



# OUTREACH



Volume 37 Issue 8

First United Methodist Church

August 21, 2025

## It's a New Day at Hays First UMC

Dear Church family,

We are entering a key season in the life of our congregation as we officially launch our new vision and mission. This is a very exciting venture, and we will be talking about it throughout September and the following months. Our vision/mission document has been born out of much prayer, research, and discussions among our leaders. The vision team listened to your voices as a congregation when you shared your thoughts in the churchwide survey conducted in February. We did an in-depth research using "Mission Insite" tools to understand the needs in the Hays community. We talked with community leaders in the chamber of commerce, leaders in our schools, and colleagues in the ministerial alliance of Ellis county. After those insights, we keenly listened to God through prayer and scripture reading to discern where God was leading our beloved congregation.

Out of this careful process, we came up with a concrete document that we will all get to hear about in the coming weeks. As we spend time learning about our vision and mission, you will realize that this is not a mere statement to recite, but a guiding principle that will shape our identity and direct our work for the Kingdom of God. We will consult its guidance as we seek to live, serve, and follow Jesus together.

Our vision is simple but not simplistic. It is a powerful guiding force for the future of our congregation. The vision of Hays First UMC is to follow Jesus by making disciples, healing communities, and building relationships. This means that we aspire to live like Jesus; help others grow in their faith, bring restoration to hurting places, and create meaningful connections with those around us.

Our mission tells us how we'll do this. The mission of Hays First UMC will be to Gather, Grow, Share, and Serve. By Gathering, we will unite in worship, prayer, and fellowship, drawing strength from the presence of God and one another. To Grow, we will seek to deepen our understanding of Scripture and allow the Holy Spirit to transform our hearts and minds. By sharing, we will offer our resources to God and our neighbors. We will tell others the good news about Jesus through our words and actions. By serving we give of our time, talents, and resources to meet needs, both within our congregation and in the greater community.

Why does this matter? Because the Church is not simply an institution but the living Body of Christ, entrusted with the mission of reconciliation and restoration. Our world is in desperate need of the gospel and the life-giving presence of God, and He has chosen His people as instruments of that change. Our new vision and mission provide us with clarity on how we will respond to this call. We aspire to move beyond comfort and into intentional, Spirit-led action. When we walk faithfully in this calling, we will see transformation not only in the lives of others, but in our own lives as well.

Church, God is already at work among us. I am so excited to see what God does in us and through us as disciples of Jesus. Let us embrace this next chapter with boldness and joy, trusting that the One who calls us is faithful to complete the good work He has begun. Are you ready to follow Jesus by making disciples, healing communities, and building relationships? Are you ready to gather, grow, share, and serve for the glory of God and the good of the world? I am!

Pastor Susan Murithi

**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, September 21, 2025**. Items may also be placed in the office, labeled **for the Outreach** by **September 21**. The next Outreach should be received on September 25.

### Thanks

Words cannot adequately convey our profound appreciation to the Congregational Care Ministry Team for their offer to assist us during our time of distress.

Bob & Earline Fairbank

*If you would like to help the campus ministry by bringing a dessert to their Thursday night meal, call the church office or sign up on the clipboard outside the office. Bring enough to serve 12.*



Help restock the Hays High-Food Pantry.



### INTRODUCING OUR STAFF

#### PROGRAM STAFF

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

#### SUPPORT STAFF:

Administrative Secretary: Beverly Bearley  
Administrative Assistant: Wendy Beougher  
Financial Secretary: Marsha Swanson  
Childcare Director:: Melilssa Pyle

### Sympathy

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

*Sarah & Troy Miller on the death of Sarah's grandmother, LaVona Spunaugle.*

### Congratulations

*to Larry & Darlene Gilchrist who will be celebrating their 70th wedding anniversary & 90th birthdays with family on September 13.*

*to Megan Rust and Cameron Skipper who were married in the sanctuary on August 2.*



*to Hali & Collin Bielser on the birth of Lyra Kathleen on August 2. Reeve is the big brother.*



*to Evelyn Zellmer, Chuck Ames, Sharon Graham, Ashley & Anne Long, Tallon Rentschler, Jacob & Jenna Brubaker and Paityn Homan our newest members.*

### Farewell & Best Wishes

*to Betty Innes who moved to Fitchburg, Wisconsin.*

*to Jan Legleiter who moved to Maize.*

### New Beginnings Sunday

**August 24, One Service at 10:00**

Confirmation & Vision Launch

Church potluck following:  
A-J bring a side, K-Z bring a dessert

Pulled pork provided by Education Committee.



### Women's Fellowship

**September 11, 4:00 p.m.**  
Ice cream at the Dairy Queen

**September 15, 11:30 a.m.**  
Lunch at Professor's

**September 28, 6:30 p.m.**  
Fire pit at Sandy Henningsen's

### Women's Bible Studies

**September 3 at 6:15**  
Genesis Verse by Verse by Jen Wilkin  
Leader Sandy Henningsen

**September 5 at noon**  
*Jesus Calling: Receiving Christ's Hope* by Sarah Young  
Leader Barb Mayo

**September 7 at 7:00**  
Not Alone: A study on Friendship, Jennie Allen, Right Now Media  
Leader Tina Conger

Meeting places will be announced later.

**One Service Sunday, August 24 at 10:00**  
**Potluck to follow**  
**Pulled pork provided**  
**A-J bring a side**  
**K-Z bring a dessert**

**FUMC Financial Snapshot**

	<b>July 31, 2025</b>	<b>Year to Date</b>
Checking Account*	\$31,111.70	
Operating Gifts	\$50,843.73	\$300,640.98
Operating Expenses	\$52,513.42	\$359,758.80
<b>Parsonage Mortgage Balance</b>	\$77,796.86	
<b>Organ Fund</b>	\$ 7,829.99	

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

The sustaining gift for the *Altar Foundation* is \$152 in 2025.



Thanks to a grant from the Endowment Committee, four members of our handbell choir, Spirit Ringers, were able to attend the Area 11 Handbell Summer Camp near Granby, CO. Those who attended were Alyssa Dees, Sarah Schumacher, Marijo Rooney, and Hannah Barrett.

On June 8, we headed to the scenic Snow Mountain YMCA campgrounds, where we spent the next 4 days being inspired and exhilarated by the beautiful scenery and the talented clinicians and ringers who attended.

Twenty-six fellow ringers from Arizona, New Mexico, Colorado, Utah, and Kansas attended the 4-day camp. Guest clinicians were Sandy Eithun, from Wisconsin, and her son, Mitchell Eithun from North Carolina. The focus of the morning and evening rehearsals and break-out sessions was on handbell techniques, knowledge, and the application of these as we prepared music for our Wednesday evening concert. It was not all work and no play, however. Afternoons provided time for rest, downhill tubing, hiking to a waterfall and a final campfire to wrap up the eventful week.

One of the amazing things we learned was that music transcends barriers and can help develop a special connection with people, even those we had not met before. We learned that through music, we can express our love and joy for each other and for the world. And from this camp experience, we are now able to bring home knowledge and enthusiasm to share with and inspire our Hays bell ringers.

We are very grateful to our church for helping us attend this camp. If you are interested in learning more about the handbell choir or even perhaps becoming a member, please talk with any of the bell choir members or call the church office at 785-625-3408.

**Menus****September 3**

Beef enchiladas  
Spanish rice  
Cheese dip & nachos  
Corn  
Dessert

**September 10**

Chicken casserole  
Green beans  
Tossed salad  
Rolls  
Dessert

**September 17**

Sub sandwiches, turkey or beef  
Cherry fruit salad  
Pea salad  
Chips  
Dessert

**September 24**

Hamburgers  
Baked beans  
Potato salad  
Chips  
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 or 650-2401

## 2025 Youth Mission Trip

Nine members from our church (Matt Dumler, Sarah Schumacher, Brynn Zweifel, Hannah Strasser, Aubrey Preston, Neema Murithi, Trey Brown, Isaac Schumacher and Noah Schumacher) headed for Colorado on Sunday morning, July 20th. After a full day of traveling, we began an evening of worship, unpacking, and setting up in a church that would become our home base for the week. Seventy plus campers arrived that same day from five other churches, from three different states (NM, MN, KS) Everyone was divided that night into ten crews, all churches mixed up and assigned to a work site for the next four days.

Jobs included working at area parks, creating trails, working at a therapeutic horse riding center, helping at an adult disabilities daycare program, a child's developmental disabilities program a rehab center for adults with dementia, and filling boxes at a local food bank. Our church attendees made a huge difference in the lives of so many people in such a variety of ways, and in only four days, by allowing God to work through them. All jobs required patience, flexibility and a serving heart.

Over four days, 70+ campers worked at seven sites for a total of 2,100 hours. This did not include the multitude of hours your youth and adults put in by way of cooking all the meals, as well as lots of cleaning duties and even yardwork. Each day also began and ended with whole group and small group worship sessions. There was not much time for rest.

The summer 2025 Mission Trip was a great experience, a good opportunity for self reflection, a chance to make new friendships, a chance to rekindle current church relationships, and an opportunity to grow closer to God. Thank you, Church, for making this happen! YOU, by supporting us, helped make a difference in so many lives. Please, when you see the people on this list, stop and ask them what sites they were assigned to and what they did. We all have stories to share!

Sarah Schumacher

## News from the Library

The library, located in the far southwest corner of the main floor, has books for your reading pleasure or for reference. There is a new book catalog that is now available for browsing to find books that you may be looking for.



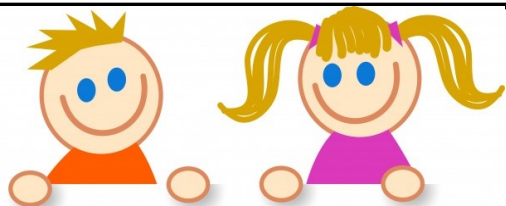
The URL is: [https://www.librarything.com/catalog/FirstUMC\\_Hays](https://www.librarything.com/catalog/FirstUMC_Hays)

The checkout system remains the same: use the card in the back of the book to write your name and date. The card can be left in a small green basket located on the desk in the library. If you have any questions, please let me know.

Happy reading,  
Patty Nicholas

Resolve to be tender with the young,  
compassionate with the aged,  
sympathetic with the striving,  
and tolerant of the weak and the wrong.  
Sometimes in life you will have been all of these.  
George Washington Carver





## Kids Corner

It's time for another great year of Kids Club at the church! To celebrate, we are starting off the year with a party! Kids, ages Kindergarten through 5th grade, are invited to join us on August 27th right after school in the church dining room. The kids will have snacks, play games, decorate sugar cookies and learn about the awesome things we will be doing this year.

Everyone who attends the party will receive their first Bible character trading card. Throughout the year, kids will have the chance to earn more by regularly attending Kids Club, showing Chris-

tian love to others and working hard during our Bible lessons each week. At the end of the year we will crown our trading card champion.

There are many exciting things planned for kids club this year so make sure to get your kids signed up! When children regularly hear God's Word, ask questions and build friendships centered around Christ, they're equipped to live out their faith for a lifetime. Let's give our kids the gift of consistency in learning and growing together! I hope to see your kids at Kids Club this year! You can sign up using the QR code below or email me at [jenna@haysfumc.com](mailto:jenna@haysfumc.com) with any questions.

Jenna Brubaker



When I stepped off the plane this summer for my mission trip to South East Asia, I had no idea just how deeply the experience would shape my faith and understanding of ministry. I'm incredibly grateful to this church for being part of that journey. Your prayers, encouragement, and financial support were very much appreciated, and were essential in making this summer as impactful as it was.

My time there was both beautiful and deeply motivating. Our days were spent building relationships with students, supporting our long-term teammates, and immersing ourselves in the local culture. Not only did my ministry partner and I form genuine, lasting friendships with local students, we also had the opportunity to share the Gospel with each of them along the way.

One major highlight was time spent at the local children's home. I know that when we hear the term "children's home," we often picture sadness, isolation, or need—but what I encountered was something entirely different. It was a place overflowing with joy, covered by the evident protection of God. We didn't come in to "fix" anything. Instead, we entered into their already-established rhythms with a culture of empowerment, where children from broken backgrounds are lifted up and taught to rise above their circumstances.

One of the most powerful moments for me personally happened during a quiet evening with a friend, someone who is already a believer. Over dinner and a walk around a track, we began sharing our testimonies. That conversation led to her wanting to form deeper spiritual habits like engaging in the Word daily and being more intentional in ministering to those around her. It wasn't powerful because of anything I said, but because we both genuinely felt the presence of Jesus with us in that moment. Later in the summer, on our final night in the country, we were able to meet again and read the Bible together. That time reminded me that God is always working, often in ways we don't anticipate.

I saw God at work not only in the people we met but also within myself. This trip stretched my faith, challenged my comfort zones, and gave me a clearer picture of what it means to serve with humility and love. I came home changed—more grateful, more prayerful, and more passionate about missions than ever before.

Thank you again for being such an important part of this journey. Your support didn't just send me—it helped carry the message of Christ's love into a community that truly needed it. I'm excited to bring what I've learned into how I live and serve here at home, and Lord willing, I hope to go again in the future.

Faith Murithi

# August OUTREACH

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## UPCOMING EVENTS

- August 24**      **New Beginnings Sunday, potluck dinner**
- August 26**      **Women's Ministry Coffee at Dandy Hendersons**
- August 27**      **Kid's Club Kickoff Party, 3:15**  
                          **Youth, Pizza & Putt Putt, 6:10**
- September 1**    **Church office closed**
- September 2**    **Red Cross Blood Drive**
- September 3**    **WOW begins**
- September 11**   **Women's Fellowship, 4:00, DQ**
- September 15**   **Women's Fellowship, 11:30, Lunch at Professor's**