunday is August 19 and the kick off to our fall semester. Mark your calendars!



Thank you for caring about the children of our church. If you ever have questions or concerns, don't hesitate to contact either Rebecca Kuehl (rebeccarg@hotmail.com) or Jo Swayne (jswayne33@gmail.com).



June and July are a busy time of year for the Healthy Congregations committee! Members have been busy submitting reports about last year's projects and our plans for the coming year. As you may have already heard, we were awarded a grant by the Heartland Community Foundation to buy an AED (automatic external defibrillator) for the church. The committee would like to thank Brett Bruner for his assistance with writing the grant! After we receive the grant funds, we will purchase the AED and then provide some training sessions to church members on its use this next year.

The committee's proposals for next year were approved by the United Methodist Health Ministry. Through feedback we gained from the May survey, we will be working on the following 3 goals: provide nutrition education about healthy eating and diet fads; offer a class about financial planning; create a link on the FUMC webpage with information about the Healthy Congregations Committees ongoing activities.

The committee is looking for additional members to help us meet the physical, emotional, mental health, and spiritual needs of the congregation. We meet usually once a month for about an hour typically on a weekday night as we plan for events. If you would like to be involved with the committee as a whole or lend your talents to one of the above goals this year, please let the church office know!

Lynn Fisher, Healthy Congregations Committee Chair

Welcome to Care Portal

35 “For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, 36 I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you visited me, I was in prison and you came to me.’ 37 Then the righteous will answer him, saying, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink? 38 And when did we see you a stranger and welcome you, or naked and clothe you? 39 And when did we see you sick or in prison and visit you?’ 40 And the King will answer them, ‘Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers,[a] you did it to me.”- Matthew 25:35-40

When reading the accounts of the early church, I am amazed at their willingness to give up all they have for the betterment of others. Money, land, and possessions had no value in light of eternity to them. They understood Jesus’s words that what they did for the poor, the broken and the needy, they were in turn doing to him.

Jesus’s words present us with a new challenge, one that gives us the opportunity to be what the church was intended to be from the very start. Let me introduce you to Care Portal.

Care Portal is a network of churches working in conjunction with the Department for Children and Families (DCF) and Saint Francis to fill the needs of foster, respite and broken families. Care Portal has several primary goals. One is to prevent families from being separated in the first place. They find the needs that are putting the families at risk and put them in the network. The second goal for Care Portal is to help fill the needs of respite and foster care families as they welcome children into their home. Many times, welcoming families are left to find clothes, toys and other essential things for their incoming children, often times with only a moments notice. Care Portal can help fill these needs and relieve some of the stress these families feel. Lastly, it aims to help the transition for the kids to be as seamless as possible.

So how can we help? Simply, receive an email. When a need is put into the Care Portal, an email is sent out to all the churches within the network. They in turn will forward it to their congregation. Once you receive the email, read it and make a choice. If it is a need you can help fill, respond that you can fill either all or part of the request and the church will send it on to DCF or Saint Francis. The agency will then get you in touch with the family in need to make arraignments. If the need is not something you can help with, simply delete the email. We are not asking that you help fill every request, only the ones you can. Remember, at that moment there will be 6 other church congregations receiving the same email. The burden isn’t only on our church, it is shared and welcomed by many. If everyone can do a little, we can change the world for these families.

In the coming weeks you will begin to receive requests from the church email with Care Portal in the subject line. Please read them and pray if it is something you can help with. If it is, great. Respond and let the Lord do amazing things through you. If it isn’t for you, delete them and go about your day. We have an opportunity to make a meaningful impact on the lives of people in need. Please consider doing what you can to help. The Lord is doing something amazing and we are so fortunate to be apart of it.

Your church **Audio team** is currently looking for additional volunteers to join our group. No experience is necessary. We will train you. Time involved might be once or twice a month for Sunday services. No tests or homework is involved. Responsibilities include microphone set-up for first and second services, operating the audio console upstairs during the services, and putting away mics and stands following the second service.

The **Audio team** is also looking for 4 volunteers to train to operate our video system which will be coming this year. This would involve two volunteers at the video desk for the 10:45 service each Sunday. The time commitment would be every other Sunday for each pair of volunteers. If possible, we would like a commitment of at least a year.

If you might like to explore the possibility of joining our merry band, get in touch with Tony Anthony, Mark Kellerman, Marsha Swanson or Mike Cooper (or call the church office, 625-3408).



Great Plains Annual Conference 2018



The theme of the 2018 Great Plains Annual Conference Session, which took place June 13 to 16 at Century II Convention Center in Wichita, was “Proclaim Christ”. “Proclaim Christ” is what we did together through music, prayer, fellowship and hard work. For me the session was an uplifting spiritual experience.

The event was highly organized and orderly. The mundane and necessary procedures were interesting to me since this was my first exposure. We have lots of methods. So calling ourselves Methodists seems to fit.

These methods are arrived at by a truly democratic process. Individual church members can vote on issues at their local church’s yearly church conference. Then delegates from each church represent that church at the Annual Conference. In our conference are all the United Methodist churches of Kansas and Nebraska.

Every four years delegates from each conference from the entire world meet for the General Conference. From this meeting comes our denomination’s structure and rules. The process originates at the local level. So your attendance and vote is important.

Each day of Annual Conference was started with devotions and music. For music we had a black choir, a youth praise band, and a Hispanic vocal and string group. Such diversity was present everywhere at the session, except the lay delegates.....we were older and whiter.

We heard a lot of reports. As a small example, we received reports on new church development, campus ministries, pension and health benefits and a treasury report. Our churches together are involved in many, many activities.

Also we had ceremonies for retirees leaving the ministry. We had commissionings of new pastors starting their training and commissionings for pastors completing their training. We also took action on church closings. The final action before adjournment was “fixing the appointments” which is matching pastors and churches for the year.

Interspersed in the session were workshops and addresses by leaders with special skills. These leaders are great resources for our conference. We should feel proud and be confident that the Great Plains Conference has talented people helping us “Proclaim Christ”.

I thank Hays First United Methodist Church for allowing me to be your lay delegate. You should know that your pastor, Mike Rose, is well known and wildly popular. You should also know that Bishop Saenz, through love, calmness and humility is a dynamic leader. Lastly, I would like for you to know that I am thrilled and honored to represent you.

Next month I plan to report on the issues that threaten to divide the United Methodist Church worldwide. These are (1) the ordination of LGBTQ individuals into the ministry, and (2) the marriage of LGBTQ persons by Methodist clergy

Armin Kelly, Lay Delegate

Supper’s Eight

It’s time to reorganize Supper’s Eight. This is a way to become better acquainted with members of our church in a small group setting. Groups get together once a month. Sign up sheets are in the parlor.

Did you know that the man sitting in the middle pew at church has flown airplanes? What about that lady sitting next to you Sunday...she’s climbed a mountain peak in Peru. And that young girl helping with the children’s story...she has an inquisitive interest in science experiments. These are just a few examples of friendships gained through interaction in Supper’s Eight. It is a wonderful time for fellowship and fun. It might be eating a meal together or playing a game or watching a performance, but however you plan your time together, be assured Christ is in the midst drawing us closer.

July OUTREACH

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Upcoming Events



July 16– 19	VBS
July 19	Youth Service Project
July 22	VBS Sunday
July 26	Youth Service Project
August 9, 9 a.m.	Crafters
August 19	New Beginnings Sunday
September 9	Fall Festival all church dinner