



OUTREACH



Volume 35 Issue 11

First United Methodist Church

November 16, 2023

Experiencing Christmas

Several things that I love about Christmas are the sights, sounds, smells, and feelings that are a part of the season. The sights include all the sparkles and lights that fill what are normally drab and mundane spaces. The sounds of bells, choirs, and joyful music fill the air. Silly sounds too from Christmas carols that delight and make us chuckle. There is no denying there are so many wonderful smells that accompany the decadent treats or rich smell of pine branches. All mix together to pull from us a myriad of feelings and emotions regarding the coming of Christ Jesus in a manger in Bethlehem.

This advent we are going to experience Christ in the sights and sounds of Advent. Matt Rawle's book, Experiencing Christmas, will be a primary guide. The four Sundays leading up to Christmas will question what we see, hear, taste, and feel, as we await the advent, the arrival, of Jesus into our world and our lives. A special note about Sunday, December 17, from Matt Dumler, Director of Discipleship:

****Can you believe it, the Christmas season is almost here. It seems to come quicker and quicker each year. The season is full of traditions. At my house we do the typical tree, stockings and Christmas cookies. My favorite tradition, though, has to do with the ugliest little yellow plastic house Christmas ornament. My mom absolutely hates it and so each year we try to find as many ways to annoy her with it as humanly possible. I think deep down inside she really enjoys it.**

The church has traditions as well. One that is unique to our church is our Children's Christmas Pageant. Yes, I know other churches have them as well, but ours is special in that it's written by our very own Catherine Miller. Each year she picks a different aspect of the Christmas story to write from and creates a mini masterpiece.

This year's Children's Christmas Pageant will be on December 17th. Casting for the pageant will be on November 29th at 5:15 PM. Any child is welcome to come and find their place in the pageant.

The service on December 17th will be a unique one. We will gather as one church at 10 AM to celebrate this Sunday together. The service itself will be filled with a variety of musical talent. Last year we had everyone from, the bell choir, to the chancel choir, to the praise band and everything in between. This year will be much of the same. Afterward, we invite you to gather together for fellowship and for a meal that will be sponsored by the youth.

We invite you to join us on December 17th as we pause to remember the story of that very special night that a very special baby was born with a very special purpose. Come and join us for a very special morning.**

The excitement of preparing for Christmas is upon us. Take time to experience all the sights, sounds, smells, and feelings that accompany Christ's arrival into our world and into our lives.

Pastor Craig

Outreach articles are due the **third** Sunday of each month. Please email your **OUTREACH** item to **wendy@haysfumc.com** before **Sunday, December 10, 2023**. Items may also be placed in the office, labeled **for the Outreach** by **Sunday, December 10**. The next Outreach should be received on Dec 14.

Thanks

Thanks for your support & prayers as we said goodbye to Betsy. We appreciate all the church did for our parents over the years. Blessings to each of you.

The Losey 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.



Holiday Dessert Show

Friday, Dec. 1 at 6:00 p.m.

Sunday, Dec. 3 at 1:00p.m.

Rose Garden on Hwy. 40

Tickets \$20

Enjoy delicious desserts & Christmas music. Funds raised will help Fort Hays students travel & perform in Salzburg, Austria in June 2024.

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

Sympathy

Our sincere sympathy is extended to the family & friends of

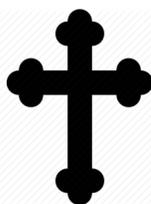
Betsy Losey who died on October 23. Betsy was a member for 62 years.

Sue Dolezal on the death of her husband, Joe, on October 25. Condolences also to Alan Nelson. Joe was a member for 46 years.

Iris Davis died October 25.

Marguerite Stewart on the death of her husband, Wayne, on November 3. Condolences also to Brenda Hinton, Blythe Brown & family. Wayne was a member for 59 years.

We remember and honor the saints of the church who have died since last All Saint's Sunday: Tom Pitner, Marion Jordan, Arris Johnson, Joe Pflaum, Norris Artman, Mary McClain, Lester Look, Dottie Kraus, Willodean Plymell, Jerry Akers, Jane Ann Lundy Matlock, Scott Jordan, Teri Hart, Betsy Losey, Joe Dolezal and Iris Davis.



Need a hostess gift?

Cocoa mix, baking cocoa and delicious coffees are available in the office. Purchase benefits UMCOR's Fair Trade.



Circle News

Naomi Circle met Wednesday,

November 8th in the home of Debra McDonald with sixteen members present. Members reflected on the success of the Peddler's Fair. Still available for sale: pecans, praline pecans and double-dipped chocolate covered peanuts.

Julie Giese provided the program: World Thank Offering, emphasizing Thankful or Thank Full. Linda Stahlman provided insight on Salina Rescue Mission, the homeless shelter in Salina.

Coming up: Cookies and Carols-Monday, December 4. Our next meeting will be held on Wednesday, December 13 at 9:15 at Ellis Estates.

Mary Alice Brent, Secretary

Rebekah Circle met at the Church on November 8 with 15 members present. Hostesses were Sheryl Cox and Elaine Ford.

Jarilyn Staab presented the program on the World Thank Offering. Carol Purdy read a brief history of United Women in Faith from the Hays Daily News.

Reminders for the December 4 Advent Service of Carols & Cookies at 7:00 p.m. and for the December 13 luncheon meeting at the Church.

Sharon Barton, Secretary

The United Women in Faith invite you to join us Monday, December 4, 2023 7:00 p.m.

for
Carols & Cookies



Note from the Church Financial Secretary

As 2023 comes to a close, please keep in mind that giving in 2023 must be received in 2023. In other words, if you want the giving to appear on your 2023 giving statement, please be sure it arrives

1- in the Church before the office closes at noon on Friday, December 29, 2023,

2-it is postmarked by no later than December 30, 2023,

3-it is placed in the offering plate on Sunday, December 31, 2023.

Thank you so very much for your continued generosity and extra support, especially at a time when the needs are great. We are so blessed and grateful for your caring and thoughtful offerings.

Liz Harper, Financial Secretary

Endowment Moment

A few weeks ago, Rev Dr. Dustin Petz from the Kansas Methodist Foundation gave a presentation on Giving Generously and Leaving a Legacy at Hays First United Methodist Church. This month's Endowment Moment will provide highlights from his presentation.

Theology of money:

- God is the provider and the owner. God has entrusted us with resources we have in our lives.
- We are the receivers and the stewards of these resources. We are responsible for how we use the resources we are entrusted.
- We are called to take positive action, using the resources in our lives to make a difference. We are blessed to be a blessing.

Three key questions to leave a legacy:

- What really matters to you?
- How do you want to be remembered?
- What is the legacy you hope to leave behind?

He also highlighted some giving strategies that help gifts make a larger impact:

- Gifts of appreciated stock.
- Gifts of other property.
- Qualified Charitable Distributions from traditional individual retirement accounts (IRA) for those over age 70 1/2.

To find out if any of these work in your giving plan consult your trusted financial advisor. The church has resources in place to accept these types of gifts.

Greg Daughhetee, Chairman
Endowment Committee

FUMC Financial Snapshot

	October 31, 2023	Year to Date
Checking Account*	\$30,073	
Operating Gifts	\$39,980	\$474,261
Operating Expenses	\$49,971	\$489,976

Parsonage Mortgage Balance \$134,800.64

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

Menus for December

December 6

Green bean & dumpling soup
Chili soup
Crackers
Salad
Cookies
Ice Cream cups

December 13

Happy 70th birthday to Susan
Cook's choice

December 20th

No WOW



History & Heritage

The Organ

The Hadley family gave the \$25,000 Wick's pipe organ to the church, which was installed ten days prior to the dedication of the church in September 1949. In the late 1800's three Swiss brothers created their first organ in Highland, Illinois. Using only quality materials, the organs were built to a standard, not a price. They were entirely custom built to order, not mass produced. With precision and patience, the Wick's craftsmen were able to produce a beautiful organ with a proven history of performance.

Apart from routine tunings, the organ did not need repair until 1992, when lighting damaged the tower and roof of the sanctuary, which caused water to leak into the pipe chamber. Possibly because of the water damage, some of the pipes did not sound and the swell shutters, which control the volume, did not operate correctly. Jane Brown, church organist since 1982, urged the congregation to repair or replace the organ. Brown worked diligently for two and a half years, but died of cancer in August, 1994. Though she never had an opportunity to play the new organ, her wish made the organ a reality. Her memorials were directed to help defray the cost of \$166,000 for additions and replacements. Barbara Michaelis led the Organ Task Force of 20 members to complete the dream of a refurbished organ.

New pipes and a new console had to be hand crafted at the Wicks Organ Company in Highland, Illinois. For the pipes, sheets of zinc and zinc alloy were hand cast and honed to a uniform thickness. These metal sheets were then spun around mandrels, large cylindrical, steel forms that helped workers shape the sheets into the pipes. After shaping the metal into pipes, the seams were hand soldered. Workers at the factory also hand-crafted wooden wind cases that held the racks of pipes. The largest pipe was 18 feet tall and weighed between 80 & 90 pounds. Volunteers from FHSU helped to lift the mammoth pipes into place. Installation of the new organ took two weeks, including the installation of a new console, which had the keyboard and other controls for the organ. Representatives from the company spent two weeks tuning the organ and adapting its sound to the unique acoustics of the church.

Those who attended church services on May 21, 1995 had the first opportunity to hear the organ. The consecration of the renovated organ was held on Sunday, June 4th, during church services. Dr. Bob Edwards was guest organist. In September, 1998, a rededication service was held to celebrate the organ debt being retired. John Leavitt, composer and conductor, was invited to play at the rededication service. Charmaine Paulin & Jo Kraus were organists at the time.

Currently we are looking for a company to clean and provide maintenance for the organ. It is hoped that an estimate will be available by the end of the year.

Thank You

To the following Hays merchants for their support of this year's Peddlers' Fair:

Hays Visitors & Convention Bureau	Smoky Hill Country Club	
Papa Murphy's	Jalisco	Taco Shop
Fuzzy's Tacos	JD's Chicken	Cattleman Café
Gella's	Little Caesar's	Qdoba
Jimmy John's	Whiskey Creek	Walmart
	McDonalds	Pheasant Run
	Madd Matter	
	Freddy's	
	Tri-Central	

Women's Ministry - December

December 4th	Carols & Cookies, 7 p.m., Church sanctuary	
December 11th	Coffee at Breathe, 10 a.m.	
December 18th	Begin Christmas week with prayer in the sanctuary, 7 a.m.	



For the month of October, Gloria and I traveled to various spaces raising awareness of Deep Water in the United States. This was our first State-side campaign for the organization, which is a huge milestone. It was a wonderful, encouraging experience, and it was such a delight sharing about our work in Manzini. Thank you to everyone who hosted us and attended the events and meetings over the past few weeks. We had an absolute blast connecting with communities in Colorado, Texas, Georgia and Kansas this month.

While Gloria and I have been connecting and building relationships Stateside, the rest of our team has been continuing to faithfully spend time with our after-hours communities around Manzini. A few of our Deep Water team members had the opportunity to sit down and share a meal with some women from the streets, to connect more deeply. They received stories of violence, exploitation, gang rape, desperation, resilience, and loneliness. There are not quick or easy solutions. We are constantly challenged and honored to carry these stories as we provide a safe space without expectations or judgement. All are welcome to come and be heard, seen, and known.

Next month we will announce our year-end Giving Campaign and invite you to partner with us. To donate mail your check to The Cause, Inc., 4225 Oceanside Blve., suite H-325, Oceanside, CA 92056.

Diving in, Rachel

The annual mitten tree collection will begin on November 1, 2023. Please bring new hats, mittens/gloves, and scarves for students of all ages (kindergarten through high school) to the church. Please place them on the Mitten Trees or in one of the collection baskets.

All of the items collected will be donated to USD 489 schools. This First United Methodist Church annual project has been greatly appreciated by families within the school district who cannot afford to purchase these important items.



Again, please bring your hats, mittens/gloves and scarves to the church and place them on the trees or in the baskets located in the parlor and in the dining room of the church. Every item donated helps keep a youth or child warm during the cold winter months.

3 Steps to Turn Grumbles into Gratitude by Tricia Goyer

Did you know you can find deep contentment without spending a dollar or changing one thing about your day, your family or your life? In addition to this inner peace, you'll have more joy, more gratitude and be a better example for your family and friends. How? By stopping your grumbling. It's easier to do than you think. Here are three ways to start:

1. Take control of your unrealistic expectations.

We grumble because we expect things to go one way and are thrown off when things don't go as planned. Think about the next few hours. What do you hope will happen? What would be easy and comfortable to you? Now consider your response when something doesn't go as planned. It doesn't matter *what* happens, just think about how you'll respond.

In my effort to stop grumbling, I thought about my unrealistic expectations that I could clean the house and it would stay clean (We have eleven people living in our home after all!) I also considered how unrealistic it was that I could go through a day with my family and it would be conflict-free. There's a lot of interacting happening with eleven people in the house...much of it brings strife.

Instead I thought how I would respond when the house gets messy or the kids start to fight. Rather than being overwhelmed and grumbling, I considered how to help my family get back on track. Some days this meant pausing to do a 10-minute clean up, with all the kids helping. Other days, it meant pausing to help my children communicate with each other better, "How about we try that conversation again, this time with kind words?" When we *plan* for our reactions we *handle* situations better. We look beyond the problems and find solutions. We treat our family, friends, and co-workers with respect, instead of just grumbling about what went wrong.

2. Change your grumbling habit into gratitude.

We can control our reactions, but to truly get to deep contentment, we must replace our grumbling with gratitude. When you feel like grumbling about something, instead take a deep breath and make a mental adjustment. Ask yourself, "I want to grumble about this, but how can I offer gratitude to God instead?" When a car cuts you off on the freeway: "Thank you God for keeping me safe. Thank you for keeping me alert so I could avoid that accident." When you're feeling over-scheduled, overwhelmed and unappreciated: "Thank you God that you have given me a sound mind to make healthy changes in my life and the strength to be strong in the things I can't change."

3. Hard-wire praise.

In my striving to stop grumbling (and to guide my family to do the same), my grandmother has been my greatest example. Grandma has dementia, each day she awoke with no memory of her injury. Instead of complaining, she'd thank me for taking care of her. She'd also thank God for how good He was to her. Throughout the day, I'd hear Grandma singing praises to God as she lay immobile on her bed. The lesson is one I won't forget: when Grandma couldn't even remember that her back was broken, she still remembered how to praise.

Stopping grumbling is easier than you think. And contentment can come. The changes you make will impact you for a lifetime. Instead of investing your energy into negative emotions, you can turn your grumbles around to thank God for His goodness. Your family and friends will thank you for it, and you can be an example to prove that they can do the same. Isn't that something to be thankful for?



Congregational Bible Readings for the month of December

Day	Date	Reading	
336	Dec. 1	1 Timothy 1:1-3:16	
337	Dec. 2	1 Timothy 4:1-6:21	
338	Dec. 3	2 Timothy 1:1-2:26	
339	Dec. 4	2 Timothy 3:1-4:22	
340	Dec. 5	Titus 1:1-3:15	
341	Dec. 6	Philemon 1-25	
342	Dec. 7	Hebrews 1:1-3:19	
343	Dec. 8	Hebrews 4:1-6:20	
344	Dec. 9	Hebrews 7:1-9:28	
345	Dec. 10	Hebrews 10:1-11:40	
346	Dec. 11	Hebrews 12:1-13:25	
347	Dec. 12	James 1:1-2:26	
348	Dec. 13	James 3:1-5:20	
349	Dec. 14	1 Peter 1:1-2:25	
350	Dec. 15	1 Peter 3:1-5:14	
351	Dec. 16	2 Peter 1:1-2:22	
352	Dec. 17	2 Peter 3:1-18	
353	Dec. 18	1 John 1:1-3:24	
354	Dec. 19	1 John 4:1-5:21	
355	Dec. 20	2 John 1-12	
356	Dec. 21	3 John 1-15	
357	Dec. 22	Jude 1-25	
358	Dec. 23	Revelation 1:1-2:29	
359	Dec. 24	Revelation 3:1-5:14	
360	Dec. 25	Revelation 6:1-8:5	
361	Dec. 26	Revelation 8:6-11:19	
362	Dec. 27	Revelation 12:1-14:20	
363	Dec. 28	Revelation 15:1-17:18	
364	Dec. 29	Revelation 18:1-20:15	
365	Dec. 30	Revelation 21:1-22:21	
366	Dec. 31	Amen	

The Day indicates which devotion to read.

November OUTREACH

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UPCOMING EVENTS

Sunday, Nov. 19	Church Conference & luncheon
Wednesday, Nov. 29	Angel Tree Shopping
Monday, Dec. 4	UWF Carols & Cookies
Tuesday, Dec. 5	Loving Hands/Loving Hearts
Wednesday, Dec. 13	Christmas Pageant
Sunday, Dec. 17	Christmas Pageant