



# OUTREACH



Volume 37 Issue 11

First United Methodist Church

November 20, 2025

## Awakened by His Coming

As we enter the advent season this year, I find myself very grateful for the spirit of renewal moving among us at Hays First. Over the past months, we've seen God restoring joy, healing divisions, and bringing new excitement for his work. This is the Lord's doing, and it fills me with hope as your pastor. I have hope because I see God has come to dwell with us. The advent season reminds us that God is always coming. He comes into our world, into our church, and into the quiet corners of our hearts. We light candles, with each of them telling a story of faith and reminding us that Christ's light still breaks through even the longest nights.

The season of Advent invites us to wake up and see the world with fresh eyes. As we draw near to Christmas, we remember that God's coming into the world is not only a story of long ago; it is a living reality that still stirs hearts today. This year's Advent theme, "Awakened by His Coming," reminds us that God's arrival in Christ changes everything. Each week of Advent opens our eyes a little wider to the mystery and meaning of Emmanuel, God with us.

On the first Sunday of Advent, we are Awakened to Watch (Matthew 24:36–44). Like the faithful who kept watch for the Messiah, we are called to live alert and ready. However, our alertness is not filled with fear, but with hope. We are reminded that God still breaks into ordinary moments with extraordinary power. On the second Sunday, we are Awakened to Repent (Matthew 3:1–12). John the Baptist's cry from the wilderness echoes into our world today: "Prepare the way of the Lord." Repentance is not just sorrow for sin; it is the joyful turning of our hearts back toward God, clearing away whatever blocks the path of His love.

The third Sunday calls us to be Awakened to Joy. Even before Jesus was born, Mary's heart sang with joy: "My soul magnifies the Lord!" (Luke 1:46–55). Joy doesn't depend on perfect circumstances, rather, it springs from knowing that God keeps His promises. We light the pink candle of joy because we believe that God is near. On the fourth Sunday, we are Awakened to Believe (Matthew 1:18–25). Joseph's quiet faith and obedience remind us that believing is not only agreeing with God's plan but trusting him enough to act upon it. Love and belief walk hand in hand as we make room for Christ in our hearts and homes.

On Christmas Eve, we are Awakened to Rejoice once more (Luke 2:1–14). The long night of waiting gives way to light and celebration. The angels' song fills the heavens, declaring the good news that "a Savior has been born to you." We rejoice because God has come to dwell with us. This Advent, let us open our eyes and hearts to the one who comes to awaken us to hope, to repentance, to joy, to belief, and to celebration. May every candle we light remind us that Christ's light still shines in our darkness, calling us to awaken and follow him. May we carry that light beyond our church walls as we share it with our families, neighbors, and all who long for hope.

Join us on Christmas Eve when we gather as one family of faith, to lift our candles and voices in celebration of the One who came to dwell among us. Come, Lord Jesus and awaken us to Your coming! May this Advent and Christmas fill your hearts with the wonder of Emmanuel — God with us. 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 14, 2025**. Items may also be placed in the office, labeled **for the Outreach** by **December 14**. The next Outreach should be received on December 18

**Thanks**

Thanks to our nursery helpers who faithfully serve each week to care for our littlest members:

- Emmaline Leuschner
- Neema Murithi
- Brynn Zweifel
- Lynsi Kanak
- Maycie Holdeman
- Abigail Pyle
- Addison Booze
- Braelyn Dumler
- Aubrey Preston

*Thanks to the United Women in Faith for providing cookies for the Charge Conference. Thanks to Sheryl Cox & Elaine Ford for serving.*

You are amazing Church!

The Hays High Food Pantry had no food. Matt put out a call and within 24 hours he had a truck-load of food to deliver! Thank you. Please continue to stock the Hays High food pantry, as the need is great.



**Sympathy**

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

*Tom & Elaine Ford on the death of their sister-in-law, Anita Ford.*

*Vicky Pflaum on the death of her son, Aaron on November 7.*

*Mike Cooper on the death of his wife Donna on November 11.*

**Congratulations**

*to Rachel Palmberg & Bryan can Schaik who were married on October 28.*

*To Larry & Norma Plymell on their recent wedding.*

*to Kelli Delimont & Matt Dumler on their engagement.*



Hats, scarves, mittens and gloves for the students of USD 489 are being collected. Mitten trees will be located in the parlor and downstairs. Items will be collected through **Dec. 1st.**

*FUMC will be responsible for delivering Meals on Wheels January 19-23. If you would like to help with this important ministry, call Vicki Kelly at 785-434-6150.*



**Circle News**

**Naomi Circle** met Wednesday, November 12 at the church. Glenna Clingingsmith and Julie Giess served thirteen members. Joys and concerns were shared and the roll call was answered by responding to "What is your favorite thing to do on a Saturday morning?"

The Peddlers' Soup Lunch and Bake Sale which was held on Saturday, November 8 was well received. Nuts are still available for sale and Carol Purdy will still be taking RADA orders.

Upcoming events include the Spring Brunch, however, no date has been set. Two food baskets will be ordered from the Community; Assistance Center for this Christmas season.

Members will be assisting with the catered lunch following the service for Donna Cooper on Saturday, November 15.

Sheryl Blair presented the program: World Thank Offering.

Our next meeting will be the Spirit of Christmas held at 9:15 on Wednesday, December 10 at the home of Debra McDonald.

**Rebekah Circle** met Wednesday, November 12 at the church. Sherrie Smith and Jarilyn Staab were hostesses. The World Thank Offering program was presented by Carol Purdy, who also conducted the business meeting.

The Peddlers' Bake Sale & Soup Luncheon was discussed, as well as next year's programming, the love offering distribution and Spring Brunch.

The next meeting will be December 10 at 11:30 in the dining room for a Christmas luncheon and program.

Old age brings us to know the value of the blessings which we have enjoyed, and it brings us also to a very thankful perception of those which yet remain.

William Paley

INTRODUCING OUR STAFF

**PROGRAM STAFF**

- Pastor: Pastor Susan Murithi
- Associate Pastor:: Pastor Troy Miller
- Special Music Coordinator: Meredith Cory
- Organist: Hannah Barrett  
Charlotte Rathke
- Pianist: Sharon Graham
- Handbell Choir Dir. Hannah Barrett  
Marijo Rooney
- Director of Discipleship: Matt Dumler
- Children's Ministry Coordinator: Jenna Brubaker

Outreach Editor: Wendy Beougher

**SUPPORT STAFF:**

- Administrative Secretary: Beverly Bearley
- Administrative Assistant: Wendy Beougher
- Financial Secretary: Marsha Swanson
- Childcare Director: Mellissa Pyle
- Building Supervisor: Alan Nelson

**FUMC Financial Snapshot**

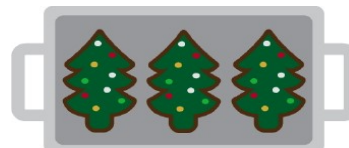
	<b>September 30, 2025</b>	<b>Year to Date</b>
Checking Account*	\$26,382.02	
Operating Gifts	\$30,558.89	\$428,900.12
Operating Expenses	\$36,587.89	\$493,111.70
<b>Parsonage Mortgage Balance</b>	\$75,495.01	
<b>Organ Fund</b>	\$ 7,829.99	

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

**Women's Fellowship**

## Weekly Study Offerings

Powerhouse Prayer-Wednesdays 12:10-12:50, Gathering space  
Genesis-God of Covenant Bible Study-Wednesdays 6 p.m.



## Fellowship

November 20-10:00 a.m. Coffee/Hot Chocolate at Tura's

December 7-4:30 p.m. Bunco & Cookies, Bring your favorite Christmas cookie to share

We remember and honor the saints of the church who have died since last All Saint's Sunday:

Linda North Marion Oetting, Karol Katt Patricia Johnson Don Barton Chris Trauer

Shirley Smith

Linda Mosier



To live in hearts we leave behind is not to die. Thomas Campbell


**Menus**
**November 26**  
**No WOW- Thanksgiving**
**December 3**  
 Turkey & dressing  
 Green bean casserole  
 Salad Rolls  
 Mashed potatoes & gravy  
 Pumpkin dessert

**December 10**  
 Chili or Green bean dumpling  
 Crackers  
 Salad  
 Cinnamon rolls

**December 17**  
 Cook's choice casserole night  
 Salad  
 Bread sticks  
 Fruit cups  
 Dessert

Serving time is 5:00-6:00  
 Five dollars per person  
 All menus are subject to change  
 To go meals are available-call 625-3408



Mark your calendars! The church Christmas pageant will be on December 14th at 10:00 a.m.! If you have children ages 3-5th grade interested in being a part of the pageant, please contact Jenna Brubaker at [jenna@haysfumc.com](mailto:jenna@haysfumc.com)

## Kids Corner

Another exciting opportunity for children in the church is to attend children's church starting November 30th. This is a lot like Sunday school and will take place during the 10:45 worship service. Children will stay in the service until children's moment and then go upstairs for a Bible lesson, craft, game and more! This is a wonderful opportunity for children to grow in their faith and build connections with other children in the church.

## Misson News

A \$500 donation was made to the annual Community Thanksgiving meal. A \$1000 donation in food items was collected and delivered to Feed Hays on 12/8/25 including: 3,000 to go containers, 3,600 forks, 24 – 28oz packages of cookies, 20 pounds of grated Parmesan cheese, 84 – 10# cans of spaghetti sauce or about 72 gallons.

A \$1,500 donation was made to First Call for help to include \$500 toward The Second Mile Fund to assist travelers passing through with fuel and food or residents associated with one of our local churches to receive assistance with food, rent, utilities or hygiene items. The Second Mile Fund is administered by First Call for Help and was created by the Ellis County Ministerial Alliance.

The youth will be assisting with resupplying the Paper Pantry with hygiene items including laundry detergent, soap, shampoo, paper towels, toilet paper on 11/19/25. They will be shopping for these items and delivering them with a \$1000 donation to buy these items. People receiving SNAP benefits cannot buy these items with that program. A \$1000 donation was made to the Community Assistance Center to help restock their food pantry

Thanks to the Communion stewards who have served this year:



Kathy Albers  
Sherri Brown  
Marla Copper  
Linda Stahlman

Denise Dennett  
Meredith Cory  
Sheryl Dreiling  
Evelyn Zellmer

Randy & Barb Clinkscales  
Bob & Sheryl Cox  
Marilyn Wood  
Jarilyn Staab

Carol Purdy  
Sharon Barton  
Sarah Schumacher  
Wendy Beougher

If you would like to help with this ministry for next year, call the church office 625-3408.

There are pecans, chocolate covered peanuts and praline pecans for sale in the church office. Needing a hostess gift for the holidays? Hot chocolate mix, baking cocoa, Toffee Caramel and regular coffee available in the office as well.

**FHSU Christmas Choir Concert**, Sunday, December 7, 6:30 p.m. at St. Joseph Catholic Church

As you plan to gift your loved ones this season, remember to give the Lord a year-end gift of gratitude.

## Potluck Dinner



**There will be one church service on Sunday, December 14 at 10:00 a.m.** for the Childrens' Christmas pageant.

There will a potluck dinner following the service. Turkey will be provided.

If your last name ends with A-J, please bring a side; K-Z, please bring a dessert.

## Cold Weather Shelter—Hays Hearth

Winter is fast approaching, and we are getting the shelter up and going. There are a few changes this year.

First of all, we are changing the name. Rather than using “shelter” in the name, this will now simply be The Hays Hearth. This is a place to stay safe and warm throughout the winter.

The shelter will still be open from 8 pm to 8 am, but the dates are going to be different. First of all, we will be open every night from December 1st through the end of February, regardless of temperature. Second, we will be open any night in November and March that is below 30 degrees.

Rather than three shifts this year we are moving to only having 2. There will be an 8 pm –2 am shift, and a 2 am-8 am shift. We still want to have 2 people on for each shift as much as possible, but this year we will encourage you all to take turns sleeping some during your shifts if needed.

If anyone would like to volunteer, the main portion of the training has been moved online to an excellent training provided by the Red Cross. The link to find this training, as well as an info sheet on how to get registered for it can be found at this link: <https://www.ourecma.com/the/-hearth>. There will also be several on-site training times available to make sure people are comfortable and competent in the use of the facility.

New changes for this year—we are switching out the beds. We will also be adding a Keurig and providing coffee and some other drinks for it. We are adding cameras to the sleeping area so it will be easier to keep an eye on that space, and we are looking at adding lamps or some other form of softer lighting for the kitchen. Another huge development is that First Baptist has done a ton of work over the summer to secure the funding and the contractor to install a shower in the basement. This truly adds incredible benefit and usage to the facility.

Ben Houchen and The Hays Hearth team

## Parkinson’s Disease Support Group of Hays

Meeting the 1st Thursday of every month at the Messiah Lutheran Church, 20th & Main (enter at the side door), 2 p.m. Anyone wanting information or support is invited to attend.

Thanks to Debra McDonald, Glenna Clingingsmith and their crew for making the delicious soups for Peddlers’ Fair. Thanks to all who brought pies and baked goods and worked to make the Luncheon and Bake Sale a success. Thanks to Lori Swift for organizing the dining room and to the youth who worked with serving and clean up. Lori said they were the best kids she’s ever been in charge of.

Thanks to the youth of our church who participated in Youth Sabbath and lead the service so competently. Especially during this Alan& Alyssa Dees.

Thank you Hays First United Methodist church. Thank you for your generous support towards God’s work in Eswatini. We are so excited to see what God has in store for our communities in the seasons to come. Be blessed! Rachel Palmberg



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*”

# November OUTREACH

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Return Service Requested



## UPCOMING EVENTS

<b>Thursday, November 27 &amp; 28</b>	<b>Church office closed</b>
<b>Sunday, November 30</b>	<b>Children's Church begins</b>
	<b>Confirmation begins</b>
<b>Wednesday, December 3</b>	<b>Kids' Club shopping for angel tree gifts</b>
<b>Sunday, December 14</b>	<b>One Service, Potluck to follow</b>
<b>December 24-26</b>	<b>Church Office Closed</b>
<b>December 24</b>	<b>Christmas Eve Services, 7:00 &amp; 10:45</b>