



Volume 32, Issue 7

First United Methodist Church

July 22, 2020

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Greetings in the Name of the Holy Word of God!

It's been quite a year, hasn't it? Confined first by 'sheltering in place' and then confined in a mask, it's not what I would have prescribed for this year of '20/20 Vision'! I confess that I watch too much cable TV news and put too much energy in social media, although, as a pastor, it is important for me to see what is going on in the community and world beyond, so that I can offer a bit of hope, and hopefully a bit of wisdom in these troubled times.

Hope and wisdom. Where might a simple guy like me get an understanding of hope and wisdom to share with a community and world beyond? The answer for me is not generally found in the pontification of self proclaimed prophets on cable TV news or on the internet. I have found that I can find hope and wisdom by prayerfully reading the Word of God, the Holy Bible.

Make no doubt about it, these are troubled times, but there were 'troubled times' throughout the history of God's people. I look back a thousand years ago at King David, who went through his own 'troubled times'. He was a flawed leader in some respects, but in one respect, he was flawless, for he had a firm and abiding faith in and heart for God; an everyday faith and love of God that saw him through the best of times and his most difficult days. In Psalm 19:7-10, he writes, "The law of the Lord is perfect, reviving the soul; the decrees of the Lord are sure, making wise the simple; the precepts of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart; the commandment of the Lord is clear, enlightening the eyes; the fear of the Lord is pure, enduring forever; the ordinances of the Lord are true and righteous altogether. More to be desired are they than gold, even much fine gold; sweeter also than honey, and drippings of the honeycomb."

Of course, the law and decrees to which he refers, are the torah, the first five books of what we call the Old Testament. Other prophetic and holy writings, including writings about his own life, would come later. But troubled times would continue to plague God's people, and a pandemic of apostasy would proliferate the palace and priests of God's people. Prophets would be raised by God and then stoned by God's people. Finally, God sent God's own Son, as the embodiment of the 'Word of God'. No longer would there simply be the written word of God, for "The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors... But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people." (Jeremiah 31:31-33)

Please email your OUTREACH item to haysumc@hotmail.com before Sunday, August 16, 2020

Please place the name "Outreach" in the subject line...or place your item, clearly labeled **for the Outreach**, in the office by **Sunday, August 16, 2020**. The next Outreach should be received by **August 20th**.

(Continued on p. 4)

Thank You

A huge thank you to Phil Stahlman, Steve Wood and Armin & Vicki Kelly for stripping, sanding and repainting four outside doors and repainting the trim work. What a beautiful difference you have made to the church entrances

A sincere thank you to Linda and Phil Stahlman for delivering Meals on wheels in June. The next time we are to do this service is September 28. If you would like to help, please call the church office (625-3408).

If you or a family member are in the hospital, please call the church office (625-3408) if you would like to be on the Prayer Concern's list or desire a phone visit.

If your contact information has changed, please notify the church office, 625-3408. To receive text messages, a cell phone number and your cell phone provider are needed.

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: Sarah Wyse
Pianist: Sarah Wyse
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: Joe Edwards

Sympathy

Our sincere sympathy is extended to the family & friends of

Sharon & John Irvin on the death of Sharon's brother, **Joel Robinson**, on July 4th.

Bob Lund, Janell & Matt Shorman on the death of **Elmo Lund**, father and grandfather, on July 16th.

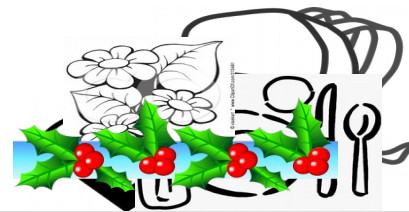
Congratulations

to Johnny Matlock on receiving the 2020 Kansas Choral Directors Association Harry Robert Wilson Award. Johnny was selected for his many years of excellence in the classroom, on the podium, and in the church sanctuary as well as his service to the choral community.

to Isys Bearley & Dylan Schmitt who were married June 27.

Ken & Dottie Kraus love to hear from you and would appreciate your thoughts and prayers:

Ken & Dottie Kraus
17475 Frances Street
Apt. 232
Omaha, NE 68130



Children's Ministry Crazy Crayon Mission Project

Do you have any broken or unwanted crayons? Well our children need them to complete a MISSION! Their goal is to collect 100 pounds of crayons to recycle! Once crayons are sent off to the recycling company, new recycled crayons will be purchased for kids in our community! We are also collecting new color books to go with the crayons. Drop off location



gain control of their own livelihoods and make strides together in organic agriculture and quality control.

With the added income from Fair Trade, farmers invest in education and social services for their communities.

The UMCOR Coffee Project is a partnership between the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) and Equal Exchange, a worker-owned co-operative offering 100% fairly traded coffee, chocolate, tea and foods. UMCOR is the humanitarian relief and development agency of the United Methodist Church.

Fair Trade coffees are available in the church office.



As you read this, we are fired up and ready for our Slimed at FUMC 2020 event taking place July 27-31! This action-packed week will have skits, games, crafts and of course SLIME! I have skits, games, crafts and of course SLIME! I because we are in the final stages of preparation for a fun, safe family event on Thursday, 6:30-7:30 pm, ALL outside on the West Lawn. We will be learning with him, even though he was slimed...often. On Friday night, July 31, we will have a "drive-in" movie night. Bring your blankets, lawn chairs, snacks and we will culminate our slimy week.

KIDS CORNER

Special Kid Mission: We have 48# of used crayons already donated – yay! At FUMC, Melissa and I decided that IF we can reach our 100# goal prior to getting slimed.....I guess....

Because our country is currently working out of a pandemic crisis, it certainly We'd love to have you join us to hear how God has been with us this week and give us all something to look forward to and infuse a little hope!

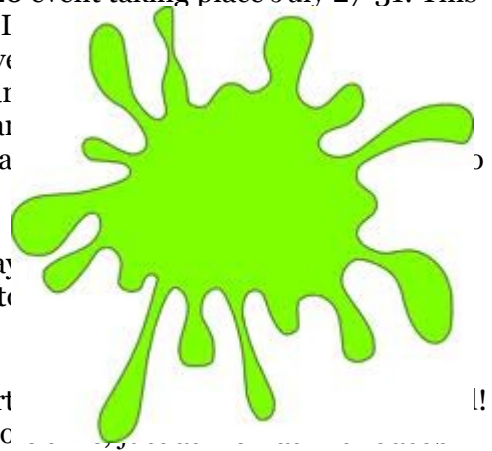
All three Sunday worship services are going strong. Our attendance is creeping up and we hope that as we recover, more and more will attend one of our in-person services at 8:30 or 10:45 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. We are practicing social distancing at all services. Masks are encouraged for any conversing or discussion closer than 6', but not required for attendance.

Beginning July 19, we will have a Nursery available for our youngest attendees at The Gathering service, 5:00 p.m. Sunday afternoons. The tentative plan is to have school aged children in the Dining Area (close but separate) watching a short video while the adults and youth have Bible study and discussion during the last 20-30 minutes of the service. Social distance seating and sanitization will be followed. The Nursery will be available for morning services August 2.

Stay tuned for how Sunday School will look as we get closer to August. We are currently waiting for the state's decision about public schools before we plan for Sunday mornings and for WOW. The Education team will be meeting to map out a plan and will communicate this plan as soon as we can.

We know that things will be different this fall at school, WOW, sports, church and others...but we can stand firm in our faith and look to The One who is never changing. The One who is here today, tomorrow and yesterday. We are all God's Masterpiece, slime and all. He is bigger than all of our slime and if we step out in faith, not fear, we allow Him the opportunity to make a masterpiece out of our slimy mess!

With Hope..... Melissa Pyle (pyle_melissa@hotmail.com) & Jo Swayne (jswayne33@gmail.com).



w's trouble. It takes away today's peace.



(continued from p. 1)

So how do we mere mortals read the Bible, the Holy Word of God? I could go into a lot of technical theological telemetries, but really, reading the Bible isn't all that difficult. After all, 'the law of the Lord is perfect, reviving the soul' and "the precepts of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart'.

So here is my suggestion regarding how to read the Bible: turn off the TV and log off the computer and then go to a quiet place and simply ask God to write on your heart as you read his Word. (You might begin by opening the Bible to Psalm 1 and read the first three verses, "Happy are those who do not follow the advice of the wicked, or take the path that sinners tread, or sit in the seat of scoffers; but their delight is in the law of the Lord, and on his law they meditate day and night. They are like trees planted by streams of water, which yield their fruit in its season, and their leaves do not wither. In all that they do, they prosper.")

Then pray this prayer: "Lord, thank you for your Holy Message that you're writing on my heart. Now, what do you want to do through me?" and quietly wait for God's response. It may come immediately or later. It may come in the form of a thought or of a person who needs God's help or an opportunity to share God's love. But it will come... and I suspect if you have the courage to act on it in a Godly way, you will... "be more desired than gold, even much fine gold; sweeter also than honey, and drippings of the honeycomb." I pray you will do so as you 'shelter in God' and that the mask that you wear might give life and light; and finally, that the hope and wisdom of which I have written, might draw you even closer to God.

Grace and Peace,

Pastor Mike Rose

2020 Annual Conference Report

Great Plains Conference
Lay Delegate Armin Kelly

Even though we had a very brief session for annual conference, we did make decisions on essential items so that needed actions could be moved forward:

- + We approved the nominations report
- + We voted to maintain the current levels of minimum compensation for all clergy categories
- + We approved the past service rate for retiree pension payment, a change to the Incapacity grants, and the housing resolution—all were approved by the Conference Board of Pensions and Health Benefits
- + We approved closure of 14 churches
- + We approved the sale of Camp Comeca as a Christian camp to a non-profit non-denominational group
- + We approved the disaffiliation of 6 churches

There were some challenges associated with the tele-conference, but that is normal for the first time you try something different. While less than ideal, meeting together in a phone call meant that we didn't risk exposing one another to the Coronavirus.

"Life doesn't require that we be the best, only that we try our best."

H. Jackson Brown, Jr.

Dear friends and family,

I'm so excited to update you all on what God has been doing here in Ba

As I shared in my previous newsletter, our outreach team began distributing food and hygiene packages in the Nana red light area since the bars closed mid-March. What began as a few packages distributed over 3 times per week grew to over 500 meals distributed 5 times per week. By the end of May, our team, with the help of generous donors, distributed approximately 3,054 meals in the red light area.



Even with very few new reported COVID cases, Thailand's borders are still closed, which means no new tourists and no customers for the women on the streets. The bars and strip clubs are set to reopen in the final phase of reopening, most likely in July. This week, we reopened our salon services, practicing social distancing for our staff and clients. We are strategizing and adjusting to this "new normal" as the government announces new regulations every two weeks.

As for me, while 2020 has not gone as planned, there are still exciting things on the horizon. I am on track to finish my master's program in crisis and trauma counseling in early July. This has been an amazing opportunity to continue my education and gain training applicable to my role at NightLight.

As of this month, I am so excited to announce I am partnering with The Cause to help organize and channel funds for my salary. My salary is still completely dependent on your donations, so thank you all so much for your contribution over the years. From now on, online donations can be made through my partner profile on The Cause website. Checks can be made out to "The Cause, Inc." with "NightLight" written in the memo, and mailed to:

The Cause, Inc.
P.O. Box 130836
Carlsbad, CA 92013

Thank you all for your prayers and encouragement in this season. Please let me know if you have any questions. God bless, Rachel

Words of comfort during the pandemic.....

~~**Psalm 16:8** I know the Lord is always with me. I will not be shaken, for he is right beside me.~~

2 Timothy 1:7-For God does not give us a spirit of fear but of power, love, and a sound mind.

Deuteronomy 31:18-The Lord himself goes before you and will be with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged.

Psalm 62:8-Trust in Him at all times, you people; pour out your hearts before Him. God is our refuge.

Philippians 4:6-7-Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition,

with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Psalm 46:10-God is our refuge and our strength, an ever present help in trouble.

Romans 15: 13-May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

July OUTREACH

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Hays, Kansas 67601*

(785) 625-3408
haysumc@hotmail.com
www.kaysradio.com
www.HaysFirstUnitedMethodistChurch.com

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Return Service Requested

Upcoming Events

Events subject to change

July 27-30, 6:30-7:30
August 2
August 4
August 16
August 19

Slimed Event
First Sunday School
Loving Hands/Loving Hearts
New Beginnings Sunday
WOW

