



OUTREACH



Volume 33, Issue 12

First United Methodist Church

December 16, 2021

Perspective

I find myself at the church office earlier than usual. It is Tuesday. I like early mornings at church. The building is quiet and settled in. Can a building rest? I on the other hand am feeling adrenalin running through me after a busy first day back on Monday. I have rested a lot lately trying to fight a virus. All of us at times need to find quiet and rest to be healthy to face the challenges life brings.

Last night, the Administrative Board had to do some difficult, challenging work. The financial resources needed to fit our current reality are looking to fall short. We operate a big, beautiful ship here at First. But the cost of operating a large building, staffing, connectional giving for mission and ministry, mortgage payments on the church parsonage, programming, and the other resourcing materials needed are exceeding what looks like we will receive in 2022.

The first question that pops into our minds is why? Why is this happening? I would like to re-frame the challenge with a different question: what? What is a much more powerful question.

"Why?" focuses us away from solutions. Why is interested in getting to the bottom of this and pointing fingers at the culprit(s). Churches can get stuck focusing on why.

"What?" is a subtle shift. What is not interested in finger pointing but finding a way forward. What can we do? What are the necessary next steps? What has changed? What are the gaps that need to be filled? What role can I play?

Why is understandable. Dern blast it! Someone is to blame! What is understanding. We all have a role to play. What is next and how can I help?

As we lean into a new year soon, I am hopeful. The last six months have taught me that First UMC in Hays, Kansas, is a community of faith. Yes, we have our differences. But what I see happening is a concern more for sharing the journey of faith and life rather than splintering apart because of our differences. Now more than ever this is what Hays, Kansas needs. We are better together. We are stronger together. What we do here matters.

Wait. Hear that again.

What we do here matters. People in Hays and the surrounding area depend on us to be strong. First UMC makes a difference. What are our next steps? What is my role?

Keep asking good questions. And remember. Every story ends in a comma. There is more to come. ,

Pastor Craig

Please email your OUTREACH item to **haysumc@hotmail.com** before **Sunday, January 16, 2022**.

Please place the name "Outreach" in the subject line...or place your item, clearly labeled **for the Outreach**, in the office by **Sunday, January 16**. The next Outreach should be received by **Jan-**

Thanks

Thanks to all who furnished food for the Campus Center this semester. The students really appreciated a taste of home.

Thanks to Carol Purdy, Mary Lou Clark, Alyssa Dees (2), Marilyn Davidson, Donna Weaverling, Sheryl Blair, Linda Palmberg, Karen Wilson, Marilyn Wood, Jarilyn Staab,, Linda Stahlman, Jessica Luck Patty Nicholas, Dandy Henderson, Angie Stieben, Bev Bearley, Sandy Henningsen, Jo Swayne, Michelle Holdeman, Lisa McGrath, Sally Klausmeyer, Melissa Pyle and Wendy Beougher.

Thanks to Pastor Craig, Meredith & James Cory, Hannah & Jim Barrett, Ray & Mary Alice Brent, Sharon Graham, Jo Swayne, Melissa Pyle, Haffners, Rilee Goodale, Brett Stieben, Bryson Dumler, Cam, Cy & Cailynn Luck for decorating the church for Christmas.



INTRODUCING OUR STAFF

PROGRAM STAFF

Pastor: Pastor Craig Hauschild
Congregational Care Director, Troy Miller
Director of Music: Alexander Rome
Special Music Coordinator: Meredith Cory
Organist: Noah Erichsen
Pianist: Sharon Graham
Handbell Choir Dir., Shawn Henderson
Children's Ministry Director: Jo Swayne
Asst. Children's Director: Melissa Pyle
Youth Ministry Director: Matt Dumler
Outreach Editor: Wendy Beougher

SUPPORT STAFF:

Administrative Secretary: Beverly Bearley
Administrative Assistant: Wendy Beougher
Financial Secretary: Liz Harper
Childcare Director: Melissa Pyle
Building Supervisor: Joe Edwards

Sympathy

Our sincere sympathy is extended to the family & friends of

*Donnie Schuster on the death of his wife, **Ruth**, on November 15.*

*Marilyn Davidson on the death of her husband, **Harvey**, on December 5.*

Congratulations
to Jill Arensdorf on her 20 years at Fort Hays State University.



Thanks to all who donated to the food drive for the Hays High pantry. Food items totaled 1,240 and \$350 in cash & cards were collected for the food pantry.

Thanks to all who donated a box for Operation Christmas Child. 147 boxes were donated.

Dear Hays FUMC,
Thank you for your food pantry donation gift of \$100 towards the HHS food pantry. This was a very timely gift as we are preparing to serve families over the holiday season. The Helping Hands Students will be collecting food donations & monetary donations so we can provide Christmas food boxes for the HHS families that have a need.

*Michelle Thacker
John Hafliger
Helping Hands Instructors*

Circle News

Naomi Circle met Wednesday, December 8 at the home of Becky Johnson with Nancy Jones serving as co-hostess. Thirteen members attended.

Warmth was found during Carols & Cookies, a UMW event, that was held on the 6th of December.

An upcoming event in January will be the Grab N Go Soup sale. Watch for updates in the January Outreach and Sunday bulletins.

Our next meeting will be held on Wednesday, January 12th at the church.



Mark your calendars now!! The United Methodist Women are going to hold a "Grab and Go" soup sale on January 30, 2022. We will be using our 'famous' Peddler's Fair Soup recipes. Pre-orders will also be taken. Watch for more details in the coming weeks.

My family and I wish to express our appreciation to our church family for food, cards, calls, donations, visits and hugs during Wilmer's illness.

Lorena Kellogg

Pledges for 2022 are still welcome. Pledge cards are available in the church office or by the offering boxes at both entrances to the sanctuary.

Making a pledge will assist the Church in our budgeting for next year.

*Thank you!
Finance Committee*

Kids Club

WE MADE IT! Fighting to come out from under a nationwide pandemic was exactly that....a fight. But fight we did and ended up with another amazing year of ministry. Below are the highlights!

We kicked off 2021 with WOW mid-January. We also modified our Sunday School times to accommodate all three worship services, having a 9-10 hour for those attending The Gathering at 10:00 and a 9:30-10:30 hour for those attending either 8:30 or 10:45 worship services. A large group of volunteers were recruited to help with this new Sunday School look. We could not have done this without them!! Thank you

Service WOW at the end of March had us cleaning the Sanctuary for Easter as the kids were putting finishing touches on their Resurrection Eggs. The children waved palms at the beginning of services to kick off Holy Week. A special Seder meal and foot washing service, followed by traditional communion capped Maundy Thursday and a solemn Good Friday service as Christ took the cross. Easter Sunday was extra special as we worshiped together and 40 kids hunted eggs at the Easter Egg Hunt on the West Lawn.

"Summer Vacation" was the theme for Sunday school and a switch in options. Children could attend from 9:30-10:30 upstairs if attending either the 8:30 or 10:45 worship services. For the children attending the 10:00 service, the youth led a shortened version of the same curriculum in the dining room from 10:30-11.

Church camp was a go this year, slightly modified, but we were able to send three campers at the end of summer. The Camp Fund Bake Sale was another huge success bringing in \$1,403 to help pay for half of our camper's registration fees. Your generosity knows no bounds church family, thank you!!

July kicked off with a pool party at the Hays Aquatic Park and “Knights of North Castle,” a three-day power packed vacation bible school with 69 kiddos had us thanking the Good Lord for some normalcy and good weather! 40 volunteers helped make our event successful and we were able to donate 409 school supply items for First Call for Help Backpacks for Kids program.

Back to school meant New Beginnings Sunday and eleven 2nd graders received their Bibles from the church. WOW began with a potluck, a BBQ, and a rock/stepping stone landscape project to finish the 5th Service Sunday project started at The Gathering August 29.

Beginning in mid-September, The Gathering worship service switched to a 9:45 start time. The Education team decided to modify the Sunday School option, again. A decision was made to offer Sunday School from 9:45-10:45, during The Gathering, and give families attending that service the option of sending their children to the full hour or sending them halfway with a volunteer.

The fall is always very busy and this fall was no exception. The Copper Family hosted our church night at "Pa's Pumpkin Patch" October 6. G1 successfully started with eight 5th graders attending WOW regularly and Kids Club starting a fun "Faith Fails" curriculum. Our 2nd Annual Trunk or Treat so Others Can Eat had 15 trunks and enough food donated to send two full boxes each...to the four elementary schools and Hays Middle School. G1 came out on top as the trunk with the most votes!

Children/Youth Sabbath on November 14 had our youth in the spotlight for their “Run Away” themed worship services. And to wrap up our year, the Children’s Christmas Pageant “Star Light Star Bright” written and directed by Catherine Miller had 27 children. Performances were on December 8 @ WOW and Sunday, December 12, along with a “Cookies for Camp” sale to benefit our church campers.

This year was not easy, but it was hopeful! We are once again proving our resilience as a church. God is leading us into even brighter, more hopeful days ahead. We truly appreciate the continued love and support of our church family and wish each of you a very safe, healthy and happy holidays! Melissa and Jo



Youth Ministry 2021 Year in Review

We don't often talk about the book of Songs in church, especially in youth ministry, but there is a piece in there that perfectly describes the year not only the youth ministry had, but the church as a whole. We all know about the year 2020, I know many of us quiver at just the mere thought of that year. We are still trying to recognize the loss that the past two years have had on us and that may be something that we won't entirely understand for years down the road. We can however, see the immediate effects on what we can see and they are dramatic. We can look around and see the financial dollars that are gone, we can look around and see the people we are missing, we can look ahead and try to gain some understanding of what the coming years will look like. We use terms like getting back to normal as if someday, something magical will happen and things will go back to the way they were when we had to close down in March of the year we won't mention. The reality is, that day isn't coming. The normal we are dealing with is the normal that we get. The normal that we have in front of us looks like a forest fire has torn through everything that we knew. Its hard to see hope in forest fires. Everything that we were comfortable with is gone. What we can see is nothing but despair. But the reality is that within forest fires there is hope. You see, after every forest fire comes life. Life that can't live unless the old is gone. New trees emerge, new wildlife appears, new opportunity arises. Sometimes in order for something new to happen, the old has to go away. With the new comes a revived hope and a new future, which can be exciting and scary all at once.

In the second chapter of the book of songs, we see the two lovers go through a discourse where the lover comes to the maiden and asks her to come away with him. She hesitates because the security she knows behind her wall is too much for her to overcome and go into the unknown. She will later regret this hesitation and go after her lover. This is where God has us right now. He is asking us to leave the security of what we have known and hope to return one day, and go on this journey into the unknown with him. It's a new journey that while may seem uncomfortable and scary, can lead to something beautiful. That's what this year has looked like for our youth ministry.

It has been a year of regrowth and laying out a path for years to come. Most of the time in churches, we measure things by numbers. We measure dollars in the bank and seats in the pews. However, if that is our measurement of success and the numbers that we get don't come out to the numbers we want, have we really failed? I think we have to learn to measure success a new way. We are learning to do just that.

This year in youth ministry we have learned to measure success by passion, drive, enthusiasm and growth. This year we saw a return to inperson activities such as confirmation, lock- ins and missions. In the early part of the year, we took our eighth graders through confirmation. I wish you could all have the opportunity to sit in a confirmation class and listen to these kids wrestle with things and watch as their faith is transitioned from something that they follow in o something they grab a hold of and own. This year was no exception.

We hosted our first lock-in almost two years. Our focus was on who we are in Christ and laying out an identity not based on worldly things, but on the promises of God. Sometimes lock- ins get a bad wrap, but I think we should all be so fortunate to sit with a group of teenagers at midnight and discuss how God has adopted us and makes us new. I wish you could all see the look on one of their faces as they finally get it.

Of course, with the lock in came all of the games that the kids love so much. The night was full of nerf wars, gaga ball, mafia, nine square and whatever other game that began on their own.

This year saw a new group of students take on the planning of a mission trip and casting a new vision of what that looks like. We have had to postpone our mission trip twice in the last two years, not again. This group of students are in the midst of planning and preparing to finally go to Memphis to serve inner city children and churches. With this comes all the joys of fundraising, planning and preparing. This group seems different though. When we first started, the focus was on simply going. The kids are excited to serve, they are excited to go on the journey of feeling God move, and not just simply a journey in a van.

In August, we got to take a group to Kansas City for a Royals game. Sometimes growth happens organically and isn't dependent on planning and operation. It was amazing to watch the kids bond throughout the course of the game. Age was simply a number. Older kids and younger kids sat back and watched a marathon of a game and simply enjoyed each

I would be remiss if I didn't mention the way our kids served this past year. As a group, we served by collecting food for several of our local food banks, helping with VBS, serving meals, and countless other things. Those things all get talked about and recognized on a regular basis. What we don't often recognize are the small one or two man projects that get done with out the publication. This year, more than in years past, I have had people reach out asking for a few students to help with simple projects. Our youth never failed to show up. It wasn't hard to get help either. All it took was a simple ask and they would come. (continued on next page)

Its been amazing to see how many friends have come to church with our youth. They showed up at lock-ins, youth groups, service projects and Bible studies. We have seen many of them show back up at other functions and even church. That is part of that new growth that is happening.

I could go on and on about all of the topics we discussed, fun we had, and hearts changed, but I don't think room would allow. The year 2021 has been the start of a beautiful journey into a future full of potential, hope and maybe a little bit of uncertainty because we can't always see where its going. Isn't that what faith is though, going on a journey with God into the unknown, into things unseen. I am so excited to see what next year has in store for these kids. I hope you are too.

Matt Dumler

Meet the Church Staff—Staff Parish Committee

Part of my job encompasses membership-keeping track of attendance, sending communication about events and meetings, and record keeping for reports. Nancy; Bates, beloved mentor, friend & church secretary for many years, used to say, "Membership will drive you crazy!" Thankfully I'm not quite there yet. If your phone, address or e-mail changes, please call or e-mail the church office. That would be helpful as the membership information changes almost daily.

Working with the other members of the church staff is an absolute joy! Each one is dedicated to furthering the mission of Hays First United Methodist Church. It is a joy to greet and help church members who come to the office. Just walking through this magnificent building is an uplifting experience. It is nice to feel a part of a long line of Methodists who have worked and sacrificed to make this community and our world a better place. This church has figured in so many important events of my life. This caring, church family is truly a blessing!

If everyone would remember to sign the attendance pad on Sunday it would be helpful for record keeping for reports.
Wendy Beougher, Administrative Assistant

The most challenging part of my job is keeping the church nice & clean. I love it, after working hard when the church is looking clean. Let me know if you happen to loose your sunglasses or jacket at the church and I'll try and find it.
Joe Edwards, Custodian

The most challenging part of my job is constantly anticipating the speaker, musician, or musical group during a worship service, wedding, or funeral while maintaining primary focus on the current speaker or performers. The most fulfilling aspect of my job is enabling as many people as possible-especially those with hearing impairment-to hear a worship service or other event as well as possible.

Mike Cooper, Nichole Younger, Tony Anthony, Marsha Swanson, and I comprise the audio team and invite anybody who might be interested in serving the church in this capacity to join us and/or the video team.

Mark Kellerman, Audio System Operator

I think the most challenging part of my job is people, but bear with me. We all come with our own thoughts, opinions and challenges. We have to figure out how to merge those to help build the kingdom of God. It really is a good challenge to have.

My greatest joy comes when someone "gets it". You can see it on their face and hear it in their voice when the message of the cross penetrates their heart.

Church isn't the building. Church isn't the hour on Sunday or Wednesday. Church is the people we meet with and the impact of Christ on our lives.
Matt Dumler, Youth Ministry Director

The most challenging part of my job are the annual reports. The people of the church give me joy. I love my work and a big part of that is the people. Each day is new and different and no two days are the same. I try to be a blessing to our people as they come in the office or call. I've had the privilege of working with three wonderful pastors, Jerre Nolte, Mike Rose and now Craig Hauschild.

Bev Bearley, Administrative Secretary

Do you receive required minimum distributions (RMD/s) from tax-deferred investments and do not need the income? Then consider directing some or all such distributions to be payable directly to Hays First United Methodist Church. That way you avoid unneeded taxable income and receive credit for tax-deductible donations. For further information, contact your tax accountant or your investment plan administrator.

Memorials to UMW

The United Methodist Women have requested donations for this year's Peddler's Fair so that they can continue their mission projects. There have been a number of donations towards memorials that have designated various projects of the UMW as their recipients. Memorial funds honoring Phyllis Bloss, Ruth Goodwin, Janet Artman, Marilyn Wasinger, Marie Grover and Miriam Osborne have been given to this year's Peddler's Fair.

Pledges for 2022 are still welcome.

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Thank you!
Finance Committee

"Glory to God in highest heaven, and peace on earth to those with whom God is pleased."—LUKE 2:14 (NLT)

During the [Christmas season](#), I hang a marquee sign across our carport that lights up the word *PEACE*. This year when I turned it on, it read *ACE*. I have another sign next to our fireplace that reads *JOY*, but the *J* was out, leaving us with only *OY*. So I decided to buy some new lighting that spelled out *HOPE*. The letters arrived yesterday. No *H*. Just *OPE*.

What a reflection on my life! Searching for complete [peace, joy and hope](#) but not quite there yet. This is where Jesus comes in. Into my brokenness. Our brokenness. With the brightness of his love. The One who was born in a stable is used to bringing peace, joy and hope into our messy lives. He does it with angel choirs and brilliant stars. Loving us right where we are.

It is because of Jesus and his presence in our lives that, on this cold December morning, we can have truck-loads of *OY*, a powerful sense of *OPE* and an all-encompassing blanket of *ACE* on earth, [goodwill toward men](#).

Susanna Foth Aughtmon



January 12	Potato Soup, Chicken Noodle Soup Crackers, cheese, veggies Dessert
January 19	BBQ hamburgers & hot dogs Bakes beans Tossed salad Dessert
January 26	Lasagna Green beans Bread stix Dessert

Dear First United Methodist Church Congregation,

Thank you for supporting the Hays High Food Pantry with your drive through Blessing event on December 4th. Your support has filled our pantry shelves ahead of this holiday season. Each week the HHS Helping Hands students pack food boxes for HHS families in need. Your support ensures the HHS Food Pantry can provide this service.

Sincerely,

John Hafliger, Helping Hands Instructor

It's hard to believe I've been in Eswatini for a month already! In some ways, it feels like I never left. Even after four years away, Manzini still feels like home. It's been refreshing reconnecting with old friends and community, along with discovering what's new in the neighborhood. The beauty of this nation never ceases to amaze me.



Settling in is a process, and I've been intentional in taking this time to adjust to the culture, climate, and my "new normal". Rather than focusing solely on work and keeping a busy schedule, I'm using this initial season to focus on creating my rhythms of life here and building relationships. I'm staying with some close friends from when I lived here before until the end of the year, and then I'll move into a one room flat on their property. It's great having a place to call home during the transition and not feel like I have to rush to find a house.

I've started working part-time with a small organization called the Phumelela Project. The project started in 2016 and their team focuses on mental health awareness and advocacy in the communities. Most of the work has been centered around the pandemic and civil unrest happening in the nation. I'm helping their counseling and social work team.

Thank you all again for all your prayers and support. As you know, my salary is completely dependent on your donations and the opportunity to partner with me financially is always open. If you're interested in supporting me monthly or making a one-time donation, you can visit my Cause profile (<https://thecause.org/partners/nightlight-rachel>). In the US checks can be made out to The Cause with my name in the memo and sent to : The Cause, Inc., P.O. Box 130836, Carlsbad, CA 92013

Rachel Palmberg

The faithful love of the Lord never ends! His mercies never cease. Great is his faithfulness; his mercies begin afresh each morning. Lamentations 3:22–23 (NLT)

How does one best describe New Year's Eve? I equate it with the word *celebrate*.

When I was a teenager, my parents invited our church's youth group to celebrate New Year's Eve at our home. My sister and I decorated the basement with streamers and balloons, and we prepared enough snacks to feed a small army. The troops arrived early in the evening, and we played music and games until after midnight.

Several decades later, New Year's Eve looks different to me. But I still equate it with the word *celebrate*. When I reflect on the past year, I celebrate Jesus's faithfulness through thick and thin. I thank Him for guiding me away from regrettable choices, comforting me in sorrow, encouraging me amid disappointment, strengthening me in weakness, forgiving me, and inspiring me to pursue the dreams He's planted in my heart. He's lavished His love on me, and that's cause to rejoice!

When I ponder the incoming year, I celebrate Jesus's faithfulness again. What will 2019 hold? We can't know the answer now, but we know one thing for certain: Jesus holds us. Just as He demonstrated His goodness to us daily during this last year, so He promises to express it throughout the coming year.

Happy New Year, my friend! Celebrate Jesus tonight and welcome the dawn with joy, knowing that His mercies will greet you every morning in the year ahead.

Grace Fox

December OUTREACH

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www.HaysFUMC.com

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Upcoming Events

December 21

Longest Night Service—7:00 p.m.

December 24

Traditional Service—7:30 p.m.

Candlelight Service—10:45 p.m.

December 26

One Worship Service at 10:00 a.m.