



OUTREACH



Volume 37 Issue 3

First United Methodist Church

March 20, 2025

On the 3rd Friday of this month, Christians will be celebrating Good Friday. This is a day that we commemorate the death of Christ on the cross. One may wonder what is good about this day that was filled with intense hatred by the accusers, mockery of an innocent person, and even death. At face value, everything about that Friday was terrible and dark. Good Friday, however, displayed something wonderful for the world to see. First, Christ displayed selfless love and compassion as he hung on the cross. He was willing to undergo the punishment that was rightfully ours to save us from the pain caused by our sin. Because the wages of sin is death, sinners had to die. But Jesus took the punishment for sin upon himself and set us free from sin and its consequences.

Having been freed from the power of sin, Christians endeavor to live righteously before God. So, throughout the Lent period, they prepare their hearts for Easter resurrection through fasting, repentance, sacrifice, and self-discipline. Some people give up something or take on something aimed at drawing them nearer to God. Believers, therefore, acknowledge their sin and turn back to God. In biblical language, it would also be called "taking up our cross" Luke 9:23-25. References Jesus' use of this phrase. "Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow me. 24 For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me will save it. 25 What good is it for someone to gain the whole world and yet lose or forfeit their very self?" During this season, we experience a heightened awareness of our need to take up the cross of Christ, to give up control of our lives so we can follow God's leading. We also remember Christ's work for humanity and aspire to a deep commitment to him, who gave his all for us.

Good Friday gives us that excellent opportunity not just to be aware but also to do something. Seeing the ugliness of sin as displayed on the cross, Christians are challenged to break away any ties to sin. We, therefore, are nudged to repentance. Thankfully, we know that the story did not end with the horror events of the crucifixion; the story continued to a resurrection. As such, Good Friday is a profound testimony to the power of Jesus' love and sacrifice. It invites us to pause, reflect, and be transformed as we draw inspiration from its timeless message of God's incredible love for humanity.

I invite you all to join us on Good Friday on the 18th, of April, to come and worship with us here at Hays First UMC. The incredible love of God will inspire us as we remember the sacrificial gift that Christ gave on that first Good Friday. Yes, it was a terrible day for our lord, but that ugliness bore a goodness for humanity that was unbelievably amazing. As we observe Lent this season and Good Friday on the third weekend of the month, let us strive to embody its spirit of repentance, selflessness, love, and forgiveness. And this makes it a GOOD FRIDAY for us who believe. Two days later, we will taste the Easter resurrection Joy on April 20th. Good Friday is what made Easter possible. Amen

Pastor Susan

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

Thanks

Thanks to the Prayer Shawl members who bless and bring comfort to many through their beautiful, prayerfully created shawls: Kari Schultz, Jarilyn Staab, Virginia Kraus, Ginny Schuster, Mary Alice Brent, Beckie Holmes, Hannah Barrett, Carolyn Nye, Janet Ottoway, Diane Wolfe and Gail Kuehl.

Volunteers are needed for snow removal at the church. Call the church office –625-3408.

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.

We tend to get so submerged by the noise in life that we forget to stop, take stock and, especially, be grateful. Soon you'll see your whole day as suffused by God's presence, and it won't seem very noisy at all.

Father James Martin

INTRODUCING OUR STAFF

PROGRAM STAFF

Pastor: Pastor Susan Murithi
Associate Pastor:: Pastor Troy Miller
Special Music Coordinator: Meredith Cory
Organist:: Noah Erichsen
Hannah Barrett
Charlotte Rathke
Choir Direcotr: Garrett Cole
Pianist: Sharon Graham
Handbell Choir Dir. Hannah Barrett
Marijo Rooney
Director of Discipleship: Matt Dumlér
Outreach Editor: Wendy Beougher

SUPPORT STAFF:

Administrative Secretary: Beverly Bearley
Administrative Assistant: Wendy Beougher
Financial Secretary: Liz Harper
Childcare Director: Melilssa Pyle
Building Supervisor: Alan Nelson

Sympathy

Our sincere sympathy is extended to the family & friends of

Sharon Barton, Shauna, Josh, Sage & Brynn Zweifel on the death of Don Barton on March 15.

Congratulations

to Lynden Erabell Glassman who was baptized on March 9. Parents are Caitlin & Nick and Leeson is the big brother.

to Isabelle Jones and Emmaline Leuschner for winning Dane G. Hansen scholarships.



*Palm Sunday
April 13
Children
will wave*

palms for all services. Watch for details.

*Easter Sunday,
April 20*

*Easter egg hunt
for the children.*



April 30 Last day for Kid's Club.

Saturday, April 19

Pastor Troy will be blessing motorcycles at Good Times Motorcycles.

Lunch at 12

Blessing at 1



Circle News

Rebekah Circle met Wednesday, March 12 at the church. Hostesses were Kathy Albers & Sheryl Cox. The pledge service was presented by Patty Nicholas. Peggy Stull & Elaine Ford presided over the business meeting. Sherrie Smith presented the program "The 100th Anniversary of choosing the state bird". UWF's Annual Spring Brunch will be on March 29th at 9:30. Rev. Dr. Susan Murithi will be the guest speaker.

Naomi Circle met on Wednesday, March 12 at the church with 15 members present. The Pledge Service was the program. Other highlights of the meeting included: sharing of many thank you notes from various groups/individuals that were touched by our gifts; baby quilts were shared with little ones; a Valentine that was sent to one of our devoted members; the dedication of our members with funeral dinners and future Fall fund-raising events. Our next meeting will be held on Wednesday, April 9 at 9:15 at the church. For the month of May, our meeting will be at 10:30 with a potluck dinner shared with Rebekah Circle following our meeting.



*United Women in Faith
Spring Brunch*

*Saturday, March 29
9:30 a.m.
Church dining room*

Guest speaker:

*Rev. Dr. Susan Murithi
Life in Kenya: geography, daily life,
art & culture*

*All women are invited.
Bring a friend.*



FUMC Financial Snapshot

	Feb. 28, 2025	Year to Date
Checking Account*	\$37,527	
Operating Gifts	\$40,387	
Operating Expenses	\$54,070	

Parsonage Mortgage Balance	\$84,085
Organ Fund	\$8,126

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

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

Menus for**March 26**

Hot dogs
Mac & cheese
Green beans
Chips
Salad
Dessert

April 2

Vegetable & beef soup, green bean & dumpling soup
Crackers & vegetable tray
Dessert

April 9

Fish wedges on bun
Chips
Salad bar
Dessert

April 16

Chicken & noodles, mashed potatoes
Corn or peas & carrots
Rolls
Dessert

April 23

Spaghetti casserole
Green beans
Breadsticks
Dessert

April 30

Last WOW– to be announced

Meals are \$5.00
Menu subject to change
To go boxes available on request
Serving time-5:15-6:00

**Womens Fellowship**

Sunday, March 30th, 4:30-6 p.m.-Crafting & light meal– church dining room

Saturday, April 12, 9-11 a.m. Prayer stations & brunch at the church

Thursday, April 24, 4 p.m.—Ice cream at Dairy Queen



Lent Challenge

Clothing Those in Need

The Education Committee would like to thank the congregation for their generosity with the Feed the Fish projects. Right now, funds are being collected to cover unpaid school lunches and overdue accounts for the children in USD 489. We are half way to our goal with a little over \$500 donated. As our committee was discussing the need for these funds, our conversation went deeper into what we could do to help families within the district that need help. This led to a representative from the district who is the liaison for homeless families to come speak to the Education Committee.

She shared that there are 43 families which include 62 who are classified as homeless right now in the district. They may be living in cars or motels. Most families who come to Hays are coming from somewhere that has homeless shelters and when they get to Hays, there are no shelters. Her job as a liaison is to help these families find a place to live. So far, 27 families have been placed since the beginning of the 2024-2025 school year.

Our question to her was what can we do to help you right now and on down the road? Her answer for right now is the wish list closet. The wish list is the basics the children need, including sweats, socks, shorts, etc. Currently the stock is very low and some items have none. The items needed are adult sizes, for the middle and high school students, as the elementary schools have their own supply of these items.

The Education Committee challenges the congregation with a "Lent Challenge". During Lent, we ask the congregation to help provide items for the wish closet. The goal is 460 items. Beginning March 9, the first Sunday of Lent, there will be three locations where you can take a wish list note: the back and front entrances to the sanctuary and in the Gathering space downstairs. We ask that each family take at least one note and purchase the item on the note. Please return it to one of the laundry baskets in the parlor. Items will be collected until Easter Sunday. On Easter, a blessing will be said for the items which will be delivered to the Wish List Closet.

The King will reply, "Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me." Matthew 25:40



News from Eswatini

Rachel Palmberg

We gave chocolates to 133 people in our community. Every holiday we attach a simple message-Uyatsandvwa-you are loved. We pray this message sinks into the hearts of each person we meet. That they will know they are seen & loved by not only our Outreach team but also by the God who created them. We extend this message to you-our friends, advocates and supporters all around the globe. You are loved.

February 5 marked our third birthday as an organization, and I am just in awe of God's consistency and timing. Thank you to all of you for walking this journey with us. As we look forward to what's in store for 2025, we are praying for an increase of monthly support by \$2,300. While we are blessed to have enough support to operate at our current size and pace, we are anticipating a growth of team, space and outreach. Your support will help empower that growth as we continue to create safe spaces in dark places throughout Manzini.

Thank you to all who have donated. For those donating financially from the U.S., your donation is tax deductible. Checks can also be made out to "The Cause, Inc." with Deep Water in the memo and mailed to:

The Cause, Inc.
4225 Oceanside Blvd.
Suite H-325
Oceanside, CA 92056

Pray

Pray for perfect peace in your heart & soul

Lord, you will keep in perfect peace those whose minds are steadfast, because they trust in You. Isaiah 26:3
 And Jesus said, "Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid." John 14:27
 So I pray for that perfect peace of Christ to rule in my heart and soul.

Pray to be a peacemaker

Jesus said, "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God." Matthew 5:9
 I want to be blessed. I choose to be a peacemaker, knowing that "Peacemakers who sow in peace reap a harvest of righteousness" James 3:18

Pray for peace in the church

"The Lord gives strength to His people; the Lord blesses His people with peace." Psalm 29:11
 Help me and Your whole church to "Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace." Ephesians 4:3

Pray for peace that passes understanding

Prince of Peace, I ask for You to fulfill in me the promise of Your word that "the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus." Philippians 4:7

Pray to live in peace with all

"If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone." Romans 12:18
 I ask You to help me "make every effort to do what leads to peace, that I and those around me may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness."

Pray for peace

God, I pray for the peace of Hays, of Kansas, of the United States and of the world.
 May those who love you be secure.
 May there be peace within your walls
 And security within your boundaries.
 For the sake of everyone within.

The Short List

Some Things to Lament:

- * The suffering of the marginalized and oppressed
- * Personal struggles and failures
- * The ever-present threat of war and conflict
- * The ongoing effects of sin and its consequences

Some Ways to Lament:

- * Begin with Prayer. Turn to God. Express your feelings and acknowledge your need.
- * Explore the Psalms, particularly the laments. Learn from examples of those who cried out to God in their suffering.
 Here is a partial list of personal lament Psalms: 3- 7, 10, 13, 17, 22, 25, 26, 28, 31, 32, 38, 39, 42, 43, 51, 54-57, 59, 61, 64, 70, 71, 77, 86, 102, 120, 130, and 141-143
- * Share your laments with other believers. Find comfort and encouragement in shared experiences.
- * Confess and seek forgiveness. Acknowledge personal failures and seek forgiveness through repentance.
- * Remember God's faithfulness. Hold onto the truth of God's promises and his goodness even in the midst of darkness.
- * Allow yourself to mourn. Do not suppress or deny your grief. Instead, process your emotions honestly and allow God to meet you in your pain.

March OUTREACH

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www.HaysFUMC.com**

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UPCOMING EVENTS

**UWF Spring Brunch
Women's Fellowship
Women's Fellowship**

**Palm Sunday
Easter Sunday
Church office closed
Women's Fellowship**

**Saturday, March 29
Sunday, March 30, 4:30-6, Crafts & meal
Saturday, April 12, 9-11-Prayer Stations
& Brunch
April 13
April 20
Monday, April 21
Thursday, April 24, 4:00-at Dairy Queen**