



SPRING/SUMMER 2025

Greetings Heartland Faith Family,

It's hard to believe how quickly the year has passed. As summer is fast approaching, looking back on the winter and spring exciting things have happened at the church. During the Advent Season, we celebrated several meaningful events. These included Hanging of the Greens, Join the Church Sunday, the Spaghetti Feed and Silent Auction, and Caroling. Of course, we concluded with the beautiful Candlelight Christmas Eve Service.

January brought the return of Young Hearts for Christ and the start of Confirmation classes that brought 4 youth being baptized and 9 being confirmed into the church. Lenten season was full of worship and outreach. The end of the school year brought a celebration with dinner, games and fellowship.

Summer will be full of activities including Youth Bootcamp, A Revival and Vacation Bible School. We are also looking forward to the Church undergoing renovations this summer with a redesign of the stage area and a fresh coat of paint.

Ivy Rodenberg is officially on board as Worship Coordinator and with the return of Katie back to the office she is going full steam ahead with her position. With that being said, here are the office hours for the ladies.

Office Hours:

Katie: Monday–Friday, 9:00 AM – 1:00 PM Ivy: Monday–Friday, 12:00 PM – 3:00 PM Please note that these hours may change if either needs to be away or due to remodeling activities. Updates will be posted on Facebook and sent via email.

As we reflect on these exciting developments—from meaningful worship seasons and youth milestones to upcoming summer events and renovations—we are filled with hope and anticipation for the future of our Heartland Faith Family. We look forward to growing together in faith and fellowship in the months ahead.

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What an honor it is to sit in the office at the church, typing up a message to all of you! As I reflect on the change from my former life in Corporate America to now studying God's Word, I am filled with a deep sense of gratitude and blessing. Instead of focusing on ways to avoid fraud or theft, I now have the privilege of diving into the rich truths of our faith. This servant heart is grateful beyond words! In the last couple of weeks, I've officially taken on this position following Katie's return to the office. Over the last four months, I've been doing her job while praying for God's direction on how to best serve in this role. The calling to listen carefully, balance the needs of worship services, and always follow the Lord's guidance is at the forefront of my mind. While stepping into worship leadership, I've also felt a strong pull to further deepen my knowledge and service. When the opportunity came up to take classes to become a Supply Pastor in the Global Methodist Church, I didn't hesitate. I enrolled in my first six-week course, and to my surprise, it wasn't nearly as intimidating as I'd imagined. I CAN still learn, and I am grateful to have the Holy Spirit guiding me in this next phase of my life. Later this year, I'll be taking another course to complete my certification, and I look forward to what God has in store. One of the most exciting parts of my week has been spending time with the Young Hearts on Wednesday evenings. If you've seen me there, you know how much joy and energy they bring. Their enthusiasm is contagious, and while it's a bit draining at times, it is a true blessing to serve and encourage them in their walk with Jesus. I'm excited to collaborate with Shirley, Katrina, and Gayle as we dive into the curriculum they've chosen and prepare crafts and demonstrations to help these young minds grow in their relationship with our Heavenly Father. I want to close with a heartfelt thank you to all of you. Thank you for trusting me to build your Sunday morning worship service. If you had told me eight years ago that I would be standing on stage, leading worship with a speech impediment and battling anxiety, I would have thought you were out of your mind. But, as we know, God doesn't call the equipped-He equips the called. Your words of encouragement and support have helped me step out of my comfort zone and embrace what God is doing at Heartland Faith. For that, I am deeply grateful.

Blessings,

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Transformation



Graduating from various levels of school, whether elementary, high school college or beyond, is more than just a personal achievement; it's a testimony of perseverance, discipline, and the Grace of God. As we celebrate these academic milestones, we honor the commitment of students, the sacrifices of parents, and the investment of educators. It is truly a Joy to see young people rise, learn, and prepare to serve both God and society with excellence.

But even more profound are the spiritual significant achievements we witness in the life of our church family, baptisms, confirmations, and deepening discipleship. these sacred steps declare to the world that transformation is not only academic or social it is spiritual and it is eternal,

When a person is baptized, we rejoice in their new birth in Christ. When they are confirmed, we witness their declaration of faith and commitment to Christ and His Church. These moments mark the unfolding of God's redemptive work in individual lives. They are powerful reminders that our ultimate goal is not just success in the world, but Christlikeness, to be shaped, refined, and conformed to the image of our Savior.

As Heartland Faith Church, we are thrilled to walk alongside these young men and women. We celebrate their academic victories. We rejoice in their public declarations of faith. And we honor those, parents, teachers, mentors, and church leaders who have nurtured them along the way. Your labor in the Lord is not in vain. What we see in the young people is a great testimony of your labor in the trenches. Unnoticed, unsung, without a microphone, your work speaks volumes.

But above all, we are confident that God is pleased. Every graduation robe, every certificate, every baptismal testimony, and every confirmation vow declares the truth, transformation is happening. The journey from student to scholar, from believer to disciple, is in motion.

Let us keep praying, mentoring, and guiding young people. Let us encourage them not only to pursue knowledge, but also wisdom from above. Let us model what it means to be fully committed followers of Jesus. And let us celebrate every step they take toward becoming who God created them to be. We cannot give now, the world needs mentors at such a time as this.

But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord. Il Corinthians 3:18

May Heartland Faith continue to be a place where young lives are educated, baptized, confirmed and transformed, all for the Glory of God and the advancement of His Kingdom.



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Ministries

<u>Children's & Youth</u> Taking a summer break

Small Groups

Tuesday 7PM Women's Small Group

Wednesday 6PM Adult Small Group

Friday 6PM Prayer Meeting

2nd Saturday of the Month 7:30-9AM Men's Breakfast



May 28th-31st Annual Global Heartland Conference Claremore OK Pastor Pezzy, Mary and Ivy will be representing us in Claremore OK

June 25th-27th 10AM-3PM Youth Bootcamp

Youth can join us for bootcamp to learn music, technology and graphic design and marketing./social media advertising. Lunch will be provided Watch for more details

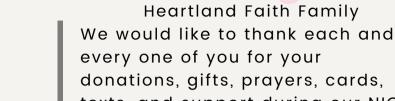
July 11th

Revival

Heartland Faith will be hosting the area revival led by District Elder Elizabeth Winger-Young. More details to come

July 30th-August 1st

Vacation Bible School Heartland Faith will be collaborating with Oasis Church to host Vacation Bible School



texts, and support during our NICU stay with LJ. Your kindness meant more to us than we could ever express to you.

thank you

Your kind gifts, cards and texts really helped lift Katie's spirits on some of the most difficult days in the NICU. We were so overjoyed and blessed with all of your support.

We are grateful, blessed, and excited for all of you to watch LJ grow up and to help us guide him in the ways and teachings of Jesus and the church.

With all our Love and Thanks Rafael, Katie and Joseph (LJ) Esser



GIVING: Thank you for giving to the Lord. We collect tithe for Heartland Faith during worship services.

You can also mail giving to: Heartland Faith Church PO Box 192, Ulysses, KS 67880

Payables / Receivables: In the event that you have reimbursements or invoices we encourage mailing to our PO Box or contact Sarah Ledesma at 620-575-5634.

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Calvin Ask Son of Michael and Deborah Ask Promoted to Ulysses High School



Lucas Rodriguez Grandson of Rob and Katrina Benyshek Graduated Kindergarten



Blake Stutzman Grandson of Linda Binney Graduated from Moscow High School

Jaime and Paige Kratzer Family



Shelby Received a Degree in Health and Human Science from Kansas State University



Mika Graduated from Cowley County Community College and will be attending Kansas State University in the fall



Bella Promoted to Ulysses High School

Grandsons of Clayetta Wise



Kenyon Mason Received a Degree in Civil Engineering from West Texas A&M University



Wyatt Kiddoo Graduated from High School in Dolores, Colorado

Recap of Activities Hanging of the Greens

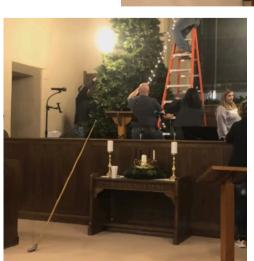


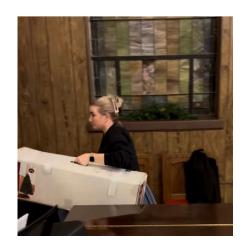
The annual "Hanging of the Greens" brought us together for Fellowship and getting the Church Ready for the Advent Season













Join the Church Sunday and Youth Fundraiser





Was join the church Sunday to officially join the Global Methodist Church. We then celebrated with a Spaghetti Feed and Silent Auction to support the youth.

















Recap of Activities Caroling and Hay Ride





Food Drive





Annual Hay Ride and Caroling to bring joy to the community. Afterwards we gathered at church for Hot Cocoa and more fellowship







The Youth group collected food items to Donate to Loaves and Fishes to help those in need



Young Hearts, Youth and Confirmation Classes





After Christmas Break the youth of the church had their various classes to learn about the love and life of Jesus and the Global Methodist Beliefs

Scout Sunday





The annual Scout Sunday service was led by Craig Hampton. the Scouts shared about their group with us.



Core Community

The Church ladies cooked and served dinner for the students and children of the Core Community Classes









The Lenten Season brought Special Worship Šervices in Ash Wednesday, Palm Sunday and Good Friday. A trip to the Care home to help residents make Easter Baskets and Miss Shirley teaching not only the young hearts but reminding all of about the real reason for the season













Recap of Activities Baptism and Confirmation



Baptism and Confirmation Sunday was the culmination of our youth, youth leaders and sponsors hard work over the winter and spring. It was amazina to witness these kids choose Christ and His teachings.







