



RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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E-mail: office@fumclvks.org




Office Hours—M-Th 9a-3p, Friday—9a-noon



Or visit us at FUMCLVKS.ORG

Sunday services stream at either site.

July 2022

26 8:30 & 11:00 Worship	27 1:00 pm AIR ministry	28 6:30 pm Bible Study	29	30 8:30am Staff	1	2 
3 10:00 Worship	4 Church Office closed 	5	6	7 8:30am Staff	8	9
10 8:30 & 11am Worship	11 VBS 1:00 pm AIR Ministries	12 VBS 6:30 pm Bible Study	13 VBS 5:00 pm Grief Share	14 VBS	15 VBS	16
17 8:30 & 11am Worship	18 1:00 pm AIR Ministries	19 2 pm Grief Group 6:30 pm Bible Study	20 12:00 pm Lunch Bunch	21 8:30 am Staff 1:30 pm Itchin' to Stitch	22	23 
24 8:30 & 11am Worship	25 1:00 pm AIR Ministries	26 1:00 pm Book Club 6:30 pm Bible Study	27 5:00 pm Grief Share	28 8:30am Staff Meeting	29	30





On Saturday, June 18, the Equal Justice Initiative conducted a soil collection ceremony to remember the three lynching victims in Leavenworth County history. It was part of the Community Remembrance Project that I've been working on since the fall of 2020. Our team represents Leavenworth County well. During the school year, we held an essay contest and did presentations for students as well as information programs. In the fall, we are planning to have a historical marker placed in order to permanently tell the story.

I've often wondered why I am leading this group. It's not really part of my background and until recently I didn't know anything about the history of Richard Wood, Silas Wilson and Fred Alexander. Perhaps that makes me a perfect person to lead this project. As a pastor, I am called to guide the Church into the way of peace and justice for the Kingdom of God. We are called to speak for truth and seek healing for our community. If God's people won't speak to injustice, who will do it? If we don't do it now, when will it be done? 120 years is long enough.

Justice is a form of loving our neighbor (Luke 10:25). It is seeking the best for our community and all the people who live in it. When this does not take place, either now or then, we are required to act justly (Micah 6:8). It's not an easy conversation to have but it is necessary. Some people will not approve and others may be against it. Yet, God desires justice for society so the Church is called to lead in this area. The pastor is called to lead the Church. So, here I am, send me.

As we draw closer to the time of the historical marker placement, I hope that FUMCL will continue to lead the way. We are witnessing our faith in Jesus through acts of goodness and remembrance. Our nation has come a long way since lynching was common in the land. Seeds of righteousness planted then have become a fair and integrated society today. Perhaps the seeds of virtue and decency we plant in our time will bring a harvest for future generations.

Pastor Dave



JULY Birthdays

2nd	Karen Piper	14th	Judy Wolfe	25th	Tom Tish
	George Short	18th	Corliss Fox	26th	Joy Defrees
3rd	Riley Weeks	22nd	Andy Hall		Cassie Kay
8th	Tanner Hendrix	23rd	Rebecca Beasley	27th	Dorothy McDonald
9th	Carla Wiegiers	23rd	Rodney Edington	28th	Victor Cochran
10th	Ron Roggentien	24th	Gary Russell		Galen Hooser
	Rodney Yates	25th	Michelle Briggs		Jamie Walley
13th	Wyatt Brown		Rachel Sanders	31	Sarah Smith
14th	Jeff Eyerly		Elizabeth Sanders		

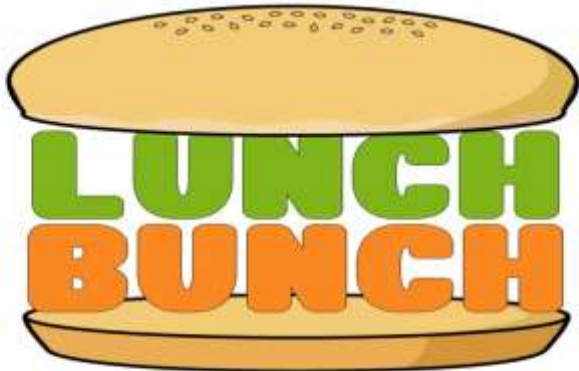


JULY anniversaries

2nd	David & Lois Kastner	39 years
5th	Brian & Kari Anderson	19 years
6th	Steve & Margaret Songer	48 years
12th	Bill & Nancy Shade	36 years
21st	Randy & Linda Herrman	49 years
23rd	LeRoy & Teresa Hicks	45 years
	Dave & Rhonda York	34 years
25th	Wayne & Helen Parks	41 years
29th	Kevin & June Bond	44 years
30th	Tony & Nina McNeill	39 years
	Andi & Tom Pawlowski	28 years

If we missed your birthday or anniversary, please contact the office so we can update our records.
swood@fumclvks.org

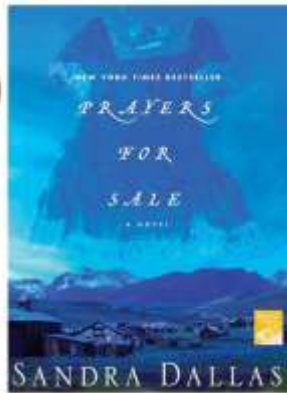
UPCOMING Events



July 20, 12:00 PM
TENPENNY



JULY 26
1 PM



Itchin' to Stitch



Throughout the years the members of Itchin' to Stitch work on community projects in their own homes on their own time. But once a month, they get together to work on a group project. This summer they are making fleece blankets for **Missy's Cancer Boutique at the Richard and Annette Bloch Cancer Care Pavilion in Westwood.** This boutique was created to provide products and services for cancer patients. They will meet on Thursday, July 21, at 1:30 pm to make the blankets. You do not need any sewing experience to tie a fleece blanket so new members are invited to join. If you would like more information, contact Teresa Hicks at hickst@kc.rr.com



Congratulations!
Bob & Joan Atwell Celebrate
70th Anniversary

Bob and Joan Atwell met at high school which was in the building that used to be east of our church. They attended youth group together at the Salem Evangelical and Reformed church that used to sit on the triangle block where Pilgrim Community church now sits. When they were 17 & 18, they got married on June 29, 1952 at the United Church of Christ which used to be one block north of our church. Their 70 years together has taken them farther than they could have imagined in 1952, but they love being back in Leavenworth very close to where it all started.

When they got married, Bob was working at Kramer Manufacturing which used to be in the buildings across from Pulman Place, where KCKCC used to be. He learned the toolmaking trade there. He worked as a toolmaker at Cessna Aircraft in Wichita and Bendix which later became Allied Signal where he retired as a supervisor. Joan stayed at home with their 4 kids, but as they were leaving home, she went to school to become an LPN and then got her Bachelor of Science degree in Nursing from the University of Kansas. She spent 20 years in nursing specializing in Obstetrics and Community nursing.

One day when their children were very young, a seminary student knocked on their door and invited them to a church he was planting about a block from their house. They, along with several young families in the neighborhood started attending and Bob became very involved in church leadership. They moved to another church in Peculiar, MO, where Bob was the lay leader, liturgist and the church council chairman. One day the Bishop of the district was visiting and spoke to Bob about having a second career as a pastor. Bob considered the idea, but figured that was a long way away because he was only in his late fifties. Not long after that, Allied Signal offered him a buyout and early retirement. Bob **saw this as God's way of getting his attention and calling him into ministry.**

Bob was assigned three small churches in Golden City, Newtonville, and Avilla, Missouri while he worked on his seminary training. In 1996, Bob and Joan moved back to the Leavenworth area and started attending the Lansing United Methodist church. Billy Whiteside was the pastor and let Bob preach every fourth Sunday. He soon retired and Bob became the pastor and Lansing First United Methodist church. He only spent one year there and then moved to the United Methodist church in Warden, KS. He pastored there until 2000. He said this church was the highlight of his career. The church was so motivated to serve Christ. They moved back to Leavenworth and Bob became the visitation pastor for our church for many years working under Rev. Tim Hutabarat, Rev Bruce Emmert and Rev. Kevin Hopkins.

But Bob and Joan's ministry was not just in Kansas and Missouri. Joan began making medical mission trips to India and South Africa. Bob and Joan once spent 2 month working in India. They have spent their entire married life serving Christ together in so many ways. Happy Anniversary and thank you for your service.



FUMC Music Notes

Early on the morning of June 25th, 10 musicians from the local area (and one "ringer" from Florida) shouted "Kansas City here we come!" and headed to the Area 8 Handbell Festival at the Airport Hilton. This was a long awaited trip, originally scheduled to happen in the summer of 2020. Seven of our Wesley Ringers — Nancy Shade, Karen Kidder, Donna Ramsey, Sara Mulford, Robin Sanders, Teresa Hicks, and Bill Shade — along with Tenessa Martin and Jackie Lee from Basehor UMC and **Jeane Cobb (Karen's friend from Florida) spent two days practicing 8 pieces of music and taking classes to help them become better musicians.**

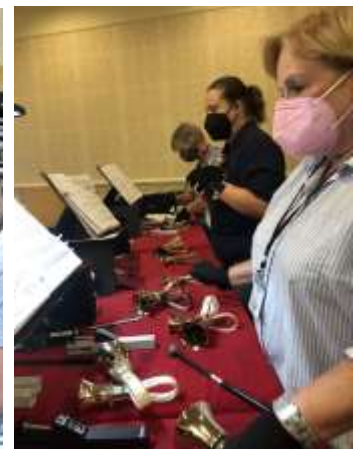
I was able to attend the early director's seminar and then got to play with the crew...a real treat for me! Beginning ringers were able to learn more about ringing techniques and more advanced players got to practice sight reading and practice more difficult techniques. Nancy even got to learn more about creating original compositions.

During the festival, many were able to catch up with friends, like Rezound! and the Lawrence Community Handbell Choir that have held concerts in our sanctuary. **Former church members and "small world" connections abounded. New friendships were made.** On Saturday evening, we held a concert, playing all of our pieces and listening to pieces from the other division. **To be in the middle of 150+ bells ringing out pieces like "Mr Blue Sky" & "Good Christian Men Rejoice" was quite an amazing experience!**

The Wesley Ringers and I are so grateful to the church for providing us the opportunity to learn and grow in our music ministry. One of the things that struck me, first and foremost, is how blessed we are to have such talented ringers in our congregation. But also how blessed we were to be able to continue playing through COVID, as many groups were not able to. We may not have been as big as we wanted, but we persevered and muddled through. Attending this festival helped us renew our love for ringing. I believe we ALL left the festival a little exhausted physically (ask Bill Shade about his injury!), but **refreshed spiritually...ready to take on some new challenges in the fall. Look for new opportunities to try**

ringing, new sounds coming from our current ringers, and more opportunities to hear us play, including a partnership with **Basehor's choir. As one of our pieces by John Behnke proclaimed, "The Bells Must Ring"!**

Kathy McKinley





Greetings and blessings to each and every one of you!

July puts us right in the middle of summer, a time of respite and vacation for many. Here at your church, we are not slowing down. Vacation Bible School(VBS) and the Front Entrance Project highlight major activities going on in July. For the entrance project we still await and anticipate city approval soon. We hope to start construction by mid-month. With the front being unavailable, greeters will be in place on Sundays to escort you across 5th Street and through the western doors and at the current office ramp entrance to escort you through the east office door. The project is schedule to take six weeks and then we all will enter through the main front doors - hallelujah!

I strongly encourage everyone available to **join us on Wednesday, July 13th, 11:30am in the east side green space for an aerial picture of the congregation.** This event is right in the middle of the VBS week and we are having a drone photographer take pictures of our incredible VBS team, beautiful church facility and you – our most precious beloved family members.

The state of the church is still economically strong, thanks to your faithful support.

There are numerous other ways you can serve throughout the week, as we have numerous mission partners in this community. I ask that each of us pray and ask the Lord where He wants us to use our talents.

Here are other opportunities to serve:

* Samaritans Buffet needs people to serve and coordinate twice a month– contact Jim Wolfe at jwolfe1@kc.rr.com

* Vacation Bible School servers July 11-15 contact Nancy Shade at nshade@fumclvks.org.

* The Leavenworth Community of Hope Shelter needs volunteers – contact Jim Walley at jwalleyr@gmail.com

We partner with numerous organization in the area and if you want more information on how you can serve please contact me at 816-805-4771, my cell phone.

In everything the Lord did on the earth from bread and fish; to healing ailments; to rescuing people from bad situations; to Himself – He blessed it (them), broke it (their situation) and gave it way (them)!

In Christ, *Ed*

JUNE BLOOD DRIVE A SUCCESS!

We hosted our 2nd annual mid-year community blood drive June 7.

The collection goal, set by Community Blood Center, was 100 units.

Final report from the center indicates these statistics:

Registered:84

Deferred: 11

First time donors:10

Double red cell donation: 8 donors, 16 units

Collected: 81 units--34 more than Dec. 2021

Our church's volunteers included: Roy and Donna Ramsey, Sheila Bailey, Gary and Cheryl Rader, Kathy Landis, Marguerite Hilscher, Teresa Hicks, Jim Wolfe, Steve & Margaret Songer, Maryann McAfee. Ed Garven was instrumental in promoting the drive in the community. Ed and Grant Zschoche were most helpful to the blood collection crew especially during their set-up for the event.

To top off a successful day, we once again, after a two-year hiatus due to the pandemic, were allowed to serve sloppy joes to donors and the collection crew. They were made by Cheryl Rader and provided by the New Life Seekers Class in memory of Dave Serena who began this endeavor. It certainly enhanced our mission of welcoming our guests (donors and center crew) and assisting them.

A very successful day. And we will be sponsors of our long-standing annual December community blood drive on Dec 6, 2022.

KUDOS to all our involved members.

Maryann McAfee

FUMCL Blood Drive Coordinator





YOUTH MISSION TRIP

On Sunday, June 18, FUMC's youth group loaded up the 15-passenger and headed out to Denver, Colorado for a week of service. After driving all day, we arrived late afternoon in time to get settled before orientation, dinner and bed.

Monday, we woke up bright and early to work with an organization called Brothers Redevelopment which works to provide elderly and low-income Coloradans with safe and affordable housing and housing solutions. We were extremely fortunate to be paired with Ben, an awesome college intern who helped us to paint a house for an elderly man. For all of our work time Monday and Tuesday we worked to paint the house with our group, as well as five teens and their leader from Wisconsin. Over the rest of the week, our students all became fast friends.

Wednesday, we worked with Denver Urban Gardens to prepare several garden plots for use. These gardens can be rented inexpensively for the entire year so that low-income and immigrant households who often struggle to get fresh produce can have access to their own favorite foods. In the afternoon, we progressed over to a warehouse that stocks and boxes food for local families and individuals who are in need. This was hard work of lifting, sorting, and even combing through food that had been infested by mice (gross!).

Thursday, we were set to go work with a nursing home, but unfortunately, they had just had a Covid outbreak in the facility, so instead, we sat on their lovely outdoor porch and created crafts to brighten the residents' spaces. Their activities director spent time talking to us and busting myths about people who reside in nursing homes. Then, in the afternoon, we returned to the church we were staying at to decorate paper bags for individuals in end-of-life care who receive meals curated for their specific medical needs. The goal was to make bags that would brighten their day.

Punctuating our service were meals, showers, activities, and worship services. We were kept really busy, but enjoyed our time together at the sites and hanging outside in the beautiful weather. Each evening, we got a little bit of time to do an activity. Monday night, the kids visited Lookout Mountain. Tuesday, we attended a chat at a local ministry that runs several different ministries to combat food insecurity for local kids and families. Wednesday, I think it's fair to say, was the most bizarre and loved activity. Our group had the night to ourselves just as FUMC, so we decided to go out first to ice cream and then to what calls itself a different dimension art experience. It was wild. The whole thing was 3 floors of entertainment and art that were immersive and amusing. We'll put some pictures with this article, but honestly, you just kind of have to see it for yourself. Thursday, we went to dinner out followed by a brief excursion to an outdoor shopping mall. Then, we went to a really cool indoor putt-putt mini golf place in downtown Denver. The whole day Friday, June 24, was spent cleaning up the church we were at and driving home.

I know I say this every time I talk about them, but I truly mean it; our youth are phenomenal. They did not complain, they worked hard, they were kind to each other and those we interacted with, and they were hilarious. I laughed so hard at them I cried. We are really blessed by this next generation of teenagers. A lot of things are really hard right now in the world and it's easy to get discouraged. In addition to my faith, one of the things that gives me the most hope is knowing that these kids and many others like them are our future. The only thing that would've (and did) convince me to go on a trip to a place that's literally a mile-high, sleep in a church basement, and work outdoors 7 hours a day while 22-weeks pregnant, is knowing how much I would miss out on not being with my kids. They are compassionate, capable, and just really wonderful people and I'm so lucky to know each and every one of them.

Kristen Howell



Grief Share is a friendly, caring group of people who will walk alongside you through one of life's most difficult experiences. You don't have to go through the grieving process alone.

GriefShare isn't for everyone, but if you're willing to put in the work it really helps you to get through one of the most difficult times in your life. Listen to what participants in our classes have said to me (names withheld).

"I was recently offered a job. I told them I would take it as long as I have Tuesdays off. My GriefShare class has made a world of difference to my recovery".

"The kindness, authenticity, and compassion shown by my fellow GriefShare companions has made this process much more impactful. Joining your class validated my grief in a way I didn't know I needed. The love shown by everyone for each other is inspiring and is an example for me to follow. You have become part of my story. I am certain that I could not have come this far in my healing without you."

"Thank you for leading this group. I needed this group and the support it offered during the darkest time of my life. After my first meeting, I left not thinking I was crazy. "

God doesn't intend for us to walk this path alone. We are here to comfort one another.

Galations 6:9 says, **"Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up."**

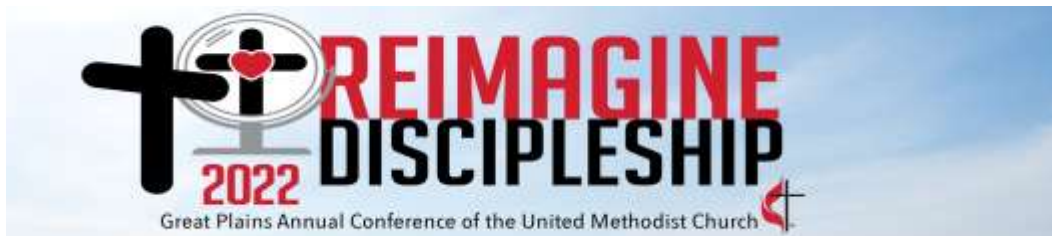
If you or someone you know are experiencing grief, GriefShare might be for you. It's a support group where you can share with others and learn coping strategies through videos, homework, and discussion. Please consider joining us. We have two groups, one for spouses only on the third Tuesday of each month at 2 pm, and one for anyone who is grieving loss on the second and fourth Wednesdays of the month from 5-7 pm. For more information, contact Marsha at marshagaffin@gmail.com or (913) 547-0286.

Marsha Gaffin



The New Life Seekers Sunday School Class will begin a new study beginning on July 17. The name of the study is God and Race: A Guide for Moving Beyond Black Fists and White Knuckles by John Siebeling and Wayne Francis. Pastors John Siebeling, who is White, and Wayne Francis, who is Black, have both led thriving racially diverse churches in Memphis and New York City. They examine the White-Black tension from both perspectives and answer the questions we are afraid to ask, about ourselves, our families, work, relationships, and the church.

This 5-week study has videos, workbooks, and discussions. The New Life Seekers class would love for new people to join us in our study. Our classroom is the large room upstairs in the Education building. We meet at 9:45-10:40 on Sunday mornings. Please allow us to order a book for you if you plan to join us. For more information, check with the church office or Donna Ramsey at 913-727-2275. Hope to hear from you!!



The Great Plains (GP) Annual Conference was held on June 8-11, 2022. This is where representatives of all the United Methodist Churches in Kansas and Nebraska gather together and conduct the business of their area of the entire United Methodist Church. As a former 4-Her and a life-long Methodist, Annual Conference allows me to geek out on the language of parliamentary procedure and on all things Methodist! There was great excitement to be back in person for the conference! The theme of Annual Conference was Reimagine Discipleship. There were 3 reoccurring topics from the Conference that stood out to me: 1) Multigenerational Connectional Ministries – an emphasis on including a cross section of age groups, 2) Spirit-Infused Ministries – an emphasis on the intentionality of creating and leaving space for the Holy Spirit to do the work of the Holy Spirit, and 3) Seeing Other's Gifts – an emphasis on recognizing and encouraging others. One other recurring phrase was "Move the Chains". As we voted and accepted conference reports, we would affirm by saying "move the chains". This phrase was in honor of Rev. Nathan Stanton who passed away this year. He was very involved at the conference level with new church development and congregational excellence and was a big fan of football. Hence the phrase 'move the chains' as well as 'first down' and 'touchdown' to mark forward movement in our annual conference ministries.

The conference began with an opening worship service including communion. The speaker was Bishop Robert "Bob" Farr from the Missouri Annual Conference of the UMC. He spoke on looking to the future and moving forward in faith even if we can't see the details of that future. For communion, we were each given an individual communion chalice and specific instructions on how to open them. See the picture of the Conference Slide! (Different from last year when the conference was fully virtual and each individual provided their own communion items – mine were Dr Pepper and Oreos!). The music was provided by a local church's praise band and one song even had ukulele accompaniment!

Thursday morning's agenda included starting with 2 sessions, one for clergy and one for laity (non-clergy). During the laity session, we recognized the value of laity and were encouraged to look for the next laity – who do we see and what gifts could they bring. We did an exercise in small groups expounding on the ministries of our churches by sharing what we loved about them, what we wished for them, and what we wondered about.

For Thursday's lunch, I attended the Mercy and Justice luncheon and heard about 2 newly created justice initiatives. Churches United for Justice is a group of 17 churches working toward affordable housing in Wyandotte County, Kansas and the other, Good Faith Network, is a nonprofit interfaith organization of 20 congregations located in Johnson County, Kansas focusing on improving mental health services and decreasing homelessness.

For the plenary session (a program for all attendees of GP Annual Conference) on Thursday afternoon, we heard Alex and Hannah Absalom speak about "Discipleship that Fits". They stated that how we make disciples is through relationship, experience, and information, but mainly through relationship. (Allow me to put this in a familiar format: 'And now these three exist: relationship, experience, and information, but the greatest of these is relationship.') They highlighted 5 activities of discipleship that were relevant and practical and could be used by anyone in any setting. First, Prayer – pray for the lost, pray for words to speak, and pray in the space where you are or will be. Second, Parties! – find opportunities to gather people, could be large or small numbers, find ways to make people feel welcome in our space and begin to build bridges. Parties, or gatherings, create opportunities for relationships to occur and a space where grace can be found. Introverts are not off the hook for this one – a party/gathering can be 2-3 people! Third, People of Peace – look for people of peace who do not know Him, but like how Jesus looks in you. I think of this as people who you feel a connection with, or can find a connection with, and respond positively to you. Hannah gave an example of a friend of hers that as long as they were talking about their kids at soccer the connection was fine, but as soon as Hannah hinted at anything church or Jesus related, her friend would change the subject or just not engage. She was a good friend, but not one of Hannah's people of peace. Fourth, Profound Conversation – actively bringing Jesus into the conversation. Alex has created a diagram of conversation types based off a car's gear shift. Profound, purposeful conversation occurs at the Spiritual level (gear 3). You don't start a conversation or a relationship in 3rd gear! And Fifth, Presence of God – allowing the Holy Spirit to do the work of the Holy Spirit. It is an honor and a privilege to pray for and with others, it is a way to usher them into the presence of God.

Great Plains Annual Conference 2022 – Spouse Report

Well friends, this was my first time to attend an Annual Conference (AC). I was fortunate enough to be able to tag along with Michelle (your First UMC Lay Leader) as a non-voting observer/participant and general support staff.

Day 1 - The opening ceremony was fantastic! Bishop Bob Farr from Missouri was very motivating and gave a very uplifting message that really set the tone for the conference. I have to say up front that the tone of the entire conference was not confrontational, but had a very "healing" vibe.

Day 2 – Well, I ended up missing the whole day as I had to take care of some personal business. I was hoping that my "personal business" might also include a quick trip to Cabela's which was right across the street, but unfortunately no. I did get to go out to dinner with Michelle and another AC attendee from Colby KS.

Day 3 – The opening worship service was another touchdown. Rev. Portia Cavitt gave both an entertaining and inspirational message that really got the day going.

The rest of the morning was an interesting mix of motivating messages and committee reports. And oh, my, Methodists sure do like parliamentary procedures! Bishop Saenz had his Parliamentarian sitting right behind him and several times during the day I heard procedural calls I've never heard before!

We took a break for lunch with Pastor Dave to catch up on how everything was going and get ready to dive into the afternoon. I think both Dave and I had to try Michelle's sweet potato fries...

The afternoon was more committee reports and motions. As Michelle predicted, my favorite report was the Finance report by Scott Brewer. Granted, I'm a reformed accountant, but his report was the most interesting and funny financial report I've ever heard – really. They also celebrated the "Boogie with the Bishop" participants. All I can say is that disco is NOT dead and the Bishop is a really groovy guy.

We finished the day in a workshop on reimagining youth and children's ministries that was really good. I was really surprised to find out that the average Sunday congregation in US churches (post COVID) is 70 worshipers, the average Children's ministry is 7 kids and the average Youth Group is 10. I thought we were really small, but we are probably a bit higher than average. The session had great ideas and I really enjoyed the speaker, who used to be a minister in Tonganoxie KS.

FYI – Friday was also Michelle and my 33rd anniversary, so we skipped dinner with the group to enjoy an evening in Omaha. You don't get to do that every day and it was wonderful.

Day 4 – The Youth put on the opening ceremony and it was again a fantastic and humorous start to the day. One of the most powerful messages that got a standing ovation was that "When your body starts attacking itself, you are sick – our church is like that too".

Bishop Saenz focused most of the rest of the morning on wrapping up business and focusing on his message from the entire conference – "Move the Chains".

It was basically a really great experience, and I would encourage anyone to attend. It was motivating and recharging to be with so many Methodists in such an inspirational environment.

Sincerely – Arlen Briggs,
Spouse



Michelle & Arlen Briggs at GPAC 2022



Scott Brewer giving the financial report.



Juneteenth Parade crew: Forrest Holdeman, Libby Frashier, Ed Garven, Carla Wieggers, Pastor Dave York & Sandy Wood (Not pictured)



Sweet Exchange Bake Sale Crew: Sister Vickie Lichauser, Jeanne Reeder, Morgan Belardo, Elaine Belardo

I went to the Sweet Exchange Bake Sale hoping to find some delicious treats, but what I found was something even sweeter. I met Jeanne Reeder the founder of Our Place at the Alzheimer's Association in Prairie Village. Our Place is the inspiration for the Deeper Window Association and AIR ministry. Meeting Jeanne felt like meeting a kindred spirit. She told me in her younger years she had been a youth minister and a social worker. When she turned 50, she decided she had eaten enough pizza and slept on enough church floors and she retired from youth ministry. She thought God was done using her, but she was very wrong. She went to work as a social worker at a mental health facility for people with dementia and God gave her a new passion for helping older people. After several years working there, the Alzheimer's Association offered her a position. During her time there she applied for and got a grant that allowed her to open Our Place in 2014. She was 70 years old at the time. Her social engagement and respite program there was the lifeline that Elaine Belardo needed after her husband, Jose, was diagnosed with early onset dementia.

Our Place had to close during the pandemic and will not reopen at the Alzheimer's Association. But Jeanne isn't going to let that stop her. At 78 years old, she is determined to minister to families living with dementia. She started the SEE foundation and she is currently looking for a location to reopen Our Place. She reminds me that God continues to use us if we are willing. God doesn't have a retirement plan. *Sandy*



July Schedule

 July 4 - NO AIR (Independence Day)

 July 11 - Field Trip to Nelson Art Gallery

 July 18 - 1970's Day

 July 25 - Amelia Earhart Birthday

Above you see our friends helping our community by making sandwiches for the homeless shelter and teacher appreciation packets. We do a service project every week. We could use these donations:
Peanut butter & Jelly
Individually packaged cookies or crackers
Microwave popcorn
Cake mixes and canned frosting
Drink mixes for single bottle of water
Individually wrapped candy

Michelle Briggs - Great Plains Annual Conference report continued

Friday morning's worship service by Rev. Portia Cavitt, pastor of Clair Memorial United Methodist Church in Omaha, focused on answering God's call and included a hilarious imagining of what Heaven's automated voicemail might sound like – Press 1 for God, Press 2 for Jesus, Press 3 if you just want the Holy Spirit to stop by! Your call will be answered in the order it was received. Aren't we glad that our calls to God go immediately to Him!

For the business portion, we heard from Bishop Saenz - who talked about reimagining ministries by understanding Generation Z and the Alpha generation. He pointed out that there is theological space and extreme need for those of all beliefs to be in the United Methodist Church. We also recognized new elders and deacons, and heard reports (the Treasurer's Report is always a highlight!) from various committees and programs. Of note, there were a couple of name changes: New Church Development is now New Ministry Development and United Methodist Women is now United Women in Faith (with a new website! uwfaith.org). We voted in favor of the resolution to authorize a Capital Maintenance Matching Grant Program for churches in the Great Plains who have capital maintenance needs and are struggling to identify and raise funds to meet those needs. We referred a resolution to the Great Plains Conference Trustee committee regarding Insurance needs for small churches. We also voted in favor of supporting the recommended closure of 9 churches and agreeing to the request from 12 churches to disassociate from the denomination.

Late Friday afternoon, I attended the workshop session, Ministry Architects – reimagining youth and children's ministries. We heard some post COVID statistics about church attendance and explored a new way to envision ministries for children and youth that is milestone based and incorporates the whole church and lots of celebrations!

In other activities that occurred throughout the conference time: The Great Plains Annual Conference collected offerings for the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI), the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) Ukraine Response, and the Youth Service Fund. The Conference raised \$8,548.96 to be given for humanitarian assistance to those in Ukraine, as well as those fleeing to neighboring countries. There was also a Trivia Fun challenge – 20 trivia questions about the Methodist church and the Great Plains Conference. At the end of conference, we were able to reaffirm our baptism with each other.

Thank you for the opportunity to represent our church at the GP Annual Conference. The conference was recorded and can be viewed on the Great Plains website at greatplainsumc.org. Next Great Plains Annual Conference will be June 7-10, 2023, in La Vista, Nebraska.

Michelle Briggs, Lay Leader





Kids First Worship meets during the 11:00 am service each Sunday. In July we'll continue our focus on the book of Acts. Jesus' followers are ready to take the gospel message to the world!

July 3 – No KFW

July 10 – Peter's Vision

July 17 – Stephen

July 24 – Philip and the Ethiopian

July 31 – Paul and Silas in Prison



We're Moving! Beginning July 10, Kids First Worship will be meeting on the lower floor of the Sanctuary building in the Fellowship Hall.

Sunday School meets on Sunday mornings from 9:45 – 10:40. During the summer, all the children will meet together in room 204 of the Education building. With the Bible as our foundation, we will be using science, art and activity to not just tell the story, but learn what it means for us. Our lessons will be a deeper dive into the book of Acts.



VBS is a howling good time!



Vacation Bible School is coming in July and it's going to be MONUMENTAL! Kids 3 to 12 years old will learn about Joseph and how God did amazing things in difficult times. We still need volunteers. We strongly encourage children and volunteers to register now by using the QR code or going to vbspro.events/p/fumclvks2022.

Here are a few details you will need for the week:

Each day we will wear a different color. If you don't have the color, no need to make any special purchases!

Monday - Purple, Tuesday - Red, Wednesday - Green, Thursday - Blue, Friday - White (VBS shirt)

We have a limited number of t-shirts for our staff and our participants. They are our gift to you. As soon as you register and select a shirt size, one will be set aside for you. They will be available for pick up on Monday, July 11! If you do not pre-register, available shirts will be distributed on a first come, first serve basis.

For our mission project we will be collecting school supplies and monetary donations for our local schools.

Monday - Package of No.2 pencils, Tuesday – Box of Crayola crayons (16 count or 24 count), Wednesday – Box of Facial Tissue, Thursday – Glue sticks (2 or 4 count), Friday – Wide Ruled Notebook paper.

Please invite friends and neighbors to VBS and begin praying now for God to work through every activity.



What a Wonderful year of Building Relationships and Making Memories with your children at Wonderful Wednesday. After Summer break we'll return in the fall where each week we will be discovering how God provides guidance for us in His Word, through other people, and through the Holy Spirit as we travel through life. Our theme will be



NAVIGATE



SCOUT CAMP

GREAT NEWS! It did not rain on the Scouters when they were at camps this year. The older Scouts from Troops 173 and 6173 went to Camp Hohn on the Lake of the Ozark Scout Reservation and the Cub Scouts camped at Theodore Naish Scout Reservation overlooking the Kansas River.

Kinda busy? **Swimming, Lifesaving, Tubing, Jet Skis, Canoeing & Kayaking ... Traditional Scouts BSA: Camping, Cooking, Nature & Ecology, Handicraft, Orienteering, Shooting Sports including Rifles, Shotgun, Archery, Blacksmithing, Climbing, Woodworking ... well, you get the idea.**

After 40 years of Scouting, our Committee Chair, Angela Derezinski tripped over a tent stake and needed stitches, but is recovering well and stayed the week at camp. This was the last camp for Robert Chaar and Jackson Coleman.

Jackson's family is headed to the Navy War College and he will continue his Scouting adventure with a new Troop. Robert, an Eagle Scout, graduated from Leavenworth High School and will be headed to a different camp Boot Camp with the USMC. Madison Martin celebrated her 21st birthday.

Our first year Scouts learned a lot about camping and cooking and first aid and health in heat environments. The Scouts want to thank the Tinkler Trustees for helping with camp scholarships that covered up to 50% of the youth fees. Thank you FUMC for supporting the Scouting Ministry.

Bill Kiebler



Dear Friends in Mission,
Thank you! The dear people you just helped with your gift to UMCOR may never have the opportunity to meet you, but if they did, I am certain their response would be thank you. Since 1940, UMCOR has served as the humanitarian agency of the United Methodist church, providing disaster response and relief to areas impactd by natural and man-made disasters around the world. And through your financial support, you are serving with a vital network of interactive relationships as UMCOR responds to increasingly frequent and destructive storms - sharing 100% of donated funds with those in need. Together, may we continue to reveal the love of God for men, women, and children of all ethnic, racial, and cultural, and na-tional background and to demonstrate genuine love for our neighbors.
Grace and Peace,
Roland Fernandes, General Secretary UMCOR

Dear FUMC,
Thank you for all the cards and the calla lily. I know that many of you have had a similar experience of losing a parent first through dementia and then with the body. My mom, Lavonne Reeder, really was a wonderful person. She stayed involved with music and was the church choir director for over 40 years. She only stopped doing that when the notes on the page didn't make sense to her anymore. My other three sisters and myself were able to spend time with her at the end, and she was surprisingly alert and knew who we were. We had a lovely funeral service and laid her to rest next to my dad in WaKeeney. She's finally home.
Rhonda York

Dear FUMC family,
Thanks so much for the birthday wishes!
Love Ya!
Alyssa Wieggers

*FUMC family,
Thank you for the support throughout my time at the academy. It was so comforting knowing I had my church family through all my challenges. I'm so excited for what God has in store and feel so blessed.*
Leah Wieggers



Dear Friends,
Thank you so much for your donation of \$5,000. This gift will do much good for local children. When backpack food is sent home for the weekend it must give children peace of mind to know they have healthy backpack food to rely on. Your support of this program is greatly appreciated.
Sincerely,
Sandy Lowery

Dear Nurture and Care Committee,
Thank you so much for the gift bag. Each item has been useful and interesting. The Nurture and Care Committee has been very helpful these last few years during my husband's illness and I appreciate your work. My thanks also to Donna Ramsey who delivers my bags and visits and phones frequently.
Thank you again,
Fondly,
Virginia Hardaway

Dear Itchin' to Stitch Group,
Thank you so very much for the gift of the prayer mantel in remembrance of my brother's passing. He was a man of faith and it would mean a lot to him to know he was remembered by a group such as yours. Thank you so much. The prayer mantel is lovely. God bless you all
Betty Gaumer

Dear Rev. York, Sandy Wood and Kathy McKinley,
Thank you so much for coming to Twin Oaks and sharing your lovely voices with us. Hearing the old hymns is always so refreshing and soothing to our ears. Several friends have shared with me what lovely voices you have. One remarked, "with voices like that, who needs a choir". God bless you all.
Betty Gaumer



VBS Memories

I've said it before and I'll say it again... **"I LOVE VBS!"** I loved going to it when I was a child, I loved helping with it when I was a teenager, and I love leading it as an adult.

I know that God is always with us, but there is something about VBS that magnifies his presence. I wish that everyone could be a part of that experience. Each year, I come away more assured of God's providence, majesty, and love.

About this time each year, I get memories popping up on Facebook from past VBS's. As I was scrolling through today there was a memory from 13 years ago where I posted, "VBS withdrawal. What an awesome week!" 8 years ago, there were two memories – one for me and one from me. From me, "Just finished an amazing week of VBS. Wonderful helpers, great kids, and the VBS Dream Team. I feel so blessed!"

The meme to the right was the memory one for me!
While every year has lots of memories packed in, there are a few that I don't need a Facebook post to remind me of. They are etched in my memory and on my soul.

The first one is of a little four-year-old boy who had never been to a church before. He came in and looked around and told his nervous mom, "I'll be fine. You can go." When she picked him up, he chattered all the way out to her about everything he had done and learned. The next day he brought a friend. The day after that he brought that friend AND another friend.

The second one is of a young girl with limited vision. I'll call her "R". She was invited by Karen Hooser and was able to come. Before the week began, Karen brought me some special glasses that would enable me to see the way R did. She made great suggestions of how we could adapt the materials to make it as easy as possible for R to get the most out of the week. The extra effort didn't stop there though. Cathryn Hastings was one of her crew leaders and found out that R had asked her mother for a Bible. She took it upon herself to research Braille Bibles and then purchased one for R! Karen spent part of the week on her knees on a cement floor in a supply closet typing out Bible verses with her Braille writer. While we could not change R's sight, God allowed us to help her to see Him.

The final one chokes me up every time I think about it. I can see it as clearly now as when it happened. It was during our closing celebration on Thursday and "Jesus", portrayed by Steven Shade, came forward down the center aisle. The children began moving out of their pews and coming forward to where he was. They just kept coming and coming. I noticed a little boy over to the side who could not take his eyes off of "Jesus". This little boy had had a hard time all week long, but there he was, watching. Then it happened. Steven squatted down and reached his hand out to this little boy. There were at least 50 other kiddos up in the front, but God knew that this little boy needed something extra...and he got it. "Jesus" reached out for him. The little boy clutched his hand and stayed transfixed until the music playing ended.

Here are my takeaways for you from all of these:

- 1. Children are hungry for God. They're also way better at inviting their friends than we adults are.
- 2. Sharing Jesus may take extra effort, but it is worth it.
- 3. There are a lot of amazing people in our church family.
- 4. VBS changes lives, of the kids and of the volunteers.
- 5. Jesus loves the little children.

I can't wait to see what God has in store for us this year!
If you want to be part of the VBS Dream Team for this year, go to vbspro.events/p/fumclvks2022 to register!



Nancy Shade

JUNE @ FUMC



June started with a blood drive collecting 81 units. Thank you to all the volunteers and those who gave the gift of life.



The Nurture and Care Team delivered summer themed gift bags to older church members that need extra attention.



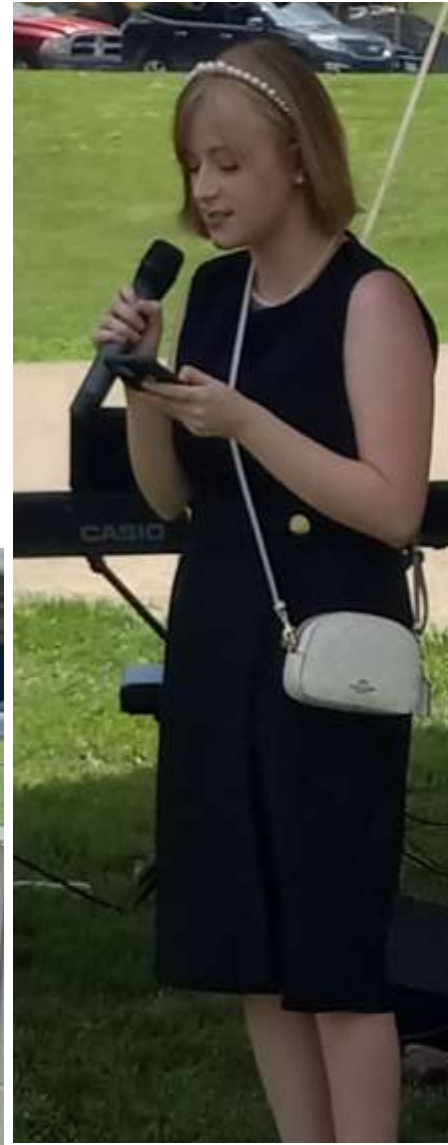
On Serve Day, we traveled to homes of church Members that can't come to church and sang hymns.



The Fox-Linton family came for a visit.



AIR Ministry had a float in the Juneteenth parade and our praise team played live music at the festival. Lexi Perry from Lansing High School is shown reading her winning essay in the Equal Justice Initiative scholarship contest. A few of the Equal Justice Initiative members are pictured above, Carla Wieggers, Joana Scholtz, Pastor Dave and Major Tony Evans.



We had a fun lunch bunch at Luigi's. Our next Lunch Bunch is July 20 at TenPenny.



June 19 was Scholarship Sunday. Our church family gave 12 scholarships to church members and community students.