



OUTREACH



Volume 38 Issue 9

First United Methodist Church

September 24, 2026

Faith Beyond the Pews

As the summer season comes to an end, we are all transitioning back to a more structured way of life. Unlike summertime when some of our church families sleep late, wake up late, eat meals at unspecified times, take time off from work to travel, we are now back to a routine. Kids need to be put to bed at a certain time, fall sports and other cocurricular activities have started, and adults are getting used to waking up earlier so they can get to work on time. In this new season, it is easy to get overwhelmed and leave our faith out of the equation. However, God calls us to a holistic faith that integrates with our everyday environments and transforms our ordinary routines into holy moments. Therefore, let us challenge ourselves this month to take our Christian values out into the world and practice them within our daily activities. As we get busy with work, school, parenting, and all the other undertakings, remember to carry your faith with you wherever you go.

For those who have some employment both self-employed and other, your workplace is a primary area where you can display Christ's character. Values like integrity, honesty, and respect communicate to the world that we belong to Jesus, a kind and compassionate king of a different kingdom. In his letter to the Colossians, Paul reminds the followers of Christ to model their faith as they work for earthly masters. "Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters, since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving." Col 3: 23-25 (Message translation). Work is a form of worship. As such, we should work well, not just for human approval, but as serving the Lord.

Students are also beginning a new academic year. This presents a new opportunity for them, their teachers, and their parents to live out their faith. Classrooms present chances to practice love and offer grace to others. Helping the struggling student and being patient in the midst of a stressful semester is an act of faithfulness. To support you in your faith journey, our fall ministries have started with wonderful opportunities for all ages. Our Prayer Powerhouse gathers to pray and encourage each other on Wednesday at 12:10 PM. This is open to everyone wishing to spend some time with God in prayer or meditation. Ladies have an opportunity to grow deeper in faith through our two Women's Bible Studies. One meets on Wednesday at 1:00 PM and the other one at 7:15PM in the evening on Wednesday. You could also join our Women in Faith Fellowship in their circles where they foster fellowship and community with each other. Our Men's Bible Study meets on Wednesdays at 6:00AM in the church or 6:00PM at the Q. Junior High and Senior Youth meet at 6:00pm and at 7:17PM at the church in the youth room on Wednesday. Kids meet for WOW program immediately after School and also on Sunday during the 10:45 AM Service. All members and the community at large are welcome for a church dinner from 5:00 PM to 6:00 PM throughout the year. People give a freewill donation for the meal, but it is free for all who want to come and share in the fellowship.

Our Faith also teaches us to serve others. If you are looking for an opportunity to serve, join us for the Feed Hays Program every Thursday evening at St. Michaels Episcopal Church where we partner with other churches in town to feed our community. Our church also participates in Laundry Love every first Thursday of the month to support our community members with laundry costs while getting to fellowship with them. You can also bless the campus ministry students with a baked dessert on Thursday evenings, help with Children's ministry on Wednesday or Sunday mornings, join the choir to bless others with your gift of singing, Volunteer to offer special music during the service, serve as an usher or a greeter on Sunday mornings or help serve communion. There are many ways to be engaged. Find your place to be fed spiritually, then plug into a ministry to serve others. May our faith extend beyond the pews of our sanctuary. Amen

Pastor Susan Murithi

Outreach articles are due the **third** Sunday of each month. Please email your OUTREACH item to **wendy@haysfumc.com** before **Sunday, October 18, 2026**. Items may also be placed in the office, labeled **for the Outreach** by **October 18**. The next Outreach should be received on **October 22**.

Thanks

Thanks to Marilyn Davidson, Jacinda Johnson and Edison Leuschner, Steve and Marilyn Wood, Jarilyn Staab, and Vickie Unruh who helped with Feed Hays in August. Thanks to Sally Klausmeyer and Carol Purdy for helping with Laundry Love in August.

Thanks to all who have stepped in to help with custodial duties: Magda Hernandez, Matt Dumler, Troy Miller, Armin Kelly, Bev Bearley, Wendy Beougher, and Sheryl Cox.

Calling all bakers

If you could bring a dessert (to serve 18) to the Campus Center's Thursday night meal & worship, please sign on the list outside the church office.



INTRODUCING OUR STAFF

PROGRAM STAFF

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

SUPPORT STAFF:

Administrative Secretary: Beverly Bearley
Administrative Assistant: Wendy Beougher
Financial Secretary: Marsha Swanson
Childcare Director: Emmaline Leuschner
Building Supervisor:

Sympathy

Our sincere sympathy is extended to the family & friends of Alan & Heidi Wamser on the death of Alan's mother, Donna.

Nick & Caitlin Glassman on the death of Nick's grandfather, Lee Maxwell.

Congratulations

to the 3rd Graders who received Bibles on August 30

*Kaci Brooks
Wesley Bryant
Chalmers Sloan
Alex Harrison
Remi Staples
Isaac Berges*



to the students who were confirmed on August 30

*Jackson Berges
Rachel Dees
Colton Dreiling
Braelyn Dumler
Camryn Lang
Meghan Musil*

to our newest members

*Jeff Jones
Elaine & Don McFadden
Michael Cutting
Dale & Sherry Chaffin*

The members of the United Women in Faith have made a donation to the Capital Campaign in amount of \$5,000. We appreciate the support of our projects that made this donation possible.

You know you're growing old when almost everything hurts, and what doesn't hurt doesn't work.

Hy Gardner

Circle News

Rebekah Circle met September 9 at the church. Eleven members were served by hostesses Barb Clinkscales and Jarilyn Staab. Barbara Jones gave devotions. The meeting was conducted by Elaine Ford & Peggy Stull. Members were encouraged to sign up for the November bake sale. The Western District fall conference for UWF will be October 9 & 10 at Hays FUMC.

Naomi Circle met in the church parlor on Wednesday, September 16. The 53rd Fall Annual Meeting of the Western Kansas District United Women in Faith will be held at our church on Saturday, October 10th from 9:00 a.m. to 3:30. Music entertainment will be provided by Caitlin Glassman, Meredith Cory and Raymond Brent. Assembling personal dignity kits for the Midwest Mission will be the afternoon activity. Through the Ministerial Alliance, volunteers are needed to write notes of encouragement to our first responders and police department staff. Our next meeting will be October 14 at the church.

The members of the UWF Executive Board would like to express our deepest gratitude to Ruth Briney for the many, many years that she has faithfully given of her time, talents, wisdom and heart to our organization. Although she is relinquishing her position on the Executive Board, her years of service and the legacy she leaves behind will not be forgotten. She has been an example of what it means to serve with grace, faithfulness, and love. We thank her for all she has done, for all she has given, and for the many lives she has touched along the way. We are blessed to have served alongside her. Hays UWF Executive Board

FUMC Financial Snapshot

	August 31, 2026	Year to Date
Checking Account*	\$63,992.14	
Operating Gifts	\$35,982.80	\$407,645.45
Operating Expenses	\$43,257.44	\$398,549.10
Organ Fund	\$12,386.79	

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

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



Help Needed

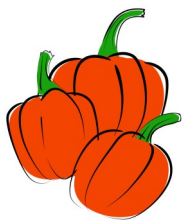
The United Women in Faith needs your help. We are in need of quart jars for our upcoming Peddler's Soup Lunch and Bake Sale. If you have new flats and ring for the jars that you no longer need, we would love to have those too. Please leave your donated jars in the church kitchen. Or if you would like to have them picked up from your home, call Debra at 785-623-1554.

The Ministerial Alliance is welcoming members from all churches to join them. We are about coming together to serve our community. We host the Thanksgiving meal, National Day of Prayer, USD 489 Baccalaureate, Second Mile Fund (which includes the support of First Call for Help, rent and utility payments which has helped hundreds of families). This work cannot be continued without people willing to step forward. You do not have to be a pastor or church staff member to serve. Please join us for our monthly meetings. All meetings are from 12-1:30 (we usually finish around 1:00 p.m.) Wednesday, October 14, Hays Living Waters Prayer Chapel, 1410 Toulon.



To our Sunday School teachers Mark Hantla and Marijo Rooney and Bible Study Leaders Matt Dumler, Tom McDonald, Heather Musil, Marie Henderson, Barb Mayo and Stacey Jones, Adam Dees and Caylan Harris.

Thanks to Caitlin Glassman & Maycie Holdeman, Michelle & Maycie Holdeman, and Rick and Jessamyn Staples for helping with Children's Church in September. If you would like to help, please contact Caitlin or call the church office.



Y'all Come
To Pa's Pumpkin Patch
October 7 at 6:00 p.m.

Support Fair Trade

Through Fair Trade, farmers support their families, stay on their land and care for the environment. Working in democratically-run co-operatives, small scale farmers gain control of their own livelihoods and make strides together in organic agriculture and quality control. With the added income from Fair Trade, farmers invest in education and social services for their communities. A partnership exists between the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) and Equal Exchange, a worker-owned co-operative offering 100% fairly traded coffee, chocolate, tea and foods. UMCOR is the humanitarian relief and development agency of the United Methodist Church.

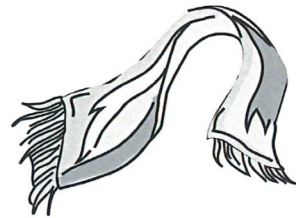
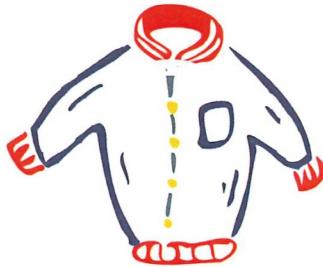
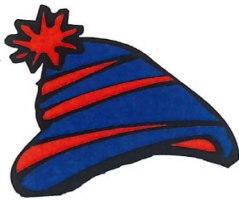
Congo Coffee, Columbian Coffee, Toffee Caramel Coffee, Hot Cocoa mix and Baking cocoa are available for purchase in the office from Fair Trade.



ANNUAL COAT DRIVE

**HELP OTHERS BY DONATING CLEAN
GENTLY USED COATS, HATS & GLOVES.**

THE GREATEST NEED IS FOR KID'S COATS



**DROP OFF DONATIONS
NOW THRU OCTOBER 14th**

***Master Cleaners • 200 West 8th
27th & Hall Laundromat***



“GIVE AWAY DAY”

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 24th

9:00 AM to 2:00 PM

Location: Master Cleaners • 200 West 8th



For Questions Contact: Ryan Gottschalk @ 625-2211

Sponsored by:

**Master Cleaners, 27th & Hall Laundromat, Casual Graphics
Eagle Radio Inc., Kiwanis Club of Hays, Methodist Church**



Did You Know?

Over 55 years ago members of this church saw a need for housing in our community that would be affordable for low-income families. Then, like today, there was a lot of competition for rental housing between families and university students.

A non-profit entity was created and named Epworth Village, Inc to find a way to address the housing needed. The Epworth name is synonymous with Epworth, Lincolnshire, England, the home of Methodism, the birthplace of John and Charles Wesley, and a nod to the connection to this church.

The Epworth Village board was comprised of members of this church, and they worked with the U.S Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to address this housing need. A parcel of land consisting of 9.5 acres was purchased along 27th St. East of Vine St. At the time, all the land NE of the 27th and Vine intersection was agricultural land. There was development at the 27th and Vine intersection but none along 27th St. East of Vine.

In conjunction with HUD, 75 units of housing were built on the site. It was a mix of one, two, and three-bedroom units spread over twelve buildings. HUD provided the financing, subsidized the interest on the loan to 1%, allowed a 50-year amortization on the loan, and provided rent subsidy on some of the units. The Epworth Village board provided oversight on the project and agreed to rent the units only to those who fell below 80% of Median Family Income levels.

Those 75 housing units still provide housing today to those in our community that struggle to keep a roof over their head by renting those units at well below market rental rates. Oversight of the project is still provided by a board of directors who are all members of this church. Just like it was 55 years ago. Check the Outreach next month, for more to this story. Did you know?

7 Attitudes of Grateful People

Pablo Diaz

Gratitude makes the world a better place for everyone through expressions of joy, generosity and attention.

1. Express joy.
2. Celebrate all of God's blessings.
3. Remember who and what helped your life turn out for the best.
4. Endure hardships with grateful hearts.
5. Serve others with talent, time and money.
6. Value the small things in life.

Spend time with loved ones and friends. Someone said, "It is not happy people who are thankful. It is thankful people who are happy."

Lord, may we discover the gift of grateful living.



September OUTREACH

***First United Methodist Church
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www.HaysFUMC.com**

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UPCOMING EVENTS

October 7, 6:00 p.m.	Pa's Pumpkin Patch
October 10	United Women in Faith District Meeting, FUMC
October 13	Trick or Treat So Others Can Eat
Sunday, October 18	Charge Conference
Tuesday, October 20	Women's Fellowship-Lunch at Paisley Pear
Wednesday, October 28	Trunk or Treat
Sunday, November 1	Women's Fellowship, Dining Room
Saturday, November 7	United Women in Faith Soup Luncheon & Bake Sale
Sunday, November 15	Children & Youth Sabbath