



OUTREACH



Volume 32, Issue 11

First United Methodist Church

November 18, 2020

Greetings in the Name of Christ!

What a grand and glorious time it is! Thanksgiving Day is almost upon us and I am reminded of those words the Apostle Paul penned long ago to the early Christian Church he helped to found in Thessalonica, writing, *Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. (Thessalonians 5:16-18)*. The church in Thessalonica and its people, who were mostly Gentile, were being challenged to return back to their old ways and gods. There were persecutions and persuasions, both overt and covert, and it was causing fear and challenging their faith as they lived their lives in an ever changing world. The Apostle Paul would encourage them reminding them they were now ‘*children of the light*’, (Thess. 5:5) saying, “*But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, and put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet, the hope of salvation*” (Thess. 5:8-9) This was metaphorical spiritual armor that could protect the Church from the slings and arrows from the culture.

There were many changes and challenges facing the Church and culture then, and there are many changes and challenges facing the Church and culture today. But it’s not the first time the Church and culture have been challenged. Consider the Church in the 1600’s when the Pilgrims, in search of religious freedom, landed on Plymouth Rock in the New World, America. Hardships, illness, and death would follow, but through faith, they still realized they were ‘children of the light’ and I suspect, ‘put on the breastplate of faith and love, and the helmet of hope’. And in the midst of all of that, they rejoiced and prayed without ceasing, giving thanks in whatever circumstance came their way. God provided through their faithfulness and hard work...and the help of the Native peoples...and they prevailed. We are here today because of their faithfulness in living as children of light and God’s provision.

And yes, some twenty centuries after Paul penned his epistle to the Thessalonians and some four centuries after the Pilgrims landed on Plymouth Rock, we today, face change and challenge, hardship, illness, and even death. And yet, I have no doubt, that through it all, if we are wise and ‘put on the breastplate of faith and love, and the helmet of hope’, and that if we ‘rejoice without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances, recognizing that this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for us’, we too, with God’s provision, shall prevail.

Thanksgiving Day will soon be upon us, and for most of us, it will be different. We will not be gathering together in large extended family groups for food, fellowship and festivities. When we shop or go out into the community, we will do so in masks. We will call loved ones on the phone. We will ZOOM, or Skype, or Face Time, or connect in others ways this year. But one way of connecting will remain the same...and it is the most important way; we will pray prayers of thanksgiving to God who blesses us through all of the times and

seasons of our lives.

Please email your OUTREACH item to haysumc@hotmail.com before Sunday, December 13 2020

Please place the name “*Outreach*” in the subject line...or place your item, clearly labeled **for the Outreach**, in the office by **Sunday, December 13, 2020**. The next Outreach should be received by **Dec. 17**.
blessed Thanksgiving! Grace and Peace, Pastor Mike

Thanks

Dear FUMC members,
Thank you again for the use of your great facility. You folks are always so accommodating. Wonderful as always. Stay safe and healthy. We'll see you in January.

Lisa Cech
Girls Scouts

Good News-the Battery Bucket is Back!

While the county is no longer accepting alkaline batteries, the city will recycle them. So bring your used batteries and deposit them in the bucket at the back door. Thanks Joe Edwards and Mike Cooper.

Thank you for the food donation from the "Trunk or Treat" food drive. We appreciate all your support.

Theresa
Community Assistance Center

Thanks to Phil Stahlman for fixing the back entrance.



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:
Pianist: Luis Reyes
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

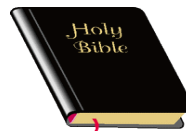
Sympathy

Our sincere sympathy is extended to the family & friends of

Leora & Connie Forssberg on the death of **Don**, on November 5th.

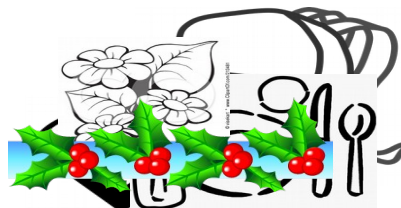
Congratulations

to Aaron & Tessa Van Der Wege on the birth of **Blakely Mae**, born on September 24. Blakely has a sister Maggie.



Gratitude can turn a negative into a positive. Find a way to be thankful for your troubles and they become your blessing.

Anonymous



Be thankful for what you have; you'll end up having more. If you concentrate on what you don't have, you will never, ever have enough. Oprah Winfrey

Carol Purdy will be ordering Rada Cutlery items the first week of December. If you are interested in ordering there is a catalog in the church office that you can look through. You will need to call the office and let them know you are coming so they can unlock the door. For more information call the church office, 625-3408 or Carol Purdy at 650-7000.

WOW is back

Come join our church family for **WOW!** in November 18. The church will be open at 5:00 for individuals and families who want to bring their own meal and fellowship together.

Programming will begin with worship at 6:15 and conclude at 7:15.

After worship, kids will meet in the gym, youth in the youth rooms and adults in the dining room. The theme for each week will be announced for the following week.

We want to thank everyone that brought food, sent cards, and helped with things at the house for the past 2 years while Don was sick. Thank you for all the phone calls which were so much appreciated and to all the doctors and nurses for their care. Thank you also to those who helped with his work at the church office when he wasn't able to do it. A special thank you to all the church staff for your care, concern, and providing a meal for the family the day of the service. We appreciate each & every one of you.

The Family of Don Forssberg



KIDS CORNER
 Trunk or Treat 'n Eat held on November 1, was a big success! We had about 12 trunks from our church members. The highlight of the evening was the approx 100 items that were donated to the Community Assistance Center! The winner of the trunk contest, was the Schumacher Family and their "Monster Mouth" trunk. Congra



WOW is back! Beginning on November 18 with Team Spirit WOW, there will be activities for children and adults. Here's the scoop. No meal will be served, but we are opening the dining room for people to grab dinner on the way and eat/socialize at the church. We'll meet in the gym for a moment of worship to set the theme for the evening at 6:15, then break into groups. Troy will take the adults to the Dining Room for a discussion of Spiritual Gifts, Personality and Passions. Matt will take the youth for a similar study and the children will stay in the gym for activities based on the theme of the day. No WOW on November 25 due to the holiday, but will return December 2.

Children's Christmas Pageant rehearsals are underway! Yep, I said Christmas. In three short weeks, we will be sharing our pageant for worship. Catherine Miller has once again written a creative spin on the Christmas Story that is relevant to today. We've taken some great measures to keep everyone safe through rehearsals and performances and have limited participation to twelve, 3rd-4th-5th graders this year. We hope everyone has a happy holiday to watch these talented kids show off their acting chops!

Let's start our Advent Sunday School options beginning November 29. With three worship services offered that morning at 8:30, 10:00 and 10:45, we are asking for grace as we navigate the best way to offer ministry to all who are in church on Sunday morning.

Happy to be doing in person ministry!! Melissa Pyle (pyle_melissa@hotmail.com) & Jo Swayne (jswayne33@gmail.com).

Our downstairs neighbor posted something on Facebook. "I seem to have all the symptoms, she wrote. A bit of a cough, a fever, loss of her sense of smell. "I called my doctor and he agrees, so for now I'm staying at home with my husband." Covid-19, a little too close for comfort.

I sent her an e-mail. "Gosh, I'm so sorry to hear the news. I hope it's a mild case. Let us know if there's anything we can do for you. A grocery run? A trip to the pharmacy?"

She assured me they had everything they needed at home. A full refrigerator and freezer, plenty of dry goods in the pantry. They'd be fine. Fortunately, her case seemed to be mild.

But every morning as I trundled downstairs to go out for a run, I'd see their newspaper at the front door of our apartment building, sometimes two newspapers. *The least they could have done was cancel their subscriptions*, I thought. For days, I'd bring the newspapers inside and put them on their doormat, where they disappeared.

One morning I noticed a sign on their door written in florid red pen. "To whomever brings us our newspapers in the morning, WE'RE SO GRATEFUL. It means more than you can ever know. Thanks, thanks, thanks."

Hadn't I asked if there was something I could do? Here it was, a favor I didn't even know I was doing, one done-I confess- with some irritation. Now it was my turn to be grateful. Sometimes God plants good deeds on our hearts without our even knowing it.

Show me, Lord, how I can help those in need.

Rick Hamlin, *Guideposts*

Dear Church Friends and Family:

Our hope is that this letter finds everyone happy and healthy. We cannot thank you all enough for the support throughout this most unusual year. The Finance Committee has been encouraged at the support and generosity through these tough times. Every contribution counts. Whether through the time you have given to the church; the talent given to enhance a ministry; and/or, the treasure you have given to support it. As will always be the case, a thank you is never enough. Please take a moment to read what your Finance Committee has been up to this year:



Taking Advantage of Assistance

The Finance Committee took advantage of the COVID-19 CARES package earlier this year. By receiving this forgivable loan, we were able to ensure that all the church staff continued to be paid while finding creative ways to deliver our church's ministries. The church has applied for and received forgiveness on this loan.

Managing Our Expenses to Giving Levels

Historically, Hays FUMC has done an excellent job managing our costs to giving levels. Meeting our payroll needs, maintaining our building, and supporting the Conference Mission and Ministry (M&M) areas have always been our highest priorities. To accomplish these high priorities, we have either come up with creative ways to accomplish our ministry work areas OR have cut costs (something nobody wants to do). As giving levels decline, we are beginning to review how we meet our high priority items (staffing, building and M&Ms). This year's giving and next year's stewardship campaign will determine whether we will continue to make our M&M payments to the Great Plains Conference.

How to Help!

If you feel moved to help reach our yearly goal of 100% payment of our church's M&M commitment, please prayerfully consider giving above your normal giving. You can easily specify where you'd like the payment to go by indicating on the memo line of your check (e.g., "2020 M&M Payments.").

A Final Announcement

Our annual stewardship campaign began on October 25th. Please be on the lookout for a letter from Pastor Mike, a Giving Guide Brochure, and the 2021 Annual Commitment Card. We hope you will be moved to support our church for a new year. A year to begin cultivating our faith once again, together in worship and study

"Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver." 2 Corinthians 9:7

Drive-Thru Blessings

An All-Church Advent Ministry

Since we have not been able to bring food to the church building due to COVID-19, we are going to sponsor a drive-thru food collection event on December 5th and 12th. The drive-thru will be open from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm on both Saturdays.

This all-church ministry is being sponsored by the youth of the church, The Missions Committee, The Church and Society Committee and Stephen Ministers. If we all participate as we can, the members of First United Methodist Church will be able to re-stock the shelves at the Hays High School Pantry before the winter break.

If you prefer to donate through cash or check, please send monetary donations directly to: The Hays High School Food Pantry c/o Michelle Thacker, 2300 E. 13th Hays, Kansas. 67601. So, please bring your donations to the 8th street entry to the church and volunteers remove your items from your trunk on December 5th and 12th, 2020. And thank you!

**Jesus Taught
us how to
Serve Others**

Suggested items: ramen noodles; pasta; mac & cheese; canned ravioli, tuna, chicken, vegetables; peanut butter; jelly; fruit cups; cereal; soup; Special K protein bars; snack, sandwich & gallon ziplock bags.

Update from Bangkok

It's been an unusual year, but that hasn't stopped us from pursuing God's heart for the red light district. We never imagined it would take a global pandemic to shut down the red light district. Especially in the first few months, the streets had an eerie quiet feeling. The normal hustle and bustle of street vendors, club music, lost tourists, and working girls calling out to men was gone. Even though the businesses closed, many men and women still came to the streets to sell their bodies every night. It was in that season that our team focused on distributing food and hygiene packs to the individuals working in freelance prostitution, as well as the growing homeless population in our area.

Now, seven months after Bangkok's lockdown, the city is back open and functioning as normal. The women we know from the streets waited with anticipation for the red light district to reopen, because they believed it meant the return of normalcy and regular income. However, their expectations have been dashed, since Thailand's borders are closed to most tourists, and over half of the clubs cannot reopen in the economic turmoil. While some have managed to find other work, many are still freelancing their bodies online or on the streets in order to pay their bills and support their families.

Our team still distributes roughly 180 meals per week to the sex workers and homeless in our area. Twenty to thirty women come regularly to our free salon on Wednesday and Friday afternoons. All of our employment spaces are currently full, so we have a waiting list of women applying for work at NightLight. We completed our first hair styling course for women unable to find employment at this time, and we will offer one more course before the end of the year. In 2021, we hope to eventually expand this training to also include bakery and barista courses as well.

As for me personally, I am doing quite well in this season. I still serve on my church worship team, and I recently started leading a small group. Our church is back to meeting in person on Sunday mornings, and I am so grateful for that community. Since I am staying in Bangkok for a bit longer than expected (I originally thought I would move back to Africa by the end of this year), a few months ago I adopted a baby hedgehog that stays with me in my room. He is a small, spikey ball of joy that I love coming home to at the end of each day.

Thank you all so much for your love and support. I appreciate each one of you so much. If you are interested in supporting me financially, online donations can be sent through my partner page with The Cause. In the U.S. checks can be made out to "The Cause, Inc." with "NightLight" in the memo and mailed to

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

Please let me know if you have any questions. Thank you!

Rachel

A Tribute to Don Forssberg

The church staff and church family lovingly remembers Don Forssberg, financial secretary of FUMC.

Delbert Stanton remembers that Don was capable, caring and committed to his country, his community and his church. His family remembers him as kindhearted, loving and hardworking. Don built many beautiful pieces of furniture for his family, as well as many cabinets and pieces for the church. He did many plumbing and electrical projects here at church, saving hundreds of dollars. Through his many health challenges, he continued to make his work at church a top priority. Rest in Peace.

Love One Another

Many years ago, I got a late-night call from a client who had a cow that needed veterinary attention. As a country veterinarian I knew that such a call was part of my job description, especially during calving season. The client told me that he would wait for me at a corral in the pasture twenty-five miles away.

When I arrived, I found the client in his truck slumped over the steering wheel and unconscious. I immediately realized that he was having a heart attack. I was able to get him out of the truck and laid out on the ground. Fortunately, I was able to contact his wife to have an ambulance come. Several times he stopped breathing and I did CPR and he started breathing again. Once he sat up and asked, "What is going on?" I told him that he was having a heart attack and asked him to lay back down. He said, "OK".

While waiting for help I kept asking myself, "Am I to be the last person with this man before he departs this world for another place?" I felt concern, responsibility, and a strong bond with my client.

The ambulance arrived promptly. The EMT's were his neighbors and were caring and well-trained. They loaded him and took him off to the hospital. He died in the ambulance before arriving at the hospital.

I felt troubled after his death. Where would he spend eternity, I wondered? His religious affiliation, choice of political party, favorite sports team, and all other details of his life seemed much less important to me than whether he was with Jesus.

Several days after his death I attended his funeral. The clergy person who conducted the service was his pastor. The Pastor told of how this man carried in his shirt pocket laminated cards with Bible verses on them. He memorized the verses while working. This knowledge gave me great relief and joy. I was so happy that he was a Christian. He was a member of the Nazarene church and I was a member of the Methodist church. I am sure we disagreed on some religious issues, but at this point those issues did not seem important.

The lives of all people are sacred and valuable. Even if we disagree on hot-button issues. We are not accountable for the actions and beliefs of other Christians. We are each accountable to God for our own actions and beliefs.

The important part of Christian life is to keep Christ as the center of our being. The commands of loving God and loving others is essential. We are to love even those who disagree with our fiercely held opinions. We should be able to love and worship with Christian people with whom we do not totally agree.

Armin Kelly, Lay Leader

Spread Cheer & Kindness

Spread some cheer and kindness in your neighborhood. As a fundraiser, the youth are selling yard signs for \$10. There are two signs available, A or B. Call the church office to order a sign. You can pick it up or have it delivered. The signs are also available after worship services.

A—Pray Wait Trust

B—Faith Hope Love

Love Without Limits

Spread Kindness

Is Your Faith Enough

Matt Dumler, Youth Ministry Director

I want to pose a question to you that I have pondered several times throughout my life. I have challenged the youth with this question several times and I always look forward to hearing what their answers will be. I challenged the crowd at The Gathering service with it, and I only wish I could have heard the answers going on inside of their heads. The question is this: Would your faith remain the same if everything was taken away? If you couldn't attend the church building, would your faith fail? If you didn't have your Bible, would God still be your God? If you couldn't worship, if you couldn't fellowship, if you couldn't do all of the things associated with faith, would you still have faith?

I ask this question because I think sometimes the works of faith and the places of faith replace faith itself. I think sometimes the busyness of church happenings (committees, activities, ministries, etc.) substitute the call to faith that scripture places on our lives. We begin to justify our works within the church as the works of faith we have been called into. Don't get me wrong, those are all great things and necessary things. However, we aren't called to live a life of great things, we are called to live a life of God things. Yes, the two can be intermixed, but good can't take the place of God.

This leads me to my next question: how is your faith during this time? The above question has always been a hypothetical one and one that we could only give a hypothetical answer to, until now. Now we are in a time when we are experiencing the loss of many of the things we have learned to lean our faith on. Those things that we relied on to strengthen our faith have been taken away from us and we are learning, or at least I hope we are, where the true source of our faith should come from. At The Gathering service, we discussed how sometimes the blessings of God don't always come in the form we expect and aren't always covered in rainbows and butterflies. No, I am not suggesting that God sent this to us as a way of opening our eyes, but He will use this to draw us closer to him, if we allow Him to. What I hope your finding is that God is still God, even in the midst of uncertain times. God is still God and is still in control in times of chaos. God is still faithful. God has not left us nor forsaken us. We have an opportunity to truly see who God is without the distraction of some of the good things we often confuse for God things. So, how's your faith now that all has been taken away?

Speaking of The Gathering, we are excited to announce that it will be moving to a new time. Starting November 29th, The Gathering will be held at 10:00 am down in the gym. Most Sunday School classes will begin at 9:00, but not all will. Check with your class leader to check on the start time for your class. Some of them will begin at the 9:30 start time. God is doing some amazing things in our church and I am so excited to see what is waiting for us on the other side of this. It will take patience but if we are willing to wait it out, God will move in a great and mighty way, I truly believe that. I hope you can.

A church-wide study, **Reckless Love** by Tom Berlin, will be offered on ZOOM starting January 10, 2021. The study will continue through Ash Wednesday. ~~The Church and Society Committee is asking for volunteers who would be willing to facilitate the study, and who have ZOOM skills.~~ The group sizes will be limited to 10 or less participants. There will be a training for facilitators prior to the January 10 start date. If you would be available to make this commitment, please call Gail Kuehl at 625-5558.

An in-person Sunday School class is off and running. We are meeting in the Miler's classroom during the Sunday School hour from 9:30-10:30. We are watching and responding to "The Gospels-A Drive Thru History" with Dave Stotts as commentator and driver of his LandRover through the land of Israel. Our next meeting will be on November 29 and thereafter on a weekly basis. All are welcome. If you have questions, call Barb Clinkscales at 785-259-3181.

November OUTREACH

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Upcoming Events



Sunday, Nov.22
Nov. 29, Dec. 2
December 6
Dec. 9 & Dec. 13

5:00 bring a meal
6:15-7:15 Worship & Program

Commitment Sunday
Children's Pageant Practice
Children's Pageant dress rehearsal
Children's Christmas Pageant

