



RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Phone: 913-682-5374





Educational Bldg.: 913-675-7495

E-mail: office@fumclvks.org

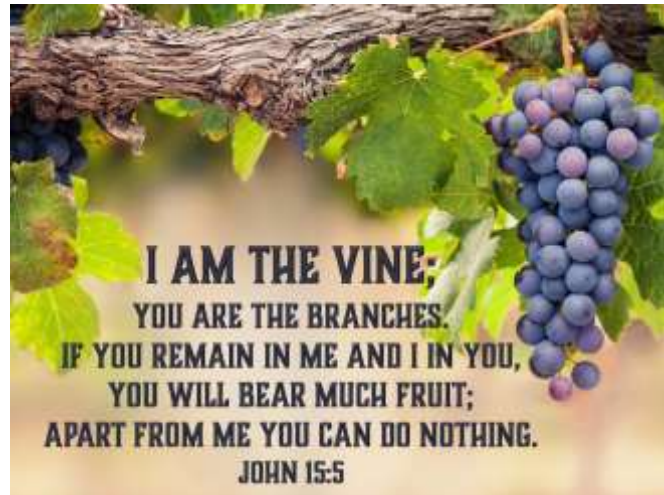
Office Hours—M-Th 9a-3p, Friday—9a-noon

 Or visit us at FUMCLVKS.ORG
Sunday services stream at either site.

July 2024

30 9:00 am Sunday School 10:00 am Worship	1 5:00 pm Virtual Grief Share	2 9 am - 1 pm Blood Drive 9:00 am Prayer Group	3 6:30 pm Choir practice	4 Church Office Closed 	5 Church Office Closed	6 
7 9:00 am Sunday School 10:00 am Worship	8 Handbell conference 5:00 pm Virtual Grief Share	9 9:00 am Prayer Group	10 1 pm Book Club 5:00 pm Grief Share	11 8:30am Staff 6:30 pm Isaiah Bible Study	12	13 6:30 pm Wecas Wedding
14 9:00 am Sunday School 10:00 am Worship	15 5:00 pm Virtual Grief Share	16 9:00 am Prayer Group	17 6:30 pm Choir practice	18 12 Hour Prayer for VBS 1:30 pm Itchin' to Stitch 6:30 pm Isaiah Study	19	20 Men's Prayer Breakfast Youth Marina Adventure
21 9:00 am Sunday School 10:00 am Worship 11:00 am VBS Decoration	22 VBS 5:00 pm Virtual Grief Share	23 VBS 2 pm Grief Group	24 VBS 5:00 pm Grief Share	25 VBS 8:30 am Staff 6:30 pm Isaiah Bible Study	26 VBS	27 
28 9:00 am Sunday School 10:00 am Worship 11:00 am First Family Fellowship	29 5:00 pm Virtual Grief Share	30 9:00 am Prayer Group	31 5:00 pm Grief Share 6:30 pm Choir practice	1 24 Hours of Praise and Prayer for School 8:30am Staff Meeting 6:30 pm Isaiah Bible Study	2	3 





One of the lessons we learn from studying the Acts of the Apostles is that they were devoted to what we are calling "the core values" of the church: apostles' teachings, fellowship, prayers, worship and generosity/justice (Acts 2:42-47). The early church made sure to meet the needs of others inside and outside of their community. These practices were foundational to the growth of the church. God was doing amazing things through these disciples. "Everyone was filled with awe and many wonders and miraculous signs were being done by the apostles" (Acts 2:43).

I don't know if the works of FUMC would qualify as miracles, signs and wonders. I do believe we are making a difference in the lives of many people. We see the effects and hear the stories. God invites us into relationship and then invites us into the ministry of Jesus Christ. That causes our faith and action to rise up.

Let's keep our priorities clear: Without our relationship with God through Christ, the action of ministry would go nowhere (John 15:5). Meeting with other Christians for fellowship, meeting with God in prayer and worship, obedience to the teachings of Jesus are the roots that allow fruitful ministry to take place. NO ROOT MEANS NO FRUIT!

It's really both/and that we are seeking. Our hope is to love God with all of our heart, soul, mind, and strength, as well as love our neighbors as ourselves. Hard to do that latter without practicing the former. If we say we love God but hate our neighbors (or are apathetic about them), God says we are liars (1 John 4:20). I'm so thankful to pastor a church and live in a community where people want to make a difference in the lives of others. Let's never grow weary of doing good and seeking God in all circumstances!

Dave Landis



We will be dedicating August 1, to 24 hours of prayer for our schools. We will be praying for the safety of our children and their teachers, wisdom for the school board and administrators and unity and respect in the classrooms. Education is a beautiful gift and our kids spend a great deal of their time at school. We pray that their time in school will be purposeful and productive. The church will be open from Aug. 1 at 6 am until Aug. 2 at 6 am for you to come and pray in a sacred space. We will have a sign up available with different time slots and a praise and prayer service in the evening.



JULY Birthdays

2nd	Karen Piper George Short	14th	Jeff Eyerly Judy Wolfe	25th	Rachel Sanders Elizabeth Sanders
3rd	Riley Weeks	18th	Corliss Fox		Tom Tish
9th	Carla Wieggers	22nd	Andy Hall	26th	Joy Defrees Cassie Kay
10th	Ron Roggentien Rodney Yates	23rd	Rodney Edington Ryan Johnson	28th	Galen Hooser Jamie Walley
13th	Wyatt Brown Lynn Goss	24th	Gary Russell	31st	Sarah Smith
		25th	Michelle Briggs		



JULY Anniversaries

2nd	David & Lois Kastner	41 years
6th	Steve & Margaret Songer	50 years
12th	Bill & Nancy Shade	38 years
21st	Randy & Linda Herrman	51 years
23rd	LeRoy & Teresa Hicks Dave & Rhonda York	47 years 36 years
25th	Wayne & Helen Parks	43 years
29th	Kevin & June Bond	46 years
30th	Tony & Nina McNeill Andi & Tom Pawlowski	41 years 30 years

UPCOMING Events



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

HELP WANTED

Job Title - Prayer Warrior

Hours - Tuesdays, 9:00 am - 10:00 am (But you can also pray without ceasing.)

Location - First United Methodist Church, Leavenworth, KS (But it is possible to work from home.)

Benefits - peace, connection with your Maker, comfort, guidance, healing

Job Description - FUMC is seeking ordinary people who want to grow their prayer life and become more connected to God. Must be willing to pray. (You do not have to kneel.) No experience necessary. No age limit. No education qualifications needed. Will train on site.

For more information contact - Marsha Gaffin, 913-547-0286, or the church office.



Mark Campbell was our music director from 2018-2019. He and his family now live in Provo, Utah. Mark recently left his job at Heritage Community in North Provo, where he worked with troubled youth. He is currently self-employed. He is a commission composer of sacred and classical music. If you look up Mark S. Campbell on YouTube, you can listen to some of his latest compositions. They're really fantastic! Mark lost his father this April. This photo was taken at the funeral. Tyler Boehmer, another music director and organist here at the church came to pay his respects and is at the far left of the photo.



Speaking of Tyler, he was recently selected as a finalist in the National Young Artist Competition in Organ Playing in San Francisco. Dr. Boehmer played in the semi-final round and just received word that he has progressed to finals! Good luck, Tyler! He is currently the Assistant Professor of Music, College Organist and Sacred Music Coordinator at Bethany College in Lindsborg, Kansas.

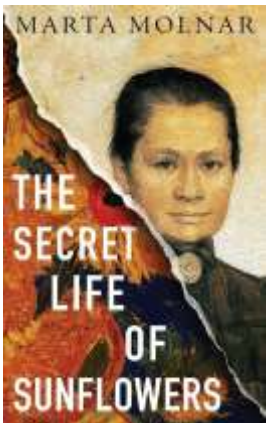


August 8, 1 pm

Summer is a great time to read a good book. The Book Club is reading "The Secret Life of Sunflowers" by Marta Molnar. When Hollywood auctioneer Emsley Wilson finds her famous grandmother's diary while cleaning out her New York brownstone, the pages are full of surprises. The first surprise is, the diary isn't her grandmother's. It belongs to Johanna Bonger, Vincent van Gogh's sister-in-law.

Johanna inherited Vincent van Gogh's paintings. They were all she had, and they weren't worth anything. She was a 28 year old widow with a baby in the 1800s, without any means of supporting herself, living in Paris where she barely spoke the language. Yet she managed to introduce Vincent's legacy to the world.

The inspiration couldn't come at a better time for Emsley. With her business failing, an unexpected love turning up in her life, and family secrets unraveling, can she find answers in the past? Join us to discuss this great book on Tues., Aug. 8, at 1 pm in Wesley Hall.



Becky Lowery & Aaron Wecas

invite you to
celebrate their wedding

July 13, 2024

6:30 pm

First United Methodist Church

Reception to follow in the Fellowship Hall



We would like to welcome Jean Wick to our church family. Jean and her fiancé have just moved to Leavenworth from Atchison for a new job. Jean loves to sing and is looking forward to joining the choir soon. She also enjoys listening to music and reading.

She has a little black and white cat whose name is Biscuit Sylvie-Loki and is a very spoiled cat. She got her name because when she would hop up on her she liked to make biscuits and the Sylvie-Loki came from two characters in the Loki series on Disney Plus. She adopted Sylvie-Loki from the KC Pet project in Zona Rosa. Jean said, "She is a spoiled little girl. I think of her as my daughter that I never had. She can be the most loving girl and she can turn into a demon at the snap of a finger. I love her and I wouldn't trade the world for her."

She celebrated her 43rd year as a United Methodist on June 7 this year. Jean said, "I like how I was welcomed as a part of the family from the first time I attended worship. It got even better when I attended the New Life Seekers Sunday School class. I am glad that I found FUMC and plan on attending as long as I am in Leavenworth. I absolutely love how Pastor Dave welcomed me on my first visit."

If you see Jean tell her you're glad she is part of the family.



Gary Russell's 80th birthday is July 24th. I know he would love to receive cards from his friends and his church family. I am hoping for 80 cards for his BIG 80! Thanks in advance, Carol Russell

Send to :

Gary Russell

301 Carriage Crossing Road

Lansing, Kansas 66043





July kicks off the second half of 2024. A lot of really exciting activities are on the horizon this month. New CGSC families are arriving to the area. If you have a new CGSC family or just new neighbors moving in to your area, please go and introduce yourself and give them an "Intentional Invitation Card" (image below) which you can get in the pews every Sunday or from the church office. The card lists the activities for the month of July and early August.

Vacation Bible School, "Kingdom Quest," is July 22-26 and is always a spirit-filled week for volunteers (which we still need) and the children we serve. To learn how you can get involved with VBS, contact Nancy Shade at 913-682-5374 or nshade@fumclvks.org.

To date we have given \$ 70,000 and logged as many volunteer hours in support of loving our neighbors and our community as ourselves. I am truly thankful to our Father and to you for your constant, diligent generosity in my life and the life of the church.

Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus. 1 Thessalonians 5:18

When I am thankful, it opens the door for God to move on my behalf. That's why it says "this is God's will for you." He wants me to be close to Him, to receive His strength and power by giving thanks. That's why I should always have the attitude that says, "God, in spite of what's happened, I choose to be grateful. I may be sick, but Father, thank You for being my healer. Thank You for giving me great friends and family. Thank You for giving me another sunrise." As we give thanks in everything, we will see God's hand move mightily on our behalf, and we'll come out of that difficulty better, stronger, and wiser than before. Are you giving thanks in every circumstance?

in Christ, Ed



Not so Good - Good - Better - Best

Not so Good: Three of our Scouts suffered health issues prior to camp and could not make it this year. They are talking trips to the hospital, but they are all recovering.

Good: Cub Scout Pack 3165 invited our Pack, 3109 to launch rockets. Not sure it can get better than that.

Better: Troops 173 and 6173 went to Camp Hohn. Everybody had fun, was safe and NO RAIN. That is totally unheard of to not have any rain.

Best: Annabelle Crawford born May 28, 2024. The sister of Scouts, Joshua and Emmett. Darcy and Andrew, parents and committee members are healthy and incredibly happy. OK, the truth... Andrew felt REALLY GUILTY about being at Camp with the boys while Darcy and Annabelle bonded at home.

A Scout is Loyal.





Welcome to Leavenworth

If you're looking for a new church home, we would like to invite you to visit us! Check out our website for more information.
Fumclvks.org



We are located at the corner of Highway 7 and Chestnut.

Sundays
9 am Sunday School for all ages
10 am Worship



KINGDOM QUEST
VBS 2024

July 22-26
9 am - 12 pm
Register at Fumclvks.org/vbs

Bill Koehler



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

The Community of Hope is in need of volunteers for our night shelter. We are able to operate because of a network of volunteers. It takes 70 volunteers each week for our Night Shelter to operate. As a volunteer, you can choose what day of the week and shift time you volunteer. Night shifts are 3 hours each as listed below:

Shift 1: 8PM-11PM Shift 2: 11PM-2AM Shift 3: 2AM-5AM Shift 4: 5AM-8AM

Shift 1 duties could include helping guests check in (guests must check in from 9PM-10PM), handing out sandwiches/snacks, preparing coffee, and handing out bedding.

Shift 2 and 3 duties could include monitoring the facility at the volunteer desk, be available if guests need anything, and cycling through laundry.

Shift 4 volunteers will help with waking up guests, helping guests check out, and cleaning up the facility.

If you have a volunteer heart, there is a place for you! Join us as we host our monthly volunteer info and training session on July 10. The training will last from 6-7 p.m., and covers policies and procedures, provides a tour of the facility, and time to ask any questions you may have. No preregistration is necessary. If you have any questions or need training at a different time, please contact our Night Shelter Director, Jennifer Christensen at Jennifer.Christensen@lvcommunityofhope.org or by calling 785-766-8939. We would love to have you join our team!



I just returned from a wonderful vacation trip. The days were still cool up there, and the nights required a jacket - what a change from the heat and humidity of Leavenworth. Twenty-one members of my family joined Don and me to renew family ties as we hiked, fished, boated, ate s'mores, chased kids, ate some more and laughed together. It was a glorious time. Until it wasn't.

On the last day of our vacation, we were rocked to the core. It's not my story to share, so I can't elaborate. But suffice it to say that there was a tragic mishap, an unfortunate turn of events that resulted in a lost life. What had been a happy vacation event was forever changed into one of disbelief and horror. In a nanosecond, two families were forever altered.

So unnecessary. So pointless. So cruel. So traumatizing. God, where were you? Disbelief mingles with a desire for revenge, no amount of apologies make things better. Things like this just don't happen to us. Or do they? Why did this have to happen? I struggle to understand what good can possibly come out of this situation.

As I cry out to God in prayer, I'm led to recall his promises. My experiences need to be evaluated based on biblical truths. I can't interpret what happened based on how I felt, instead every event in my life must be understood by the scriptures, for the God revealed in scripture does not change. GOD DOES NOT CHANGE. Therefore the God who does not change can be relied on to keep his promises.

My limited insight sees shattered expectations that don't fit into my world view. Reality sets in as I realize that God is God and I'm not. God does not manipulate the universe to give me my way; instead, He comes to me, enters into my story and stands with me. He embraces my suffering in a way I could never imagine. God's love for me is immeasurable. You can always trust the Man who died for you. Love doesn't anesthetize the pain, it sustains me in the middle of the pain.

Will I ever understand why this happened? Maybe not. Probably not. God's ways are not my ways. His broader view permits what he hates to accomplish what he loves. For now, on this side of Heaven, I have to be content with that. Shalom, Marsha



Trinity House is located at 2101 10th Ave. They are a food pantry and clothing closet for Leavenworth. They are open Tues.- Thurs. from 10 am to 1 pm. They accept donations of all types of food including fresh produce. So if your garden gives you too many tomatoes, zucchini, or cucumbers, consider sharing them with our community. Trinity House also accepts donations of partially used cleansers. If

you're moving and have left over cleaners you can donate them.

Trinity House is a great resource for families looking for back to school clothes. If you have new or gently used children's clothes or shoes, please consider donating them. If you have questions about Trinity House, contact Marsha Gaffin at marshagaffin@gmail.com.



Stronghold is a food pantry for soldiers and their families at Ft. Leavenworth. The photo to the left is of volunteers Danica, Cassie and Shianne Ward unloading your donations this month. They will be a great help to military families. Thank you so much and keep up the good work.

Stronghold is currently gathering school supplies for their Pack the Backpack event on August 7. This event aims to ensure currently serving military families have the back to school support they need



Widows Igniting New Growth Through Inspirational Peer Support

Wingtips Mission: Engage the spouse who survived in ways that promote community, action, activity, support & hope.



Wingtips had a rip roaring time on June 21. Sister Encouraging Sister provided a delicious barbeque buffet from Black Belt Barbeque. There was great conversation, laughter and a few "Yee-Haws!" The next Wingtips event will be August 9 here at the church. Any widow is welcome to attend. If you would like more information, contact Sandy at swood@fumclvks.org.



The HUB is a UMC mission in Argentine. They posted some of their statistics for 2023.

19 Fruit Trees Community Garden	Peach, cherry, pear trees providing free, fresh fruit.
256 Hours of Math & Reading Tutoring	17 elementary school students tutored weekly
97,389 lbs. of food Community Market	3,534 households received food for the week.

Thank you for sharing your gifts with The Hub!



Dear Church Family and Lynne Atwell,
Thank you for your visit. I enjoyed the Upper Room and Life @ FUMC magazine. Thank you for the goodies. The cookie was delicious. God bless all.
Love,
Betty Logan

Dear FUMC Leavenworth,
Thank you so much for choosing me as a recipient for your scholarship. It truly means the world to me to have the support from the church that I grew up in. I'll use this opportunity to continue my education to reach my dream career and I'm truly blessed know the church will be right by my side, cheering me on every step of the way! Thank you so much.
Kelsi Ko

Dear Angel Ministry Team,
Thank you for our cheerful Spring Angel gift bag. We always enjoy and appreciate the fun creative and yummy items in the bag.
Most of all we are thankful for your ministry and our church family. We appreciate your thoughtfulness and prayers and for thinking of us.
Love in Christ,
Frank and Gini Geib

Dear FUMC,
How blessed I am to receive another scholarship from the church! I'm excited to begin my senior year in the fall and I deeply appreciate your support as I finish up my Animal Science degree at K-State. Thank you for investing in me in more ways than one these past several years.
Sarah Lauber

Dear Church Family,
Thank you so much for the scholarship for Merrick to go to Camp Chippewa. She had a really good week there and I know she will keep what she experienced and learned with her. Your generosity means a lot to our family.
Love,
Paula Moore

Dear Friends,
Thank you for your generous donation of \$5,000 to Leavenworth Backpack Buddies. Your gift will provide healthy weekend food for children in the Leavenworth school system who are food insecure. We appreciate you and your support.
Sincerely,
Ruth Kenton

Dear FUMC Family,
Thank you so much for celebrating our graduation with us. It means a lot and we appreciate your support through the years.
Anya and Jonas Anderson

Dear FUMC,
I felt blessed by all of the snacks, lunches, doughnuts and goodie bags you lovingly gave us at Anthony Elementary School. Your thoughtfulness and your generosity made me feel appreciated, loved, and supported. I am truly grateful for you!
Sincerely,
Tracy Livingston

Dear FUMC,
Thank you so much for letting us use your beautiful church. We had a wonderful recital. Thank you again. Sincerely,
Wijong Duncan

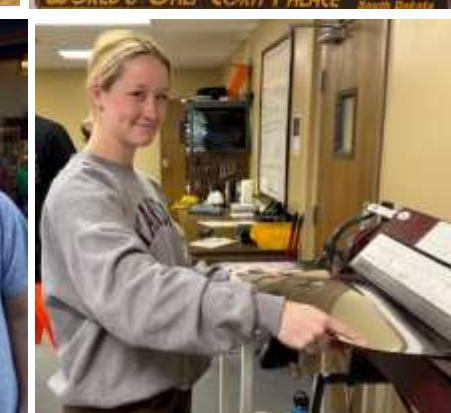
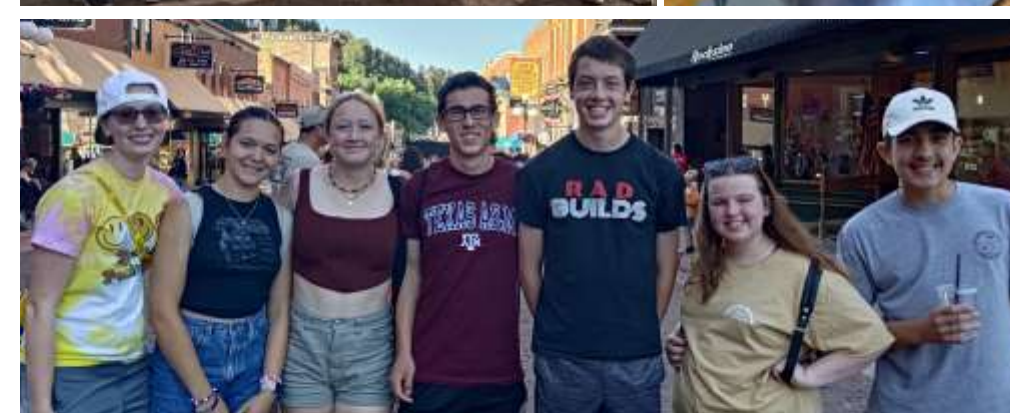


From June 10-14, the youth group took the church van on a grueling 10-hour drive to Rapid City, SD for our annual mission trip. While we were there, we worked with Solar Oven Partners, a ministry that creates solar ovens with volunteer labor for people without electricity to be able to cook their own food. We had a great time working with them doing something that was entirely different than anything we'd ever done before on a trip and collectively made over 430 panels that will be shipped to another station and assembled. Doug, the retired pastor who runs the organization, was a blast to work with and so kind to us. We really had a great time and worked well together.

On the way up, we hit The Corn Palace for our big stretch break and then while we were there, we spent time in Badlands National Park, drove through The Needles at Custer State Park, visited Bear Country, USA where we got to see big bears right outside our van window and baby bears just a few feet in front of us, as well as many other types of cool and adorable wildlife. Other days we went to Wonderland Cave, Mount Rushmore, Wall Drug, and Crazy Horse. We packed a lot of punch into what was essentially 3 days in South Dakota! We also enjoyed spending time at our cabin at night, which was located on a beautiful campground in the Black Hills National Forest that had all sorts of outdoor activities and trails. We hiked the first night up a big hill and that was about enough exercise for the week for me. Several of us (myself included) were extremely grateful to get to see all of the beautiful stars without the light pollution we have here at home.

Once again, thank you so much for your support through our fundraiser and to all of the parents who entrusted us with your youth for the week. A huge thank you to the Tinklers who fund amazing opportunities like this. We had so much fun and loved getting to serve alongside our youth!

Kristen Howell



In June Brenda Sheumaker retired from her position as the Executive Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent, Teaching and Learning and Public Relations. She served the Leavenworth School District for 18 years. We know they will miss you but we hope you have a wonderful retirement.

Mixing It Up With The NOMADS

During an Angel visit several years ago, Jan met Gordon and Jane Wesner and during conversation mentioned that we had an RV. That struck a cord with them and they asked if we had ever heard of NOMADS (Nomads on a Mission of Divine Service). Jan had no idea what this group was all about. Gordon joked that it stands for Nice Old Methodists Avoiding Deep Snow. The group was formed in 1988 when retired Methodists were wintering in Texas and were bored, wondering what good they could do. They went to Methodist churches in the area and offered their services. Out of this effort, the NOMADS came into being and has been offering help with disaster relief and to churches and church camps that could not afford paid contractors. NOMADS are affiliated with the United Methodist Church, the Global Methodist Church, and the General Board of Global Ministries (UM).

Each year, hundreds of NOMADS, mostly retirees, live their faith by travelling in their RVs and performing service projects. From California to Maine and even in Mexico, NOMADS usually follow the sun as they fulfill projects across the America. The Wesners had been longtime members of this group. Gordon and Jane told Jan stories about their mission trips and encouraged Jan to consider joining. She couldn't wait to get home and tell me about this opportunity.

We discussed the possibility of joining and procrastinated over actually taking the next step. We have lived a life of travel and service in all countries we lived in. We volunteered in Poland and Romania with Habitat for Humanity, visited orphanages in Turkey, visited cancer wards for children in Romania, raised funds for equipment for hospitals and childrens homes and even had opportunities to help clean up a Methodist church and private homes in Beaumont, TX after Hurricane Harvey (this while waiting for the arrival of a grandchild.)

We have enjoyed our trips to Camp Horizon (a Methodist Church camp) in Arkansas City, KS led by Gary and Cheryl Rader, performing a vast array of jobs including: secretarial work, tree trimming, deck replacement, painting, power washing, even painting lines on a court for basketball and for pickle ball. Sounds fun doesn't it?

This spring we finally took the plunge and joined NOMADS. Our first three-week project was up in Fremont, Nebraska at Camp Fontenelle, a Methodist youth camp. There were 5 of us and we worked on replacing the deck boards on a massive deck that wrapped around the dining hall.

We began each workday with devotions at 8, a prayer time and a song, with breaks in the morning and afternoon along with a lunch hour. The work week is from Monday-Thursday 8AM to 4PM. The three day weekend is intended to provide us rest and an opportunity to visit family or points of interest in the area. There were only five of us and we got the job done and even headed home a day early.

Currently NOMADS offer about 175 projects each year and has over 800 members. A list of projects and locations is published on the Nomad website and you are free to signup (pick and choose) wherever you would like to serve.

Why do we do this? We love to serve. We have skills and experience to contribute. We enjoy travel and meeting other people and even better, a life of service has no age restrictions. We especially love Church camps because we

were both attendees and counselors at Camp Chippewa in our youth and know that many young lives will be impacted by encountering Christ in a camp setting, often for the first time.

We feel called to serve. We feel blessed to serve. We love meeting other Christians who make up our work team and the people that reached out to NOMADS for help. If you would like more information about NOMADS ask Jan or Mike Mix or check out their website methodistnomads.org.

Mike & Jan Mix



Camp Chippewa is a United Methodist Church Camp near Ottawa, Kansas that offers all types of camps for kids from third to twelfth grade. This year Natalie and Lucy Heim went to week one and had a great experience. Lucy said, "I had a really good time. I went and immediately there was a girl from last year so I already a friend there. She was making these rubber band bracelets." In addition to crafts, the girls went hiking, canoeing, and horseback riding. They also had a lot of fun on the pedal carts shown below.

Merrick Moore attended Camp Chippewa's Faith and Fun camp week one. She loved it so much, she is going back on week four. She said one of her favorite memories was, "The first time we went to the pool and we were all grabbing pool noodles my friend grabbed one and a frog poked its head out! It took a long time to get it out."

The campers attend chapel twice a day at camp. This year, the camp focused on forgiveness; both God forgiving us and our need to forgive others. There are still open camp weeks. If you're interested, go to campchippewa.org/camps.





Kids First Worship meets during the 10:00 service each Sunday on the lower floor of the Sanctuary building. This month we will be focusing on the Acts of the Apostles.
 July 7 – 7 Chosen to Serve
 July 14 - Stephen
 July 21 - Philip
 July 28 – Saul



Sunday School meets on Sunday mornings from 9:00 – 9:45 am. All of our kids ages 3 years through 6th grade will meet in the same classroom during June and July. In August, we will return to two classes, one for non-readers and one for readers. With the Bible as our foundation, we will be using science, art, and activities to not just tell God's story, but learn what it means for us. Our lessons will be a deeper dive into the Acts of the Apostles.



Fusion 56 (our special group for 5th and 6th graders), will be getting together with the Youth Group for some fun activities this summer.

Saturday, July 20, 10:30am – 3:00 pm, Shawnee Marina

Friday, August 9, Wollman Aquatic Center



In June in Sunday school and Kids First Worship, we learned about Peter and how the Holy Spirit worked through him, from Pentecost through the rest of his life. Some of our main takeaways were:

1. Peter not only wanted to tell everyone about Jesus, there was nothing the religious leaders could do to make him stop. Threatened with jail, physical pain, and worse – he was going to obey God and not man.
2. He was able to heal people through the power of Jesus. A man who had been unable to walk since he was born was able to walk, run, and even jump after his encounter with Peter and John at the Beautiful Gate of the Temple.
3. Tabitha was a lovely person. She was kind and cared for others, often making clothes for them because one of her gifts was sewing. We can use our gifts to help others too.
4. Peter had a crazy vision with a blanket from heaven filled with animals. The Holy Spirit within him was able to interpret it with an important message: God does not have favorites. He loves all of us abundantly.
5. What he thought was another vision or dream was, in reality, an angel breaking him out of jail! Nancy

Annual Conference Lay Leader Report continued

2) Do Good – some evidence I saw at Annual Conference:

- A) There were 2 days of reports from the agencies, committees, and work areas of the Great Plains Conference about all of the ministries and the good they are involved in all over Kansas and Nebraska.
- B) We approved a plan to (re)district the Great Plains Conference so that missions and ministries are grouped more efficiently in 10 districts, each supported by a District Superintendent (DS). The names of the new districts will reflect where they are located. For example, our church will be in the Northeast Kansas District.
- C) We took up an offering and passed a resolution to help aid the Santee Sioux Nation (located in Northeastern Nebraska) with obtaining clean water. They have been under a no-drink order for 5 years and have had to rely on bottled water for all their freshwater needs.

3) Stay in Love with God – some evidence I saw at Annual Conference:

- A) The Annual Conference meeting is full of worship, joy, laughter, and fellowship. Every day begins with a worship service. And anytime you have a gathering of ministers, there's going to be a sermon, or 2, or 3.... Some of my favorite quotations were "When no one is there to cheer us on, that's when the road is the hardest." Bishop David Wilson; "The opposite of faith isn't doubt, but certainty." Lisa Maupin, Conference Lay Leader; "Change that we don't want, or like, can be beautiful and ...holy." Rev. Stephanie Ahlschwede; and "Listen Carefully, Speak Boldly, Act Swiftly" Great Plains Youth Worship.
- B) We passed a resolution to reaffirm the UMC's core beliefs in the sovereignty of Jesus Christ and his saving grace and in the holiness of scriptures.
- C) There were plenty of opportunities for fellowship and to sit with your 1000+ best friends! In small groups we explored why we were United Methodists.
- D) If there's a gathering of Methodists, there's going to be music and singing boldly with good courage. There's just something holy about singing "O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing" with over a thousand tongues singing! We also bunny-hopped to "The Lord of the Dance."
- E) And lastly, there was joy as evidenced by laughter and humor and Scott Brewer's commercial breaks for "Hoaxberry; your denominational publisher of all things immaterial" (a word play on Cokesbury, the publishing house). Hoaxberry is the creator of the Boomers hymnal (all your favorite hymns set to familiar rock hits from the 60's and 70's), the Book of Discipline for Kids (illustrated), and The Lord's Supper in a Box (all you need for communion – a wafer, some Welch's grape juice, and hand sanitizer. For our gluten-free friends, the box top doubles as 12 gluten-free wafers).

For these stories and more, feel free to stop and chat with me. See you online or in the pew. - Michelle Briggs, Lay Leader ammkm@yahoo.com (913) 485-5375



Bishop David Wilson leads the processional at the first day of the conference. On the last day of the Annual Conference, 13 elders were ordained, and 10 provisional members were commissioned.



Annual Conference LAY LEADER REPORT

As your lay leader and delegate to the Great Plains Annual Conference, I got to attend that conference on June 6-9, 2024, in Kearney, Nebraska. First, some background information. The United Methodist Church (UMC) is a connectional church, meaning that all UMC churches are connected in an organizational system that seeks to unify and strengthen the church and its ministries. Think of the United Methodist organization being structured like homes, cities, counties, states, regions, and countries. Our Leavenworth 1st UMC is our home which is located in the Kansas City District, which is part of the Great Plains Conference, which in turn is part of the South Central Jurisdictional Conference of the United States and which is then part of the General Conference (the whole global UMC).

Back to the meeting I attended. The Great Plains Annual Conference (GPAC) is the business meeting of all the local UMC churches in Kansas and Nebraska. The conference attendees include clergy and laity (non-clergy) from those local churches, as well as clergy and laity from the district levels and the conference level. I know that I may have already lost some of you at the mention of business meeting but hang with me. The Annual Conference is actually a joyful gathering in which business also happens to happen.

Next some history information: John Wesley is the founder of Methodism and the UMC is based in his theology. There are 3 Simple Rules distilled from John Wesley's teachings;

- 1) Do No Harm,
- 2) Do Good, and
- 3) Stay in Love with God.

So, to stay true to John Wesley, here is my report about the Great Plains Annual Conference.

1) Do No Harm – some evidence I saw at Annual Conference

A) The GPAC heard a report from its delegates who attended the General Conference (the meeting of representatives from the whole global UMC) in April/May 2024. The delegate team reported about changes that occurred at that meeting. Changes included:

- 1) revising of the Social Principles of the UMC to make them more succinct, more theologically grounded, and more globally relevant;
- 2) changing church law by removing restrictive language regarding homosexuality, LGBTQ clergy, and bans against same-sex weddings while allowing for churches and pastors to make local and individual choices to agree to participate or not without penalties for either decision;
- 3) recommending Regionalization, an amendment to the UMC's constitution to restructure the denomination by adding Regions (the US and each of the central conferences in Africa, Europe, and the Philippines) so that each Region would be able to adapt the Book of Discipline (the UMC's policy book) for specific missional effectiveness;
- 4) expanding Deacons' and Associate Pastors' roles to now include being able to serve communion and conduct baptisms in their ministry settings.


B) The Great Plains Conference was well represented at the General Conference with several delegates in key leadership roles. The Great Plains Conference's Bishop David Wilson (the first Native American Bishop in the global UMC!) presided over a session and provided a sermon at the General Conference (the global UMC meeting). The Great Plains Conference also provided the largest number of interpreters to that global meeting. The Great Plains delegates followed the Do No Harm rule by leading with compassion and vision.


C) To do no harm, the GPAC approved a 3% increase in clergy compensation to honor our excellent clergy while being cognizant of individual churches' declining resources.


D) We passed a resolution to review all the names of our Great Plains United Methodist entities to ensure an understanding of the history and purpose of the names, and relevance of the names today.





You will not want to miss this year's VBS! Each day we will hear the story of a biblical king who exemplified one of the "Keys to the Kingdom" character traits that God wants for his children.

 **Day 1 KEY – FAITH** – David & Goliath Team color – **GREEN**
Faith means being sure of the things we hope for. And Faith means knowing that something is real even if we don't see it. Hebrews 11:1

 **Day 2 – KEY – SELF-CONTROL** Solomon Asks for Wisdom Team Color – **BLUE**
But the Spirit gives love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. There is no law that says these things are wrong. Galatians 5:22-23

 **Day 3 – KEY – OBEDIENCE** Josiah and the Return to God Team Color – **YELLOW**
Be sure to obey all the teachings my servant Moses gave you. If you follow them exactly, you will be successful in everything you do. Joshua 1:7b & c

 **Day 4 – KEY – TRUST** Hezekiah Removes Idols Team Color – **RED**
When I am afraid, I will trust you. Psalm 56:3

 **Day 5 – KEY – SERVANT** Jesus Washes Feet Team Color – **PURPLE**
I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet. So you also shall wash each other's feet. John 13:14-15

We still need crew leaders. There is no advance preparation. You just lead a group of children to each station. It's lots of fun. You get to know the kids and participate in the great stations. Please register as a volunteer or child as soon as possible so we can plan for snacks, crafts and t-shirts. Volunteer and Participant Registration now open at FUMCLVKS.ORG/VBS or use the QR code below.

We have some items we would like to borrow for VBS.

Safety goggles	Hand towels	Large hats	Twister game
3x shirt	2x shirt	XL shirt	Large shoes

There will be a sign up sheet and a plastic tub in the foyer. Please mark all items with your name. If you have any questions please contact Nancy Shade at nshade@fumclvks.org.



FUMC in the Community



June 7, the Fellowship Hall was packed for the Attainable Housing of Leavenworth (AHL) fundraising dinner. There were several speakers from the community including Police Chief and acting City Manager, Pat Kitchen, (pictured center right) and City Council member, Nancy Bauder. Chris Leach (pictured center left) manages the homes and works with the families living in the homes. Matthew (pictured on right) lives in one of the AHL homes with two other men and expressed his gratitude eloquently. Sister Amy Willcott is the current director. (pictured left) The event raised \$22,000 to help purchase, restore, and maintain homes. The program currently manages 19 homes and helps 14 families or individuals.



Children's Ministry is very active! Please keep our kids and our leaders in your prayers as we prepare for VBS. Below, the youth enjoyed a day at World's of Fun in June. July 20 they are planning a day at the Shawnee Mission marina.

The Seventh Annual Sweet Exchange was a great success. Because of your generosity, they raised over \$42,000 for the Deeper Window Association and the Alzheimer Association. There were so many volunteers that worked the week of June 10-15. Our church kitchen was a very busy place and it smelled amazing! They made over 7,700 goodies but the sale ran out of baked goods at 5 pm because of the overwhelming community support. Morgan's professor Chef Cece Krelitz (pictured above) from Johnson and Wales University in North Carolina came to help with the bake sale for a second year. Special thanks to the staff for all their help especially Grant Zschoche and Libby Frashier.

Donna Ramsey, Teresa Hicks and Cheryl Rader are filling bags for Octogenarians. The sunflower themed bags included homemade cookies, notecards, and handmade jar openers which were made by the Itchin' to Stitch ladies. Our angel volunteers hand deliver these bags. Katie Irvin (pictured above right) is the director for the Alliance Against Family Violence. At their monthly meeting on June 13, we filled backpacks with clothes for victims of sexual assault to use after their evidence hospital visit.

