



OUTREACH



Volume 36 Issue 7

First United Methodist Church

July 25, 2024

Hello, Hays First UMC

This is Rev. Dr. Susan Murithi, your new pastor. Feel free to call me Pastor Susan in daily conversations. I was born and brought up in a country called Kenya, in the Eastern part of Africa. I grew up on a farm and in a Christian family, hence started going to church as a child. My dad is deceased, but my mom is alive and a certified lay speaker in the church. She is a lifelong Methodist. My parents named me Susan after Susanna Wesley, who was the mother of Methodism's founder John Wesley. This shaped me as I grew to love Methodism and Susanna's stand on faith matters.

The church I attended was always exciting. We especially enjoyed music, to which we sang and danced during praise and worship. We also acted in plays in church once in a while about Bible stories and characters. I come from an oral culture; thus, the gospel is transmitted through songs, dance, drama, stories, proverbs, and riddles. My call to ministry came after graduating from high school. I wasn't very eager at the time, but God, in His patient love, kept pursuing me until I gave in to his grand plan. This is my twenty first year in ministry. In this period, I have worked with rural, urban, smaller and bigger churches in Kenya. In my first appointment, I served six churches. I was young and enthusiastic, but six churches was a lot for one pastor. I really was more of a circuit rider, like the great American Methodist preacher Francis Asbury. Therefore the input of lay ministry was vital. My next appointment was with a colleague. We both served a parish of nine churches. Later on, I was appointed as the senior pastor of a bigger church in the suburbs of our city where attendance on Sunday was 350-400 members. After this appointment I moved to Kenya Methodist University, where I worked in the Religion department training pastors and missionaries. It was from this school that I relocated to the US for further education in Kentucky. While finishing up my doctoral studies, I was appointed to Mentor/Gypsum charge in Salina District. I then moved to St. Paul church in St. Paul Nebraska. This was my appointment until June this year.

I trained for ministry at the Kenya Methodist University where I graduated with a Bachelor of theology. A few years later I joined Drew University in New Jersey and graduated with my Master of Theological Studies. In 2012, I joined Asbury Seminary in Kentucky for my PhD in Intercultural Studies, which I graduated from in May 2019 while serving at Mentor/Gypsum churches.

I am married to Geoffrey Murithi Iringo, he prefers to be called Pastor Jeff. I met Jeff in church. We both love ministry. Jeff will be serving WaKeeney and Prairie Home churches. He is also a trained counselor. He is pursuing his PhD in Counselor Education at Kansas State University in Manhattan, KS. We are blessed with two beautiful children, Faith and Neema. They are a gift from God. Faith attends University of Nebraska-Lincoln, while Neema is going into 10th grade at Hays High. The two girls love serving God especially in the tech area.

In this appointment, I look forward to working with this community as we serve God through reaching out to our neighbors and others in need. I hope that we actively seek to be kingdom people with Jesus at the center of our lives. I envision a community that is passionate about making disciples for Jesus Christ, and that lives according to God's kingdom ethos. I visualize this church being faithful to what God calls us to be, keen to explore an adventure in Christ, and joyfully partnering with God in his agenda of redeeming the world. My family and I are so glad to be part of this community. Thank you for welcoming us. We are excited to see what God has in store for all of us as the Hays community. I hope to meet you all and to know your stories. You may contact me at my church email susan@haysfumc.com. God's blessings.

Pastor Susan

Outreach articles are due the **third** Sunday of each month. Please email your **OUTREACH** item to wendy@haysfumc.com before **Sunday, August 18, 2024**. Items may also be placed in the office, labeled **for the Outreach** by **August 18**. The next Outreach should be received on August 22.

Thanks

Thanks to Melissa Pyle for her six years of dedicated service to the children’s ministry of the church.

Thanks to all who volunteered or donated items to make VBS such a success!

Nichole Younger who is one of our volunteer audio techs, is taking an extended leave of absence. This has opened an opportunity for an addition to our audio or video team. If you have ever thought it might be a way to serve your church, consider volunteering with us. The time commitment is usually limited to Sunday mornings at 8:45 or 10:45 with occasional need for wedding or memorial services. Our current staff is happy to train and support you until you are comfortable with the work. You could explore your interest and decide if it is a good fit for you. Call the church office (625-3408) or Mike Cooper (628-8451) if interested or for further information.

INTRODUCING OUR STAFF

PROGRAM STAFF

Pastor: Pastor Susan Murithi
 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

Greg, Gwen & Camaron Daughetee on the death of Greg’s mother, Rita, on June 14.

Carole & George Probasco on the death of George’s mother, Philisene, on June 21.

Congratulations

to Steve & Marilyn Wood on their 60th wedding anniversary on June 19th.

to Violet Stieben on her baptism June 30th. Parents are Abbey and Charlie.

Youth Activities

Tuesdays—Youth Bible Study

Service Project- July 29

Putt Putt-July 25

Duck Derby-August 7

Camp Firelight
 August 10, 9 a.m. to 7 p.m.
 Register by August 1

The position is open for those individuals moved to work with our children’s ministry. Please contact Matt Dumler at 785-625-3408 or matt@haysfumc.com for questions regarding the position or to apply.

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

God has been opening doors of opportunity for us to connect with new communities in Manzini. As we’ve continued to connect with the sex work community, we’ve also started to become acquainted with the small homeless community of our city.

Fufu, one of our outreach team leaders, approached me several weeks ago with a strategy of connecting with the homeless through meals.

Our team prepared a meal of beans, rice and coleslaw. After the meal was prepared we divided it up into to-go boxes to be handed out. We were able to deliver the meals to 35 homeless adults and street kids.

While handing out meals, a woman from the sex work community decided to help distribute meals to the homeless. She was so excited to serve along side our team and to help those in her surrounding community. In previous conversations she mentioned, “The girls in my situation might have it bad, but at least we have a place to go back to. These people do not have a place to go back to.” We are hoping to continue this homeless outreach once a month moving forward.

Thembelisha New Hope Church in Manzini, is a local church that hosts monthly prayer nights. Deep Water was invited to share about our ministry at this month’s prayer meeting. The theme of the night was “Go and Make Disciples”. What an appropriate theme for us to share.

For those donating financially from the U.S., your donation is tax deductible. Checks can also be made out to “The Cause, Inc.” with Deep Water in the memo and mailed to:

The Cause, Inc.
 4225 Oceanside Blvd.
 Suite H-325
 Oceanside, CA 92056

Diving in, Rachel

It Takes A Village

Matt Dumler

One of the parts of the baptismal liturgy that always stands out to me is when the pastor holds the child up and presents them to the congregation and tells the child that this is their family. It's not the family that they've been born into but the family that they're blessed to have. It's the family that will help mentor them and guide them on their faith journey. It's that family that they'll look to in times of trouble and in times of joy. We often mistake the building for the church but in reality it's this family that is the church.

It's this family that we as a church need now. We are looking to revamp our children's ministry on Wednesdays. In the past we have offered programming in the evening. However, after evaluating it, we believe we can do better. We believe we have found a way that we can possibly reach more kids. However, in order to do this we need our family, our village. It's always been said that it takes a village to raise a child and in our endeavor that's what it's going to take.

A few examples of things we need, drivers, monitors, and teachers. We need drivers to help pick up kids from the schools and get them to the church. This job would entail a time commitment from about 3:15 to 3:45 at the latest. We need people to sit at tables and have a conversation with kids about their day and listen to them as they talk about their art projects, their games at recess, or the conversations they had with their friends. This job would begin around 3:30 and end around 4:00. The last thing we need are a few teachers. We need individuals who have been blessed with the ability to connect with kids who want to teach them about Jesus. Just think of the impact someone could have on telling a kid, who has never heard about Jesus, about the love and grace of Jesus. This job would be over at 5:00.

None of the tasks that we need help with are all that time consuming. If we all join together and take on a little bit, just think of the great things we can accomplish. If you're willing to help us out with any of these, please reach out to Matt. You can contact him at matt@haysfumc.com or at the church at 785-625-3408.

Summer Giving Campaign

The Adopt-a-Year Summer Giving Campaign (Extra Mile Offering) has begun. This special offering is for the General Operating Fund during a time when the offering revenue is often less during the summer months. You may choose to adopt a year (or more than one year) in the life of the Church from 1-151 and give that amount. Just pull the yellow sticky note for the year that you choose from the Display in the Parlor.

Please be sure to designate your offering as "Summer Giving" in the Memo Line of your check or on the envelope. There are some envelopes available near the Display. Gifts can go in the Offering Plate during Sunday Service, or you may take them to the Church Office anytime during office hours.

Thank you so very much for supporting the Church operating expenses and have a Blessed and Happy Summer!

Finance Team

FUMC Financial Snapshot

	June 30, 2024	Year to Date
Checking Account*	\$48,655	
Operating Gifts	\$52,965	\$278,059
Operating Expenses	\$46,601	\$321,108

Parsonage Mortgage Balance \$98,646

Organ Fund \$5,706

Summer Giving Campaign \$3,481

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

July OUTREACH

*First United Methodist Church
305 West 7th
Hays, Kansas 67601*

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

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UPCOMING EVENTS

Thursday, July 25

Women's Ministry, Firepit

Tuesday, July 30

Practice for Duck Derby

Friday, August 2

Women's Ministry, 11:30 Paisley Pear

Tuesday, August 6

Loving Hands, Loving Hearts

Wednesday, August 7

Duck Derby

Saturday, August 10

Camp Firelight

Thursday, August 15

Women's Ministry, Community Project

Sunday, August 18

Family event, Potluck following church