



OUTREACH



Volume 38 Issue 5

First United Methodist Church

May 21, 2026

Dear brothers and sisters,

My heart overflows with Joy as I share with you the results of our capital campaign pledge Sunday. Hays First Members and friends have so far pledged a total of \$1,332,734 (this is higher than the amount announced in church on Sunday, as several more pledges have come in). Isn't that amazing? I am so touched to see the incredible generosity shown by God's people. We came together as a family and allowed God to use us to be part of something bigger than ourselves. Something that will outlive us and our children, something that will bless the future generations in the Hays community.

Two months ago, I had been discouraged. Stock markets did poorly in March with the market index marking its worst month since September 2022. In April, stock markets were experiencing high volatility following the sharp decline in March due to the conflict in the Middle East. Although there was some hope by the end of April, the news reporters on that first weekend of May reported on how inflation was affecting the common citizen with gas prices sky rocketing to a record high, groceries were getting expensive by the day, and the general economy was not doing well. I remember thinking to myself, what will God do with such a dire situation?

It was at that moment as I was praying that I felt a peculiar sense of peace. I felt assured that whenever God wanted to do great things, he did them at dire times and used unexpected moments so as to remind his people that his power is manifested in weaknesses. In the book of Judges 7, God called Gideon to lead his people against an enemy who had greatly oppressed the people. Gideon gathered a big army, but God told him the army was too large because Israel might think they had won the victory by their own strength rather than by God's power. In the end, only 300 men remained. With those 300 men, armed not with swords alone but with trumpets, jars, and torches, God gave Israel victory over the large enemy army.

The story reminds us that God often works through what seems small or insufficient so that His power and glory are made clear. As such, our objective is to always depend on God, because victory doesn't come from human strength but from God. Our role is be God's agents, partnering with him in what he is doing. And you, brothers and sisters, have chosen to be those agents of God, ready and willing to serve him. So God has blessed us with the blessing of abundance, no matter the prevailing circumstances.

This campaign has been about ministry and God's mission. We want to be on board with what God desires to do through this congregation in the years ahead. Every pledge represents a belief that God is still at work among us. I am grateful for the spirit in which this congregation has responded. Some have given large gifts, others smaller ones, but every offering matters because each one is given from the heart. Like the loaves and fishes given by the little boy in the Bible, God takes what is offered faithfully and multiplies it for His purposes. The beauty of this campaign is the unity with which everyone participated and engaged.

Over the next few days, we will continue receiving commitments from those who are still mailing in their pledge cards. Additionally, we will continue to receive the gifts themselves so we can begin the work set before us. But as for now, we celebrate what God has already accomplished through everyone's generosity. Thank you for believing in the mission of God through this church and for stepping forward. To God be the

Outreach articles are due the **third** Sunday of each month. Please email your OUTREACH item to wendy@haysfumc.com before **Sunday, June 21, 2026**. Items may also be placed in the office, labeled **for the Outreach** by **June 21**. The next Outreach should be received on June 25.

Thanks

Thanks to our faithful bakers for providing desserts to the Campus Center for their Thursday night meal: Linda Stahlman, Wendy Beougher, Vicki Kelly, Marilyn Davidson, Jessi Luck, Elaine Ford, Jenna Brubaker, Jarilyn Staab, Sheryl Blair, Sherrie Smith, Vickie Unruh, Tura Clement, Jacinda Johnson, Sherri Brown and Bev Bearley.



Thanks to Jenna Brubaker, Sandy Henningsen and Matt Dumler for their leadership this year with Kid's Club. Thanks to the helpers: Mary Meckenstock, Jarilyn Staab, Brad Schumacher, Wendy Beougher, Jessi Luck, Maycie Holdeman and Ellen Bryant .

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

Sympathy

Our sincere sympathy is extended to the family & friends of

LaVaughn Hull who died April 26. Condolences to her children and family. LaVaughn was a member for 73 years.

Congratulations

to Jaren Kanak who was selected in the seventh round of the NFL Draft to play for the Tennessee Titans. to Emmaline Leuschner the new nursery coordinator. Thanks to Melissa Pyle for her years of service.

Thanks to Sandy Henningsen, Matt Dumler, Pastor Susan, Jacob Brubaker and Barb Mayo for leading Prayer Powerhouse this year.

Thanks to Jenna & Hale Sloan, Ava Preston, Erica Berges, Paityn Homan, Heather & Meghan Musil and Jenna & Jacob Brubaker for teaching & leading Children's Church.

Women's Summer Fellowship

Coffee at Sharon Barton's

June 10 at 10:00 a.m.



When you are dissatisfied and would like to go back to your youth, think of algebra.
Will Rogers

Wrinkles are a sign that life dwelled within and left tracks.
Kevin Deeny

Circle News

Rebekah Circle met May 13 in the church parlor. Barbara Jones and Jarilyn Staab served thirteen members. Devotions were given by Peggy Stull. Elaine Ford conducted the business meeting.

Miranda Hafeon, agriculture program assistant for Ellis county, presented the program on native plants.

Naomi Circle met Wednesday the 13th of May at the church with Linda Stahlman and Sheryl Blair serving as hostesses. Glenna Clingingsmith, subbing for Debra McDoanld, welcomed 13 members.

The Spring Brunch which was held on March 21, was attended by 39 members and guests. An entertaining and informative program was provided by Catherine & Martha Miller.

Our April 8th meeting consisted of a potluck dinner. Phil Stahlman presented information regarding the Capital Campaign.

Thanks to Sherry Muir, Sherry Chaffin, Traci Kennemer and Caitlin Glassman for providing cookies for the graduation reception.

Ronda Hayden shared information regarding the Summer Women's Fellowship schedule. Naomi Circle remains the Good Samaritan Circle.

Julie Giess shared the program "Spring and Scripture".

Our next meeting will be held September 9th at 9:15 at the church.

Sunday, May 24 is Pentecost Sunday. Remember to wear red to church. We will celebrate the birthday of the church with a cake after worship.



FUMC Financial Snapshot

	April 30, 2026	Year to Date
Checking Account*	\$81,301.05	
Operating Gifts	\$42,070.85	\$234,089.49
Operating Expenses	\$57,349.20	\$210,131.70
Parsonage Mortgage Balance	\$71,600.41	
Organ Fund	\$11,906.79	

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

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

Backpacks for Kids

Donation Boxes will be dropped off June 2 and picked up July 7.

Last year First Call For Help distributed 600 backpacks. Your contributions can have a significant impact on the lives of students in our community. Whether it's a financial donation or purchasing backpacks, school supplies, or hygiene items, every contribution counts. If you send a check, please indicate B4K or Backpacks for Kids in the memo line. Thank you for your support in making a difference.

**Congratulations to our Graduates****Hay High School**

Johanna Jones Abby Martinez Sophie Miller Aubrey Preston
Brynn Zweifel Sofia Aguayo-Luna

College Graduates

Mallory Henderson is graduating from FHSU with a BS in Biology and a minor in Chemistry.

Brandon Kennemer is graduating from FHSU with a Master of Science in Biology.

Paityn Homan is graduating from FHSU and has been accepted into Veterinary School at Iowa State.

Matt Dumler is graduating from FHSU with a Masters in Social Work.

Jaelynn Harper will be graduating from Eudora High School. She is the daughter of Ashleigh and Landon Harper and the granddaughter of Kathy and Keith Harper.

**Congratulations to Sheryl Dreiling, Heritage Sunday honoree**

Congratulations to Sheryl Dreiling who is a Heritage Sunday honoree for being a member of Hays FUMC for 50 years. Sheryl has served on the Council on Ministries, and is a Communion Steward and Congregational Care Minister.

Sheryl wrote, "I have so many precious memories. I was baptized at Hays FUMC. I was in youth choir and MYF throughout high school. Rev Bill Miller gave the baccalaureate speech when I graduated from high school and he supported my family for so many years!"

My dad (Roly Schlegel) was my 7th grade Sunday School teacher. He taught directly from the Bible and gave us all a scriptural timeline. I loved learning all the old hymns and Christmas caroling with MYF.

May OUTREACH

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UPCOMING EVENTS

May 27-30	Annual Conference, Kearney, NE
Monday, May 25	Church Office closed for Memorial Day
Wednesday, June 10	Women's Fellowship Coffee at 10:00 a.m. at Sharon Barton's