



# OUTREACH



Volume 34 Issue 11

First United Methodist Church

November 17, 2022

## *perspective*

On September 25, 2022, an information meeting about the status of our denomination was held. District Superintendent Zach Anderson was present to share and respond to questions. At the end of the meeting a straw poll was taken as a kind of litmus test of where those who were present at the meeting felt we were as a congregation. The results were basically 28% felt a disaffiliation vote should be taken, 61% contended no vote should be taken, and 11% were undecided.

In addition, over the last four months we have maintained a section of our website designed to inform about current trends and conversations. One piece is Rob Renfroe (a former UMC turned Global Methodist) talking about why he left the UMC and Adam Hamilton (pastor of the United Methodist Church of the Resurrection) responding to Renfroe's contentions.

In late October the Administrative Board met to consider the direction of First United Methodist Church. After a lengthy discussion, it was decided that the Board would release a statement about their current position on the matter of disaffiliation.

### RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATIVE BOARD

After deliberate, detailed, and prayerful consideration, the Administrative Board has recognized as a congregation we are stronger together. We have decided to move forward with a focus on what unites us, a shared belief in Jesus Christ and a common purpose, as members of the Hays First United Methodist Church, and Christians everywhere. We will not be pursuing a vote of the congregation for disaffiliation. We will continue making information available regarding denominational issues. We anticipate, as we have for decades, this and other issues will need to be considered.

Tom McDonald, Chair

As part of the response, the Church Conference reviewed four goals of how 2023 can be "The Year of Coming Together."

#### **Come Together Around the Bible**

- + Year-long journey to read the scriptures from Genesis to Revelation
- + Integrated Worship & Study opportunities based from our reading

#### **Come Together around our 150th Anniversary**

- + April Homecoming
- + Community Block Party – September

#### **Come Together around Difficult Conversations**

- +How do we converse about the topics that divide?
- +Remaining together even when we disagree

#### **Come Together Around Ordering Our Church for Ministry & Mission**

- +An invitation to explore ministry passions
- +Form teams around missions, societal issues, welcoming, communications, etc. (organic)

May God strengthen us for the task of making disciples and being Christ's Body in the world.  
Pastor Craig

Please email your OUTREACH item to [haysumc@hotmail.com](mailto:haysumc@hotmail.com) before **Sunday, December 11, 2022**.

Please place the name "Outreach" in the subject line...or place your item, clearly labeled **for the Outreach**, in the office by **Sunday, December 11**. The next Outreach should be received by **December 15**.

## Thanks

"Thank you" just doesn't seem to be an adequate enough response for the care, concern, and supportive love from so many friends over this past month in response to Hannah's back surgery. Starting even before surgery, there have been numerous comments for prayers for a successful outcome, cards, texts, meals, house calls, phone calls, flowers, and continuing verbal expressions of support. The generosity and caring expressions we have received from our church family and others have certainly been a contributing factor in Hannah's speedy recuperation. Our deepest gratitude to you all.

Hannah & Jim Barrett

*A Big Thanks to Mary Meckinstock- Gribben, Matt Dumler and Rob & Abby Kennemer for helping with custodial duties while Joe was on vacation.*

Thanks to Pastor Craig, Sheryl Cox and Wendy Beougher for their many hours of work to make the new church directory a reality. Directories should be available after the first of the year.

## INTRODUCING OUR STAFF

### PROGRAM STAFF

Pastor: Pastor Craig Hauschild  
 Congregational Care Director, Troy Miller  
 Director of Music: Alexander Rome  
 Special Music Coordinator: Meredith Cory  
 Organist: Noah Erichsen  
 Pianist: Sharon Graham  
 Handbell Choir Dir. Hannah Barrett  
 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: Liz Harper  
 Childcare Director: Melissa Pyle  
 Building Supervisor: Joe Edwards

## Sympathy

*Our sincere sympathy is extended to the family & friends of*

*Lester Look on the death of his wife, Avis, on 10-20.*

*Larry & Darlene Gilchrist on the death of Larry's sister, Donna Dickerson, on 10-24.*

*Russ & Sandy Henningsen on the death of Russ's dad, Rex, on 11-9.*

## Congratulations

*to Sarah & Troy Miller on the birth of granddaughter Mackenzie Rhodes White on 11-3-22.*

*to Don & Sharon Barton who celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on November 18.*

*to Tanya Smith for 10 years of service at FHSU.*

*to Cody & Audrey Shinkle who joined on November 6th.*

*to Dandy Henderson who joined on November 6th. Welcome also to Ian.*

*Church Family,*

*I want to thank you for your prayers and well-wishes for my husband Terry's surgery & recovery. He is working hard at physical therapy and getting stronger daily. Thanks again.*  
*Denise Dennett*

*A sincere Thank You to Steve and Marilyn Wood, Carol Purdy, Sherrie Smith, Kara Kuntz and Norman Owings for delivering Meals on Wheels in October. Your services were greatly appreciated.*

## United Women in Faith

**Naomi Circle** met Wednesday, the 9th of November in the home of Becky Johnson with Nancy Jones serving as co-hostess. Fifteen members and one guest, Sue Schwindt, were in attendance. Highlights of the meeting focused on post-Peddler's Fair, baby quilts, dishwasher replacement, the upcoming Advent Service which will probably occur on the 5th of December, the 2023 Yearbook, food basket donation, ideas for Spirit of Christmas projects, and the Church Shoebox project.

The World Thank Offering was presented by Julie Giess.

Our next meeting will be held on Wednesday, December 14th, 2022 at 9:15 at the home of Debra McDonald.

*Thank you to all who participated in this year's 50th Anniversary Peddlers' Fair. All the workers, bakers, crafters, and those who donated items to the silent auction and the Treasure Boutique all contributed to the success of Peddler's Fair. A special thank you to the youth who worked before, during and after. We couldn't have done it without them!*

*Peddler's Fair Committee*

Thank you to Hays area businesses for their contributions to the 'Rake In The Savings' gift card donations.

They include Home Depot, Thirsty's, Golden Q, JD's Chicken, Jalisco's, Pizza Hut, Papa Murphy's, Gella's, McDonalds, Whiskey Creek, Taco Shop, Orschelns, Dollar General, Ollie's, and Walgreens.

1 lb. pecan pieces for \$10. Available in the church office.

## Kids Club

Trunk or Treat was AWESOME!! We ended up with 21 trunks and tons of candy donated. In fact, Melissa and I just put four huge baggies of candy in the freezer for the Wild West Fest Parade next July. Kids and families were out en masse, and The Local Food Truck was busy all evening serving up delicious food. We even had the Hays Police Department stop by and join in on the fun. All in all, this night was one I personally will remember for a long time. Way to come together church family and provide a fun, generous, safe trick or treat event for our church and our community!!

November 20 the Youth will host a taco bar after third worship service and then we are all chipping in to help the Worship team decorate our worship spaces for the Christmas season.



Also, on November 20 from 4-5:30 we will be casting for our annual Children's Christmas Pageant. Catherine Miller is once again sharing her writing and directing gifts with the children of our church. YAY! We will meet in the Sanctuary. Catherine is so wonderful at giving lines to anyone who wishes to have them and includes parts for those who do not wish to speak. We'd love for all the children of our church to be involved in some way so please plan to be there and make this year's pageant our best yet! The dates of rehearsals are listed below.

We are doing something brand new this year and having one worship service on December 18 @ 10:00 to celebrate Christmas! The children will share their pageant, the bells will play, the Chancel Choir and Prayse Band will be singing, and we'll all be together in the Sanctuary in preparation of the birth of our Savior! Make plans now to attend. This service will truly be special. You will not want to miss it.

Bring cookies!! In lieu of Cookies for Camp this year, we are asking everyone to bring a dozen cookies or so to share before and after our one worship service on December 18. This will be our extension of an amazing worship service, giving everyone an opportunity to fellowship. Any extra cookies will be frozen for shut-in visits on 5th Sunday Service January 29, 2023.

Pageant Rehearsals and Performance Date:

- Sunday, 11/20 from 4-5:30 for casting
- Wednesday, 11/30 from 6:15-7:15, during WOW
- Sunday, 12/4 from 4-5
- Wednesday, 12/7 from 6:15-7:15, during WOW
- Dress Rehearsal: Wednesday, 12/14 from 6-7:30
- ONE PERFORMANCE: Sunday, 12/18 @ 10:00 a.m.

Thank you for caring about the children of our church. If you ever have questions or concerns, don't hesitate to contact either Melissa Pyle ([melissa@haysfumc.com](mailto:melissa@haysfumc.com)) or Jo Swayne ([jo@haysfumc.com](mailto:jo@haysfumc.com)).

*Thanks to Mary Lou and Norman Clark and their family for hosting one of the Community Thanksgiving dinners at our church. Thanks to Karen Hendrickson, Sheryl Cox, Wendy Beougher, Hali Bielser, Vicki Kelly and Carol Purdy for providing pies.*



## Hays First United Methodist Church -Financial Snapshot –10/31/2022

	Oct. 2022	Entire Year
Checking Account Balance*	\$29,701.35	
Operating Gifts	\$42,702.36	\$420,449.91
Operating Expenses	\$40,979.51	\$450,798.56
Net Operating Gifts/Expenses**	\$ (1,722.85)	\$ (30,348.65)

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

\*\* Amounts in parentheses indicate we spent more than we received.

## 2023 Annual Church Pledge Cards

We are so thankfully blessed by your continued financial support in the coming new year in 2023. Your pledges will help the Church Financial Team prepare and budget for the coming year with continuing ministry commitments and goals in our 150th Anniversary year. Pledge cards are still available for anyone who did not receive one in the mail. Thank you for all you do and your continued faithful support.

Finance Team

One year ago, I moved back to Manzini after being in Thailand for four years. One year later, after countless conversations, meetings, prayer walks, and surveys, we are launching *Emanti Lajulile Eswatini...Deep Water Eswatini*.

We are a faith-based nonprofit organization based in Manzini with a heart for the “after hours” community of our small city—including sex work, addiction, and homelessness. We envision a safe world where anyone can discover dignity, restoration and personal empowerment to step into freedom and purpose. We are a team of mothers, aunts, pastors, wives, singles, teachers, counsellors, business women, and survivors, passionate about creating safe spaces in dark places.



We’re inviting you to dive in with us as we launch our Startup Launch Campaign! From now to the end of the year, we are raising \$42,000 to cover startup expenses and our first year of operation. Throughout the campaign, expect to hear more about our approach in reaching out to our community. You will also hear directly from our incredible team about their heart and vision for the city.

The first step to diving in with us is simple: follow us on Facebook and Instagram to get regular updates. Feel free to even take the second step: share our profiles, content, links, and newsletters with friends and family in your circle who would also be part of what’s happening here in Eswatini.

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!

My salary is completely dependent on your donations and the opportunity to partner with me financially is always open. Checks can be made out to The Cause (with my name in the memo), 4225 Oceanside Blvd. Suite H-325, Oceanside, CA 92056.

Diving in, Rachel Palmberg

Shoeboxes are again being collected for Operation Christmas Child. Boxes need to be returned to the Church by November 20.



## December Menus

### December 7th

Spaghetti & meat sauce  
Breadsticks  
Green beans  
Shortcake with strawberries & whipped cream

### December 14th

Mock hamburger steak in brown gravy  
Cheesy hash brown potato casserole  
California mixed veggies  
Breadsticks  
Apple crunch with whipped topping

**December 21st & December 28th—No WOW**

**Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!**



*Remembering and honoring the Saints of the church who have died since last All Saint's Sunday:*

*Harvey Davidson  
Viola Hurst  
Wilburta Burr  
Kay Unruh  
JoAnn Boggs*

*Mary Paul  
Dorothy McRae  
Bill Losey  
Marian Youmans  
Steve Mosier*

*Marvin Mills  
Jim Strine  
Darryl Smika  
Vera Storer  
Avis Look*

### ***In Memory of***

Dorothy McRae  
Wilmer Kellogg  
Karen Owings  
Ken Kraus  
Don & Vi Hurst  
Pauline Branda  
Wade Jeffery  
Glen Ginther  
Rev. Garner Berg  
Harold Kraus

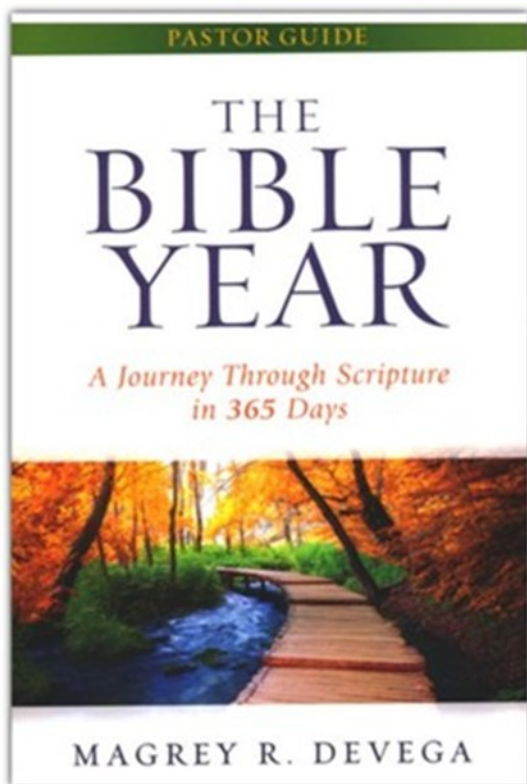
### ***Memorials given***

to United Women of Faith for funeral dinners  
new, renovated/decorated Senior Pastor's office  
flower chime for children's playground  
flower chime for children's playground  
flower chime for children's playground  
general church expenditures  
chapel keyboard, bench and light  
general church expenditures  
general church expenditures  
church roof repairs



The annual mitten tree donations will begin on November 6 and run through November 27. Please bring new, warm hats, mittens/gloves, and scarves for students of all ages (kindergarten through high school ) to the church and place them on the Mitten Trees. All the items collected will be donated to USD 489 schools. The FUMC annual project has been greatly appreciated by families within the school district who cannot afford to purchase these important items.

**Senior Wow** will meet Wednesday, December 7 at 4:00 p.m. at the Parsonage, 4109 Fillmore. Bring a favorite Christmas goodie to share.



**The Bible. 365 days. You. Yes, you!** Not the type to sit down and read the entire Bible? Yes, the goal is to read the whole Bible in a year, but think about it in terms of smaller, daily goals. Think about a commitment to read a short selection from the Bible plus a concise devotional every day. You can do that – especially since *The Bible Year* has it all mapped out for you day by day. Plus, you'll also get summaries of key themes and ideas to help you better digest and understand your readings. So you're not just reading verse after verse, you're enriching your spiritual life, developing a deeper faith and forming a closer connection to God and to each other.

I am so excited to see how God will use this opportunity. We hope to offer classes and develop our worship alongside our readings. An entire year of journeying together around the scripture.

The Endowment of our church has invested in this journey by purchasing 150 of The Bible Year Devotions – one for each household. If you desire more than one, we will direct you how to purchase additional copies. Copies are available now in the church office. Additional details and class offerings will be announced when available. Our start date is January 1, 2023.



It has been over ten years, but Cloverton is coming back to Hays. We will be hosting them in concert December 10<sup>th</sup> in the Sanctuary. A freewill offering will be received. Visit [clovertonmusic.com](http://clovertonmusic.com) for more information and details.

## Never Stop Giving Thanks

One of my favorite Thanksgiving hymns is “Now thank we all our God.” I like it because of its sentiment; I like it because I can follow the tenor line; but mostly I like it because of the compelling story behind it.

“Now thank we all our God with heart and hands and voices, who wondrous things has done, in whom his world rejoices; who from our mothers’ arms has blessed us on our way with countless gifts of love, and still is ours today.”

This joyful hymn of gratitude wasn’t written because things were going well. It’s easy to be thankful when you don’t have to worry about where your next meal is coming from or when you’re in good health or when you’re living in a time of peace and prosperity.

But this hymn was written amid dire circumstances in 1636 by a Lutheran pastor named Martin Rinkart in war-torn Germany. Pastor Rinkart came to serve a congregation in the old walled city of Eilenberg at the beginning of what came to be known as the 30 Years War. Now, if you don’t remember your middle school European history class, the 30 Years War was fought in central Europe, amid a swirl of religious and political discord, and was one of the most destructive and deadliest conflicts in human history. Eight million people died through a lethal combination of military engagements, famine and plague. It finally ended in 1648 with the Peace of Westphalia, but not until after the devastation of entire regions.

Eilenberg became a refuge for political and military fugitives, an oasis of sorts in the midst of a war-torn region. But this brought problems of overcrowding, leading to widespread famine and rampant disease. Eilenberg was also invaded by various armies over the years, causing even more anguish and destruction for both residents and refugees. The suffering is hard to imagine, but when you read stories about throngs of half-starved, plague-ridden townspeople fighting over the corpse of a single dead cat, you get the idea.

“O may this bounteous God through all our life be near us, with ever joyful hearts and blessed peace to cheer us, to keep us in his grace, and guide us when perplexed, and free us from all ills of this world in the next.

Things were tough for Pastor Rinkart as he sought to minister to the people of his congregation and eventually to everyone in the besieged town. In the year he wrote his now famous hymn, there were four pastors in Eilenberg. By the end of that year, one had fled for his life and never returned, while the other two contracted the plague and died, leaving Rinkart as the only pastor in town. During the height of yet another diseased-riddled year, Rinkart was conducting up to 50 funerals a day and in 1637 he officiated at over 4,000 burials, including one for his own wife.

With his tenure in Eilenberg paralleling nearly exactly the duration of the 30 Years War, Rinkart spent his entire vocational life ministering to others, barely surviving on limited rations, giving away most of what he did have, and having the soldiers who forcibly stayed in his home stealing anything that was left over.

It’s hard to imagine his state of mind in the midst of such despair and heartache. And yet, in the depths of such overwhelming sorrow, Rinkart penned, “Now thank we all our God,” a hymn so full of hope and gratitude. Rather than a lament, he summoned the joy emblematic of a deep and abiding faith.

“All praise and thanks to God the Father now be given, the Son and Spirit blest, who reign in highest heaven the one eternal God, whom heaven and earth adore; for thus it was, is now, and shall be evermore.”

Wherever you are this year, whatever your situation, know that you are loved by God—fervently, completely and with reckless abandon. I encourage you to be inspired by the story of Pastor Rinkart and to know that this hymn was composed as a bold statement of faith.

Pastor Rinkart also used the text of this hymn as a grace before meals. Perhaps you might use it this way as well. I could think of no better way to give thanks to our God “with heart and hand and voices, who wondrous things has done, in whom his world rejoices.”

Please stay safe out there, and may God bless you richly this Thanksgiving.

The Rev. Tim Schenck serves as Rector of the Episcopal Parish of St. John the Evangelist in Hingham, Massachusetts.

# November OUTREACH

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www.kaysradio.com  
www.HaysFUMC.com

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## UPCOMING EVENTS

**Sunday, November 20**

**Church Youth sponsored meal and  
Hanging of the Greens**

**Casting for Children's Christmas  
Pageant**

**Wednesday, November 23**

**No WOW**

**November 24 & 25**

**Church Office closed**