



OUTREACH



Volume 38 Issue 2

First United Methodist Church

February 19, 2026

Returning to the Heart of Christ by Living Our Core Values

We just participated in a service on Ash Wednesday; the moment we remember our mortality and seek God for cleansing and forgiveness. This day also ushers in the season of lent. As we begin lent this year, I welcome you to join me on a journey. We will be seeking to return to Jesus and live our lives as faithful disciples. As such, I invite you to a time of reflection, prayer, and intentional spiritual growth. This is an opportunity to slow down, examine our hearts, and return to what matters most. This year, we will explore a Lenten series centered on our church's core values, exploring how the classic spiritual disciplines of Lent can help us return to the very heart of Christ.

Our journey begins on the first Sunday of Lent with the theme: Returning to the Heart of Christ: Rooted in the Word and Dependence on Prayer. We will explore how we can renew our commitment to Scripture and prayer as the foundation of our faith. When we set time to read God's Word and develop a life of prayer, we open our hearts to God's presence. From there, we will explore what it means to return to Christ's heart through service, following His example of humble love in action. We will also reflect on returning through fellowship, recognizing that we are called to grow not in isolation but in authentic community with one another.

On the fourth Sunday, we will focus on returning to Christ through hospitality and generosity, embracing the call to welcome others and to share freely from what God has given us. Lent also leads us into the vital discipline of repentance. God invites us to confess our sins so we can be restored back into a good relationship with him. Repentance is not about shame, but about the freedom and the joy of realigning our lives with God's purposes. Each Sunday will build on these themes, helping us see how the practices of Lent shape us into a people who reflect the character of Christ.

I invite every member and friend of our church to participate fully in this Lenten season. We do this through worship, personal devotion, service, and intentional fellowship. Let us seek to return to the heart of Christ and allow His Spirit to renew us. May this season of Lent draw us closer to God and to one another, preparing our hearts to celebrate the hope and joy of Easter with deeper faith and gratitude. Amen.

Pastor Susan

Outreach articles are due the **third** Sunday of each month. Please email your OUTREACH item to wendy@haysfumc.com before **Sunday, March 15, 2026**. Items may also be placed in the office, labeled **for the Outreach** by **March 15**. The next Outreach should be received on March 19.

Thanks

Thanks to Alan Nelson, Troy Miller, Corbin Luck and Ryan Funai for helping with snow removal.



First United Methodist, Thank you so much for all of the food donations! Thank you also for sponsoring our 2026 Laundry Love. You guys are rocking it! We greatly appreciate all the support!
Macey Pfeifer
First Call for Help

Reminder: If you haven't already, please link your Dillons Plus Card to the church and we will receive a percentage of what you spend every time you swipe your card or enter your phone number. Thanks so much.



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 Dumlér
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

Sympathy

to Pam McGowne and family on the death of Pam's mother, Virginia Johnson, who died on January 20. Virginia was a member of Hays FUMC for 61 years.

to Brenda Hinton, Sharon & family and Blythe Brown & family on the death of Marguerite Stewart on January 29. Marguerite was a member of Hays FUMC for 62 years.

to Louise Younger and her family on the death of Lawrence "Jug" Younger on February 3.

to Ed Janzen and family on the death of his wife Dixie on February 9.

Anna Meek, former member, died February 5. She was the first one married in the sanctuary.

Congratulations

to our newest members, Rose McCormick and Chuck McAllister who joined February 8.

to Sonia Tatiana Delgado Herrera who was baptized February 15.

Thanks to the Prayer Shawl ladies for using their talents to bring comfort to our congregation & community:

Gail Kuehl, Kari Schutz, Mary Alice Brent, Hannah Barrett, Beckie Holmes, Virginia Kraus, Carolyn Nye, Diane Wolfe, Jarilyn Staab, Janet Ottaway and Jenny Schuster.



Circle News

Naomi Circle met Wednesday, February 11 at the home of Debra McDonald. The Memorial Service for Marguerite Stewart will be held on Saturday, February 14. Our circle will be preparing for the luncheon following the service. Our next meeting will be held at the church on March 11th at 9:15

Rebekah Circle met February 11 at the church. Sheryl Cox & Peggy Stull served 13 members. Elaine Ford brought Valentines to send to shut ins and recited a prayer for a new heart. The business meeting was conducted by Peggy Stull & Elaine Ford. The program was a Call to Prayer and Self Denial given by Carol Purdy. There will be a Women's Fellowship coffee the 19th at Wendy Beoughers. Cards were distributed for the Spring Brunch.



The United Women of Faith invite all women to the **Spring Brunch** on March 21, at 9:15 in Fellowship Hall. Catherine Trieschmann Miller will present the program, "Faith in the Unseen: Artist's Work". Martha Miller and Alex Underwood will present the entertainment.

The Mission Committee is collecting manual can openers for the food banks. They are also collecting soap, shampoo and conditioner from hotel stays for the Hearth (a place where those without a warm place can spend the night). Please continue to support the Hays High food pantry.

FUMC Financial Snapshot

	January 30, 2025	Year to Date
Checking Account*	\$68,841.30	
Operating Gifts	\$62,853.16	\$62,853.16
Operating Expenses	\$50,696.30	\$50,696.30
Parsonage Mortgage Balance	\$72,971.49	
Organ Fund	\$8,329.99	

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

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

Laundry Love *from First Call for Help*

Thank you to Hays First United Methodist Church for being the sponsor of Laundry Love for 2026! They will be sponsoring a second location/date at the 8th St. Laundromat, 225 E. 8th, beginning in April. Laundry Love will be on the first and third Thursdays of each month starting in April. Until then, we will see you on the third Thursday (February and March) at the 27th and Hall Laundromat only. How blessed we are to have such giving community/congregation members to be able to make this happen in our town.

On Sunday, February 1st, we had our volunteer organizational meeting after the 10:45 a.m. worship service. We divided into six campaign teams with co-chairs of each team (listed below):

PRAYER TEAM

Vicki Kelly & Linda Stahlman

EVENTS TEAM

Tura Clement & Kristi Lang

THANKS TEAM

Kathy Harper & Dave Hendrickson

YOUTH TEAM

Marilyn Davidson & Jenna Sloan

AMBASSADOR TEAM

Hannah Barrett & Marijo Rooney

COMMUNIONS TEAM

Marie Henderson & Heather Musil

**Menus**

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

February 25

Fish sticks or chicken nuggets

Tator tots

Salad

Cheesy broccoli

Dessert

March 4

Pizza

Salad bar

Dessert

March 11

Beef or chicken tacos

Chips & cheese

March 18

Spring Break

No WOW

March 25

Hot dogs with chili or hamburgers

Chips

Salad bar

Dessert

Greetings!

I want to let you know of a couple opportunities that are coming up in the next few weeks in our area. Please take the time to consider attending these, and share with members of your congregation. The ERT training will be free to anyone in the Western Kansas District. Grace & Peace, Zach

Early Response Team Training in Dodge City

If you are willing to be involved in the early days following a disaster, come to this training! For UMC members in the Western Kansas District, the district will be covering your registration fee for this training.

- What: Early Response Team Training (Disaster Response)
- Where: Dodge City First UMC-210 Soule St., Dodge City, 67801
- When: Saturday, February 28, 2026—8:30 a.m.-4:00 p.m. (Central Time)
- Trainer: Hollie Tapley
- Register Here **Deadline February 23, 2026**

UMCOR ERT-Early Response Team Training

Not a first response group of emergency workers nor a recovery rebuild or repair team: the purpose of ERTs is to fill the specific need in the early days after a disaster of being a Christian presence of the church. ERTs respond only after they have been requested by the affected community. Come learn where United Methodists are involved, what is a disaster, how do we prepare for a disaster, what we can do when a disaster strikes, how the disaster response plan is activated, and how to be a caring presence in communities facing disaster recovery. You will also learn how we avoid harming the recovery process for individuals.

You will also learn about the roles Early Response Teams play in the early days after a disaster:

- Provide a Christian presence, be a part of the caring ministry of “listeners”
- Take steps to prevent further damage to a family’s personal property: tarps, food clean-out, debris removal
- Help manage donated materials, gather information, or do other things needed in the community
- Observe survivors’ needs and report those to the local disaster operations

Various tasks are assigned to an ERT by those selected by the community to command the response, but no task is more important than being a part of the ministry of *listeners* who help survivors begin to heal. Team members must respect that some work on damaged homes may, in fact, jeopardize the survivor’s eligibility for greater assistance. Teams and team members must pledge to be part of the solution and not become the problem, to join in the response rather than initiate their own desires. **Included in the ERT training is an UMCOR Volunteers background check.** Everyone is required to complete this, even if you have had a recent check for another organization. **Safe Gatherings** is also required. ERTs must be prepared to respond with little advance notice when the call to respond comes your way. **Everyone attending must bring a laptop or smartphone to the training.**

The words “Thank You” will never come close to conveying to all of you how much we-the family of Virginia Johnson-appreciate all of the cards, visits, and prayers that were extended and shown to us during our long journey with her. As we all know, she was an amazing woman and lived her life as full as anyone could. She loved her friends and never knew a stranger. She is now at peace with dad, my brother, and her other friends and family but we sure do miss her. Thank you, Troy, for such an incredible service-it touched all of our hearts. And thank you, Susan, for helping make the service special. So many of you took your time to go spend time with her and those visits meant so much to her. Thank you so very much from all of us-God Bless each and every one of you.

Pam, Jeff, Chris & Sarah McGowne



CAMPAIGN NEWS

Hays First United Methodist Church

February 2026

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

As our capital campaign to raise \$1.2 million toward important renovations and projects around the church ramps up, it's time to get involved! We have started preparing our campaign prayer, crafted by our Prayer Team. Our Events Team is beginning to organize many informational sessions over the coming weeks. Our Communications Team is preparing a campaign slogan and logo. Our Youth Team is dreaming about how to engage our youngest members of the congregation, and the Thanks and Ambassador Teams are preparing for our May 3rd Pledge Sunday.

It is vital that every church member attends ONE campaign information session to ensure you have all your questions answered and can make an informed, prayerful decision. May the Lord lead you to give to the mission and ministry of God through Hays First to be good stewards of the facility that God and those before us have given us.

We are always grateful for your support of what God is doing through us as the body of Christ here at Hays First!

Sincerely in Christ,

Pastor Susan

Advisory Team Meeting **Monday, February 23rd 6:30 p.m.**

Our capital campaign has a leadership structure, with each team playing an important role. You know about the Tri-chairs and the campaign team leaders. We also have a five member management team of Pastor Susan, Carl Miller, Shane Preston, Sarah Schumacher, and Phil Stahlman.

We also have an Advisory Committee that functions much like a college board of directors. We will meet once a month at the church, and this month's meeting is Monday, February 23rd at 6:30 p.m. Denis Greene from Church Development will be facilitating the meeting.

February OUTREACH

*First United Methodist Church
305 West 7th
Hays, Kansas 67601*

(785) 625-3408
haysumc@hotmail.com
www.kaysradio.com
www.HaysFUMC.com

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UPCOMING EVENTS

Wed., February 18

Ash Wednesday, 6:30

Thurs., February 19

Fellowship Coffee at Wendy Beougher's 10:00

Saturday, March 21

UWF Spring Brunch, 9:15