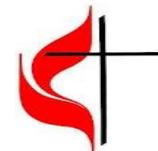


OUTREACH



Volume 31, Issue 1

First United Methodist Church

January 24, 2019

“For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope.” Jeremiah 29:11

Long ago, God’s people, Israel, were taken from Jerusalem in bondage to Babylon by King Nebuchadnezzar. God, through the prophet Jeremiah, had been warning them of this day for some time, sent a prophecy of hope to a people who were fearful of the future and grieving over the changes in their lives. That’s why so much of what we know as Jeremiah 29 was relevant to God’s people then, and to God’s people called United Methodists, today.

I have returned from Leawood, Kansas and the United Methodist clergy gathering known as “Orders and Fellowship” at the Church of the Resurrection. Orders and Fellowship is a time that clergy come together to share, to learn, and support one another in our common ministries of the United Methodist Church. It is always a meaningful time, but this time was especially meaningful because of the stated topic of the gathering-”Living Water; Living Well; Clergy Wellness”-and the unstated topic: what will the future for the United Methodist Church be?

On February 23rd a Specially Called General Conference of the United Methodist Church will gather in St. Louis to determine the United Methodist Church official stance on the issues of human sexuality... especially relating to policies concerning the LGBTQ communities and how we include or exclude them in our churches and as clergy persons. It has been a source of sharp disagreement for decades, but it came to full contention during the 2016 General UM Church Conference. The Church was headed for schism, when Rev. Adam Hamilton and Rev. Mark Holland, from our own Great Plains Conference, put a resolution on the floor to have our Bishops create a Commission on the Way Forward. Miraculously, it passed. The Commission was formed, met, and has submitted three plans in which the United Methodist Church might move forward. Those three plans-The One Church Plan, The Connectional Conference Plan, and The Traditional Plan-will be discussed, debated and decided upon. (If you’d like to know more about these plans, stop by the church office and ask for the book “United Methodists Divided. Or come to either my Sunday morning class in the Chapel at 9:35 or my Wednesday evening class at 6:15 in Room 207 to more fully understand the issues and the plans.)

Continued on page 5.....

Please email your OUTREACH item to **haysumc@hotmail.com** before Sunday, February 17, 2019. Please place the name “*Outreach*” in the subject line...or place your item, clearly labeled **for the Outreach**, in the office by **Sunday, February 17, 2019**. The next Outreach should be received by **February 21**.

Thank You

The Bob Lowen family would like to thank everyone for their cards, food, plants and support. Thank you, Pastor Rose, for calling me in Wichita and praying over the phone. A special thank you to an anonymous person for the poinsettia and card with surprises for me.

Sincere thanks,
Bev Lowen

Sympathy

*Our sincere sympathy is extended to the family & friends of Don & Vi Hurst on the death of Don's sister, **Florine Vernon**, January 5th.*

*Bill & Betsy Losey on the death of Bill's sister, **Sue Jones**, on January 14th. **Marilyn Wasinger** who died January 15th.*

Circle News

Naomi Circle met in the home of Sheryl Blair with Melody Davidson assisting on Wednesday, the 9th of January. Joys and concerns were shared, devotions and prayer were offered up by Nancy Jones. Thirteen members responded to the roll call of "Where did you spend Christmas?". Debra McDonald presented the 2019 Pledge Service program, "Appreciate and Anticipate". Naomi Circle will host the General Luncheon to be held on January 16th. Troy Miller will present devotions and the program "The Top Ten Reasons I Will Never Complain Again".

The next meeting will be held at the church on February 13th at 9:15 a.m.

Dear Christian friends,
The response to my hospitalization was overwhelming. The many thoughts, prayers, and expressions of concern have been heartwarming. Thanks to Troy and Pastor Mike for their visits. They always brought a feeling of strength as well as a chuckle to carry my fears away. The prayer shawl has given me strength far beyond what you can imagine. I am on the road to recovery with still a long way to go. The congregation of FUMC is the best there can be. My prayers are with you!

Elton Beougher

Congratulations

To Jay & Jordan Petz on the birth of **Rhen Jaye** on December 13th. Rhen has a big brother Bo. Johnny & Sherri Matlock are grandparents.

To Cameron & Maggie Moeder on the birth of **Scottie Quinn** on January 9. Scottie is welcomed by siblings Callen, Camdyn and Weston. Jeff & Marla Cooper are grandparents and Gary & Julia Ellen are great-grandparents.



Save the date and purchase tickets for the Rock the Night Away Valentine Dinner, Saturday, February 9. The menu will be spinach salad, bread sticks, choice of chicken Kiev or baked steak, twice baked potatoes and rocky road dessert. Performing will be The Hendersons with Hondo Drums and Tiffany Barbee who has performed in Las Vegas and Branson. Rock & Roll 50's-70's, jazz, country, gospel and blues music will be played. Nursery provide

INTRODUCING OUR STAFF

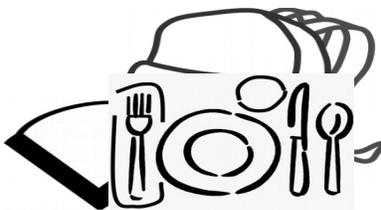
PROGRAM STAFF

- 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

A special thank you to Shirley Green, Carol Purdy, Arris & Virginia Johnson for delivering Meals on wheels on December 31 and in January. Your service is appreciated.



KIDS CORNER



Happy 2019! WOW! has officially kicked off our winter session. Wednesdays, come enjoy a meal with your church family any time between 5-6, then attend our fluid worship service in the Sanctuary with Matt Dumler, Shawn Henderson and the Youth Prayse Band 5:50-6:10 followed by Kids Club, Ignite Youth, and an adult class option from 6:15-7:15. Don't miss out on the fun, join us for Worship on Wednesdays!

Kids Club has kicked off the new year learning about families throughout the Old Testament. We just learned how even twin brothers, Jacob & Esau, can be very, very different. With two sets of boy twins attending Kids Club, this lesson was even more relevant.

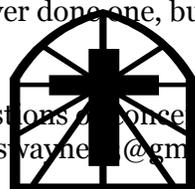
Kids Prayze has continued on Sunday mornings with Alyssa Dees and Shawn Henderson in the 2/3 Grade Classroom 205 from 9:30-9:45 so look for us to sing during worship service in the coming weeks!

Sunday School lessons have commenced after a fun holiday break where all the kids and youth met together. Our 4/5 Graders are "eating" their way through a Doughnuts curriculum and our other classes are continuing with the Deep Blue Curriculum.

We've just had another round of acolyte training for our current 2nd-5th graders complete with practice runs in the Sanctuary. Our SS 2nd-5th grade teachers will be recruiting acolytes to serve for the 10:45 worship service like to serve in this important way.



Church family that would like to share a 3-5 minute Children's Moment during our 10:45 worship service. We have online resources for those who haven't ever done one, but are interested in making a positive impact! Contact Jo with questions.



Children of our church. If you ever have questions or concerns, don't hesitate to contact Melissa (melissa_melissa@hotmail.com) or Jo Swayne (jswayne1980@gmail.com).

The Altar Foundation for 2019 is \$146, an endowed gift to celebrate 146 years of Methodism in Hays.

If you would like to help with The United Methodist Campus Ministry's Thursday night worship and meal by providing a salad or dessert, please call the Church office (625-3408).



The **Audio/Video Team** is still needing two or three volunteers to help with the audio and video equipment on Sundays. If you might like to explore the possibility of joining our merry band, please contact us with Tony Anthony, Mark Kellerman, Marsha Swanson, Nicole Younger, Mike Cooper, or the Church office (625-3408).



The ONE Event 2019: The Word

Matt Dumler, Youth Ministry Director



On the weekend of January 5th and 6th, several members of our youth group traveled to Salina for the annual ONE Event. This event is designed by the youth of the conference, for the youth of the conference. Each year they pick a theme and center everything they do around that theme. This year's theme was "The Word". The timing, for our youth group at least, couldn't have been more perfect.

The focus of our youth group has shifted from large groups talking about current events, to small group Bible studies. These studies consist of taking a look at a passage in scripture, studying it, and finding out how it applies to our lives. It has been incredible watching the kids learn to look at scripture in practical terms. This conference built off what we are trying to do and helped them see the importance in it.

One of the speakers challenged the kids to dig into their Bible each day, no matter the amount. Often times, kids, and adults, get scared off by the thought of opening their Bibles for several reasons. These reasons can be anything from not understanding what they are reading, to long names, to challenging topics. No matter the age, these reasons are all consistent. This speaker challenged the youth to see past these excuses and open their Bibles. She posed the question: How can you connect with God if you don't know God? I, for one, thought this was a great point. We like to call ourselves followers of God, but we forget to follow. What it means is this: How can you follow someone you don't know? How do we know God? Through His word.

Bible reading can be very scary, I get it. However, you have to ask yourself: Is what I am going to get out of this worth facing my fear? I can tell you that the answer to this is unequivocally yes. The scriptures will help reveal who God is to you. It will help you learn more about who you are called to be. It will help "the potter form the pot."

It can be very nerve-racking thinking about reading your Bible, especially if you never have. However, the way you get over that fear is to start. If you take the first step and start by reading something, it gets much better, very quickly. Begin by selecting a book and start with chapter 1, I suggest the book of John. You can read a chapter a day, a passage a day or even simply one scripture a day. It doesn't matter, just start. If all you read is one verse a day, that's great. That is one more verse that you know at the end of the day then you did at the beginning of the day. That is one more word given to us by God that you now know then you previously knew.

I want to encourage you to start. If you need help, find a plan that works for you. This will help keep you accountable. Find a partner to read it with. Decide what you will read, read it and discuss it. Find something that works for you. Just start.

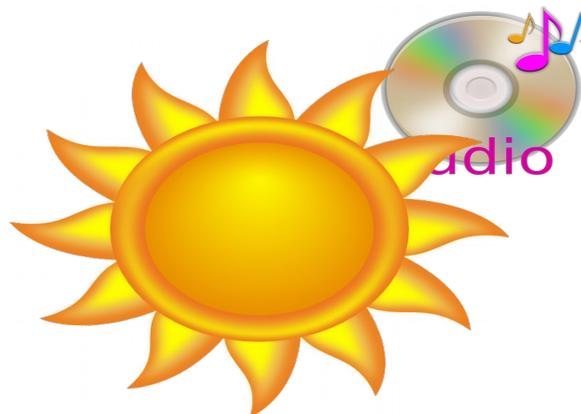
Start Your Day With Thankfulness

When you arise in the morning,
Give thanks for the morning light,
For your life and strength.

Give thanks for your food, and the joy of living.

If you see no reason for giving thanks, the fault lies with yourself.

Tecumseh, Shawnee Chief



Pastor Mike's article continued from page 1.....



The decision that is made most likely will alter the structure of the General Church, the clergy, and local churches. And it is not unimaginable that the United Methodist Church might splinter into a number of smaller denominations, meaning that local churches would have to choose which denomination they would want to be a part of. Clergy would have to do the same.

These are anxious times in the life of the Church that I love. I do not know what the future holds, but I do know that God holds both the future and the plans for it. So as I, along with so many others who love this church anxiously await, I hold fast to Jeremiah's prophecy from God: *"For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope."* May it be so for us all during the days filled with uncertainty and anxiety.

Grace and Peace,

Pastor Mike

Blessings to all!

I want to take just a moment and talk about a couple of ministries we are working on to improve, and a new one that we are in the early stages of developing. The three areas of ministry I am focusing on right now are "Prayer Partners" – "Visitation" – and "Safety & Security."

This is a praying church, and our goal with the Prayer Partners Ministry is to continue equipping and encouraging people in their prayer life by not only disseminating needs and answers to prayer in a more timely fashion, but also providing support for those praying and regular opportunities to get together and share in our prayer efforts.

This is also a loving church, and our goal with the Visitation Ministry is to continue extending our love, and the love of Jesus, to those who for one reason or another are unable to fellowship with us in this building on Sunday mornings, but are still spiritually connected to us and are vital members of our body.

And because this is a growing church, our goal with the Safety & Security Ministry is to ensure that whenever we have people inside of our building, that we are doing everything possible to safeguard them against any hazards, dangers, calamities, or emergencies that may arise.

I know that when we ask people to "sign up" it is easy to think, "Oh, no. If I sign up, I'm going to be stuck." Obviously, short articles like this don't allow time to give you any real details. So, to take the scare out of signing up, all we are doing at this stage is sharing information so you can decide later on if it is something you actually want to get involved with. All you are committing to at this point is learning more about what we are doing.

So, please take a moment to prayerfully consider, joining us in one or more of these ministries. Contact the church office at 785-625-3408 or by email at haysumc@hotmail.com to express your interest and I will get back with you in order to get you more information and answer questions so you can decide if it is for you. No high pressure sales tactics, I promise.

In the spirit of our mission to share the word of God with all people through spiritual growth, worship, fellowship and service, these are just a few of the crucial areas in the life of our church that allow us to directly ensure that we are continually equipping and encouraging one another, as well as extending love on an ongoing basis.

Troy Miller

January OUTREACH

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www.HaysFirstUnitedMethodistChurch.com

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Upcoming Events



Saturday, February 9, 5:30

Valentine Banquet

Saturday, April 27, Save the Date

Workday at Camp Lakeside