



OUTREACH



Volume 38 Issue 6

First United Methodist Church

June 25, 2026

When I first felt the call to ministry, I was a young girl of 18 years. I did not hesitate to remind God that I was both young and female, two things I perceived to be a hindrance to ordained ministry. Not that my church at Kunene Methodist had a problem with it, but there were denominations in my community who were vocal against women in ministry. I was also scared, and ministry felt like a daunting task, but I just couldn't shake the calling away. It pursued me with such intensity until I said yes and submitted to God's invitation for me as an ordained clergy. I might not have realized then, but God had a specific purpose for me in his kingdom. The work of God is never reserved for one gender but all God's children.

Many women called to ministry may wonder whether to listen to the restraining voices in society or to follow Jesus' call on their lives. Some try to run away from God's call only for them to realize that a call comes from beyond the human capacity. Paul in scripture referenced to many women who had answered the call and whom he considered as equal partners in ministry. In Romans 16:1–2, Paul writes, "I commend to you our sister Phoebe, a deacon of the church at Cenchreae..." Phoebe is called a diakonos (deacon or minister) and Paul describes her as a patron and supporter of many believers, including himself. He also talks of Priscilla as a teacher and ministry partner. In Acts 18:24–26, Paul calls Priscilla and her husband Aquila his "coworkers in Christ Jesus." In Romans 16:7, he writes, "Greet Andronicus and Junia... They are outstanding among the apostles... Nympha was even leading a church in her house as recorded in Col 4:15. Apart from sporadic verses, Paul's broader theology reflected in Galatians 3:28 affirms this "There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus." While this verse concerns equality in Christ rather than church offices specifically, it provides a basis for understanding shared participation in God's mission.

Some passages, such as 1 Timothy 2:11–12 and 1 Corinthians 14:34–35, have been interpreted as limiting certain leadership or teaching roles for women. We however have to be aware of the underlying cultural bonds that dictated those laws. Many Christian traditions including the United Methodist Church interpret these passages differently. The United Methodist Church understands the broader witness of Scripture, including Paul's commendation of women coworkers as seen above, as supporting the ordination and full participation of women in ministry. The United Methodist Church has ordained women since 1956 and sees spiritual gifts and calling, not gender as the basis for ministry leadership.

Rev. Lisa Straus in her sermon "Blown Away" notes, "In 1956, when the Methodist Church approved full clergy rights for women, it was not the beginning of women's ministry; it was the recognition of what the Holy Spirit had already been doing. Women had already been preaching, teaching, organizing, leading revivals, founding schools and hospitals, and serving as missionaries. But in that moment, the church formally said, 'Yes! The Spirit's call on women is real. And we will no longer deny it.' Since that day, thousands of women have answered God's call to ordained ministry. Today, women serve as pastors of small rural congregations and tall steeple churches. They serve as district superintendents and conference leaders (including bishops). They are seminary professors, chaplains, missionaries, church planters, and theologians. Women now make up a significant and growing portion of ordained elders and deacons in our denomination."¹

What a wonderful picture of all people serving in different offices in the church. This year, the UMC celebrates 70 years since it started ordaining women into full ministry. Therefore, let us join in this celebration as both men and women respond to God's call in their lives, and kudos to our church for joining the Holy Spirit to affirm that the calling to ministry is to all God's children. I am so grateful that I am part of a church that celebrates my call, and I am blessed to be serving the Lord Jesus in partnership with his people at Hays, Kansas. Indeed, there is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for we are all one in Christ Jesus." Amen

Pastor Susan

Outreach articles are due the **third** Sunday of each month. Please email your OUTREACH item to wendy@haysfumc.com before **Sunday, July 19, 2026**. Items may also be placed in the office, labeled **for the Outreach** by **July 19**. The next Outreach should be received on July 23.

Thanks

Thanks to those who helped with Feed Hays in May: Sally Klausmeyer, Sammy Miller, Jacinda Johnson, Edison Leuschner, Tura Clement and Jarilyn Staab. There is a sign up sheet outside the office if you would like to help on Thursdays.

Thanks to Dave & Karen Hendrickson for donating postage for the thank you notes for the Capital Campaign.

We wish to express our gratitude to everyone at FUMC for the sincere condolences to our family upon the passing of our mother, LaVaughn Hull. She loved FUMC and enjoyed the many projects she was involved in at the church. Thank you for the love, prayers and support shown to her through the years.

In God's love,
The Hull Family

Life's tragedy is that we get old too soon and wise too late.

Benjamin Franklin

INTRODUCING OUR STAFF

PROGRAM STAFF

Pastor: Pastor Susan Murithi
Associate Pastor: Pastor Troy Miller
Special Music Coordinator: Meredith Cory
Organist: Hannah Barrett
Charlotte Rathke
Pianist: Sharon Graham
Handbell Choir Dir. Hannah Barrett
Marijo Rooney
Director of Discipleship: Matt Dumlér
Children's Ministry Coordinator: Jenna Brubaker
Outreach Editor: Wendy Beougher

SUPPORT STAFF:

Administrative Secretary: Beverly Bearley
Administrative Assistant: Wendy Beougher
Financial Secretary: Marsha Swanson
Childcare Director: Mellissa Pyle
Building Supervisor: Alan Nelson

Sympathy

Our sincere sympathy is extended to the family & friends of

Evelyn Zellmer who died on May 30.

former member Judy Hugh who died on June 1.

Mark, Becky & Michael Kellerman on the death of Mark's mother, Phyllis, who died on June 2.

Congratulations

to Maycie Holdeman on receiving a scholarship from Women Who Lead for the 2026-2027 school year.

to Dr. Amy Terry, daughter of Barbara Terry, for graduating from residency at KUMed.

to Betty Calvert who celebrated her 100th birthday on May 24.

to Trinity Kohlrus and Kolten Keller who were married in the sanctuary on May 23rd.

to Finley and Will Hayden who were baptized on June 14. Grandparents are Bill & Ronda.

to Heather Brown who was baptized on June 21.

Thank you so much, Church Family, for your expressions of love and support from the onset of my mother Phyllis Kellerman's dementia to the very completion of her journey of faith. Together with knowing that at long last she is reunited forever with her husband and father and mother, the latter of whom died when Mom was only 28. Your acts of kindness and sympathy are a continuing source of comfort to us and will never be forgotten.

Mark & Rebecca Kellerman

Laundry Love

Sign up to help with Laundry Love at 225 E. 8th Street. All you have to do is put quarters in the machines. The last load of wash will be in by 5:30 p.m.

Volunteers are needed on 9-3, 10-1, 11-5 and 12-3. There is a sign up sheet in the parlor.



If anyone from the church would like to donate to Camp Lakeside's wish list, go to the Camp Lakeside web site and under the donate tab there is a link to their Amazon wish list. The Missions Committee is making a \$300 donation.

Backpacks for Kids

Donation Boxes will be dropped off June 2 and picked up July 7.

Last year First Call For Help distributed 600 backpacks. Your contributions can have a significant impact on the lives of students in our community. Whether it's a financial donation or purchasing backpacks, school supplies, or hygiene items, every contribution counts. If you send a check, please indicated B4K or Backpacks for Kids in the memo line. Thank you for your support in making a difference.

FUMC Financial Snapshot

	May 31, 2026	Year to Date
Checking Account*	\$88,773.44	
Operating Gifts	\$58,763.72	\$292,853.01
Operating Expenses	\$49,421.43	\$259,553.13

Organ Fund \$11,906.79

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

The sustaining gift for the Altar Foundation 2026 is \$153.

2026 Annual Conference**Bob Cox**

The Great Plains' Annual conference meeting was held in Kearney, Nebraska on May 27-30. The theme this year was "Serve Joyfully". Attending from our church were Susan Murithi, Troy Miller, Mary Meckenstock, Armin Kelly and Bob Cox. Attending as Lay Equalization Delegates were Vicki Kelly and Sheryl Cox.

A Strategic Planning Team has met over the past year and presented findings, including a focus on three key points:

Building trust and relational connection

Having a clear conference identity and organizational focus

Establishing resource stewardship and mission accountability

The theme of the opening worship was "Do something with the abilities you have." More than 400 volunteers helped pack 20,000 meals. The memorial service recognized 43 clergy, 24 spouses and one child. Retiring ministers were remembered and thanked. They included Rev. Byoung Lee, a former pastor at our church. A conference budget was presented and passed.

Resolutions passed included: Support of migrants, immigrants and refugees. Support for Palestinians in Israel and support of the transgender community. A special giving Sunday to help the conference's Disaster Fund was established.

Dr. Ashley Boggan, general secretary of the General Commission on Archives and History, gave a presentation on the way John Wesley taught the importance of both social and personal holiness. Presentations were given by Bishop Wilson, by the conference lay leader, from youth and conference staff.

**Vacation Bible School**

VBS is rapidly approaching! It's time to get your kids signed up. Kids from Preschool through 6th grade are invited to join us July 21-23 from 5:30-7:45 for a fun winter challenge adventure where they will learn resilience and faith through frosty games, snowy surprises, and hands-on lessons. Use the QR code to sign up now.



God Bless America



June 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

Tuesday, June 30	Red Cross Blood Drive
Friday, July 3	Church Office closed
Wednesday, July 8	Women's Fellowship lunch at Professors, 11:30
Sunday, July 19	FUMC sponsors the Lark's game
July 21-23	VBS