



OUTREACH



Volume 32, Issue 2

First United Methodist Church

February 20, 2020

Greetings in the Name of Christ!

As he walked by the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon, who is called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea—for they were fishermen. And he said to them, “Follow me...and they left their nets and followed him.”

Matthew 4:18-19

Jesus called his Disciples- then and now- to walk with him. It was a walk that would change their lives-and the world- forever, for as he walked, he also talked...and taught them the Spiritual things of the Kin-dom and Kingdom of God. He calls to us to walk to the Kingdom with him as well. How we walk with Christ- daily growing in him- and faithfully serve him, is one of the most important things we can do as his followers. So, let's endeavor to take a walk together with Jesus as this season of Lent begins. So, where do we begin our journey?

First, the journey-and the season of Lent- begins with our Ash Wednesday Service on February 26th at 6:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary. Please come and participate in this important worship experience.

Second, I want you to join with me in participating in one of the many classes that are forming for the Lenten All-Church study called “The Walk”. In the Gospels, Jesus modeled for us the Christian spiritual life. The Apostles taught it in their writings, and the Church has, through the last 2000 years sought to pursue this Christian Spiritual life, especially during the season of Lent, which this year begins Sunday, March 1st and culminates with a joyous Easter celebration on April 12th.

Third, I want you to deepen your spiritual life by attending each of the six sessions in The Walk that focus on:

1. Worship and Prayer: A Living Hallelujah
2. Study: The Importance of Listening and Paying Attention
3. Serve: Here I Am, Lord, Send Me
4. Give: Where Your Treasure Is...
5. Share: Going Fishing, Reflecting Light
6. The Five Practices from the Cross

In The Walk, we will focus on the five essential spiritual practices that are rooted in Jesus' own walk with God and taught throughout the New Testament. Each of these practices deepen our faith journey as they become a part of our daily walk with Christ.

Fourth, I want you to participate in the Good Friday to Easter Sunday Prayer Vigil that will be held in the Chapel at Hays 1st UMC. It will be a time that you can focus on the Five Practices from the Cross and give thanks to God for sending our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ to walk with us daily.

Finally, I want you to be a part of the “Walk to Jerusalem” program that is sponsored during Lent by our Healthy Congregation Ministry Team. You will simply sign up and report how many miles you have walked each day, and then please email your Outreach Walk to haysumc@hotmail.com by **Sunday, March 15, 2020**. Please place the name of our spiritually-minded subject line. I'll get back to you first, then, I need to label it **For the Outreach**, with the office by **Sunday, March 15, 2020**. The next Outreach should be received by **March 19**.

Grace and Peace, Pastor Mike

Thank You

United Methodist Campus Center at FHSU sends everyone in our FUMC family who has contributed or plans to contribute food for our Thursday meals a very grateful thank you. Feeding hungry college students is a wonderful labor of love! Getting a home cooked meal means a great deal and we appreciate your help and support. We also want to say thank you to Bill Losey, our resident handyman for all his help and concern for the Center.
Rev. Kathy Bannister

Be in ministry with our college students.



If you could help with Thursday night meal and worship at the United Methodist Campus Center by providing a salad or dessert, please call the church office, 625-3408.

INTRODUCING OUR STAFF **PROGRAM STAFF**

Pastor: Pastor Mike Rose
 Congregational Care Director, Troy Miller
 Director of Music: Johnny Matlock
 Special Music Coordinator: Meredith Cory
 Organist:: Charlotte Rathke
 Pianist: Alexis Robinson
 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: Don Forssberg
 Childcare Director: Melissa Pyle
 Building Supervisor:

Sympathy

Our sincere sympathy is extended to the family & friends of

*Becky & Ken Johnson on the death of Becky's mother, **Shirley (Sue) Peters**, on January 26.*

***Barbara Huber** who died February 6.*

***Dr. Earl Carlson**, who died February 11.*

Congratulations

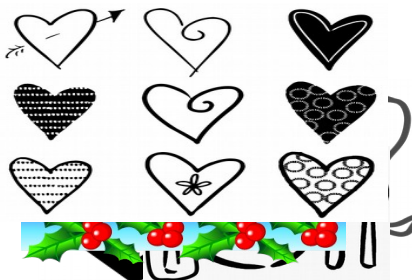
to Johnny Matlock for being presented with the *Citizen of the Year Award* at the Chamber of Commerce banquet.

Healthy Congregations encourages you to Walk to Jerusalem during Lent. 15 minutes of exercise = 1 mile. Turn in your weekly miles in the box in the parlor.

Be an Expression of God's Love

Let my heart be the vessel of God's Love.
 Let my thoughts be the blossom of God's Love.
 Let my words be the expression of God's Love.
 Let my actions be the fulfillment of God's Love.

David Ridge



Circle News

Shalom Circle met February 10 at 7:00 p.m. at the church. Lois Lutz conducted the business meeting. Roll call was answered by 12 members. Marguerite Stewart presented the program on *Call to Prayer and Self Denial*. Darlene Gilchrist was hostess and served an apple caramel crumble cake. The next meeting will be March 9 at 7:00 p.m. with Joy Jansonius as hostess. Dr. Sarah Broman Miller will present the program on *Bonding through Books*.



Naomi Circle met at the church on Wednesday, February 12, with nine members present. Linda Stahlman and Sheryl Blair served as hostesses. Joys, concerns, and correspondence were shared and prayer was offered by Deb McDonald. Devotions were given by Linda Stahlman. Minutes of January's meeting were read and the treasurer's report was given. Roll call was "Love is ____". Phil & Linda Stahlman treated us with a presentation of their recent trip to Peru: Machu Picchu: the Inca City in the Clouds and to the Galapagos Islands. The next meeting will be March 11 in the home of Melody Davidson or at the church with Debra McDonald servng as co-hostess. The program will be "Bonding Through Books" by Dr. Sarah Miller.



The Altar gift for 2020 is \$147, celebrating 147 years of Methodism in Hays.

Kids Club has been strong, even with all the ick going around! Kids Club has been shipwrecked the last several weeks and have been learning how Jesus is always with us and rescues us when we're worshipping, when we do wrong, when we're powerless to change something, when we're lonely or in a difficult situation, and when we worry. We are getting ready to kick off Lent with Ash Wednesday on February 26. Kids Club and G1 will be joining the church family with "The Walk" study by Adam Hamilton.



We have been learning new music at Kids Prayse and hope to share during worship some time very soon! Sunday mornings are also clicking along as we continue to work through our Deep Blue Bible curriculum.

Upcoming dates for your calendar:

- February 26 – Ash Wednesday and the start of Lent
- March 25 – No WOW – Happy Spring Break!
- April 5 – Palm Sunday and waving of the Palms
- April 12 – Easter Sunday and Easter Egg Hunt
- April 19 – Camp Sunday and Annual Bake Sale

If you ever have questions or concerns, don't hesitate to contact either Melissa Pyle (pyle_melissa@hotmail.com) or Jo Swayne (jswayne33@gmail.com).

METour—Mission Opportunity



The METour (Mission Education Tour) is a multi-day mission experience for young women (ages 15-20) sponsored by the Great Plains United Methodist Women. METour participants have the opportunity to engage in hands-on mission work, learn about United Methodist Women and experience the United Methodist connection by visiting and working at National Mission Institutions, volunteer in Mission sites and United Methodist-related agencies.

The 2020 METour is scheduled for **May 30-June 7**, traveling south and east of the conference. Places scheduled to visit include Cookson Hills Center in the Oklahoma Indian Missionary Conference; UMCOR depot-Sager Brown, Louisiana; the Upper Room, Tennessee; and Red Bird Mission, Kentucky.

The cost of this mission opportunity is \$450. A deposit of \$50 is sent with the registration form. Hays UMW will pay 75% of the remaining \$400 fee for one young woman. **April 1, 2020 is the registration deadline.** If you are interested, please contact Ruth Briney at briney1@ruraltel.net or go to greatplains.umw/METour.

As you have probably heard by now, the global United Methodist Church is likely to undergo a separation in the coming year. Pastor Mike predicts it will be another 6-8 months before our governing body, the Great Plains Annual Conference, comes to a decision about our path forward as a Conference. During this waiting period, the Church and Society Committee has been tasked with helping the congregation to process and prepare for the changing United Methodist Church landscape. We've identified three areas on which to focus: prayer, discernment and community-building. In this spirit, we want to invite the congregation to enter a period of prayer and discernment during Lent, when we will re-focus on the basics of our faith and what it means to be in community with one another. We're asking Sunday schools to engage with Adam Hamilton's study The Walk, which lays out the basic practices of our faith and encourages gentle discipline in the areas of prayer, worship and service. We will also provide opportunities for individual and corporate prayer during Lent, focusing, in part, on the future of our church. After Easter, we expect to offer opportunities to discuss the pending separation and the theology of human sexuality in safe, small group settings. If you are anxious about the changing landscape of the church and either have ideas about how to process what is going on as a community or individual questions, please do not hesitate to contact anyone on the committee.

- *Some ideas to help Reduce, Reuse, Recycle*



Preamble to the Social Principles of the United Methodist Church:

We, the people called United Methodists, affirm our faith in the living God, who created everything that is and called it good, and created human beings in God's own image. We give thanks for Jesus Christ, incarnation of God's love and our Savior, who redeems and heals our relationship with God. We trust in the movements of the Holy Spirit, transforming human lives and the whole creation. Further, we declare our faith that God's grace is available to all and "nothing can separate us from God's love in Christ Jesus our Lord: not death or life, not angels or rulers, not present things or future things, not powers or height or depth, or any other thing that is created" (Rom. 8:38-39). From the beginning, God called us into covenant, bound with God, with one another, and with God's wonderfully diverse creation. God called us, further, to live lovingly in those relationships and to be stewards of God's created world, to tend God's garden. As we do our part in caring for creation, we allow all other parts of creation to fulfill their distinctive roles in the covenantal relationship with God (Gen. 2:7-15).

According to Jesus' commandment, we are to love one another: "Just as I have loved you, so you also must love each other. This is how everyone will know that you are my disciples, when you love each other" (John 13:34-35). Created in God's image to live in covenant with God and the world, we honor the dignity of all beings and affirm the goodness of life. Knowing that we are held in God's grace, we are able to confess our sins. We have failed to love God with our whole hearts, souls, minds and strength, and to love our neighbors as ourselves. We have participated in unjust and life-destroying social systems. We have not been faithful stewards of God's creation, nor have we valued the role that every part of creation plays in the flourishing of God's world.

Further, we have not followed Jesus Christ in sharing God's extravagant love and ministering with "the least of these" (Matt. 25:45) We have closed ourselves to God's guiding Spirit in our daily interactions with the human family and the earth. We have fallen short, and yet God loves us still. We are grateful for God's forgiving and sanctifying love, given to us and to all and drawing us toward perfect love. By God's grace, we are called to be more Christ-like, and thus to be merciful, just and compassionate. Responding to that call, we seek to follow Jesus, who gave boundless love to all—the children, the outcast, the condemned and the confused. Jesus calls every generation to wholehearted discipleship: opening our hearts to the people we encounter daily; practicing compassion with our families and neighbors; honoring the dignity and worth of all people near and far; recognizing the systems that destroy human lives through poverty, war and exclusion; and advocating justice and care in our churches, communities and social structures.

God calls us further to be stewards of creation, caring for the skies and waters, soil and plants, and all beings. We give thanks for God's good gift of the Church Universal and for the Christian values embodied in the Wesleyan tradition and in The United Methodist Church. We recognize that the Body of Christ has many parts, and all are valuable. Thus, we respect differences within Christ's Body, including differences in understanding and expressing faith, in gifts and practices of ministry, and in life experiences, as shaped by ethnicities, cultures, communities, abilities, age, sexual orientation and gender. We affirm our belief in the inestimable worth of each individual to whom God gives unique gifts. We renew our commitment to be faithful witnesses to the Gospel in our daily lives and work and to magnify our witness as the church. Differences are a precious gift and daunting challenge. They can stretch the church's capacity to live and minister faithfully. Yet God calls our church to difficult discipleship, with Jesus as our guide and the Spirit as our daily strength. With God's help, we accept the challenge to follow the high calling "to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God." (Mic. 6:8, NRSV)

John Wesley's General Rules continue to inspire United Methodists to faithful practices that will do no harm, do good, and follow the ordinances of God.¹ We recognize the challenges before the church to engage with honesty and compassion through deep listening, hard conversations and shared ministry, even when we do not agree on all matters. We acknowledge that the church is a living body gathered from the many and diverse parts of the human community. Thus, unanimity of beliefs, opinion, and practice have never been characteristic of the church from the beginning. From its earliest times, as witnessed in the Gospels, Paul's letters, the Acts of the Apostles, and other New Testament texts, diverse understandings and controversies on many matters have been the reality. Therefore, whenever significant differences of opinion occur among Christians, some of which continue to divide the church deeply today, faithful Christians need to face their disagreements and even their despair, and not cover differences with false claims of consensus or unanimity. On the contrary, the church needs to embrace conflicts with courage and perseverance as we seek together to discern God's will. With that understanding and commitment, we pledge ourselves to acknowledge and to embrace with courage, trust, and hope those controversies that arise among us, accepting them as evidence that God is not yet finished in sculpting us to be God's people. Recognizing that God is our Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer, we seek to center our lives and witness on God. We are confident that nothing can separate us from the grace of God, and that the social witness of the church is a testimony to that grace. With God's help, we pledge to share ministry and honor everyone's dignity, even when we disagree, to seek the mind of Christ, and to follow God's will in all things.

¹"The General Rules of the Methodist Church: The Nature, Design, and General Rules of our United Societies," The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church (Nashville: The Publishing House of The United Methodist Church, 2016).⁷REVISED SOCIAL PRINCIPLES

February OUTREACH

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Upcoming Events



Wednesday, February 26

Monday, March 2

Sunday, March 8

March 13 & 14

Ash Wednesday

Red Cross Blood Drive

Confirmation Sunday

Course of Study