



OUTREACH



Volume 28 Issue 12

First United Methodist Church

December 15, 2016

Perspective

Greetings in the Name of the Christ Child!

Long ago the prophet Isaiah wrote these words about the coming of the Christ Child:

“For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.” Isaiah 9:6-7

Isaiah prophesied in the 8th century before the common era, around 742 b.c.e. His prophetic visions and writings related primarily to the southern Kingdom of Judah and the leaders of the holy city of Jerusalem, and contained messages from God relating to holiness, sovereignty, and trust. He is also known for his Messianic writings (writings related to the coming Messiah) which are often considered during this time of the year when Christians celebrate the birth of Christ.

In particular, I like Isaiah 9:6-7 above. It is the vision of the coming Christ that, over the ages, has become more accurate than I wonder if Isaiah could have ever conceived. “For a child has been born for us, a son given to us...” I am amazed as I consider that this was written over 750 years ago, portraying the coming Messiah as a male child. “Authority rests upon his shoulders” gives us the understanding of his status as a newborn king, but what really is exciting is the descriptors that Isaiah uses: “Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace”.

It seems to me that in today's world, we do not want to wait very long for anything, yet Isaiah's people waited for generation upon generation for this amazing event...the coming of the new Messiah. Today Christians remember and celebrate that event that happened almost 2000 years ago half-way around the globe each year at Christmastime....or at least we hope to remember and celebrate in the hustle and bustle of the season.

Below are the times we will have worship services prior to and on Christmas morning (Yes, it is appropriate to bring your family to Worship Christ on Christmas morning, especially since it's Sunday this year.) Make your plans to attend as many of these services as possible, for they are the balm for the hustle and bustle, the salve for sadness of the season.

- * Sunday, December 18th- Children's Christmas Pageant at the 10:45 a.m. Service
- * Wednesday, December 21st- 7:00 p.m. The Longest Night Service-
- * Saturday, December 24th- 7:30 p.m. Candlelight Christmas Eve Family Service
- * Saturday, December 24th- 10:45 p.m. Candlelight Christmas Even Service
- * Sunday, December 25th- 10:45 a.m.- Casual Christmas Morning Worship-

The prophet Isaiah was telling the people then and tells us now about the coming Messiah. I invite you and your family to come and celebrate, for a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.” And from my family to yours, have a blessed Christmas!

Grace and Peace, Pastor Mike

Please email your OUTREACH item to haysumc@hotmail.com before Sunday, January 22, 2017

Please place the name “Outreach” in the subject line...or place your item, clearly labeled **for the Outreach**, in the office by **Sunday, January 22, 2017**. The next Outreach should be received by Jan. 26th.

Thank You

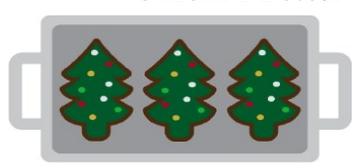
Thanks to all the friendly, smiling people who have served as greeters this year. Your service to the church is greatly appreciated.

Shirley Steffen
Greeter Coordinator

If you would like to be a greeter at first or second service, please call Shirley Steffen at 625-7137.

On behalf of hungry students at the UCMC at FHSU, I want to express our great thanks to the many volunteers who helped provide food for our Thursday meals this semester and to Wendy Beougher for keeping everyone organized. Your hospitality is much appreciated! Thank you for your time, effort and generosity. A big thank you, also, to Susan and the Wednesday night meal crew at FUMC for sharing food with us.

Blessings,
Kathy Bannister,
UMCM Director



INTRODUCING OUR STAFF

PROGRAM STAFF

- Pastor: Pastor Mike Rose
- Associate Pastor, Youth Pastor: Alice Koech
- Director of Music: Johnny Matlock
- Special Music Coordinator: Meredith Cory
- Organist: Charlotte Rathke
- Pianist: Alexis Robinson
- Handbell Choir Director: Shawn Henderson
- Children's Ministry Director: Jo Swayne
- Asst. Children's Director: Rebecca Kuehl
- Outreach Editor: Wendy Beougher

SUPPORT STAFF:

- Administrative Secretary: Beverly Bearley
- Administrative Assistant: Wendy Beougher
- Financial Secretary: Don Forssberg
- Childcare Director: Sandy Henningsen
- Building Supervisor: Ron Herrman

Sympathy

Our sincere sympathy is extended to the family & friends of

Elmo Lund on the death of his wife, **Margaret**, who died 11-14. Condolences also to Janell, Michael & Matt Shorman.

Jay & Jordan Petz on the death of Jay's mother, **Tamara Ann Pfeifer**, on 11-16.

Clarice Peteete on the death of her husband, **James**, on 11-28.

John Rogers died 12-2.

Darlene Farr, on the death of her husband, **Charles**, on 12-3.

Bryan Tholen on the death of his wife, **Glenda**, on 12-5.

Congratulations

To Bob & Pam Gillen who have a new grandson, **Connor Robert Bryant**, who was born Nov. 20 in New Jersey to Scott & Valerie.

To **Briggs Dean Chartier** who was baptized November 27. Parents are Dustin & Tianna.

To John Charles who has a new granddaughter, **Olwyn Fay**, who was born December 12 to Hayes & Keri Charles of Coon Rapids, Iowa.



Circle News

Shalom Circle met Nov. 21 at 7:00 p.m. at the church. Refreshments were served first as Kathy Clark made a warm apple crescent dessert. Co hostess was Linda Beech. Roll call was "A fact about the first Thanksgiving". There were 13 members present, including our newest member, Melanie Bannister. Virginia Johnson moved that instead of caroling this year we each bring 1 doz. cookies and prepare plates for our shut-ins. Virginia would like to present a program about the Messiah. It was seconded and approved. The meeting was adjourned. Patty Nicholas presented the World Thank offering program.

The Staff Pastor Parish Relations Committee has announced a number of staffing changes for Hays First United Methodist Church planned for 2017. If you would like to know more about these changes, you are invited to attend one of the informational meetings in the Chapel, Sunday, December 18th at 9:35 a.m. and at noon.

Need a hostess gift or stocking stuffer?

Adult coloring books are available in the office for \$20. "The Life of Christ" in Stained Glass Design. is from the company that is repairing our stained class windows.

Free Trade coffees, teas, cocoa and baking cocoa. Help small farmers in developing countries.

KIDS CORNER

What a great year! Let's take a look back at what the children of our church accomplished in 2016!!

Kids Club started off the new year "Walking in Jesus' Footsteps" as we followed Jesus' Ministry through our Deep Blue Curriculum. Ash Wednesday service at WOW kicked off a 40 Activities for Lent project for the children and families of our church. We celebrated Girl Scout Sunday, Palm Sunday and Easter all in March. And the 4th and 5th graders again hosted our annual Easter Egg Hunt, Easter Sunday morning. April brought about Camp Sunday and our annual bake sale to raise money for our camp fund. The decision made to pay for half of every camper's registration fee was met with great enthusiasm because after the summer was over, we had sent 31 kids to camp!! That's up from 18 last year, a 42% increase! Our last WOW at the end of April, had our entire church family putting together Blessing Bags in the gym. Over 60 bags were made and church members invited to take them home and share with those who needed them. In May, our faithful teachers were recognized during service and we kicked off Summer Sunday School with a giant lollipop and ticket for admission to the "Amusement Park." All children ages Preschool-4th grade met in the KidsZone for the summer, where they learned a Bible story, memorized a Bible verse, watched or participated in a skit, sang songs and played games. The 5th graders were invited to attend youth Sunday School and events this summer, a new and positive change! This was our fourth year combining classes for the summer and it showed, average attendance was up 33% from last summer.

Our July VBS theme was "Surf Shack – Catch the wave of God's amazing love," and over 70 kiddos (up 14%) were a part of our high energy week! Over 50 volunteers (up 27%) helped pull our amazing VBS together! We added the Youth Prayse Band for music, which was AWESOME!! Children were encouraged to bring hygiene items for the Ellis County Community Assistance Center and they donated 363 items, in four days!! VBS Sunday showcased pictures taken during the week and 30 children sang VBS songs for special music.

In August, over 30 children/youth/adults volunteered at the Big Brothers Big Sisters first annual "Duck Derby." Summer Sunday School closed with a mission project, making smore's kits for our church family, as a thank you for their support of our camp fund. The summer officially ended with a Family Potluck hosted by the Children's Advisory Board and New Beginnings Sunday kicked off the new school year, August 21. The Education Work Area had breakfast for everyone, thirteen 2nd Graders received their new Deep Blue Bibles, and we had a Teacher, Student & Backpack Blessing during worship. Approximately 30 2nd-5th graders were trained to become acolytes at the end of August. The last Sunday of the month was a very moving Camp 'n a Half Sunday, which featured the kids that went to camp this summer up front and also in a video created by Trevor Henningsen. The smore's treats were handed out after service as a thank you.

September had us "fanning the flames of our faith" as we kicked off WOW and Kids Club early September. 50 kiddos in Kids Club started learning about Joseph in our one-room Deep Blue Curriculum. The kiddos also sang "Start a Fire" to cap off our "fan the flames" week at FUMC. In October, Sunday School and Kids Club Curriculum switched from Joseph to Moses. An AMAZING Children/Youth Sabbath, entirely youth led, featured over 70 of our own children and youth!! The Youth Prayse Band was a welcome addition as the music leaders for both services. The Education Work Area hosted our third annual "Trunk or Treat" on a gorgeous WOW evening at the end of October. The Youth Prayse Band set up outside providing live music for our many church and community trick or treaters that attended the event!-

November and December found us rehearsing our annual Children's Christmas Pageant. Catherine Miller once again wrote and directed a new play called "The Upside Down Kingdom" and 38 children participated, 11 of them preschoolers! The Youth Prayse Band was also a welcome addition to our pageant. What an amazing year we've had! It would not be possible without the love and support of our church family! We wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Blessed 2017! Rebecca and Jo



Youth Ministry Corner

Merry Christmas!!! It is hard to believe that 2016 is coming to a close! God has been faithful to us in youth ministry and enabled us to accomplish a lot. I thought I would go over the year and highlight some of the ministries and fun activities that the youth at Hays First UMC have been a part of, a sort of rear view mirror glance at 2016!

January

1/13 - Worship on Wednesday (WOW) and Youth group started back after the winter break.

1/30-1/31- Nineteen youth and 4 adult sponsors attended the One Event in Grand Island, Nebraska. Everyone had a lot of fun and enjoyed the fellowship, music, and messages.

February

2/6 - The youth helped serve during Valentine's Dinner fundraising. A total of \$430 was raised to aid various projects in youth ministry.

2/13 - FUMC hosted Bishop's confirmation Rally with youth from the area, and our own confirmation youth attending. 2/21- Confirmation class began with 10 students (7th-8th grade). This continued until May 22 when 9 students were confirmed as full members of Hays FUMC.

March

Confirmation youth organized and led Easter Sunrise service on Easter Sunday.

April

High school moved to their newly repainted classroom on the 3rd floor. NCK volunteers cleaned out the room in February and high school students and their sponsors painted it. Several church members donated furniture and a smart T.V.

4/27 - Last day of WOW/UMYF programming. Youth and children and adults put together "Blessings Bags" for each family to take with them to give to transient travelers.

May

5/7 - Five youth and 2 adult sponsors volunteered in the Susan G. Komen race for the cure, by handing out water bottles to racers.

5/15- Eight graduating high school seniors received invitation for breakfast. They also participated in the worship service by sharing their future plans. Pastor Mike and I prayed for them. Church and Society work area provided breakfast.

Summer youth intern, Trevor Henningsen, was hired to work with Youth Pastor to enhance weekly youth programs during the summer months. Thanks to Endowment committee for funding the summer intern position.

June/July/August

About 20 youth attended at least one of the planned summer activities. Youth served during "God Squad" in the local community including helping at Good Sam Nursing home, Bargain hut, the Arc, cleaning the church, etc.

Several Youth attended summer youth camps in June and July at several camps including Lakeside and Horizon. Thanks to the church family for helping pay for 1/2 of youth camp fees for each camp attendee.

8/13- Three youth and 2 youth sponsors attended the Last Blast of Summer at Camp Comeca, near Cozad, NE. The youth had fun canoeing, zip-lining, swimming, rock climbing (indoors), playing basketball, 9-square in the air games, volleyball, and crafts as well as attending opening and closing worship.

Youth had a back-to-school Mafia night attended by 35 youth and several youth sponsors. Everyone had fun!

September

9/14- WOW programming started back. Kristina Heinrich is the fall youth intern at Hays FUMC, as well as in the Great Plains conference.

9/18 - Youth kicked off fall youth programming by having messy games on the west lawn of the church. A total of 24 youth attended and had a blast!



October

10/11 - 32 youth and adults helped with Trick or Treat so others can Eat food drive to benefit the Community Assistance program. A total of 669 food items were collected by our youth group!

10/16 - More than 30 youth helped plan and lead worship with an additional 40+ kids on this Sunday!

10/19 - Youth welcomed special guest, Bryan Anderson, the director of Ashby House in Salina to speak about homelessness; causes and solutions.

10/26 – Youth led games and decorated 2 trunks for the annual trunk or treat. A total of 65 youth and 10+ sponsors and parents later enjoyed Mafia night with gaga ball and 9-square in the air games. Fun night!

10/30 – Youth and parents provided and served Soup to more than 125 members during our 1st annual Fall Festival. The event raised \$750 for youth ministry.

November

11/19 – Twenty youth and sponsors went on a mission trip to Ashby House, Salina. Thanks to everyone who donated personal hygiene items for this mission! They were greatly appreciated.

11/30 – Middle school youth made cards and put together care packages for recently graduated youth (freshmen in College). Total of 8 care packages were sent to College freshmen from Hays First attending various universities and colleges. Thanks to parents who donated the items to include in the packages!

December

12/9 - Youth fundraising event was Parents Day Out where youth babysat kids at church for a small fee. A total of 16 youth participated in taking care of 15 kids. The money raised will go towards paying for some of the cost of attending the One Event Conference.

As you can see, the year has been full of activities as well as a lot of learning and spiritual growth. I hope that every youth who attends our youth group feels loved and appreciated and above all, comes to know the love of Jesus Christ and to share that love with others.

Have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year, 2017!

Pastor Alice Koech



NAMI Hays invites you to their **FREE Family to Family class**, Thursdays, 6:30-9:00pm, Jan. 12-Mar.30, 2017 @ The Center for Life Experiences, 2900 Hall St., Hays. Taught by two trained family members to families dealing with mental illness. Get knowledge, understanding, insight, support that is life-changing. **There is help and hope!** This award-winning class was created by a psychologist, who couldn't find the help she needed in the mental health system, as she dealt with her daughter who struggled with schizophrenia. This class addresses anxiety, depression, bipolar, PTSD, compulsive disorders, borderline personality disorder, schizophrenia, the brain, medications, problem solving skills, communication skills, self-care, boundary issues, and so much more.

www.nami.org/familytofamily. Call 785-259-6859 to pre-register. Class limited to 25.

Facing mental illness through support and education can make life worth living again. Recovering purpose and joy in is a wonderful gift. All who are 18 years of age and older are invited to join the challenging and very worthwhile road of recovery with us. Whether you deal with mental illness yourself, as a family member, or as a friend, you are most welcome to NAMI Hays on the first Mondays of the month at The Center for Life Experiences, 2900 Hall St. Hays. There are 2 support groups at 6:00-7:00pm, one for family members and one for those with a lived experience of mental illness. There is a short break w/refreshments and then education at 7:15-8:15pm on a variety of topics. There is Help and Hope! Together we CAN and WILL make a DIFFERENCE!

December OUTREACH

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Upcoming Events



Sunday, Dec. 18, 10:45	Children's Christmas Pageant
Wednesday, Dec. 21, 7:00	Longest Night Service
Saturday, Dec. 24, 7:30	Christmas Eve Family Service
Saturday, Dec. 24 10:45	Christmas Eve Service
Sunday, Dec. 25, 10:45 only	Casual Christmas Sunday Service
Sunday, Jan. 1	both services