



OUTREACH



Volume 38 Issue 8

First United Methodist Church

August 20, 2026

A Season of New Beginnings And Celebration

August is an exciting month for us here at Hays First. We have a lot to celebrate and thank God for. First we will be celebrating our new beginnings Sunday on August 30th, 2026. This is the day we highlight the ministries we are involved in here in our church and invite people to join them. On this day, we will have one service at 10:00 AM. After the service we will have a dinner as a church family in our newly renovated Fellowship Hall. Thanks to your incredible generosity and dedication, our capital campaign was successful. The money we have been receiving has enabled us to start renovation work in the kitchen, the fellowship hall, the boiler room (removing asbestos), and our parsonage mortgage is fully paid off. We will be receiving monies for the capital campaign projects in the next three years to help us complete the work we have started. But we are grateful for God's faithfulness and your generosity that made this milestone possible.

In that spirit of celebration, we will gather on that Sunday to pray, give thanks, and watch the physical parsonage mortgage papers go up in smoke. Eliminating this debt frees some resources that will allow us to redirect our finances away from interest payments and directly into local outreach and ministry.

August 30th is also our New Members joining Sunday. We are thrilled to officially receive our newest church members and honor our confirmands as they take ownership of their faith journeys. We will have seven new members and the class of confirmands this year joining officially. This is a beautiful image of our expanding family as we get ready to serve our community together. As a new school year approaches, we will also celebrate our students with our annual Blessing of the Backpacks. We will pray for students, teachers, and staff as they too will be starting a new school year. In addition, we will present our third graders with their very own Bibles to ground them in God's Word.

Please join us for this unforgettable Sunday as we celebrate where we have been and honor who we are becoming in Christ. Mark your calendars and join us that day as we gather to bless the generation that will lead us into the future, while honoring and celebrating the doings of God through the Hays First UMC family.

All church members are invited to attend a **Church Conference on Wednesday, September 23 at 6:00 p.m.**, immediately following the WOW meal. The purpose of this special conference is to vote on the percentage of our church endowment fund to be used to support our **Capital Campaign and especially help with the cost of replacing the HVAC, which we significantly underestimated.**

This is an important decision for our church, and we encourage all members to prayerfully consider the opportunity to participate in this conversion and vote. **All are welcome!** We look forward to gathering together as we discern God's direction for our church and its ministry in the years ahead.

Have a celebratory month!
Pastor Susan Murithi

Outreach articles are due the **third** Sunday of each month. Please email your OUTREACH item to **wendy@haysfumc.com** before **Sunday, September 20, 2026**. Items may also be placed in the office, labeled **for the Outreach** by **September 20**. The next Outreach should be received on September 24.

Thanks

Thanks to Sherri Brown, Greg Daughhetee, Armin & Vicki Kelly, Randy Clinkscales, Bob & Kathy Albers, Hannah Barrett, Sheryl Cox, Vickie Unruh, Shane & Shanda Preston, Heather Musil, Mary Meckenstock & Bernie Gribben and Wendy Beougher for preparing and serving the meal for Feed Hays on July 23.

Thanks to Jacinda Johnson and Edison Leuschner for working at Feed Hays on July 30.

Sincere thanks to our Church Lay Leader Armin Kelly for his continued work on behalf of our membership. His skill, compassion and dedication to the job have greatly benefited all of us. Armin has truly shown us what grace meeting different challenges means in accomplishing great things for our Church. With the support of his wife, Vicki, he constantly approaches each challenge with skill, grace and determination. We are all better because they are a part of our congregation.

A current member

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:



WOW KICKOFF

Ice Cream Social at the ARC Park
Wednesday, August 26
6:30-8:00 p.m.



September 2

Hamburgers, hot dogs
Baked beans, Potato salad
Fruit cup, Chips, Cupcakes

September 9

Baked steak
Cheesy scalloped potatoes
Corn
Dessert

September 16

Sloppy Joe's
Corn
Roll
Dessert

September 23

Chicken or taco enchiladas
Cheese sauce with chips
Salads
Veggies
Dessert

September 30

Spaghetti with meatballs
French bread stix
Green beans
Salad bar
Dessert
Meals are \$5.00



Thank you to everyone who brought supplies or donated money for VBS. Thank you to Naomi and Rebekah Circles for preparing meals for the students. Thanks to the leadership of Jenna Brubaker, Caitlin Glassman, Matt Dumler & Sandy Henningsen.

A special thank you to all the volunteers:

Emmaline Leuschner
Ellen Bryant
Ava Preston
Abby Kennemer
Jessi Luck
Brynn Zweifel
Paityn Homan
Aubrey Preston
Dylan Bryant
Camden Luck
Cyler Luck
Bryson Dumler
Addy Booze
Braelynn Dumler
Michelle Holdeman
Erica Berges
Maycie Holdeman
Cailynn Luck
Brandon Kennemer
Bethany Harris
Kelli Delimont
Shanda Preston
MariCarmen
Rebecca
Sharon Graham
Jenna Sloan
Brad Schumacher
Kristi Lang
Chuck Ames

Thanks also to Tim Miller & Mike Cooper for helping with the audio-visual team.

Thank you for the financial support so I could go to Boots & Bible Camp. I loved the horses so much! Also, I feel like I got much closer to God.

Love,
Cailynn Luck

FUMC Financial Snapshot

	June 30, 2026	Year to Date
Checking Account*	\$72,465.29	
Operating Gifts	\$46,058.35	\$371,662.64
Operating Expenses	\$48,971.12	\$355,291.66
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.



Do you enjoy the music during worship? Does it bring you closer to God; help you to reflect on your experience with the Lord?

Have you ever considered being a part of that experience by SINGING with Chancel CHOIR?

We want to invite you to a **CHANCEL CHOIR KICK OFF EVENT**

Chancel Choir Kick off event — **Sunday, August 23 beginning at 6 pm in the Parlor.** A light meal will be provided — followed by a music reading session in the Chapel. Join us and learn how you can be a part of this ministry!

We'll share why choir and music ministry is a special part of our worship experience; learn more about the schedule and planning for the fall. Meet and interact with current members — they're good folks!

Come and join us --- we aren't professional musicians — just members who love to "Make a joyful noise to the Lord".

Questions? contact Charlotte Rathke call/text 785-259-1422 or Crr61.16@gmail.com



Kids Corner

Children's Ministry Dates

Wednesday, August 26

Kid's Club Kick-Off at Arc Park, Splash Pad & Ice Cream Social-6:30

Wednesday, September 2

Kid's Club starts at 3:00 p.m.

Sunday, September 13

Children's Church begins

We are looking for people to volunteer with our Children's Ministry (Children's message, Children's Church teacher, Kid's Club). Children's Church volunteers sign up on a rotating basis so it would not be an every Sunday commitment. There is a sign up sheet located in the foyer or you can contact Caitlin at 785-577-1893.

PUTTING YOUR HOUSE IN ORDER



Three-part series covers:

1. Estate Planning
2. Legacy Giving
3. Memorial Planning

What to expect:

- Caring guidance
- Necessary resources
- Ongoing support
- Hour-long sessions



If making estate plans and putting your affairs in order has been on the to-do list, then make 2026 the year to get it done.

Putting Your House in Order is a three-part series that covers:

1. **Estate Planning,**
2. **Legacy Giving,** and **Memorial Planning.**

Over 255 Methodists have taken part in this program over the past two years, and we now have two options for participation:

Option 1) Online Cohorts – Our online cohort option allows you to join other learners for three, one-hour sessions via Zoom where content will be presented live, and you can engage in group dialogue. Materials are available for download or in hard copy versions upon request. Between each session, a staff member will reach out and schedule a one-on-one meeting (usually via Zoom) to answer questions and assist you in putting your plans in place.

Sessions will be held monthly on the second Friday of September (9/11), October (10/9), and November (11/13) at 10 AM or on the third Thursday of September (9/17), October (10/15), and November (11/19) at 7 PM.

Registration for our online cohorts is open until Monday, September 7.

Option 2) New Online and On-Demand - Our On-Demand option allows you to enroll in the course and start lessons at any time that fits your schedule. Lessons are presented via video and course materials are available for download or in hard copy versions upon request. Between each lesson, a staff member will reach out and schedule a one-on-one meeting (usually via Zoom) to answer questions and assist you in putting your plans in place.

Regardless of option, each session provides useful information and needed resources to guide you in putting your plans in place. We will discuss wills versus trusts, durable powers of attorney, advanced health care directives, legacy giving, endowments, how to document important personal and family information, and other items to assist your successors.

KMF staff will educate you on options, answer questions, and walk with you side-by-side as you create plans that reflect your wishes. While KMF staff are not licensed attorneys who can draft estate documents, we will support participants in finding an estate attorney to draft legal documents as part of the process.

As an added bonus, people who participate in all three sessions and complete the required tasks will have \$500 deposited into their legacy fund at the KMF. We want to reward you for being a good steward of your resources and seed the legacy you choose to create.

Provide for your spouse and children. **Create** a legacy. **Give** direction to your successors. **Deliver** peace of mind to you and your loved ones. For questions, please contact Tyler Curtis at tyler@kansasmethodistfoundation.org.

Let's be a welcoming church to our college students and visitors

There are welcome bags at each entrance for Hays Visitors. There are cards & pens to give to out of town guests. If you see someone new sitting by you and they don't have a bag, please get one for them. Take one to a neighbor or friend you would like to invite to church. Also call & check on people who sit next to you and may have missed Sundays. If you see someone sitting alone, sit next to them.

Take responsibility for getting to know people sitting within 10 feet of you.

Spend 3 minutes before or after church talking to someone you don't know well.



Make Time for Joy

But so that we may not cause offense, go to the lake and throw out your line. Take the first fish you catch; open its mouth and you will find a four-drachma coin....—Matthew 17:27 (NIV)

One night, during a vacation with other couples, we played a foosball tournament. We giggled like kids as we clumsily twisted the metal rods affixed with soccer-like players, “kicking” a little ball back and forth, trying to score or block goals. It had been a long time since I had laughed so hard. God created us to play, and I don't think He wants that to lessen with age. But as life gets serious, playfulness diminishes; I know mine has.

When I read the story of the tax collectors who confronted Peter about paying taxes, I noticed a playful side to Jesus. When asked if Jesus paid taxes, Peter said, “Yes,” then went to talk to Jesus. Before Peter could speak, Jesus answered his question. I imagine this had to make Peter smile. Jesus affirmed He would pay the taxes, and to prove it He sent Peter on a fishing excursion. Jesus told him to throw in his line and open the mouth of the fish he caught to find the money owed to the tax collectors. Sounds like a playful game to me—a strategically, uniquely designed, amusing activity for the fisherman. Perhaps Peter even laughed out loud when he opened the mouth of the fish.

Life is not all fun and games, but this story shows I need to create space for play in my life. So, we'll definitely plan a few more noncompetitive foosball games—or maybe I'll do a little fishing.

There will be a potluck dinner following the one service at 10:00 on Sunday, August 30. Fried chicken and table service will be provided. If your last name begins with A-J, please bring a side dish, K-Z please bring a dessert.

August OUTREACH

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UPCOMING EVENTS

Sunday, August 23	Choir Kick off event
Wednesday, August 26	WOW kick off at ARC Park
Sunday, August 30	New Beginnings Sunday & Church luncheon
	Confirmation Sunday
Tuesday, September 1	Red Cross Blood Drive
October 9 & 10	United Women in Faith District Meeting, FUMC
Sunday, October 18	Charge Conference