



# OUTREACH



Volume 37 Issue 6

First United Methodist Church

June 19, 2025

## For God's Sake

Great Plains Annual Conference, June 4-7, 2025, Salina, Kansas

Dr. Ashley Boggan, the general secretary of the General Council of Archives & History gave the keynote address entitled "Look What You Made Me Do (John Wesley's versions)".

She is a scholar on John Wesley and has written a book about his discovering God and his efforts to obey God's commands. Wesley was often in trouble in his community and his church for proclaiming what God had revealed to him through the Bible. He finally gave up trying to stay out of trouble. He declared he was going to be "more vile causing trouble, and upsetting the system". He was going to be "generally scandalous" in preaching God's love and forgiveness to all people. Wesley was quoted as saying "O may you also be vile, exceedingly vile for God's sake. God forbid you should ever be other than generally scandalous."

David Wilson is the bishop of the Great Plains conference. He reviewed a long list of churches within the conference who had gone the extra mile to help people who had experienced floods, tornadoes, plane crashes, hunger and many more crises. He concluded with "What a wonderful witness to the community to be working together." Bishop Wilson is the first Native American bishop in the United Methodist Church.

The speaker at Saturday mornings youth service used the experience in theater as a springboard for the idea of shaking up the status quo as a Christian. The speaker was Char Pyle of Papillion, Nebraska. She said, "telling stories is a form of activism, outreach, and love". One tells the stories of "angelic troublemakers" for the purpose of making good, holy trouble. She was a great speaker, a junior in high school and queer. (Queer is a difficult word for me to use, but she used it with pride). She received a standing ovation for her inspirational message.

For the ordination of new pastors, we had an elderly retired bishop. Bishop Bruce Blake emphasized our loving God, God loving all people, and that we should love ALL people. Also he emphasized our loving God, God loving all people, and that we should love ALL people. Also he stated that "words are not enough". We need faith and works. Often what Christians need to do is not easy or comfortable, but we need to reach out and do the hard work.

Another retired Bishop, Bishop Gregory Palmer, gave an inspiring and interesting sermon. He observed that too many people leave their brain in the car when they park before entering church on Sunday morning. They don't want anything to change. They just want to put in their one hour of church and get back to the car. Bishop Palmer was a loud, dynamic, black preacher. One could not sleep or daydream through his sermon. He was challenging and motivating.

The overall theme of the 2025 Great Plains Annual Conference was to love and to serve God by loving and serving people (Deuteronomy 6:5 "Love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your being, and all your strength".) We can do this best by recognizing our differences, loving each other, and working together. We may have to get out of our rut, change, and endure potential conflict. But, for God's sake, let us try.

Armin Kelly

**Outreach** articles are due the **third** Sunday of each month. Please email your OUTREACH item to [wendy@haysfumc.com](mailto:wendy@haysfumc.com) before **Sunday, July 20, 2025**. Items may also be placed in the office, labeled **for the Outreach** by **July 20**. The next Outreach should be received on July 24.

## Thanks

Thank you to the noon Women's Bible Study, the Rebekah Circle and others from the church for the meals and Sonic drinks, for the transportation to various appointments and for the prayers after my surgery. Thank you to the Prayer Shawl ministry for the beautiful prayer shawl. I am so very grateful to be a member of this wonderful church family.

Patty Nicholas

Many Many thanks for the donation to the USD 489 food pantry. Your generosity helped over 200 families with their meals. Your support truly means a lot!

Nutrition Services  
USD 489

***There will be one church service on June 29 at 10:00, downstairs in the Gathering Space, as this is a fifth Sunday.***

## INTRODUCING OUR STAFF

### PROGRAM STAFF

Pastor: Pastor Susan Murithi  
Associate Pastor: Pastor Troy Miller  
Special Music Coordinator: Meredith Cory  
Organist: Hannah Barrett  
Charlotte Rathke

Choir Director:

Pianist: Sharon Graham  
Handbell Choir Dir. Hannah Barrett  
Marijo Rooney

Director of Discipleship: Matt Dumler  
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: Melilssa Pyle

## Congratulations

to Brooklyn Lewallen & Konnor Pfeifer who were united in marriage Saturday, June 7.



It's VBS time and this year we are going on a Roadtrip! Join us for a week of fun learning about God and diving deep in our faith. This year VBS is July 8th-10th from 5:30-7:45. Dinner will be served this year, and the kids will be able to eat from 5:30-5:50. The dinner menu will be tacos, sloppy joes, and spaghetti. There will also be salad and fruit cups available with each meal.

VBS is full of fun activities for kids, music science, games, Bible stories and more! Every lesson points straight to God as this year we are on the go with Him. The week will conclude on Sunday, July 13th. From 9-10 we will have our Bible School lesson and 10-11 will be one church service where the children will sing their VBS songs and give a recap of the week. Parents, make sure to join us for the 10 am church service!

Use the QR code below to get your child registered for VBS! We use KidCheck so you may have to create a free account to register your child.

If you are wanting to volunteer or donate supplies to VBS visit the set up in the church sanctuary or text Jenna Brubaker at 785-772-1027.



As the school year comes to an end, it's time to get your kids signed up for church camp this summer. Camps are offered for kids ages Kindergarten through 12th grade and for different periods of time including day camps, mini camps and week long stays.

This year the church is offering a \$300 scholarship per camper to attend a camp of their choice. To receive your scholarship info, please contact Jenna Brubaker at [jenna@haysfumc.com](mailto:jenna@haysfumc.com), with your child's name and the camp they plan to attend. **You must contact me before registering for camp.**

Here are the websites to each camp. Go to the website to read about the different camp options and to register.

[www.camplakeside.org](http://www.camplakeside.org)  
[www.horizoncenter.org](http://www.horizoncenter.org)  
[www.campchippewa.org](http://www.campchippewa.org)

*Thanks to Cam Daughhetee for changing the smoke detectors in the church.*

There will be a benefit breakfast in the church dining room on Saturday, June 28. The breakfast will benefit the Jesse Rice family whose child has cerebral palsey. Jesse is the granddaughter of Duane & Shirley Steffen.

*How foolish to think one can ever slam the door in the face of age.  
Much wiser to be polite and gracious and ask him to lunch.*

Noel Coward

## FUMC Financial Snapshot

	<b>May 31, 2025</b>	<b>Year to Date</b>
Checking Account*	\$16,841.66	
Operating Gifts	\$30,276.48	\$214,364.01
Operating Expenses	\$53,376.19	\$263,718.35

<b>Parsonage Mortgage Balance</b>	\$80,209.08
<b>Organ Fund</b>	\$ 7,809.99a

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

The sustaining gift for the *Altar Foundation* is \$152 in 2025.

Don't take a vacation from your church attendance or your giving.

## Heritage Sunday 2025

**Sue Dolezal** has been a member for 56 years. She taught the 2<sup>nd</sup> grade Sunday School class and helped with MYF. Sue directed the Youth Choir and was a member of the Chancel Choir which her husband Joe directed for ten years. She served on the Finance Committee and was a member of the Wesleyan Service Guild.

Sue grew up in this church and she has always loved its inclusiveness. It is not just a beautiful building but a true family feeling. My daughter and I were married here and my husband, son, and mother's funeral services were in the sanctuary. Lots of memories.

**Bob Cox** has been a member for 50 years and has served on many local and conference committees: Member of the transition team that recommended unification of Kansas East, Kansas West and Nebraska into one conference that became The Great Plains Annual Conference, Conference personnel committee, St. Paul School of Theology trustee, United Methodist Health Ministry Fund trustee, Kansas State University UM Campus Ministry foundation committee member, FUMC Staff Parish Committee, FUMC Stephen Ministry, FUMC Vacation Bible School staff, FUMC work days at Camp Lakeside. Bob currently is a Conference Connecting Council member, a lay delegate to Annual Conference, on the Finance Committee and Administrative Board, and on the Vision Committee.

Special memories include meeting his wife to be at a KU Wesley Foundation that led to membership at Hays FUMC when they moved here in 1975; raising two daughters, Jennifer Collins and Shelly Petz, that have entered the ministry as UM pastors; daughter Shelly's baptism, daughter Jennifer's wedding; mission trips to the Sager Brown depot in Louisiana; friendships and learning in the Miler's SS class; food, fellowship, music and worship; weekly coffee and Great Courses viewing with the old retired guys.

**Sheryl Cox** has been a member for 50 years and has actively served at FUMC: Choir member; Coordinator of Volunteers; UWF president and Circle Leader; Stephen Ministry trainer; Congregational Care Ministry member; College Sunday School teacher, Fifth grade Sunday School teacher, Vacation Bible School staff, Accompanist for Children's Choir; Musicals and Church productions; Camp Counselor at Lakeside and Chippewa; Bible studies; Coordinator for Course of Study classes; District and Conference Boards of Ordained Ministry; Church hospitality; Lay delegate to Annual Conference; and Church & Society work area.

Special memories are relationships, theological growth, mission trips to the Sager Brown depot in Louisiana, baptism of her daughter Shelly and the wedding of her daughter Jenny, raising two daughters who are both UMC clergy.

# Thank You!

A Big thank you to the Audio and Video tech volunteers who help the services to flow smoothly and allow us to reach people in their homes. Thanks to:

Mike Cooper  
 Tony Anthony  
 Mark Kellerman  
 Ethan Klausmeyer  
 Neema Murithi  
 Chris Quint  
 Marsha Swanson  
 Chuck Ames  
 Matt Dumler  
 John Booze  
 John Conger

Additional volunteers are always needed. 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 8:30 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 you are interested.

It's time to collect for Back Packs for Kids. Please bring backpacks and school supplies (there is a list on the box under the coat rack in the parlor). And place them in the Collection box. The deadline is approaching soon.



Stop by the parlor and check out Buttons Through the Decades by Barbara Jones. If you have a collection or something you would like to display, call the church office (625-3408).



July 11—Come to the Lark's Game  
 Hays FUMC is sponsoring the game

## Women's Summer Ministry

**June 25** Lunch at Professor's at 11:30 a.m.

**July 11** Larks Game—Church Fellowship

**July 15** Coffee at Jarilyn Staab's at 10 a.m.

**July 23** Ice Cream Social at the Church

**July 29** Lunch at Paisley Pear at 11:30



## Maintaining a Consistent Prayer Lifestyle

How to keep praying during the busy and unpredictable summer months

### 1. Anchor Prayer to Daily Activities

- Morning coffee? Begin with a quick thanksgiving prayer.
- Going for a walk? Turn it into a prayer walk.
- Driving - Pray during a drive. This helps make prayer feel natural, not a chore

### 2. Embrace Flexibility

- It is okay if prayer time shifts.
- Use smaller pockets of time—5 or 10 minutes.
- Mix up formats: journal, walk and pray, listen to worship music .

### 3. Create a Summer Prayer Plan

Just like people plan vacations and summer reading, plan your prayer life:

- Choose a theme (e.g., gratitude, rest, intercession).
- Pick a short book of the Bible to pray through (Psalms is great for this).
- Use a prayer app or journal to track.

### 4. Use Community and Accountability

- Pray with friends or family—even if just weekly.
- Join a short-term summer small group or prayer challenge.
- Text or call a prayer buddy once a week.

### 5. Involve Your Environment

- Pray during sunrise or sunset.
- Use nature to fuel awe and praise.
- Take “retreat” moments during vacations—5–10 minutes of intentional solitude.

### 6. Keep it Simple and Honest

- Don’t pressure yourself with “perfect” prayers.
- God welcomes short, honest conversations.

# June OUTREACH

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## UPCOMING EVENTS



- June 19 Church Office closed**
- June 25 Women's ministry, Lunch at Professor's, 11:30 a.m.**
- June 29 One Sunday service at 10:00 a.m.**
- July 1 Red Cross Blood Drive from 12:30-6:15**
- July 4 The church office will be closed**
- July 8-10 Vacation Bible School**
- July 11 Larks Game—Church Fellowship**
- July 13 David Vogel Concert at the Church at 3:30**
- July 15 Women's Ministry at Jarilyn Staab's at 10 a.m.**
- July 23 Women's Ministry Ice Cream Social at Church at 6:30**
- July 29 Women's Ministry Lunch at Paisley Pear at 11:30**