



OUTREACH



Volume 36 Issue 2

First United Methodist Church

February 22, 2024

Bishop Robert Schnase tells the story of The Big Rocks in his book, Remember the Future. It is a story about the use of time.

The instructor fills a large jar with big rocks until he cannot possibly add another rock. He asks the audience if the jar is full. Everyone agrees that there is no more room for more rocks. Then he lifts a container of pebbles and pours them into the same jar. The pebbles tumble loosely between the spaces left by the rocks, settling into place. Again, he asks if the jar is full. People are now wise to his ploy and are less willing to agree. Next, he lifts a container of sand and pours it into the jar, and people watch as sand cascades through all the loose spaces between the rocks and pebbles. “Now is the jar full?” The audience agrees that the jar is completely filled and has no more room for anything else. Then he pours a glass of water into the jar, and water trickles from top to bottom, saturating the sand and pebbles and rocks.

“What have we learned about the use of time?” he asks. Someone says, “You can always squeeze one more thing into an already crowded schedule!” “No,” the instructor answers, “we’ve learned that if we don’t place the big rocks in first, we can never squeeze them in later.” The story is about priority. (Robert Schnase, Remember the Future, page 99)

What are the big rocks of our congregational ministry that must be in place to fulfill the mission of Christ’s church? This question is about the fundamentals that comprise or make up who we are as Christ’s body in Hays Kansas.

Schnase suggests that every church should have these five foundational elements to their ministry:

Radical Hospitality
 Passionate Worship
 Intentional Faith Development
 Risk-Taking Mission and Service
 and Extravagant Generosity.

These are the big rocks in the jar that everything else settles in and around. I see us doing each of these to a point. But I think the descriptor words push us to imagine how we might do them even better. Radical, passionate, intentional, risk-taking, and extravagant suggest we should always be looking for, and working towards, the next thing that makes new and old generations sit up and take notice of the love and grace we are seeking to share.

As your senior pastor, I am constantly challenged to ask the right questions. Are we hitting the mark? Are we passionate risk-takers who are intentionally striving to make new disciples with Jesus’ love? What do we need to do better? Is there something we need to let go of to make space for the new and extravagant?

Please make it your prayer that we can move forward, with a risk-takers heart, to the place where God can effectively use us to make Disciples of Jesus Christ.

Pastor Craig

Outreach articles are due the **third** Sunday of each month. Please email your OUTREACH item to wendy@haysfumc.com before **Sunday, March 17, 2024**. Items may also be placed in the office, labeled **for the Outreach** by **March 17**. The next Outreach should be received on March 21.

Thanks

Thank You



for your Kindness

A sincere thank you to Kathy Harper, Marilyn & Steve Wood, Kara & Gordon Kuntz, Pam McGowne and Virginia Johnson for delivering Meals on Wheels in January. Your service is appreciated. Thanks for providing this critical service.

Liberate Book Project is looking for volunteers to deliver books to county jails. A map of Kansas is on the wall underneath the coat rack outside the office. Look and see what counties still need a delivery and contact Dr. Sarah Broman Miller at sebmiller@fhsu.edu to



INTRODUCING OUR STAFF

PROGRAM STAFF

Pastor: Pastor Craig Hauschild
 Congregational Care Director, Troy Miller
 Director of Music: Alexandra Rome
 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
 Asst. Children's Director: Melissa Pyle
 Outreach Editor: Wendy Beougher

SUPPORT STAFF:

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

Sympathy

Our sincere sympathy is extended to the family & friends of

Karen Wilson on the death of her mother, Billie Rohde, on January 23.

Dale Akers who died on January 25. He was a member of FUMC for 66 years.

Mark & Tura Clement & Nathan on the death of Mark's father, Devon, on January 26.

Marla & Kevin Homburg on the death of Marla's sister, Lorelee Hayden, on February 5. Condolences also to Abbey & Charlie Stieben.

Centripetal Encounters are sensory based readings written by Rev. Dayna Hauschild. They are based on the lectionary Scripture text for the upcoming Sunday via email. It is an opportunity to be in an e-group where folks are encouraged to respond with their thoughts. If you would like to receive this email, please send an email to dlhauschild@gmail.com.

A Lenten Disciplines handout is available on tables at each entrance. The forty days of Lent are a time to prepare for Easter, to experience the depth and power of the death and resurrection of our Lord and Savior.

The inward and personal disciplines help us become healthier in body, mind & spirit.

The outward and social disciplines help us to listen and respond to Christ's call to a ministry of service.

Circle News

Naomi Circle met Wednesday, February 14 at the church. Fourteen members were present. Julie Giess presented the program which dealt with "What is Prayer?"

Upcoming events:
 Women's Event entitled "Experiencing Christ Together" on March 23rd from 8:30-3:30.

Spring Brunch on April 20.

Next Naomi Circle meeting on March 20th at 9:15 at Ellis Estates.

If you could help with the Campus Ministry's Thursday night meal by providing a dessert, please sign up on the clipboard outside the church office. Only 3 more people are needed.



One kind word can warm 3 winter months.

Japanese Proverb

The gift for the Altar Foundation for 2024 is \$151.



Menus for March

March 6

Cooks choice
Salad
Cookies
Dessert

March 13

Spring Break—No WOW

March 20

Pizza
Salad
Dessert



March 27

Bierocks/Covered wagons
Green bean dumpling soup
Salad

Menus are subject to change

Serving times— 5-6 p.m.

Meals are \$5.00 each

To go boxes are available/call church, 625-3408
or Susan, 650-2401



Hospice Volunteer Training

Wednesday, March 13

8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Hays Med

2220 Canterbury

Registration due by **Friday, March 1**

Learn about the history and philosophy of Hospice, advance directives, care of the dying person, spirituality and the role of the volunteer. Contact Hospice of Hays Medical Center at 785-623-6200 or 1-800-248-0073 for further information.

FUMC Financial Snapshot

	January 31, 2023	Year to Date
Checking Account*	\$78,692	
Operating Gifts	\$38,877	\$38,877
Operating Expenses	\$49,741	\$49,741

Parsonage Mortgage Balance \$130,234

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

Micah 6:8 launches Fill The Ark campaign—Heifer Project International

The Heifer project is an organization that helps combat poverty and food insecurity. Their impact is world wide through the giving of animals to help impoverished families and communities sustain themselves. The goal to Fill the Ark is \$5,000. In this challenge a family devotional with a focus on gratitude for our blessings and a generous spirit of giving to our neighbors in need is provided.

Fill the Ark containers are available in the parlor with a copy of the devotional guide. The guide will also be available through the church's website. This is an excellent way for families to experience Lent together, as well as help others in the process.

An ingathering of containers will be on Palm Sunday with the total contribution revealed on Easter Sunday. Containers will be available for pick up following Ash Wednesday and on Sunday. One container per family. Each child may take one container.

Celebrating Ash Wednesday

Lent carries the reminder of our shared humanity and the promise of a new life.

“Happy Ash Wednesday!” Sounds like an unlikely greeting. What’s so happy about this reminder of our own mortality, not to mention a reminder of the struggles Jesus went through, culminating in the Crucifixion?

On Ash Wednesday in the morning, I will glimpse someone at the office or walking past me on the sidewalk with a smudge on their forehead. Before I remember what day it is, I’m ready to offer some Kleenex. “Here, if you want to wipe that off.”

No, in fact, it’s not meant to be wiped off. Those ashes, whether you’ve gone to church that morning or not, are a reminder of our shared humanity. In a way, they’re always there. As the old hymn goes, “Change and decay in all around I see...” Not a particularly happy line.

But then the verse concludes with, “Oh, thou, who changest not, abide with me.”

In the worship service the ashes are administered with the sacred words, “Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return.” The mark of the cross. A holy sign if there ever was one. It might make us not want to use the phrase “Happy Ash Wednesday!” But remembering what this season is about might help us.

Ash Wednesday and Lent

Lent has begun. For 40 days, [plus Sundays](#), we honor that period that Jesus spent in the wilderness, facing one temptation after another. It was all part of what the Lord needed to do before beginning His ministry. Growing in strength and resilience.

For those of us in more recent times who have had to endure the various constrictions, closures and fears of the pandemic, we, too, have often had to ask ourselves: What’s most important in our lives? What do we treasure? What is our calling? How can we make sure we don’t feel abandoned?

[In Lent we often practice fasting ourselves](#), just as the Lord did for those 40 days. I’ve tried [giving up different things for Lent](#), but you know what was the best? [Giving up my cell phone](#). Could giving it up make my Lent season better and give myself an actually happy Ash Wednesday?

No, no, I didn’t give it up altogether for Lent, but I gave myself breaks from it and its insistent calls on my life with texts and emails and news screaming out for me to pay attention.

Lent serves as a reminder that one of the greatest trials Jesus faced in those 40 days was being in the wilderness, away from His friends and family. Going for a couple hours without the phone is a sort of modern wilderness experience. A chance to honor the precious gift and calling of silence.

Why It’s OK To Say “Happy Ash Wednesday”

Remember, without the Crucifixion there wouldn’t be the Resurrection. Without the sad fact and reality of death, we wouldn’t have the joyous message of eternal life with God.

Ashes to ashes, dust to dust, whether you wear a cross of ashes on your forehead or not, we all wear the mark of our Saviour’s death. And carry the promise of new life. Happy Ash Wednesday.

A Happy Ash Wednesday reflection: Don’t forget the good news that will come at the end of this Lenten season. It’s not all just trials. Soon enough we’ll be saying, “The Lord is risen, the Lord is risen indeed.” Whatever our suffering now, we, too, can celebrate that promise.

Rick Hamlin



Endowment Moment

This month’s Endowment Moment will highlight the good works of the Altar Foundation. The Altar Foundation started with a charter member drive in 2008 commemorating 135 years of Methodism in Hays. In that inaugural year a \$135 contribution gained membership to the Altar Foundation. 2024 is the 151st year of Methodism in Hays, so the contribution amount is \$151. These contributions are endowed and earnings from them are used to support a variety of program initiatives as well as building needs.

Grant requests are reviewed and approved by the Permanent Endowment Committee. Over the past 10 years Altar Foundation funds have been used to make improvements to church buildings including: Computer, Software, Sound System and Worship area upgrades as well as funding for the church air conditioner and Filmore Street parsonage. Altar Foundation funds have been used to support mission and community outreach including the 300 acts of kindness event to celebrate 150 years of Methodism in Hays, along with support of food pantries, First Call for Help First Step Housing and others. Altar Foundation funding has also supported scholarships to graduating seniors involved in the church and many other items not mentioned.

If you have not supported the Altar Foundation in the past, consider doing so with your \$151 contribution and help celebrate Methodism in Hays. If you regularly support the Altar Foundation, thanks for your continued support. It allows great things to happen.

Greg Daughetee, Chairman

Endowment Committee

*Hays/Dodge City District LSM Committee Fall Class
To be held at Camp Lakeside – April 19-20, 2024*

When: Friday, April 19 – class begins at 6pm
Saturday, April 20 – Class ends at approx. 4pm
Cost -\$80 for food and lodging.

Class will be taught by Rev. Jim Akins
The class is on **Ministry with the Forgotten: Dementia through a Spiritual Lens** written by Kenneth L. Carder and is available through Cokesbury as well as an Amazon Kindle edition.
All our churches may contain individuals with dementia/Alzheimer’s.
Both lay and clergy are invited to join for the weekend. It will be of immense value to all those seeking to do ministry in this day and age.

For more information, please contact Nancy LePell at nelp@st-tel.net
or call during office hours at 785-462-7428

or
Mary Meckenstock-Gribben 785-623-1473

Registration Form:
Name _____
Address _____
Telephone _____
e-mail address _____
Church affiliation _____ Hays First UMC _____

Please e-mail to Nancy LePell at nelp@st-tel.net
Or Mail to PO Box 21, Colby, KS 67701

February OUTREACH

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UPCOMING EVENTS

Monday, February 26	Red Cross Blood Drive
Thursday, February 29	Women's Ministry Potluck, DR, 5:30
Monday, March 4	Women's Ministry lunch, Professors, 11:30
Wednesday, March 6	Women in Faith Executive Board
Tuesday, March 19	Women's Ministry coffee, Breathe, 10:00
Saturday, March 23	Women's Conference