



OUTREACH



Volume 30, Issue 12

First United Methodist Church

December 20, 2018

For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Isaiah 9:6

Greetings in the Name of the Christ Child!

Remembering and celebrating the birth of the Messiah is a long awaited tradition for children of all ages. It is a time of great joy for most of us. Family and close friends will gather and exchange gifts and pleasantries, enjoy a Christmas feast, and settle in to conversations that connect us with each other and with God.

Most of us will, indeed, celebrate Christmas with great joy....but some will not. For others this time of year, sadness is unrelenting. Memories of loved ones lost, those all alone (and some all alone in a crowded room), those who are in hospitals and nursing facilities, the homeless, the hungry, the marginalized, and so many more, are all people that the Christ Child came to give hope and help. The culture celebrates with the joyful; the Church blesses both the joyful and those who are experiencing sadness and hopelessness.

This time of year most certainly brings both joy and sorrow. I would like to tell you of how Hays First UMC is providing ways you might be a part of both the celebration of the season and support of those who sorrow in the upcoming days.

* The Longest Night Service- Friday, December 21- 7:00 p.m. For those who have experienced loss or are experiencing sadness during the holidays, this special candlelight service can be a healing balm. Come to this special service and be supportive.

* Sunday Morning Worship- December 23- 8:30 and 10:45 a.m. Bring the family and prepare for the true 'Reason for the Season'. If you're out of town, you can log on to the Hays First United Methodist Church FaceBook site or our web site for a live broadcast of the 10:45 service. The service will also be broadcast live on channel 14 for Eagle cable subscribers.

* Christmas Eve Worship- December 24 at 7:30 p.m. and 10:45 p.m. Both services are candle light, communion services and will feature a service of lessons and carols. The offering will be used to fund the Families in Need program and the Fresh Start Loan program for 2019. Both services will be available on FaceBook live for those who are traveling and away from Hays or homebound. The 7:30 p.m. service is 'family friendly' and afterwards , it is rumored that a Jolly Old Elf will stop by the church to greet children in the Parlor and tell them of Christ's love for them. Please email your OUTREACH item to haysumc@hotmail.com before Sunday, January 20, 2019.

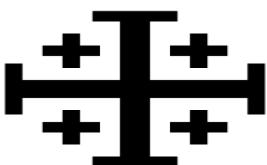
Please place the name "Outreach" in the subject line...or place your item, clearly labeled **for the Outreach**, in the office by **Sunday, January 20, 2019**. The next Outreach should be received by **January 24**. Finally, from my family to yours, may God richly bless and keep you and your family during this special season and may you experience the true meaning of Christmas...For a child has been born for us...

Grace and Peace, Pastor Mike

Thank You

The USD 489 Hope Pantry wishes to extend its heartfelt thanks for the many donations you collected for our students. Your gift of warmth and comfort will be cherished by so many. In this season of joy, please know how much of a difference each of you make with every kind gesture. Merry Christmas!

USD 489 Hope Pantry



Even when we can't understand God's ways,
We can trust his heart.
And that trust-the surety of his unfailing love-
Brings us peace,
rest,
contentment.

Elizabeth Laing Thompson, in her book *When God Says Go*

INTRODUCING OUR STAFF **PROGRAM STAFF**

Pastor: Pastor Mike Rose
Congregational Care Director, Troy Miller
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: Melissa Pyle
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

Sympathy

Our sincere sympathy is extended to the family & friends of

Ron Herrman who died December 11, 2018.

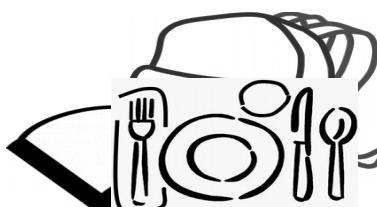
*Sandy, Russ, Trenton & Trevor Henningsen on the death of Sandy's mother, **Judy Zimmer**, who died December 11th, 2018. to Don & Pauline Branda on the death of Pauline's sister, **Arlene Hanzlicek**, on December 12th, 2018.*

Congratulations

to Addyson & Grady Brown, children of Talia, who were baptized on December 9th.

to Mason & Jace Cunningham, sons of Mike & Laci, who were baptized December 9th.

If you would like to receive your O p of



Circle News

Thirteen members of Naomi Circle and one guest, Beckie Holmes, met on Wednesday, December 12th in the home of Debra McDonald with Linda Palmberg and Nancy Jones assisting. Nancy Jones shared an insight on sand dollars for the devotions and Linda Palmberg offered prayer. During roll call members recalled their most memorable Christmas gift. Our next meeting will be January 9th in the home of Sheryl Blair.

United Methodists Divided Class

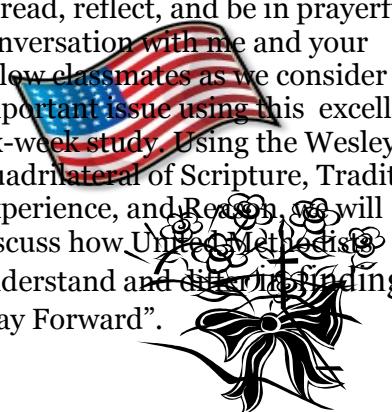
Sunday Morning Classes begin January 13 and end February 17 9:35 a.m. in the Chapel

Wednesday Evening Classes begin January 16 and end February 20 6:15 p.m. in Room 205

"It is not an overstatement to say that the United Methodist Church is facing the biggest crisis of its 50-year history. At the center of the controversy is a debate over the church's stance toward homosexuality. The book *United Methodists Divided* provides a fair and impartial overview of the major issues facing the church as it approaches a special session of General Conference February 23-26, 2019, where the fate of the denomination will be determined."

Reverend Dale McConkey, PhD.

As your pastor, I want to invite you to read, reflect, and be in prayerful conversation with me and your fellow classmates as we consider this important issue using this excellent six-week study. Using the Wesleyan Quadrilateral of Scripture, Tradition, Experience, and Reason, we will discuss how United Methodists understand and differ in finding "A Way Forward".



2018 is coming to a close already!! We started off the new year with 40+ kids in Kids Club. A Children's Moment during the Ash Wednesday service in February kicked off Lent.

The Children's Advisory Board began discussions about child safety and having procedures for check-in/out. In March they hosted our first "Let Your Light Shine" talent showcase with silly sundaes as a fundraiser for camp. 19 of our own members shared their gifts with 75 guests and raised \$1,192!! We also moved Kids Prayze from the gym to the second floor as the first stage of improving the safety/security of our children on Sunday mornings. To round out March we marched in palms for Palm Sunday and danced the Light of Christ out of the Sanctuary on Good Friday service.

April started with an Easter bang, balloons and our annual Easter egg hunt. Our Camp Sunday Bake Sale was another success bringing in \$1,540 for our camp fund. WOW ended by helping the Missions team assemble 200 Blessing Bags. A proposal was presented to Admin Board for the approval to approach the Endowment Committee to purchase KidCheck, a check-in/out system dedicated to keeping track of our children while in ministry settings. Teachers were given gifts of appreciation for their work during the school year and the KidCheck system was approved and ordered in May.

Summer brought on a "Bible Treasure Hunt" for Summer Sunday School with all children Preschool-4th grade combining into one group. Church campers totaling 48, another record number, attended Camp Lakeside or Camp Horizon throughout the summer. In July we hosted "Rolling River Rampage" VBS which was attended by 76 children and over 50 volunteers. We challenged the kids to fill a full-sized canoe with food and school supplies to restock the HMS and HHS pantries and they did, donating 1,517 items!! VBS was also our first test of the new KidCheck system.

In August, Melissa Pyle joined the FUMC staff as Children's Ministry Assistant. The children, youth and families of our church once again helped with the Big Brothers Big Sisters Duck Derby and the Education team hosted New Beginnings Sunday and a ministry fair to kick-off the school year and fall programming.



We gave nine new 2nd graders their own Deep Blue Bible and Kids Prayze started after Labor Day on Sunday mornings. The kickoff for fall WOW averaged 35-40 kids in Kids Club and the KidCheck system is now used every WOW and Sunday and at special church events when children are present.

October was a super busy month with 175 Methodists enjoying a fun church only trip to Pa's Pumpkin Patch. Our annual Trunk or Treat was held in the gym due to weather, but still well attended with approx. 125 kids treat or treating.

"The Very Next Thing" Children/Youth Sabbath was mid-November. The Youth of our church put on both services while the children made themed crafts for the Sanctuary and sang with the Youth Prayze band for special music.

December is a very special month in the life of the church and even more so for the children of our church. 41 children shared "Angels, Over the Plains" an original play written by Catherine Trieschmann Miller featuring "Away in a Manager (A Shepherd's Story) written by 5th Grader, Johanna Jones on December 12 and 16. We're ending the year with a birthday party for Jesus in the gym on December 23. The children and youth will combine for Sunday School both Dec 23 and Dec 30.

It's been another amazing year with some big changes! We appreciate the love and support of our church family and Blessed 2019! Melissa and Jo





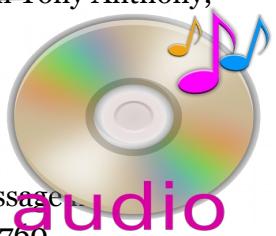
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1-31, the Missions Committee will be supporting the Ronald McDonald Houses of Wichita on their annual wish list. We are working with Hays High DECA to collect the wish list items and deliver them to the Ronald McDonald Houses and the Ronald McDonald Family Room. They rely on Wish List donations to make things a little bit easier. Thank you in advance for caring and sharing!

RONALD McDONALD HOUSE CHARITIES cards for Walmart, Millions, Target & Office Max, coffee, individual snacks, crackers, chips, laundry soap, disinfectant wipes, deodorant.

Wish List items: fruit or jello pudding cups, cookie/muffin mix, frosting, pepper, disposable cups and bowls, canned fruits and vegetables, disposable razors, paper towels, crock pot liners, multipurpose spray, travel size shampoo/conditioner, hair ties, computer paper, chip clips, chocolate syrup, disposable aluminum pans, microwave meals in boxes like Hamburger Helper.

The **Audio/Video Team** is still needing two or three volunteers to help with the audio and/or video equipment on Sundays. If you might like to explore the possibility of joining our merry band, get in touch with Tony Anthony, Mark Kellerman, Marsha Swanson, Nicole Younger, Mike Cooper, or call the church office.



The **Financial Peace University** will be starting January 14, 2019 at FUMC. Feel free to message me with questions at samgrossrd@yahoo.com or 620-617-8247 or sign up at <http://www.fpu.com/1078760>.

Join us in sharing and hearing prayers, scripture, and music that acknowledge that God's presence is for those who mourn, for those who struggle, especially at this time of year. Share your Christian love and comfort with those who need your prayers and presence. Know that God's Word comes to shine light into our darkness. The Longest Night service will be Friday, December 21st at 7:00 p.m. in the sanctuary.

Rehearsals will be held in the dining room.

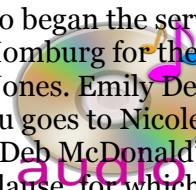


A Stellar Evening



December 3rd, 2018 was attended by 65 lovely ladies from our church to celebrate the season and each other. The theme was a thoughtful review of the Nativity Star of legend and lore in the Christmas story, suggested by Marguerite Stewart and written by Marsha Swanson. The UMW Executive Board once again provided a delicious smorgasbord. The tables were beautifully set, and we thank those who decorated them.

The UMW Singers, led by our capable Nancy Jones and accompanied by the gracious Sheryl Cox outdid themselves with outstanding music and performances. They were joined by Isabelle and Johanna Jones who began the service singing together to start off the program. Additional thanks go to Mary Alice Brent and Marla Homburg for their solos. Isabelle and Johanna were readers for the program also, along with their mother Stacey Jones. Emily Decker, Kari Schultz, Judy Hugh, Ruth Briney, Betty and Marsha Swanson read also. A special thank you goes to Nicole Younger for volunteering as the sound tech, and to Sandy Henningsen for arranging child care. Deb McDonald's program guides sparkled, as did the entire evening. The night ended with a hearty round of applause, for which we say 'Thank you, and enjoy the Advent season!'.



Billy Graham's 6 Rules of Living

1. Make it your goal to live at peace with others.

Is it possible to do this with everyone in our lives? Unfortunately, even our best efforts may not change another person's attitude. The key is to ask God if we're at fault, and if so, to confess and seek his help to overcome it. Life is temporary and fleeting. We're here for just a short time. We shouldn't waste our days but live them for God's glory.



2. Avoid revenge

Don't be a captive of the past. If someone has harmed us by breaking the law, we have the right to bring that person to justice, both for our good and the good of society. But hurting someone only because they have hurt us is another matter. We can't change the past; we can only seek God's forgiveness for whatever it is we did wrong.

3. Guard your tongue

Use it for good instead of evil. How many marriages and friendships have been destroyed because of criticism that has spun out of control? But the tongue can also be used for good; that should be our goal. When people ask me for advice about their personal problems, I always try to give them an answer based on the Bible. "Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs."

4. Never repay evil for evil

Evil is sin; it's a deadly cancer that has invaded our souls. It isn't just an illusion or an absence of good. Ultimately, all evil comes from Satan, according to the Bible. Satan is real, and he is absolutely opposed to God. Still we are responsible for our own actions. Why some people repeatedly choose to do evil instead of good is a puzzle to me, because evil eventually destroys those who practice it. Only God can replace the evil and sin in our hearts with love and kindness.

5. Treat others as you'd want them to treat you.

This simple but profound principle—the Golden Rule—comes from Jesus's Sermon on the Mount. How different our lives would be if we actually practiced this! The Bible also tells us, "With humility comes wisdom". Every day I realize I'm just a sinner like everyone else, and I have been forgiven only because of God's grace.

6. Practice the powder of forgiveness.

I adhere to the philosophy of hating the sin but loving the sinner. The key is to realize that this is the way God sees us. When we sin, it's as if we're shaking our fists in God's face, telling him we know better than he does how to run our lives. But God also hates sin because he loves us, and he knows what sin does to us.

Praying the 23rd Psalm

The Lord is my Shepherd

I shall not want

He maketh me to lie down in green pastures

He leadeth me beside still waters

He restoreth my soul

He leadeth me in the paths of righteousness

For His Name's sake

Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death

I will fear no evil

For Thou art with me

They rod and Thy staff they comfort me

Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies

Thou anointest my head with oil

My cup runneth over

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life

And I will dwell in the house of the Lord

Forever

That's relationship

That's supply

That's rest

That's refreshment

That's healing

That's guidance

That's purpose

That's testing

That's protection

That's faithfulness

That's love

That's forgiveness

That's consecration

That's abundance

That's blessing

That's security

That's eternity



December OUTREACH

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Upcoming Events



Friday, December 21 at 7:00 p.m.

Monday, December 24, 7:45 p.m.
10:45 p.m.

Monday, January 14

Saturday, April 27, Save the Date

Longest Night Service
Christmas Eve Service
Christmas Eve Service
Financial Peace University
Workday at Camp Lakeside