



OUTREACH



Volume 37 Issue 5

First United Methodist Church

April 23, 2025

Hays First family and friends, I wanted to invite you to journey together through the month of June, reflecting on two powerful themes: Pentecost and Father's Day. Though they may seem distinct at first—one celebrating the coming of the Holy Spirit and the other honoring earthly fathers—they actually reveal to us how God works in and through His people.

We celebrate Pentecost on the second Sunday of June this year, marking the day when the Holy Spirit descended on the disciples after Jesus' ascension. Acts 2 tells us that the Spirit came like a rushing wind and appeared as tongues of fire, empowering the early believers to speak in many languages and proclaim the Gospel boldly. This, however, was not just a one-time miracle. Pentecost was the birth of the Church, a movement guided by God's power rather than human effort. The same Spirit that filled Peter and the apostles is still at work in us today, equipping us to live out our faith. In a world that often feels broken, Pentecost reminds us that we are not alone. The Spirit is with us, guiding and giving us the courage to share Christ in our families, neighborhoods, and the world at large.

One week after Pentecost, we celebrate Father's Day, a time to honor the men in our lives who have provided care and offered us wisdom. Whether biological fathers, adoptive fathers, grandfathers, or spiritual mentors, these men reflect the nurturing love and steadfast presence of our Heavenly Father. God is not only our Creator and Redeemer—He is also our Abba, our loving and trustworthy Father. Jesus constantly pointed to the Father's heart, describing a God who runs to embrace the prodigal, provides for His children's needs, and never leaves or forsakes us. This Father's Day, we're reminded that our earthly fathers, though imperfect, have the sacred role of pointing us toward the perfect love of God. For those who may feel the pain of loss, absence, or broken relationships, we find comfort in the truth that God is a Father to the fatherless (Psalm 68:5) and faithful in every generation.

It is fascinating to note that this year, Pentecost and Father's Day fall back-to-back on the calendar, as the two are connected not only in timing but also in purpose. Fathers and spiritual leaders today are called to lead by the power of the Holy Spirit and the character of Christ. Galatians 5 describes the fruit of the Spirit—love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control—traits that every parent and mentor needs in abundance. When fathers, and all of us, are led by the Spirit, we become vessels of God's love in our homes and communities. We model a faith that is alive and real. Happy Pentecost and Father's Day 2025.

Pastor Susan

Outreach articles are due the **third** Sunday of each month. Please email your OUTREACH item to wendy@haysfumc.com before **Sunday, June 15, 2025**. Items may also be placed in the office, labeled **for the Outreach** by **June 15**. The next Outreach should be received on June 19.

Thanks

To our friends at Hays FUMC,

Thank you for allowing us to use your beautiful building for Girl Scout meetings.

With love,
Troop 10088

Thanks to all the lovely bakers for helping with the Campus Center's Thursday meal: Jessica Luck, Mary Meckenstock Gribben, Carol Purdy, Diane Wolfe, Evelyn Zellmer, Patty Nicholas, Jarilyn Staab, Kathy Sulzman. Thanks to those who did double duty: Jacinda Johnson, Traci Kennermer, Tura Clement, Jenna Brubaker, Sherrie Smith, Sherri Brown and Wendy Beougher.



Sympathy

Our sincere sympathy is extended to the family & friends of

Shirley Smith died May 14.

Hays FUMC,

Thank you for your generous support of \$500 to care for our homeless neighbors. You're helping us to share God's love As we help our neighbors in need and work towards a brighter future. Thank you.

Chad, Salina Rescue Mission



Thank you to all the musicians who have shared their talents to bring beauty & inspiration to worship service: Garrett Cole and the Chancel Choir, Marijo Rooney, Hannah Barrett and the Handbell Choir, Charlotte Rathke, Sharon Graham and to Meredith Cory for arranging special music.

If you or a family member are in the hospital, please call the church office if you would like to be on the prayer list or to let the pastor know at 625-3408.



We remember all who have served our country.



As the school year comes to an end, it's time to get your kids signed up for church camp this summer. Camps are offered for kids ages Kindergarten through 12th grade and for different periods of time including day camps, mini camps and week long stays.

This year the church is offering a \$300 scholarship per camper to attend a camp of their choice. To receive your scholarship info, please contact Jenna Brubaker at jenna@haysfumc.com, with your child's name and the camp they plan to attend. **You must contact me before registering for camp.**

Here are the websites to each camp. Go to the website to read about the different camp options and to register.

www.camplakeside.com
www.horizoncenter.org
www.campchippewa.org

Vacation Bible School

Vacation Bible School is open to children ages Kindergarten to 5th grade. It will be held July 8, 9, and 10 from 5:30—7:45 with a meal provided. The church program will be Sunday, July 13th. August 2 will be the final VBS day camp full of activities like swimming, fishing, and games! Information on registration will come out soon.

Today is the oldest you've ever been, and the youngest you'll ever be again.

Eleanor Roosevelt

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: Garrett Cole

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: Melilssa Pyle

FUMC Financial Snapshot

	April 30, 2025	Year to Date
Checking Account*	\$27,992.42	
Operating Gifts	\$43,881.29	\$184,087.53
Operating Expenses	\$53,685.54	\$210,342.16
Parsonage Mortgage Balance	\$82,245.11	
Organ Fund	\$7,809.99	

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

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

To our graduates - Hays High School

Nathan Chung	Camdyn Copper	Ian Henderson
Maycie Holdeman	Isabelle Jones	Emmaline Leuschner
Evelynn Reichel	Haley Roth	Reaghan Wamser



University Graduates

Garrett Cole, FHSU, BM-BA Music Composition, focus on choral directing
 Noah Erichsen, FHSU, BA in History and Environmental Geoscience
 Ella Burrows, FHSU, Political Science and pre-law
 Hunter Harris, K-State, BS in Business Administration, Son of Greg & Karen
 Anna Marie Perry, Doctorate of Education, daughter of Bernie Gribben
 Hope Schumacher, University of Kansas, Bachelor of General Studies, daughter of Brad & Sarah

Simon David Chacey, will graduate HS in Kansas City, KS, grandson of Mary Meckenstock Gribben.

Healing Power of Forgiveness

Pablo Diaz reminds us of the healing power of forgiveness and encourages us to have the power to always forgive. Forgiving oneself is hard to do, let alone forgiving others. But in order to move on, forgiveness is key. While it may be difficult to find forgiveness, holding on to anger and resentment can be detrimental to our spiritual and physical well-being.

A great example of attaining relief through absolution is found in Joseph's story in the Hebrew Scripture. Prior to becoming second in command of Egypt, Joseph endured many hardships. Sold into slavery by his own brothers because of their jealousy and greed, Joseph was left sad and alone. Joseph's brothers lived with this secret for many years, leaving their family in pain and Joseph suffering from rejection. Though forgiveness may have seemed impossible after all he had endured, Joseph still found it within himself to do so. When a food shortage took place throughout the land, he was forced to reconnect with his siblings, and ultimately forgave them for all they had done. In return, his brothers were given a new view on life, while he was made whole by his actions.

Sometimes people find it in their heart to forgive others without even being asked. This is an admirable asset—a power to see the good in others even if they have brought you harm. A child who was killed in a concentration camp wrote a prayer that was later discovered. It read:

O Lord, remember not only the men and woman of good will, but also those of ill will. But do not remember all of the suffering they have inflicted upon us: Instead remember the fruits we have borne because of this suffering, our fellowship, our loyalty to one another, our humility, our courage, our generosity, the greatness of heart that has grown from this trouble. When our persecutors come to be judged by you, let all of these fruits that we have borne be their forgiveness.

This should be a lesson to all of us; a young child uprooted from his life because of his religion, was still able to forgive those who killed him and possibly his family, too. May we have the courage to forgive as this child did and experience the healing power of forgiveness.



Deep Water News

Rachel Palmberg

On a rainy Saturday, our team gathered, prayed, and discussed strategy for meeting the drug den community that afternoon. Outreach in this space is quite unpredictable. We never really know who or what we're going to encounter. Sometimes we have the privilege of meeting 25 people as we serve tea and laugh together. Sometimes we have the joy of sitting with four individuals playing card games and getting absorbed in friendly competition.

Sometimes we go home laughing with our heads in our hands after spending time with a dozen of our friends completely intoxicated and shouting vulgar language at one another. Sometimes we go home with heavy hearts after hearing news of violence, loss, and injustice. We never know what's going to happen, so we've developed a dance of preparing for everything and nothing at the same time.

Our team leader suggested we play some simple games and just see how it goes. We all loved the idea, so we prayed and then entered the space with open hearts to meet whoever was spending time at the den that afternoon. Maybe it was the rainy weather, maybe it was a slow week for business at the den. When we arrived we met only three of our friends, all of whom were intoxicated beyond any ability to have a conversation.

We sat at some tables outside and waited to see who God wanted us to meet that afternoon. It wasn't long before some small smiling faces started popping around the corner. One by one, the children from the surrounding communities came to our table to meet us and see what was happening. Though our primary focus is the adults at the drug den, we do often meet the children from the area, especially on school breaks and Christmas outreaches. With a smile on her face, our leader launched into games with the kids, singing songs and reciting Bible verses. We finished our time together with a short dance party before sending everyone home to do their homework. One girl stayed behind and shared her dream of becoming a doctor. We took the opportunity to encourage her in her dream, and we continue to pray for her-that she will one day bring Kingdom impact to this community.

Your support and partnership makes these outreaches possible. Thank you for your prayers, encouragement, and financial support as we journey with our communities.

For those donating financially from the U.S., your donation is tax deductible. Checks can also be made out to "The Cause, Inc." with Deep Water in the memo and mailed to:

The Cause, Inc.
4225 Oceanside Blvd.
Suite H-325
Oceanside, CA 92056

Women's Summer Ministry

May 23 Coffee at Ellis estates/ Red, 10 a.m.

May 30 Brown Bag lunch at Frontier Park, Main Street, 11:30 a.m.

June 8 ARC Park Food Truck, Dessert social, 5:00 p.m. Church Fellowship

June 12 Coffee at Breathe, 10 a.m.

June 20 Fire Pit at Shawn Jeffery's, 7:00 p.m.

June 25 Lunch at Professor's at 11:30 a.m.



Clara Barton, founder of the American Red Cross, was asked if she remembered an injustice she suffered Many years before. "No," she replied. "I distinctly remember forgetting that."

I am the Church, You are the Church...

Matt Dumler



My name is Matt and I'm your friend. For a long time now, I've heard the statement that we need more members in our church. In our recent church wide survey, that was one of the most popular responses that we received. I think we can all agree that bringing new people into the church is and has always been one of our greatest callings and one of our greatest challenges. We remember a time when the church was overflowing with people and desperately hope to get back to those good old days. We use that as our driving force to create vision and hopes of what the church could be. If only we could do what we once did, we could recapture what we once were. However, the more we try to become what we once were the further away those days seem to be. Maybe it's time that we accept that while we long for the good old days, our calling is not to return to them but to create something new.

The concept of creating something new in the church isn't a recently developed idea. It's one that we recognize and even try to embrace at times. The problem, however, comes in how we try to embrace it. When you think of growing church what do you think of? Do you think of new Bible studies or worship experiences? Do you think of creating new committees or updating the building? Do you think of contemporary music or maybe returning to traditional ways? Remember I'm your friend..... none of these will be the thing that brings new people into church. While they are all important and they all have a place in church, they will not be the things responsible for growing the church. The only thing that can help bring new people into church is you. It's not the programming. It's not the pastor. It's not the building. It's you. I once heard that if you relied on programming to develop a church you will fail every time. However, if you relied on relationships to build the church, you will succeed every time.

Think about the reasons you attend church. I'll wait a minute while you think. I'm going to go out on a limb and say that the reasons you thought of had nothing to do with a committee, the building, or the song choices. Most of you probably went directly to some connection to others within the church. It's that connection that people long for. It's that connection that will bring people in and keep people here. That connection cannot be fostered through anything but our congregants. It's not the responsibility of a certain few but rather it's the responsibility of everyone. It's all of our jobs to look for the lost and the broken in need of a hospital. It's our job to invite them to join ours.

Church, if we want our church to grow we have to stop looking at the structure and others to do it. Instead, we have to look in the mirror and remind ourselves that it is each one of our jobs and responsibilities to help grow the church that we desire to have. It's time we stop looking for others to accomplish this for us while we sit on the sideline. It's a task that we must embrace or the good old days won't be the only thing we long to have back. Remember, I am the church, you are the church, we are the church together.

Leaders, Teachers, Helpers

Youth Group	Matt Dumler
Girls Bible Study	Stacey Jones
Adult SS Classes	Marijo Rooney, Mark Hantla
Children's SS Classes	Dylan & Ellen Bryant, Erica Berges, Hali Bielser, Karen Wilson
Wednesday Bible Studies	Tom McDonald, Matt Dumler, Sandy Henningsen, Marie Henderson, Heather Musil, Troy Miller
Kid's Club Organizer	Sandy Henningsen
Teachers	Karen Wilson, Haley Roth, Joey Roth, Ella Burrows, Ellen Bryant
Monitors	Wendy Beougher, Carol Purdy, Mary Meckenstock Gribben, Brad Schumacher, Patty Nicholas, Evelyn Zellmer
Drivers	Wendy Beougher, Lisa McGrath



May 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

- May 23** Women's ministry coffee, Ellis Estates, 10 a.m.
- May 30** Brown Bag lunch, Frontier Park, 11:30
- June 1** Heritage Sunday
- June 5-8** Annual Conference, Salina
- June 8** ARC Park, Food truck, Dessert social, Church fellowship, 5:00
- June 12** Women's ministry coffee, Breathe, 10 a.m.
- June 20** Women's ministry, Fire Pit, Shawn Jeffery's, 7:00 p.m.
- June 25** Women's ministry, Lunch at Professor's, 11:30 a.m.
- July 8-10** Vacation Bible School