



Volume 28, Issue #2

February 2024



**On the Christian Journey...  
with Pastor Christopher**

Last year, the Wednesday before the SuperBowl, I got an email from the conference with news that the Bishops of the Philadelphia area UMC Conferences had challenged our Bishop – who had only taken office a few weeks before, to see who could raise the most food. At the time I almost blew it off – I didn't really have a good way to get the word out and since the totals were due Sunday afternoon, our counters wouldn't even have cash totals for me to work with. But as soon as I decided that, I happened to get a text from one of our counters telling me they were going to meet right after the service. Hmmmm.

Long story short, this congregation, with only a couple days notice, brought in \$315 in cash donations, along with a lot of nonperishable food. After the service, Robin and I then went shopping. I was running all over G&W trying to find out what the heaviest food I could buy was – while still bringing a useful variety to the Beacon. It was so fun. We kept having conversations about what we were doing too – because that



cart certainly wasn't a normal Superbowl party – it was a great way to bear witness to the love of Christ. All together we donated 360 items which added up to 416.34 pounds of food for the local families served by the Beacon! This year, to my delight, the Chiefs are once again in the SuperBowl and Bishop Wilson (along with his colleague Bishop Farr of Missouri) have challenged the San Francisco area UMC Bishops to a food drive. We also don't have to turn in our totals until Thursday, Feb. 15<sup>th</sup> so it will be a much less hectic Sunday. Here's to the Chiefs, Bishop Wilson, and the Beacon all winning again this year!

As I reflect on these events last year, I find myself amazed at how well and how quickly things came together and I realize a lot of it is being ready to respond to opportunities. This newsletter is full of information about opportunities God is presenting to us to bear witness to the love of Christ –

I am glad to be in ministry here with you!.

**Knowing, Growing, Serving, Sharing**

**What's Inside This Edition?**

- Page 2 •UWFaith Program Calendar
  - Faith Builders Invite
  - Wednesday Reading Group
  - Soup Lunch and Potluck dates
- Page 3 •Valentines, Birthdays,
  - Radio Schedule.
  - Healthy Congregations Retreat
- Page 4 •Soapbox and Liturgical Requests

**Kiwanis Pancake Feed Returns  
Tuesday, February 13<sup>th</sup>**



**Ash Wednesday falls on Valentine's Day this year. We will have our annual imposition of ashes service at 7pm. Come learn a bit about the story of St. Valentine, ponder mortality and the miracle of life, and reflect on God's love as we enter into the season of Lent and prepare for the celebration of Easter!!**



# UW Faith PROGRAM CALENDAR FOR 2024



## United Women in Faith

Unit Meetings are held at 1:30 in the Parlor (*unless otherwise stated*). All women of the church and community are encouraged to attend. Invite a friend!

**Thursday, February 8, 2024:** Program: Jean Tucker has invited Rob Harrington of REDI will present the program explaining the proposed STAR District and Rodeo Entertainment project and new use of the old hospital building. Prayer & Devotions: Carol Majors, Hostess: Jan Hedges

**March 15, 2024**.....Fundraiser- Baked Potato Feed Committee: Jan Hedges, Debra Wood

**June 13, 2024**.....Outreach Program – UW Faith. United Women in Action

**August 8, 2024**.....Program: Feeding Families in His Name (Bonnie Milburn)  
Devotions: Pat Hartford, Hostess: Charlene Sipe

**September 12, 2024**....Outreach-Fall Tea

**October 10, 2024**.....Program: Jan Hedges, Thank Offering  
Devotions: Linda Lechner, Election of Officers Hostess: Dorothy Kivett

**December 12, 2024** .....Devotions: Pastor, Program: Officer Installation and service projects.

**Save Best Choice Labels for United Women in Faith!**

You can leave them in the glass jars by each entrance each week.

Thank you!



**THE PASSION PLAY**  
Living the Story of Christ's Last Days



### FAITH BUILDERS IN FEBRUARY!

We will continue our study, "Twelve Women of the Bible" the first two Sundays in February. We will focus on "Mary, Mother of Jesus" and "Mary Magdalene." Lent begins the 14<sup>th</sup> of February, so we will begin our Lenten study the 18<sup>th</sup>. This is a multimedia study of the Passion Play that has been performed every tenth year in Oberammergau, Germany, since 1634. The first two sessions are "The Power of a Vow" and "The Importance of Community." This study will continue through Easter. Come join us in discussion and fellowship.. ~Ron Wood, Faith Builders Class leader

### WEDNESDAY READING GROUP

The book selection, beginning January 31, is State of Terror by Hillary Rodham Clinton and Louise Penny. Linda Hessong will moderate the discussion.

This will be followed by Richard Osman's The Thursday Murder Club, a humorous novel about residents in a retirement home who like to solve murders. \_

The Devil's Half Acre by Kristen Green will follow.

Submitted by Dorothy Kivett



### FELLOWSHIP SOUP LUNCHEON, FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 23RD 11 – 1:30pm

Wilma Hibdon is coordinating the freewill donation meal as a fundraiser for ASP.

### POTLUCK AFTER WORSHIP SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 25<sup>TH</sup>

Bring your favorite entrée, side or dessert and join us for food and fellowship!

Remember we have a warmer available to hold food ready to serve! Talk with Bonnie Milburn for more information.

### FEEDING FAMILIES IN HIS NAME

HAS SERVED 150,000 MEALS!

Thanks to everyone who volunteers and donates to make this possible!



**Continuing Our Valentine's Day Tradition** – This year HOCROC will again distribute Valentines with your help. We will have all our homebound and assisted living folks on the list by default, then you can add others who would appreciate this token of our congregation's prayers and friendship for them. You can find our list of names in the Sanctuary or contact the Church office. Valentines are due by Sunday, February 11<sup>th</sup> and will be distributed by HOCROC volunteers after the service and before Valentine's Day.



February Birthdays: 1- Betty Galan, 1- Virginia Myers, 3- Connie McKee, 4- Jasmine (Davis) Bradley, 5- Jim Covey, 5- Tyler Slinkard, 7- James Lipscomb, 7- Wyatt Tourtillott, 8- Noah Allshouse, 8- Seth Norris, 8- Alex Ward, 9- Trina Arndt, 9- Austin Ward, 11- Nolene Whiteside, 12- Stephanie Johnson, 13- Lauren Ammons, 13- Janice Patterson, 16- Suziee Barlet, 19- Debbie Sailors, 22- Xavier Fowler, 24- Kiptyn Hunziker, 26- Cindy Hiatt, 26- Joce Renfro, 27- John Bloesser, 28- Peggy Bloesser

**Upcoming  
KMDO Radio  
Schedule:**



A recording of our services will run every other week at 1pm on 103.9 (or occasionally 98.3 if there's a Chiefs or Royals game conflict).

Our upcoming dates are:

- Feb. 11<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup>
- Mar. 10<sup>th</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup>
- Apr. 7<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup>
- May 5<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup>
- June 2<sup>nd</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup>, and 30<sup>th</sup>
- July 14<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup>
- August 11<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup>
- September 8<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup>
- October 6<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>
- November 3<sup>rd</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup>
- December 1<sup>st</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup>  
& 29<sup>th</sup>

**Tell a Friend!**

**United Methodist  
HealthMinistryFund**

## Save the Date

Healthy Congregations Retreat  
April 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup>  
Salina, KS - Homewood Suites

**Healthy Congregations**  
The past couple years we have received a \$1000 Grant from the Great Plains Conference. Part of renewing that grant is having active folks in their trainings. A very easy way to do that is to have 2 or 3 of us join in their retreat, coming up on Thursday April 18<sup>th</sup> and Friday, April 19<sup>th</sup> in Salina. They cover the hotel rooms, we just have to get our group there. It's a very relaxing

and informative couple of days! Talk to Pastor Christopher for more information. He had a wonderful time there last year and is looking forward to going again!

**If you change phone numbers, addresses or email - please notify the Church Office!**

It's amazing how quickly our contact information becomes outdated! Please help us keep in touch by updating your records frequently – we are missing lots of cell phone numbers, for example.



If you are getting emails from us at an address you don't want them - please reply with "Remove from List" and we will do so immediately.

If you *aren't* getting weekly updates, including links to Pastor's written sermon summaries and our YouTube recordings, but would like to - email Kristin in the office at [info@firstumcfortscott.org](mailto:info@firstumcfortscott.org) and ask to be added to our distribution list. **Thank you!**



### A First UMC SOAPBOX DERBY ENTRY?

Seth Needham and BSA Troop 114 are working to bring a new event to Good Old Days!

On June 1, 2024, there will be a Soapbox Derby held here in Fort Scott. It will be known as the **Marmaton Classic Downhill Derby**. Pastor would like to see First United Methodist sponsor at least one, and perhaps more, entries.

Who might drive? Who has experience with this kind of build and race? Who is interested in helping out? Details will be forthcoming, and we will share as they are published. Let's be a big part of a fun new event here in Fort Scott!

First United Methodist Church  
301 S National  
Fort Scott, KS 66701-1397

Return Service Requested

Here is your February 2024  
Newsletter from:



Visit us online:  
[www.firstumcfsks.org](http://www.firstumcfsks.org)  
Links to Facebook,  
YouTube, Instagram

### Liturgists Needed!

An important part of each Sunday is the participation of liturgists in helping lead worship. Normally the liturgist leads the Call to Worship and reads two scriptures. Liturgist are given a full script of their parts a few days in advance. This practice helps honor the ministry of the laity and bring different voices to the liturgy.

In recent months health concerns and other conflicts have limited the participation of many of our regulars. Pastor would very much appreciate some new folks helping out. Please consider serving in this way! Let Pastor know if you have questions. Thanks.



**Our Mission is:** to share the good news of the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ and to *exemplify* the love of God by *knowing* Christ, *growing* in Christ, *serving* Christ and *sharing* Christ.

