



# OUTREACH



Volume 36 10

First United Methodist Church

October 23 , 2024

## A Season of Thanksgiving and Generosity

November is here, ushering in a season of thanksgiving. It is a time to express gratitude as we pause and celebrate all the blessings we have received from God. With Thanksgiving day celebrations around the corner, it's a wonderful time to gather with family and friends, share meals filled with love, and worship our Creator, the giver of all good things. The Thanksgiving table is often filled with nice food. The beautifully roasted turkey, golden brown and juicy, surrounded by creamy gravy, fluffy mashed potatoes, and vibrant roasted squash. There are freshly baked rolls beckoning us, and some cranberry sauce that adds a touch of tangy sweetness to our feast. To top it all off, there is a pumpkin pie, its spices warming us as we share stories and laughter with loved ones.

Many families have started preparing for this holiday. Calls are being made to determine who is planning to come, whose house the family is going to meet at, and so forth. Plane tickets are purchased, and road trips are being planned. As we make all these arrangements, let us remember that the heart of Thanksgiving is not just about the food but about gratitude. As we gather around the table, let's take a moment to acknowledge the countless blessings in our lives. These blessings remind us of God's abundant love and provision unto us. Thanksgiving season offers us a perfect opportunity to reflect on the many ways God has been faithful. The psalmist reminds us in Psalm 136:1, "Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good; His love endures forever." As such, consider setting aside time during your family gatherings to share what you are thankful for, encouraging one another to express appreciation for both big and small blessings. This is important because having hearts filled with gratitude naturally gives birth to generosity.

Once generosity sets in, we want to help. We find ourselves volunteering and donating to those in need. For example, The Ellis County Ministerial Alliance is working to provide a cold weather shelter this winter, provided we can get enough volunteers to run it. The shelter will be at the Baptist church and will open when it gets cold enough to present severe risk to people. There will be two volunteer training sessions for those who want to volunteer to watch over our shelter's guests. If you plan to volunteer to help at the shelter, please sign up for the training sessions on October 26th or November 23rd here <https://www.ourecma.com/hayscoldshelter> . There is also need for volunteers on Thanks giving day to serve meals for those who need it in our community. We could consider these opportunities of serving others as a sign of our generosity and gratitude to God.

Additionally, our church will gather for Charge Conference on November 17th at 3:00 PM, a wonderful opportunity to come together in celebration of our ministries and the impactful work we've been doing. This gathering will also allow us to connect with neighboring churches in our network, sharing insights and learning from one another. Our District Superintendent will be present to lead this event and guide our discussions. I hope you can make it that day as we unite in fellowship, celebrate our achievements, and look forward to the exciting possibilities ahead.

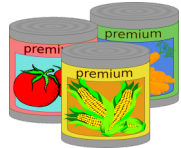
This month, take time to slow down, be thankful and be a blessing to others. I wish you a blessed Thanksgiving season filled with gratitude and generosity!  
 Pastor Susan

**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, November 17, 2024**. Items may also be placed in the office, labeled **for the Outreach** by **November 17**. The next Outreach should be received on November 21.

**Thanks**

*A sincere thank you to Gary & Sheryl Blair and Bob & Kathy Albers for delivering Meals on Wheels September 30-October 4th. Your service was surely appreciated. The next time we will deliver the Meals will be in January, 2025. If you would like to be a part of this activity, call the Church office (625-3408) or Virginia Johnson (625-6680).*

Thanks to Matt Dumler, the youth, and all who helped with Trick or Treat So Others Can Eat.



*Candy is needed for Trunk or Treat. There is a box in the parlor for donations.*



The Mitten Trees will be up beginning Nov. 1. Bring mittens, hats, scarves & gloves to benefit students in USD 489.

INTRODUCING OUR STAFF

**PROGRAM STAFF**

Pastor: Pastor Susan Murithi  
 Associate Pastor:: Pastor Troy Miller  
 Special Music Coordinator: Meredith Cory  
 Organist:: Noah Erickson  
                   Hannah Barrett  
                   Charlotte Rathke  
 Choir Direcotr: Garrett Cole  
 Pianist: Sharon Graham  
 Handbell Choir Dir. Hannah Barrett  
                                   Marijo Rooney  
 Director of Discipleship: Matt Dumler  
 Outreach Editor: Wendy Beougher

**SUPPORT STAFF:**

Administrative Secretary: Beverly Bearley  
 Administrative Assistant: Wendy Beougher  
 Financial Secretary: Liz Harper  
 Childcare Director: Melilssa Pyle  
 Building Supervisor: Alan Nelson

**Sympathy**

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

*Carlyle Thompson, former member, who died September 15 in Manhattan.*

*Larry Plymell on the death of his father, Harold, on October 17.*

**Congratulations**

*to the seven members of the Hispanic church who were baptized on September 22.*

*Thanks to all the Sunday School teachers and Bible Study leaders who diligently help us grow in faith:*

- Mark Hantla*
- Mike Cooper*
- Hali Biesler*
- Emily Yarmer*
- Alyssa Dees*
- Dylan Bryant*
- Ellen Bryant*
- Karen Wilson*
- Rachel Dees*
- Audrey Yarmer*
- Sandy Henningsen*
- Matt Dumler*
- Tom McDonald*
- Heather Musil*
- Marie Henderson*
- Troy Miller*
- Scott McGrath*
- Jackson Berges*
- Erica Berges*
- Joey Roth*
- Ella Burrows*



**Circle News**

Maria Circle is hosting a special free program in celebration of the Mexican holiday, Day of the Dead. A special program will be presented by HFUM Hispanic Church member, Avilene Martinez at the Campus Center Chapel. A customary hot chocolate drink, coffee and Pan de Muertos (Mexican Bread of the Dead) will be served. This will be a great way to learn more about the intersection of Day of the Dead and All Saint's Day. Guests are encouraged to bring photos of deceased loved ones and pets. This is free event open to all.

*The Missions Committee is collecting gently loved winter clothing to be given away on Saturday, November 2nd at the UMCM Center, 507 Elm from 9 a.m.-2 p.m. The local dry cleaners will give coats away on this day as well. Shoppers can swing by the cleaners for a free warm coat, the UMCM Center for free warm clothes, and the Peddlers' Fair for some great treasures and nuts for your holiday baking.*

*Remember to pray at 3:05 each day for our church and country. Join Powerhouse Prayer which meets each Wednesday in the Gathering space from 12:10-12:50. There is power in collective prayer.*

There are welcome bags at each entrance for Hays Visitors. If you see someone new sitting by you and they don't have a bag, please get one for them. Take one to a neighbor or friend you would like to invite to church. There are cards and pens for out of town visitors.

*Thanks to all who attended the Hispanic dinner. Approximately \$800 was raised for needy families.*

**Menus for****October 30**

No meal  
Trunk or Treat

**November 6**

Chicken pot pie  
Salad bar  
Dessert

**November 13**

Sandwiches  
Chips  
Dessert

**November 20**

Cook's choice  
Dessert

Meals will be served from 5:15 to 6 p.m. in the dining room.

Menus subject to change.

All meals are \$5.00

Take out meals are available upon request.

**FUMC Financial Snapshot**

	<b>Sept. 30 2024</b>	<b>Year to Date</b>
Checking Account*	\$42,167	
Operating Gifts	\$44,370	\$412,137
Operating Expenses	\$51,004	\$465,407
<b>Parsonage Mortgage Balance</b>	\$94,887	
<b>Organ Fund</b>	\$5,706	
<b>Summer Giving Campaign</b>	\$13,156	

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

**Reminder about Year-End Giving**

All gifts must be received by the Church or be postmarked by 12/31 to be counted towards your 2024 donation. There is a copy of the Church Year-End Giving Policy in the office. If you would like a copy, please contact the Church office (625-3408).

Thanks to all who gave to UMCOR for hurricane relief. FUMC raised \$7,000 to send for hurricane relief.

John Wesley had three simple rules about voting:

To vote, without fee or reward, for the person they judged most worthy.

To speak no evil of the person they voted against.

To take care their spirits were not sharpened against those that voted on the other side.

**Remember to vote November 5.**



*WOMENS' FELLOWSHIP**ALL WOMEN ARE INVITED TO JOIN***Weekly Study Offerings:**

- Powerhouse Prayer* Wednesdays from 12:10—12:50 p.m.  
*Life in Lyrics* Bible study on Wednesdays from 6-7  
*Genesis* Bible study on Wednesdays from 6-7  
*Living Life Together* Bible study on Fridays from 12:10-12:50 p.m.

**Fellowship Times**

- October 28* Coffee at Ellis Estates, Red South, 10 a.m.  
*October 30* Family Fellowship at Trunk or Treat, 5:30-7:30  
*November 1* Families invited to Day of the Dead celebration with the Spanish Congregation at the Campus Center from 5:30-7:30  
*November 2* Peddlers' Fair, 9:00-1:30  
*November 6* Coffee at Ellis Estates, Red South, 10 a.m.  
*November 13* United Women in Faith Circles

**Peddlers' Fair**

The Peddlers' Fair is coming up on Saturday, November 2nd. The Pastry Shop will be needing some of your delicious homemade goods to fill the table. Any, and all baked goods are appreciated. There can never be too many items in the Pastry Shop!

Please bring any baked goods to the church basement after 1:00 on Friday afternoon, November 1 or Saturday morning, November 2nd between 7:30 and 8:30 a.m. Thank you for supporting the missions of our United Women in Faith. Patty Nicholas



Looking for members to contribute to this year's Silent Auction. Hand crafted and homemade items from our congregation with special talents are needed. Please bring your items to the church office before November 1st. Thank you!

New, like new, or gently used items needed for the Peddlers' Fair Treasure Boutique tables. Please bring your items any time prior to Saturday, November 2nd to the room east of the kitchen.

Peddlers' Fair Sneak Preview Table, along with Rada Cutlery pre-orders, and quilt drawing tickets (1 for \$1.00 or 6 for \$5.00) will be set up in the Parlor beginning Sunday, October 20th.

Peddlers' Fair Committee

We often believe it's our strengths that make us great leaders, but it is our weaknesses that push us to grow, to heal, to move out of the way and to let God be God...We should embrace our weaknesses as an opportunity to learn and become what God intends for us to be.

Amy Williams





### **Do you have a heart for serving others?**

We are launching a Homebound Care Team to reach out to those who are unable to attend services or events in person. This is a wonderful opportunity to bring love, support, and companionship to our fellow members who may feel isolated.

What's Involved? Visit Homebound Members once a week or every other week. Share a kind word, offer a listening ear, and bring a sense of community to those who can't join us physically.

Pray and Encourage: Offer prayers and encouragement to uplift and support.

Contact Matt at 785-625-3408 or [matt@haysfumc.com](mailto:matt@haysfumc.com). We can't wait to see how God will use your talents and time to bless others.

Ellis County Ministerial Alliance will be opening a cold weather shelter. Volunteers will be needed. The shelter will be at First Baptist Church, 1111 Fort Street. Volunteers will work a 4 hour shift. There will be a training at the Baptist Church on Saturday, October 26 from 9-12 for those who are interested.

The Church is invited to join the Missions Committee and the Women's Fellowship for caroling, cocoa, soup, and Santa on Wednesday, December 18. We will leave the church parking lot at 5:30. We plan to visit the local nursing homes and assisted living facilities. If you would like the carolers to visit your home, please call the church office at least a week prior to caroling. We need a lot of voices, so feel free to bring a friend or two!

### **The Walk by Adam Hamilton**

There are three habits or practices that actually play a key part in helping us to experience "the good life." The first was articulated by Stoic philosophers in the Greco-Roman world. These philosophers believed that the really good life was found, not in a life of acquisition of those things you don't yet have, but instead in learning to want what you already have.

How do we cultivate a desire for what we already have? The answer is surprisingly simple. Wanting what you already have comes from giving thanks for what you already possess. As you give thanks for what you have, you find contentment and freedom; you possess your possessions rather than your possessions possessing you.

The second key to experiencing the good life is to live purposefully. The writer of Ecclesiastes found that a life of pleasure was meaningless. So, to find the good life, it stands to reason that we might look for what is meaningful. What adds meaning to our lives? What gives us fulfillment and a sense of purpose every day?

For Christians, a significant part of the answer is following Jesus. It was he who said, "I am the way, the truth, and the life." Following Jesus involves seeking to do his will. His will includes caring for others and trying to heal the brokenness in our world. We find meaning not in acquiring things, but in loving God with all our heart, soul, mind and strength, and loving our neighbor as ourselves.

The last of the keys to finding meaning, happiness, and fulfillment—one of the keys to walking with God—is generosity toward God and others. We were made for generosity. It is meant to be both the shape of our heart and the way that we live. By putting love into action and in doing this, we experience the truth of Jesus' words, "It is more blessed to give than to receive"

# October OUTREACH

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## UPCOMING EVENTS

<b>Monday, October 28</b>	<b>Coffee at Ellis Estates</b>
<b>Wednesday, October 30</b>	<b>Trunk or Treat</b>
<b>Friday, November 1</b>	<b>Hispanic Church Day of the Dead</b>
<b>Saturday, November 2</b>	<b>Peddler's Fair</b>
<b>Sunday, November 3</b>	<b>All Saints' Day</b>
<b>Wednesday, November 6</b>	<b>Coffee at Ellis Estates</b>
<b>Sunday, November 17</b>	<b>3:00 p.m. Charge Conference</b>
<b>Wednesday, December 18</b>	<b>Caroling, Cocoa, Soup and Santa</b>