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SUNDAY WORSHIP

9:00, 11:00 a.m.

9:00 Live stream
worship on YouTube
Channel GBFUMC

We continue to monitor the situation in our state and county regarding in-person worship decisions.

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THINK ON THESE THINGS

Philippians 4:8

It's here! Depending on when this arrives in your inbox or mailbox, 2021 has arrived and with it our prayers and hopes for some kind of return to normal living over the course of the year. It was about this time last January when news began to trickle into our awareness about a new strain of virus in the world. Little did we know the impact it would have on our lives. We have experienced changes in how we work, go to school, share with family...how we celebrate birthdays, anniversaries, and holidays...every aspect of life has seen change from a year ago.

We have also been witness to arguments and division over the best ways to defend ourselves and keep our families safe. It almost seems a new version of Ecclesiastes has been written, "to everything there is a season and a time to every purpose under heaven. A time to mask and a time not to mask. A time to sing and a time to refrain from singing. A time to gather and a time to stay apart." I like the original version better.

It seems the earliest lessons of our faith are coming back to remind us of who we are called to be in these days.

Remember the Golden Rule?

"Do unto others as you would have them do unto you."

And the first time you read or were taught the parable of the Good Samaritan?

"Love your neighbor as yourself."

And one from John 15 that we perhaps learned a little later:

"No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends."

January 1 always brings to mind a fresh start, the making of new year's resolutions. Rather than the ones we typically make around self improvement, finances, or even getting organized, perhaps we could simply keep these three simple Bible lessons before us.

The first reminds us of the importance of our actions in the world.

The second reminds us to care for others, and to care for ourselves.

The last is centered in following the example of Jesus.

Maybe we should bond together as the church and resolve to let these three statements guide us throughout the year.

"Every moment is a fresh beginning."

~ T.S. Eliot

Here we stand, on the precipice of a new year, with new opportunities before us. How will we, as people of God, respond to the challenges that still lie before us? How will we take the fresh beginning of every moment and make a difference in the world in the name of Jesus?

Morita

CHILDREN AND YOUTH MINISTRY

NOAH'S ARK PRESCHOOL

The Preschool will reopen January 5, following the Christmas break.

Just prior to the holiday, the children and teachers were busy, preparing their gifts for parents, rehearsing for their televised Christmas program, and learning about the birth of Christ.



Preschool teachers, like left, worked with their students to create personalized snowmen for Christmas presents for the children's parents. The wooden snowmen are the height of the child and included black finger prints of the child for buttons, eyes and mouth.



CARPET INSTALLED

Thanks to a generous donation from a preschool board member, new carpet was installed in the Noah's Ark east preschool room and the main hallway over the Christmas break. The other two rooms will receive new carpet over spring break. Like the Fellowship Hall the rooms will have carpet squares that can be easily replaced in case of spills or stains or removed in order to be cleaned. It's so much easier!

The preschool staff has been working to clean out closets and go through things that have been in storage for a long time. This includes old toys and supplies. Watch for more information as some things may become available.

Kids Klub & EYG

Elementary Youth Group
(3rd- 6th grade)

Kids Klub
(3 yrs-2nd Grade)



It's never too late to join!

Kids Klub and EYG meet at 6 p.m. each Wednesday. However, they won't be meeting on December 23rd or 30th, in order to celebrate the holidays with their families.

Contact Larissa Graham, children's director, or Vivian Harbaugh, if you have questions about Kids Klub or Elementary Youth Group.

YOUTH MEETINGS SCHEDULED

Youth in grades 7-12 are invited to meet on Wednesdays at 6:00 p.m. at the church. The room and game room are open at 5:30. Come early and work on homework, listen to some tunes, sing Karaoke, talk to each other, hit the game room, spend time with friends, just *be*.

Dinner is served at 6'ish. Each month we deal with the A,B,C, and D of things. What Amazes, Bothers, Confuses, and Delights you? Our first meeting back on January 6, we'll be amazed together.

If you want to volunteer to bring a meal or spend time with the youth, contact Morita in the office.



MISSION

FELLOW MAN INTERNATIONAL

Mission in Honduras

(Taken from the recent newsletter from Lisa Armstrong concerning the FMI)

Although Covid-19 has left both the governmental and non-governmental Honduran medical communities depleted and overwhelmed, the medical staff and nurses of FMI continue to work tirelessly to meet the healthcare needs of the people. They are working with the Honduran Ministry of Health to provide care for as many as possible. The Center for Public Health has donated medicine and other emergency supplies. The staff is deeply concerned about the children and the elderly as the risk to the vulnerable is magnified by the

coronavirus pandemic.

In addition to caring for patients of the Clinic, they are making home visits.

After both Hurricane Eta and Iota passed through Honduras, many villages of the Mission's service area were cut off by flooding and landslides. The staff of FMI prepared food bundles, medications, and medical supplies while heavy equipment cleared the way for 4-wheel drive vehicles.

FMI was the first to reach the people living in some of the more remote areas that had been isolated for nearly ten days. They are coordinating with the Ministry of Health to provide ongoing assistance to those most profoundly

affected by the hurricanes.

Because hunger has always been a primary concern for FMI and there is now additional food insecurity for the poor due to the pandemic and the hurricanes, they have decided to temporarily shift the focus of the agricultural project from school lunches to feeding some of the most vulnerable. As Dr. Samira has traveled from village to village providing medical care, she has identified those who are malnourished or at greater risk. Deliveries of fresh chicken have been made all over the mountain to those struggling with hunger.

Lisa thanks us for our continued support of their efforts to share Christ's love in this way!



YOUTHVILLE GIVING TREE

Thank you to all who participated in the annual Youthville giving tree. With our lower attendance numbers we weren't able to fulfill all 45 ornaments we received but we came close! Many churches that aren't meeting weren't able to take any ornaments so the staff was especially appreciative of churches who still participated.

The majority of the gifts were picked up December 1 by Courtney from Youthville. Due to shipping delays for some gifts the rest were delivered to the campus in Newton.

Thank you again for helping kids in foster care receive special gifts for Christmas.

A special word of thanks to everyone for your kind and thoughtful gestures to the staff throughout the Advent and Christmas season. Your culinary skills as well as your generosity are always on full display!

PS: There was a package left on the pastor's desk that did not have a tag and she doesn't know who to thank for the two glass plates. So—please know that you are thanked and appreciated!



CHURCH NEWS

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

UMW distribute 43 cookie plates

Several women from the UMW gathered December 7 to assemble and distribute cookie “plates” (1-dozen assorted home-made cookies now packaged in bags) to our shut-ins, recently bereaved and staff. There were enough cookies, some were also set aside for Phoebe’s Kitchen.



Thank-you’s go to Nancy Carroll, Frances Fanshier, Elaine Felke, Larissa Graham, LaVonne Gerritzen, Vivian Harbaugh, Kathleen Kennedy, and Judy

Turner, plus all the bakers, for their time helping to prepare and distribute the Christmas treats this year.

UMW Meetings

January: The Executive Board will not meet this month.

January 20:
Walter-Evers Circle will meet at 1:30 p.m.

Contact Alice Walter or Rosie Luthi if you have any questions.



Christmas Poinsettias



Thank you to all who shared poinsettias with us for the Advent season. You may pick them up at any time at the church.

In memory of Dorothy & Earl O’Connell from Alan & Janet Schremmer

In memory of Hubert & Dorothy Steinert and Don Carroll from Nancy Carroll

In memory of Jim Walter, and Margaret & Harry Lytle from Alice Walter

In memory of Jim Fertig and Matt DeBusk from Eleanor Fertig and family

In memory of Leslie & Daisy Evers and Leo & Velma Setser from Merle & Vivian Evers

In memory of Brad Young from Don & Susan Young

In memory of Ruby Brokaw from Steve & Darlene Beaumont

In memory of William E. Stice from Bruce & Veronica Coons

In memory of Mark S.A. Stice from Bruce & Veronica Coons

In memory of Avaline Coons and Robert Coons from Bruce & Veronica Coons

In honor of Wilder Knox Griggs from Morita Truman

Thank you for all the prayers, cards, and the cookies from everyone and the UMW!

The Garth Frydendall family, JoAnne, Debbie, Brenda & families

Thank you



CHURCH NEWS

NEW YEAR, NEW SCHEDULE, NEW LEADERSHIP

At our fall church conference new leaders were elected to committee positions that would begin on January 1.

With the incoming leadership we will begin with a meeting for all committee and council chairs. We'll look at the calendar for the first quarter of the year and consider plans for Easter and the season of Lent especially. While we pray restrictions will lift sooner than later, it will behoove us to know ahead of time what our guidelines for worship and activities will be.

After this initial meeting we'll have individual committees meet, followed by a church council meeting. The pastor will be in touch with a poll to determine best meeting times.

Please be in prayerful consideration about the ministries we will engage in during 2021. This past year has shown us how important we feel it is to be able to worship and share together. As we move forward, we continue to cautiously consider the well being of all our members and friends.

CHURCH/OFFICE CLOSED

The church office will close at noon on December 31st and be closed on January 1st for New Year's Day.

If you have an emergency, please call and leave a message at 620-792-2148 or call the parsonage at 603-8335 (not a cell so no text messages).

THANK YOU!

This Advent season and the year in general has been one unlike any other we have experienced (and we hope not to see again). There are thank you's that need to be expressed:

- * to our musicians at both services who have continued to bless us with their gifts and talents
- * to Carl & Carol Anderson who have faithfully been in the AV booth each week, making sure worship and online worship are available
- * to those who decorated the sanctuary and created a space where we could feel a bit of the 'normalcy' we were seeking
- * to Marc Webster and crew for the live music concert on December 20. It was a wonderful blessing to be in a room with live music.
- * to Rosie Luthi, Linda Bunselmeyer, and Linda Jerke for preparing and serving communion on Christmas Eve
- * to our preschool staff for their work with 50+ kiddos every day. If you haven't watched their Christmas program online, I encourage you to do so.
- * to all the volunteers who came and cleaned while our custodian was in quarantine—you kept the building in tip top shape



VESPER SERVICE CONTINUES

Each Sunday evening at 7:00 we have a Zoom Vesper service. We share with one another, pray, hear music, share concerns and joys. All ages are welcome to participate.

This is a recurring meeting so the Zoom link is the same each time. You can also join by phone if you don't operate with a computer. If you are interested, let Morita know and she'll send you the number to call. We look forward to continuing this new tradition in 2021.

Meeting ID: 928 0373 4294
Passcode: 635673

HERE'S SOME NEWS...

“PURPLE ZONE” OPPORTUNITY COMING IN JANUARY

Did that get your attention? No, it's not a road trip to Manhattan!

Preaching in the Purple Zone introduces a method of preaching called the *sermon-dialogue-sermon* process. This method expands the pastor's level of engagement on justice issues beyond the single sermon. Key to this endeavor is using a method of civil discourse called “deliberative dialogue” developed by the Kettering Foundation for finding common values among politically diverse participants. *Preaching in the Purple Zone* equips clergy to help their congregations respectfully engage in deliberation about “hot topics,” find the values that bind them together, and respond faithfully to God's Word.

On January 10 you will be invited to a deliberative dialogue around the issue of economic security, that will begin after the sermon shared on January 3. In addition to the sermon on Epiphany Sunday and any thoughts it generates we will use a resource from the National Issues Forums website. Copies will be available here at the church or I can email you a pdf. Our discussion will take place via Zoom and a separate link to that meeting will be sent out. The follow up sermon on January 17 will reflect some of the ideas addressed in our dialogue.

The sentence that grabbed the pastor's attention for this topic was this, *“As the nation slowly recovers from its worst recession in decades, it is a good time to ask how we can best take charge of the future so families can feel reasonably secure, parents can help their children prosper, and everyone can move toward a financially stable retirement.”*

Our conversation will divide us into groups and each person's viewpoint will be heard and respected.

This is related to the class our pastor took in November. It is also part of an ongoing process in our annual conference. Be watching for the link!

DECEMBER STEWARDSHIP

Your faithfulness continues
to bless us!



General Budget:

November 29	\$3,917
December 6	4,232
December 13	8,010
December 20	2,970
December 27	10,380
EFT	1,250
TOTAL	\$30,759

Additional giving:

Missions	130
CORE	220
Noah's Ark	1,745
UM Student Day	95
Christmas Food Boxes	1,958
Youth meals	400
Youthville	621
Pastor Discretionary Fund	100
DVD Ministry	50

TOTAL **\$5,319**

FROM THE STAFF PARISH RELATIONS COMMITTEE

We continue to be in conversation and planning about how best to advertise and search for a person for the position currently held by Marla Redburn. Marla's job is unique in that she is the financial administrator for the church, but her job includes so much more. She is the repository of collective wisdom for the Trustees and scholarship committees, and two days a week she job shares the secretarial position.

Advertising is set to begin soon. Please continue to pray about the best way to fill this position and for Marla as she transitions to this new time in her life.

First United Methodist Church—January 2021

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					1	2
3 9 a.m. and 11 a.m. —Services in Sanctuary Virtual Service at 9 a.m. <i>Unhanging of the greens after 11 a.m.</i> 7:00 p.m. <i>Vesper Zoom</i>	4 6:30 pm NA	5 5:30 pm TOPS 6:30 pm NA 7:00 pm Train Club	6 6 pm Kids Club/EYG 6 pm Youth Group	7 6:00 Core Community 7:00 pm NA	8	9
10 9 a.m. and 11 a.m. Services in Sanctuary Virtual Service at 9 a.m. 7:00 <i>Vesper Zoom</i>	11 6:30 pm NA	12 5:30 pm TOPS 6:30 pm NA	13 6 pm UMW Evening Circle 6:00 Kids Club/EYG 6 pm Youth Group	14 6:00 Core Community 7:00 pm NA	15	16
17 9 a.m. and 11 a.m. Services in Sanctuary Virtual Service at 9 a.m. 7:00 <i>Vesper Zoom</i>	18 9 am Submission of Newsletter Items Deadline 6:30 pm NA 7:00 pm Train Club	19 5:30 pm TOPS 6:30 pm NA	20 1:30 UMW Afternoon Circle 6 pm Kids Club/EYG 6 pm Youth Group	21 6:00 Core Community 7:00 pm NA	22	23
24/31 9 a.m. and 11 a.m. — Services in Sanctuary Virtual Service at 9 a.m. 7:00 <i>Vesper Zoom</i>	25 6:30 pm NA	26 5:30 pm TOPS 6:30 pm NA	27 6:00 pm Kids Club/ EYG 6:00 pm Youth Group	28 6:00 Trustees meeting 6:00 Core Community 7:00 pm NA	29	30

CELEBRATIONS AND PRAYER CONCERNS

Happy Birthday

JANUARY

2 Easton Stalcup

3 Avery Vonada

5 Bill Koelling

6 Jack Yarmer

10 Rylee Yarmer

12 Janis Link

12 Brad Brack

JANUARY

15 Jason & Kristen Yarmer

22 Robert & Marilyn Loss

27 Leonard & Luanne French

29 William & Linda Carpenter



20 Donna McAllaster

20 Larry Gale

20 Kaycee Smith

22 Betty Erikson

23 Janice Schmidt

27 Jim Sickbert

28 Merle Evers

28 Greg Hinson

28 Alice Walter

29 Connor Furrey

30 Donna Knipe

31 Megan Burnham

WE REMEMBER THESE IN OUR PRAYERS:

The families of Eleanor Miller, Betty Banks, and Joe Snyder

Sharon Anglemyer, Alan Baxter, Jean Starbuck, Mary Gergerson (*Banks' daughter*), **Delora Baldwin, Myrla Keenan, Brenda Rowe** (*Harriet Herzberg's daughter*)

Cancer treatment and recovery:

Marilyn Loss, Kathy Rogers, Nadine Erskin, Cindy Biehler (*Karen Menzies' niece*), **Stephanie Kaiser** (*friend of Janis Link*), **Serenity Carpenter** (*granddaughter of Bill & Linda Carpenter*), **Imogene Christiansen's daughter Mary, Abby Hinman** (*Rick & Karen Garrett's niece*)

All our men & women in the armed forces including **Bryan Farthing**

Front-line health care workers; those who have tested positive or who are quarantined

Our nation and newly elected leaders

Congratulations!

Gary and Pat Hinson welcomed a new great-granddaughter, Abigail Charlene Hinson into the world this Christmas.

Abigail was born December 20, 2020, in South Carolina to Tyler and Jessi Hinson.

Bill & Linda Carpenter welcomed a new granddaughter, Ella Jean Morgan, born on December 11, 2020.

Ella's Mom and Dad are Rachel and Alex Morgan. Ella arrived on her Daddy's birthday!



SUNDAYS AT WORSHIP

SUNDAYS AT WORSHIP

It's a new year! We've been waiting, praying that in 2021 we will begin to see changes around covid and begin to resume life as we knew it. Or will we? Have we discovered things that maybe weren't as important to us as we thought? Possessions? Use of time? Maybe the idea of making new year's resolutions is tied in with that as well. In worship this month we'll hear some old stories and think about them in new ways.

JANUARY 3 EPIPHANY

The story of the visit of the wise men continues the Christmas story with these final visitors. This year we take a different route to consider these wise men from afar. As we begin the process of hearing preaching from 'the purple zone' we'll hear their story from Matthew 2 alongside modern considerations of Economic Security. You can read more about the process we'll engage in elsewhere in this newsletter edition.

JANUARY 10 BAPTISM OF THE LORD

Things move quickly after the wise men depart. We read in Mark 1:4-11 how Jesus went to John in the wilderness. Their encounter and the subsequent baptism of Jesus mark a public beginning of ministry. Today we each remember our own baptism and consider how God calls us to be at work in the world.

JANUARY 17 HUMAN RELATIONS DAY

Today we hear the impact of our discussion on Economic Security from our deliberative dialogue. Again, you'll want to consult the article all about this. We heard how the wise men's gifts made a difference in the life of one family. Today, on Human Relations Day, the day before the observation of Dr. King's birthday, where are we in the search for beloved community? The reading today from John 1 includes Nathanael making assumptions about someone because of where they were from—maybe that's a good place for us to start.

JANUARY 24 ECUMENICAL SUNDAY

Each of the gospels tells of disciples being called to follow Jesus—and the story is a bit different in each of the four. In Mark 1:14-20 we read how Jesus called fishermen, but different kinds of fishermen. On this ecumenical Sunday what is our call?

JANUARY 31 FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

It's a fifth Sunday already! 2021 is moving right along. The gospel of Mark does the same, as the first written, there is a sense of urgency in the story. After calling his first disciples Jesus immediately travels to Capernaum, where he teaches in the synagogue and heals a demoniac. News of him starts to spread. We're five weeks into the new year, maybe we should think about how we spread the news and love of Jesus.

Worship takes place live at 9 and 11 every Sunday morning.
We are live on YouTube, channel GBFUMC, at 9:00.

IT'S TIME TO "UN-HANG" THE GREENS!

With the celebration of Epiphany on Sunday, January 3, it is time for the decorations in the sanctuary to be stored away once again. If you are able to help we will be working Sunday afternoon starting after the Revive service ends. I checked—the Chiefs kick off against the Chargers at 3:25 so we should have you home in time for the game. Thank you in advance for your help.

First United Methodist Church

2123 Forest

Great Bend, KS 67530



P: (620) 792-2148

www.gbfumc.org

Contact the office to receive this newsletter by email.

WEEKLY EVENTS @ FUMC!

SUNDAY

9:00 a.m. Worship

11:00 a.m. Worship

Virtual Worship Service at 9:00 a.m.

Vesper Zoom at 7:00 p.m.

We continue to monitor the number of Covid-19 cases in our county. The sanctuary is fogged after the 9:00 a.m. worship service and groups clean areas as they depart.

Please report any concerns.

Small groups that meet during the week are CORE Community, NA, TOPS and the Train Club.

Contact us:

Pastor, Morita Truman

mtruman@gbfumc.org

Children's Director, Larissa Graham

grahaml@bartonccc.edu

Administrative Assistant, Marla Redburn

marla@gbfumc.org

Secretary, Rebecca Peak

secretary@gbfumc.org

Coordinator of Worship Arts, Marc Webster

kmsband@yahoo.com

REVIVE Worship Director, Paige Stegman

psteg23@gmail.com

Noah's Ark Preschool Director, Julie Gregg

793-3451

Custodian, Chris Saenz

chris@gbfumc.org