



OUTREACH



Volume 36 Issue 1

First United Methodist Church

January 25, 2024

Seasons of the Church Year

Nature has its seasons. We live in an area where we often get to experience the full impact of each one. I would say this year winter is not disappointing. It has been a few years since I have seen this much snow piled all around us. The arctic temperatures are like the cherry on top of the snow sundae.

The church year has its own seasons. They start with Advent, move us through Christmas, on through Epiphany, and then land us smack dab at the door of Lent. Lent is a forty-day season, not counting Sundays because they are classified as “little Easters.” Lent concludes with the big Easter celebration where shouts of “Alleluia!” and “He is Risen!” fill our worship.

Depths of Love

The Season of Lent is a time of self-reflection, of spiritual examination. While that is a healthy and necessary exercise, we don't examine ourselves in isolation. Instead, we are invited to lay our lives alongside the life of Jesus. It is a sobering exercise to say the least. And yet, what we discover in this examination of his life and ours, is not condemnation or recrimination. Instead, we are overwhelmed, the farther we go on this journey with him, by the depths of love he has for all of us. Lent is a time for getting our spiritual house in order, that is true. But above all, it is an invitation to once again commit to love like Christ loves.

Ash Wednesday

Ash Wednesday begins our Lenten season. This year it falls on Valentines Day, February 14. What a great day to be able to celebrate and remember our love for each other and the depth of love God has for each of us. There will be a gathering time from 6:00-6:15 p.m. in the sanctuary. The service will begin at 6:15.

Core Scriptures for Each Sunday of Lent

February 18 – Mark 1:9-15

February 25 – Mark 8:31-38 / Mark 9:2-9

March 3 – John 2:13-22

March 10 – John 3:14-21

March 17 – John 12:20-33

March 24 – Palm/Passion Sunday – Mark 11:1-11 / Mark 14:1-15:47

Pastor Craig

Outreach articles are due the **third** Sunday of each month. Please email your OUTREACH item to wendy@haysfumc.com before **Sunday, February 18, 2024**. Items may also be placed in the office, labeled **for the Outreach** by **February 18**. The next Outreach should be received on February 21.

Thanks

Thanks to the volunteers in the audio/video department for all the time spent so we can hear and see the weekly services:

Chuck Ames, Tony Anthony, Mark Kellerman, Ethan Klausmeyer, Christopher Quint, Marsha Swanson, Nichole Younger and Matt Dumler.

Thank you to Meredith Cory for solo vocals and scheduling the special music events for our services. It is a wonderful part of our worship experience.

Appreciation to Hannah Barrett and Mary Jo Rooney and all the members of the Spirit Ringers. Your music is a welcome addition to our Sunday service.

Alexandra Rome, Sharon Graham and the members of the Chancel Choir bring us joy and inspiring music in every service they participate in.
Mike Cooper

Thanks also to Mike Cooper for his leadership of the Audio/Video team.
Church Staff

Sympathy

Our sincere sympathy is extended to the family & friends of

Vicki & Armin Kelly on the death of their daughter-in-law, Penny, on December 12.

Lela Eller on the death of her husband, Gary, on December 21. Condolences to Jeff & Marla Copper, Michael & Charlotte Copper, Molly & John McMurtrie, Maggie & Cameron Moeder & families.

Sarah & Troy Miller, on the death of Sarah's father, Dean Keil, on January 15.

A very big thank you to everyone who donated hats, scarves, gloves, mittens, and a coat to the mitten trees. We took 4 large (30 gallon) bags to USD 489 for distribution the first week of December. They were so pleased to receive the donations and asked us to share how thankful they were for your generosity. Thank you for sharing your Christmas spirit with families and students who just need a little help.
Gail & Rick Kuehl

Thank you for all your cards, messages, calls and visits during Wayne's last days and after his passing. He was a member of FUMC for 59 years and enjoyed attending and serving in many ways. We appreciate all the support our church family has given our family over the years. God's blessings to you all.
The Wayne Stewart family

If you or a family member are in the hospital, please call the church office if you would like to be on the prayer list or to let the pastor know at 625-3408.

Circle News

Naomi Circle met on December 13th at Ellis Estates with sixteen members present. Sheryl Blair and Glenna Clingingsmith served as hostesses.

The focus of the business meeting zeroed in on how best to share the love offerings. Food pantries in USD 489 and the Salina Homeless Shelter will be the recipients. Our next meeting will be held at the church on January 10th at 9:15.

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.



The Bible Year, A Journey Through Scripture in 365 Days by Magrey Devega may be returned to the church office if you no longer have a need for this book. Please feel free to keep it if you so desire. We are looking to gift the resource to another church.

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

Kindness is like snow. It beautifies everything it covers.



Our thanks to building supervisor Alan Nelson for the extra nice entry path to the East entry door to the church.

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



Thanks to all who have served on various committees this past year. Thanks to these individuals who have served and are retiring from a particular committee: Darren Stieben, Russ Henningsen, Jennifer Kitson, Shauna Zweifel, Molly McMurtrie, Dave Hendrickson, Kevin Swayne, LaVaughn Hull, Jessica Luck, Caylan Harris, Stacey Jones, Eric Leuschner, Kathy Albers, and Andrea Clinkscales.

Please call the church office if your name was left off this list.

All women of the church are invited to the Women's Ministry Fellowship Options

Monday, January 29, 6:30 p.m., church dining room	Bunco Night
Thursday, February 8th, 10 a.m., Breathe Coffee	Meet for coffee
Monday, February 19, 11:30 a.m. Professors	Meet for lunch
Thursday, February 29, 5:30 p.m. church dining room	Potluck



Menus for February

January 31

Chicken strips
French fries
Vegetables
Salad bar
Dessert

February 7

Hamburgers
Potato Salad
Baked beans
Chips
Dessert

February 14

No WOW—Happy Valentines Day



February 21

Spaghetti & meatballs
Salad
Breadsticks
Dessert

February 26

Chicken fried steak
Mashed potatoes with white gravy
Salad
Corn
Rolls
Dessert

As we pray, dream, and strategize into this next coming year, we are inviting you to partner with us in our At The Well Fundraising Campaign! We are raising \$50,000 for all our operating costs for 2024—including an outreach center, continued outreach endeavors, team empowerment and much more. Please consider joining our incredible team of supporters all around the world with either a one-time donation or monthly support.



Keep an eye on our Facebook and Instagram pages for more updates and details about the amazing things happening in Manzini and how your support moves our vision forward. I can't even begin to describe how excited I am for this campaign and to communicate deeper parts of our vision and journey with you all. Please don't hesitate to reach out if you have any questions throughout the campaign. I always love hearing from you!

To donate mail your check to The Cause, Inc., 4225 Oceanside Blvd, suite H-325, Oceanside, CA 92056.
Diving in, Rachel

FUMC Financial Snapshot

	December 31, 2023	Year to Date
Checking Account*	\$90,343	
Operating Gifts	\$98,411	\$627,622
Operating Expenses	\$48,634	\$583,166

Parsonage Mortgage Balance \$131,549

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

Year-End Member Contribution Statements for January-December 2023 will be sent out towards the end of January 2024. Please take a moment to review your statement carefully. You may contact the Church Office at 625-3408 and ask for Liz, if you have a question or concern about your statement. Thank you for your generous contributions.



Dillons Community Rewards Program

Dillons supports local charitable organizations through their Community Rewards Program by giving the opportunity to use Dillons shopping card rewards and direct them to the organization you choose. When you use your Dillons Card, any transactions will be directed towards the organization you select. If you select First United Methodist Church in Hays, it receives a quarterly donation check from Dillons/Kroger based on a percentage of spending. Currently, the amount the Church receives is approximately \$500 per quarter.

If you are interested in participating and want to direct your rewards to go to the Church, you need to have a Dillons online account. If you do not have an online account, you can easily set one up using your email address and your Dillons shopping card at the Dillons website. The steps to link your rewards to the Church are as follows:

1. Go to <https://www.dillons.com>
2. Sign into your account or create a Dillons Account.
3. Search for Community Rewards.
4. Use the Search Box to find "First United Methodist Church" in Hays, KS. Click on the "Enroll" button.
5. Any transactions that you make going forward will be applied to the organization you select.

Thank you for choosing to give to the Hays First United Methodist Church using this program.

Thank you for your generous giving toward the Ellis County Ministerial Alliance and the Second Mile Fund. We know that this has been a difficult year for many, which makes your giving even more special.

Because of your generous donations, 52 households (115 individuals) received assistance to remain in their homes and keep the lights on. Also, 87 individuals who were in transit and struggling with homelessness received assistance. The ECMA was able to give a total of \$33,800 in assistance to those in need. If you gave toward the Thanksgiving Fund, you also assisted us in blessing our community with 389 warm meals for the holiday.

We thank you and pray God's blessing in your lives in this new year.

Ramona Weigel, ECMA Treasurer.



No winter lasts forever, no spring skips its turn. Hal Borland

New Year Affirmations—Rebecca Barlow Jordan

“See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it?” Isaiah 43:19 (NIV)

Each time a new year rolls around, I still feel the nudge somewhere in my spirit to make my “lists.” I don’t call them “New Year’s resolutions” anymore. I’ve broken too many. Still, I can’t help evaluating the previous year to see if there are some things I could do better or some attitudes I could change. Like most, I long for my life to emanate Christ’s character more and more.

One day I was reading in Psalms and noticed that the Psalmist writer, David, wanted those same things. But his “list” did not smack of self-motivated resolutions, but of affirming commitments. David’s shepherd heart knew the power of trusting in God through all kinds of difficulties. Even in the midst of danger, he determined to choose the right action and attitude.

Now as I stand on the threshold of each year and face new choices, I try to adopt some of those same affirmations David wrote about here in Psalms: How will I choose to handle adversity? “I will bless the Lord at all times” (Psalm 34:1 NASB). What will I think about? “I will meditate on your wonders” (Psalm 119:27, NASB). How can I make God known? “I will tell of your greatness” (Psalm 145:6, NASB).

Working on those commitments—and so many others—requires more than an “I will” on my part. It means trusting that on the other side of “I will” is Jesus’ promise of, “I can.”

Jesus wants to do a new thing through us, not just at the beginning of each year, but at the start of each day.

Faith step: Scan through the Psalms and make a list of attitudes and actions that begin with “I will.” Then decide which commitments you will choose to make this year. For encouragement, memorize Philippians 4:13.

*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

January OUTREACH

*First United Methodist Church
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www.HaysFUMC.com

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UPCOMING EVENTS

January 29, 6:30	Women's Fellowship—Bunco, Dining Room
February 7, 10:00	United Women in Faith executive board
February 8, 10:00	Women's Fellowship –Breathe Coffee
February 14, 6:00	No WOW—Ash Wednesday service
February 19, 11:30	Women's Fellowship Lunch—Professors
February 29, 5:30	Women's Fellowship Pot Luck, DR
Saturday, March 23	Women's Conference