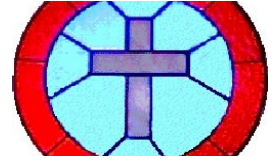


OUTREACH



Volume 29 Issue 9

First United Methodist Church

September 21, 2017

Perspective

Greetings in the Hope of Christ!

It has been an eventful end to summer, 2017. In mid-July, forest fires began in Montana and have spread to several other states. The fires have not abated, and as they continue to burn, thick smoke makes breathing almost impossible for those living in many parts of Montana, Idaho, Oregon, Wyoming, and California. Hurricane Harvey slammed into the coast of Texas around the Houston area, dumping over 3 and a half feet of rain, flooding much of Southeast Texas. This was followed about a week later by Hurricane Irma, that has devastated many of the Caribbean Islands, Cuba, and Florida with over 150 miles per hour winds. Jose and Maria are the most recent hurricanes threatening the Caribbean Islands and southeastern coast. Receiving less attention was a major (8.1) earthquake in western Mexico that has killed 96 people on September 10th, preceded by Hurricane Katia that has hit the eastern shores of Mexico on September 8th. All this was preceded by an amazing celestial event on August 21st A total eclipse of the sun that was visible just a few hours north of Hays, and spread across the entirety of the United States.... And I don't even want to begin to assess the potential political issues and misdeeds that are now a part of our national and international lexicon.

These are, indeed, troubling times. Recently, a person came into my office and was quite concerned. "Are these the end of days?" they asked? They had been reading about the end times in the Bible and were connecting perceived theological dots, and came up with the conclusion that these might be the end times for human history. "Oh, eschatology." I replied. Looking somewhat confused, I explained that eschatology is the theological study of the end of human history, or the end times. "Yes, I've been reading Revelation...." they replied, and then went on to say that they were very concerned that this might be the end of time. I then said that these are troubling times, but there have been many troubling times in the past. "In fact", I said, "Troubling times have been around for a long time. The Psalmist wrote about troubling times of long ago in the 46th Psalm, "God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear, though the earth should change, though the mountains shake in the heart of the sea; though its waters roar and foam, though the mountains tremble with its tumult.. The nations are in an uproar, the kingdoms totter;....but the LORD of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our refuge." I tried to assure them that while there are many unusual and challenging things going on, God is with us and the most important thing to remember is what Jesus said in Matthew 24:36... "But about that day or hour no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, only the Father in heaven." I went on to say that our call is to be the hands and feet of Christ, reaching out to those in need and offering His salvation to those who are uncertain and afraid ...because as believers we have nothing to fear. Our place in heaven has already been prepared for us, and so no matter how long God chooses to let the human race run, the promise fulfilled in the hard work that Jesus did for each of us on the cross has already settled our fate. "Finally" I said, "Our task is to go out and make the world a little better place each day through acts of kindness and generosity, in Christ's name." I hope you'll go out without fear and do so.

Grace and Peace, Pastor Mike

Please email your OUTREACH item to haysumc@hotmail.com before Sunday, October 15, 2017
Please place the name "Outreach" in the subject line...or place your item, clearly labeled **for the Outreach**, in the office by **Sunday, October 15, 2017**. The next Outreach should be received by October 19th..

Thank You

Thanks for all the prayers for our son, Michael, during his overseas military tour. He is currently back in the states.

Jeff & Marla Copper

Thanks to all who contributed flood buckets or monetary donations to help victims of Hurricanes Harvey & Irma and the wildfires in Montana and the western states. Our church collected \$7,231,50.

Thanks to Bill Losey for the loan of a truck and to Aaron Van Der Wege for delivering the flood buckets to Wichita.

My sincerest gratitude to all who came to the house, brought food, gave donations and all other expressions of love & support at the time of Scott's death. I can never repay all of the kindnesses I have experienced in this time of grief.

Love & Gratitude,
Kathy Clark

INTRODUCING OUR STAFF

PROGRAM STAFF

Pastor: Pastor Mike Rose

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

Youth Ministry Director: Matt Dumler

Outreach Editor: Wendy Beougher

SUPPORT STAFF:

Administrative Secretary: Beverly Bearley

Administrative Assistant: Wendy Beougher

Financial Secretary: Don Forssberg

Childcare Director: Sandy Henningsen

Building Supervisor: Aaron Van Der Wege

Sympathy

Our sincere sympathy is extended to the family & friends of

*Virginia Lehman on the death of her brother, **Greg Braun**, who died 8-27.*

Congratulations

to our newest members, Shyla Brummer, Alex Sturgeon. Jace & Rachel Young and Clay Holcomb.

to Shayla Brummer, Breckyn & Tenley Sturgeon, Rylee, Hayden & Ryann Young and Clay Holcomb on their baptisms.



to Kelly & Ryan Miller on the birth of Bo Ryan, born on 8-9. Sister Daisy welcomes him home.

3 Resolutions approved at the Great Plains Conference

*The right to peacefully address injustice, including boycotts, divestment and sanctions.

*Welcoming migrants into our midst, calling for concern for neighbors, co-workers and friends who have been separated from their loved ones or are living in fear of their families being torn apart because of challenges with the nation's immigration system.

*A covenant partnership between the Great Plains and Nigeria conferences & promotion of Jalingo Orphanage in Africa.

Circle News

Shalom Circle met at the church September 11 at 7:00 p.m. President Linda Beech called the meeting to order with a reading, "What ice cream can teach us about Peace". Barbara Clinkscales led a prayer. Roll call, "What is your favorite flavor of ice cream", was answered by 9 members. Marguerite Stewart asked for nominations of members to receive a UMW pin in recognition of their service. The District meeting is Oct. 14th and Shalom will be serving the supper Friday night. Plans were made to deliver Halloween treats to our shut-ins. Kathy Clark & Shirley Green served refreshments.

Naomi Circle met on September 13 with Virginia Kraus. Nancy Jones assisted and served 11 members. Debra McDonald chaired the meeting. Evelyn Zellmer presented devotions entitled "Play It Forward". Gwen Daughhete contributed 15-20 quilts for the Baby Quilt project this past summer. Volunteers signed to work at the District meeting on October 14. Please send the 2018 program book information to Ruth Briney by November. Naomi Circle will host the UMW luncheon on September 20.

If you could support the United Methodist Campus Ministry by providing a salad or dessert for their Thursday night meal and worship, please call the church office, 625-3408.

Join the Moses study, 9:35 on Sundays in the Chapel or 6:15 in the Miller's Classroom on Wednesday. Strengthening Families, 6:15 on Wednesday.

KIDS CORNER

WOW is off with a bang!! We kicked off the fall season on Wednesday, September 13 with sub sandwiches served to 123, had tons in worship and 43 kiddos in Kids Club!! Matt had 35 youth and Sandy had 8 in the nursery. Add that together and we touched 86 young lives, which doesn't even include all the wonderful volunteers or the two adult classes in session too!! We are doing something right here at Hays FUMC . If you missed it, come next week and every Wednesday after for an evening full of worship, spiritual growth, service and fellowship.

We're beginning Kids Club with the "Moses" study, to accompany what the adults, youth and church are learning. #coolfamilydiscussions Register online at the church website under Children's Ministry tab.

Sunday School is back in session with the 4/5 graders finishing up the "Board Games" curriculum from the summer, the 2/3 graders starting on Route 66 through the Bible and the Preschoolers and K/1 kiddos using the Deep Blue curriculum. Kids Prayze kicked off Sunday morning September 10. Join us every Sunday morning in the gym at 9:30 then we'll take all the kids to Sunday School and you can pick them up on 2nd floor at 10:30.

Date to put on your calendar:

- Children/Youth Sabbath – October 22
- Camp n' a Half Fundraiser – October 22
- Trunk or Treat – October 25
- Christmas Pageant Tryouts – November 19
- Christmas Pageant for WOW – December 13
- Christmas Pageant for service – December 17



BLESSED TO SERVE- Jo Swayne, Children's Director & Rebecca Kuehl, Children's Ministry Assistant
jswayne33@gmail.com or 316.204.6529 and rebeccarg@hotmail.com or 785.432.6477 Check out the web for up-to-date information! www.haysfirstunitedmethodistchurch.com

Whom Shall I Send?

Matt Dumler, Youth Ministry Director

In the sixth chapter of Isaiah, Isaiah describes his initial calling into service of the Lord. He begins by describing how he doesn't feel qualified to be in the Lord's service. (Isaiah 6:5) However, the seraphim takes a hot coal, touches Isaiah's lips and calls him qualified. (Isaiah 6:6-7) Next, the Lord asks whom He should send out. Isaiah goes through a change of heart and instead of feeling inadequate, he answers the call by saying "Here I am! Send me." (Isaiah 6:8)

The youth, along with any willing person, have an incredible opportunity coming up next summer. We will be traveling to Guatemala to help build homes for the homeless. We will be visiting orphans and offer them love and encouragement. We will be taking the gospel out with us and offer it to any willing ear. Many of our youth have heard the call for help and have answered it by saying "Here I am! Send me."

Often times we, like Isaiah, don't feel qualified to do the Lord's work. We worry if we will know what to say and when to say it. We wonder if we can answer the call of Matthew 28. We find ourselves more concerned with the troubles of this world instead of focusing on the security of the Lord. The one thing we forget the most is that the Lord has gone before us and has already prepared the way. Instead of feeling inadequate, we should feel privileged that we have been called.

We would like to invite anyone that wants to answer His call to join us on our trip. We will be in Guatemala from July 28th until August 4th 2018. If you are interested in joining us, call up to the church and ask for more information or you may talk to me directly. We want to take anyone that is willing to go. If your call isn't to join us, we simply ask that you pray for us. Thank you all for your support of our youth. They have a bright future ahead of them and I am excited to see how they grow through this opportunity.

Conference information taken from GP Connect

On Thursday, June 8, the Mercy and Justice team of the Great Plains Conference hosted a Mission Partnership lunch with guest speaker Susan Burton, director of women and children's advocacy for the General Board of Church and Society.

Burton said a colleague tells her that her job is "to make sure social principles don't sit on the shelf and collect dust."

Burton shared her thoughts on several issues including climate change, women's rights, health care policies and welcoming the stranger as your neighbor.

She closed the message with a question-and-answer session, during which she shared, "When I'm silent, God's children lose."

Thirty volunteers helped pack 531 health kits prior to Wednesday's opening of the conference, the Rev. Hollie Tapley said Thursday.

The kits will be sent to UMCOR's Sager Brown Depot in Baldwin, Louisiana, UMCOR West in Salt Lake City. Tapley thanked those who participated and those who registered to help.

"I firmly believe the church needs to be in service," she said. "The annual conference also needs to be doing that, as we continue to grow and become a part of the community."

Bishop Ruben Saenz Jr. invited discussion about the Commission on a Way Forward during the Friday afternoon plenary session during the Great Plains Annual Conference.

"The church has pressed the pause button" in discussion about LGBTQ issues, the bishop told conference delegates, with findings of the commission to be discussed during a special General Conference session in 2019 in St. Louis.

Bishop Saenz told the delegates he was torn on his feelings toward a decision by the United Methodist Church.

He said he would do his best to answer concerns via email at questions@greatplainsumc.org.

Great Plains Conference delegates approved a 2-percent increase in the minimum salary for pastors for the 2017-18 appointive year.

Bringing the United Methodist word to 13 colleges and universities in Nebraska and Kansas was celebrated Friday night at the Campus Ministry Dinner. Campus pastors each introduced themselves and told of their work reaching students. Those wanting to make connections between the campus ministries and incoming students can fill out information at www.greatplainsumc.org/studentcontact.

Your FUMC Healthy Congregations committee is happy to report that our 2016 reports were accepted and we were able to satisfactorily complete our grant requirements! In addition, we were granted \$1,000 by the United Methodist Healthy Ministry Fund for our 2017 goals (July 1st-June 30th).

The committee submitted the following topics for approval for 2017: 1) Obtain an AED (Automatic External Defibrillator) for the church through grant writing/donations and to update the First Aid Kits located throughout the church. 2) Offer the Strengthening Families Program, an 11 weeks class that helps inform parents about ways to bond with their children, set boundaries, and monitor kids' behaviors. 3) Offer an exercise class quarterly at the church in order to help expose congregants to different types of exercises.

If you value physical, mental, emotional, or spiritual fitness and would like to be a part of our committee, please contact one of the committee members or let the church office staff know! We are looking for more people to join us. We meet usually once a month to plan upcoming activities. If you don't want to be a part of the committee permanently, but can assist with a specific task this year such as grant writing, intermittently teaching a Strengthening Families class with Sandy Aldrich (training required), or teaching an exercise class at the church, please contact one of the committee members listed below.

Lynn Fisher: lfishermd@yahoo.com
 Kristi Schlaefli: schlaefli@haysmed.com
 Sandy Aldrich: saldrich@usd489.com

Deb/Sam Gross: sam_debgross@yahoo.com
 Lavaughan Hull: ldinges@ruraltel.net
 Nancy Jackson: nancyandjackie@yahoo.com

Sawadika!

I don't know about you, but I find it pretty crazy to believe I've already been in Asia for a month! This time has really flown by, with many surprises and firsts each day.

By God's provision, through a friend of a friend of a friend, I am living in a beautiful three-bedroom town-house with another American missionary, Celeste McGee. She is the founder and executive director of [Dton Naam](#) ministries here in Bangkok. We will have one more roommate moving in, in a few weeks. Our home is located in the Ekkamai area of Bangkok, in a quiet and safe neighborhood just a few minutes walk from many grocery stores and restaurants. The best part – we're literally right next door to a coffee shop!

I've been taking this first month to adjust to the new city and attend language school for three hours per day, five days per week. The Thai language is as beautiful as it is challenging, and I enjoy my class. I also attended orientation at NightLight my first week here, and I've slowly been getting more involved in the ministry. Twice per week, I help out at NL's "beauty shop outreach" right above the ministry's coffee shop in the red light district. Beauty shop is a time when women working in the bars and sex industry can come in and be pampered with a hair wash and style, painted nails, and makeup. About ten to twenty women come in each time. Many are regulars, but we're always excited to see new faces each week. They come in not only for the services offered, but also to vent and share about their lives in a safe space. It's obvious they crave the community as much as, if not more than, the beauty treatment.

Last Friday, I had the joy of joining the NL outreach team on my first bar outreach in Nana Plaza. Just a few blocks from CityLight (NL's coffee shop), Nana Plaza boasts to be the "world's largest adult playground," occupying a 3-story building with dozens of bars and strip clubs. NL has been serving this area for about ten years, and our organization has friendly relationships with the club owners and mama-sans. Typically on these outreaches, the NL staff builds these relationships with the managers and girls by buying them non-alcoholic drinks and engaging in conversations. We also invite them to beauty shop, and, if they're interested, we share about employment opportunities at the ministry. The goal is not to pressure the girls out of their current employment, but to ensure they know where and who to go to when they are ready to start a new life.

In an attempt to keep this newsletter an appropriate length, I'll speed through some other highlights of the month! Through my roommate, Celeste, and NL, I've been connected with a small community of ex-pats in the area, which means my weekends are full of adventures exploring the city. So far, I've experienced the [Chatuchak Weekend Market](#) (a 35-acre market with over 8,000 stalls), [Lebua Sky Bar](#) (featured in the movie, *The Hangover II*), and IKEA. Another highlight was calling my girls back in Swaziland a few weeks ago, to check in and continue to share life with them, even from miles away. Speaking of the Hosea's Heart girls, those of you who follow the Facebook page may have seen that Ayanda, our first girl to officially transition out of the program, has safely arrived in America and is starting college in Wisconsin!

Thank you all so much for your prayers and support on this journey. I will be starting full-time ministry with NightLight within the next week or so, now that I have more of the language under my belt. My next update will include more details about the organization and my role in its efforts to serve women escaping trafficking and the sex industry. Please continue to pray for my efforts to master the Thai language, and for my community and friendships to grow. I am excited to share that my salary is almost fully funded for all 18 months in Thailand – I'm only \$6,000 short of my goal! If you are interested in joining God's work in Bangkok and the efforts to combat human trafficking, please let me know if you'd like to make a one-time or monthly contribution to my funding. Tax-deductible checks can be made out to Hays First United Methodist Church and mailed to me at 1111 Noose Road, Hays, KS 67601. PayPal donations can be sent to racheldanell@gmail.com.

Thank you again for all your love and support! Rachel Palmberg

September OUTREACH

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www.HaysFirstUnitedMethodistChurch.com

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Upcoming Events



- | | |
|-------------------------------|--|
| Saturday, September 23 | Youth Service Day 10:00, ARC
Heart to Heart Dessert Challenge
Big Creek Crossing, 1-3 |
| Wednesday, October 4 | Festival of Faith, Beach Schmidt, 6:30 |
| Tuesday, October 10 | Trick or Treat so Others Can Eat |
| Thursday, October 12 | Crafters, 9:00 |
| Saturday, October 14 | UMW District Meeting, 8-6 |