



DISCIPLES*dispatch*

Newsletter of the First United Methodist Church

May - July 2021

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Breaking Through the Wilderness
Sermon Series
May 1st - 30th

Service in the Park
Begins June 6th

The Rise and Fall of King Saul
Sermon Series
June 5th - 27th

Vacation Bible School
June 7th - 11th

Rebuild, Restore, Revive
Sermon Series
August 22nd - September 19th

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Upcoming Events

May

1

Sermon Series Begins!
Breaking Through the
Wilderness

9

Graduation Sunday
11:00 AM | Sanctuary

23

**D.S. Don Hasty
Recognition**
8:30 & 11:00 a.m.
services

30

5th Sunday
More details to come!

June

5

Sermon Series Begins!
The Rise and Fall of
King Saul

6

**Service in the Park
Begins**
8:30 AM | Fynnup Park

7 - 11

Vacation Bible School
9:00 AM - 11:45 AM
4 year olds - 6th grade

July

5

Office Closed
Happy Independence
Day!

August

21

Sermon Series Begins!
Rebuild, Restore,
Revive

MAY 2021

What is next? As our world begins to return to normal, how is our church to respond to the continued hardship and suffering left in the wake of the recent pandemic?

Join us as we follow the path
Christ has laid for us!

*"Behold, I am doing a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?
I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert. ~ Isaiah 43:19*

Recognition of Service

Join us in thanking Reverend Hasty for his service!

SUNDAY, MAY 23RD | 8:30 & 11:00 AM

Reverend Don Hasty has completed his service to the Great Plains Conference as the Dodge City and Hays District Superintendent and will be reappointed this July. We will be hosting him to preach and recognizing his service to our congregation and district on May 23rd.

THE RISE & FALL OF KING SAUL SERMON SERIES

JUNE 2021

Do you experience fear?
Do you struggle with jealousy?
Do you struggle to trust in God?

Join us for a sermon series on the books of Samuel as we study the challenges of King Saul and the importance of keeping God in the center of our hearts.

REBUILD STORE VIVE SERMON SERIES ON THE BOOK OF NEHEMIAH

August 22nd - September 19th, 2021

God called Nehemiah to rebuild the wall around Jerusalem, but what did he really call Nehemiah to do? Join us as we explore God's calling to *Rebuild, Restore, and Revive* our church and our faith!

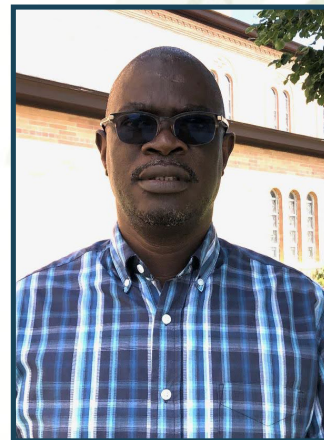
Join our team!

Full-Time Building Custodian
Full-Time Youth Director

Contact us in the church office at (620) 275-9171 or jenny@fumcgc.com
for more information or to apply!

Senior Pastor's Reflection

I greet you all in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. I would like you to imagine for a moment when our congregation gets back to normal. I dream to see all the programs once again happening with regularity. We want to fully participate in our mission of being the hands of Jesus Christ. As most of our church membership is receiving their COVID-19 shots, we expect all restrictions to go away. We have just come through the Lenten season where we were reminded that we are holy vessels as we experienced a season of recovery. We realized that even as some aspects of each of our pre-pandemic lives have been shattered, we are still treasured by God and in the safe keeping of Jesus. We are still in the Easter Season and am happy to share that we are going to have a new sermon series in May 2021 titled, Breaking Through the Wilderness based on Isaiah 43:19. This series will strengthen, encourage, and challenge our congregation, during this coming summer as we get out of this Covid-19 induced wilderness. As the weeks of this series go by, we are going to look at how we can put our lives together in the face of things that challenge our faith. I look forward to this exciting new series and pray you will derive much from it. I also want to thank the whole congregation for their support of our Lenten Fish Offering and for donating towards the Nyamakope Village Water Project. Just like the people of Macedonia (2 Corinthians 8:1-7) we gave more than what was expected. Let us continue to be the hands and feet of Jesus Christ even to communities we have never met. Amen.



— Charles Nyamakope, Senior Pastor
O: (620) 275-9171
C: (308) 520-2928
charles@fumcgc.com

Nyamakope Village Water Project

Wow! For the 2021 Lent Season we embarked on the Nyamakope Village Water Project with hopes of drilling one or two boreholes for the people of Zimbabwe. The project sparked so much interest that we not only surpassed our goal and raised \$26,081.50, but we are now organizing plans for a mission trip! Members have begun voicing interest in a cultural immersion with Zimbabwe and Pastor Charles is more than excited to lead us in sharing the love and word of Christ with his village and their surrounding communities. Plans are underway for a group to travel to Zimbabwe with Pastor Charles and discover more opportunities for us to be the hands of Jesus Christ. If you are interested in participating, be on the look out for more information and final details!

Continued giving for this project will support the establishment of more boreholes as well as the mission trip! Be sure to include "Water Project" in your memos!



Learn Shona with us!

Join us in learning more of Pastor Charles' native language, Shona.

"Mangwanani Akanaka" means "Good Morning"

"Masikati Akanaka" means "Good Afternoon"

"Manheru Akanaka" means "Good Evening"

"Mwari" means "God"

"Mufundisi" means "Pastor"

"Ndatenda" means "Thank You"

"Baba" means "Father"

"Amai" means "Mother"

"Sekuru" means "Grandfather"

"Ambuya" means Grandmother

Associate Pastor's Reflection

All Those Years

Deuteronomy 6:6-7: "And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise."

My friend Debbie's two daughters were in high school when she experienced severe flu-like symptoms. Debbie visited her family doctor, who told her the flu bug had passed her by. Instead, she had been touched by the "love bug" and was now pregnant. The birth of Tommy, a healthy, beautiful son, was an event for celebration, and as time went by, it seemed as though every day brought another reason to celebrate the gift of Tommy's life. He was sweet, thoughtful, fun-loving and a joy to be around.

One day when Tommy was about five years old, he and Debbie were driving to the neighborhood mall. As is the way with children, out of nowhere, Tommy asked, "Mom, how old were you when I was born?" "Thirty-six, Tommy. Why?" Debbie asked, wondering what his little mind was contemplating. "What a shame!" Tommy responded. "What do you mean?" Debbie inquired, more than a little puzzled. Looking at her with love-filled eyes, Tommy said, "Just think of all those years we didn't know each other" (Alice Collins, Chicken Soup for the Mother's Soul).

I wonder if this is how Jesus feels when years go by in a person's life and they haven't come to know him, I mean really know him. I think about all the opportunities afforded to each of us throughout our lives and yet for many there is a distance between them and God. That distance does not need to be there and certainly God yearns for the closeness of parent and child in its most beautiful form. My mom and I are close, and I thank God for that.

As we think about our moms in this month of May, let us not forget that our Creator knew us from the beginning of time and sewed us together cell by cell with complete unconditional love. That God sent Jesus Christ into the world to save us from all that was keeping us apart from God and that his sacrifice and our belief in his resurrection assures us that we will be reunited with pure love in the appointed time.

I would like to wish my wife and all of the wonderful ladies I know a Happy Mother's Day! Grace and Peace!



— Joel Plisek, Associate Pastor
O: (620) 275-9171
C: (402) 670-4688
joel@fumcgc.com



**STEPHEN
MINISTRY**

Our Stephen Ministry Team is here for you!

Are you feeling lonely?
Depressed? Sad? Angry?
Hurt? Overwhelmed?

Contact Pastor Joel to be paired up
with one of our Stephen Ministers
who want to be there for you!

Broken Chains Ministry Update

On March 2nd, I received an invitation for our group to return to ministry in the Finney County Jail after a year of being restricted from visiting due to Covid-19. We were asked to meet with the male inmates who are newest to the jail—as they are quarantined for 14 days when they enter. So, since we visit on the first and third Sundays of each month, we work with a new group of men each time. We spend one hour bringing them a worship service—including music, scripture, and a message—followed by small group discussion time. We end our time by praying individually for each man.

If you are interested in either hearing more about becoming a member of our ministry team—or writing to inmates—please contact me at ccadockter@yahoo.com.

- Lisa Dockter

Children's Ministry

PRESCHOOL ENROLLMENT

Preschool Enrollment is open for the 2021-2022 school year! More information and forms can be found at www.fumcgc.com or by stopping in the church office.

Spots are filling up fast so hurry in to guarantee yours!

SUMMER CAMP

We do plan to attend summer camps this year!

Watch for more details!

SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS

Children's Summer Sunday School Teachers are needed!

Sign up with Missy!

Vacation Bible School

June 7th - 11th
9:00 am - 11:45 am
4 yr - 6th grade

REGISTER AT
fumcgc.com
OR SCAN HERE



Join us for a quest on Adventure Island this summer! Beacon, the Puffin, will guide us on this adventure to find God's light. We can't wait to see you!



Volunteers Needed

Volunteers are essential to our annual Vacation Bible School program! Sign up in the Welcome Center or with Missy to help with crafts, games, snacks, or teaching.

Donations Needed

Snacks and project items are needed. Check out and sign up on the request list in the Welcome Center!

Coming Updates and Changes

The Trustees are looking forward to a productive remainder of the year. There are lots of projects coming your way, but two of the most exciting revolve around the sanctuary video system and the television monitors that will begin appearing by the first of May. The cameras and video equipment that will be installed toward July will enhance both the worship experience within the sanctuary and the worship quality for the ever-increasing home church member. The number of people attending church has been steadily growing, but so have the numbers of people that watch at home in real-time by live streaming or later through YouTube or the church Facebook page. The Media Team was created by our Staff Parish Relations Committee last year to tackle this issue again and they did a great job nailing down the details. Those servants among us, including the nursery staff, ushers and even those in the Welcome Center or Fellowship Hall will finally be able to enjoy the worship service via TV monitor while performing their chosen duties or during spillover times when larger-than-capacity numbers are expected.

The conversations and planning revolving around both projects go back more than a decade, but the timing and the budget were never right at the same time and they were shelved more than once. Now that COVID is in remission and the evangelistic need for reaching out is increasing, the timing is right. With the incredible gift that the Charles Norwood Trust gave to the church, we can finish this project without using budgeted funds. Our preference is always to favor ministry over maintenance from the budget standpoint, so that tithed money remains largely missional. When we have unbudgeted money to work with, it allows for necessary repairs and upgrades without affecting the daily operation of the church: a win-win.

One huge accomplishment this year, thanks to you, was paying off the building loan from the Welcome Center project. The church is once again debt-free! So, rather than paying down a loan, we are looking outside ourselves for where God wants us to serve next. It is an extremely exciting time in the life of our church.

You can look forward to some freshening up of Sunday school rooms, energy-saving improvements with LED lighting and some work on the kitchens including a replacement of the ancient ice machine. Some of what needs done you may not see because it's steam-tunnel stuff like plumbing, but like any very large house, keeping everything running is a never-ending task.

Finally, if you notice something that needs attention, you are always welcome to stop by the office, email Jenny, or stop me in the hallway and let us know. We'd rather hear it twice and get it fixed than miss it once. The Trustees ultimately are responsible for anything in the church or both parsonages that you can touch. We have an excellent committee full of fellow church members that are dedicated to being the best stewards of the buildings entrusted to our care and making sure that your experience with your church is the very best it can be.

- Doug Harder, Trustees Committee Chairman



Join the Media Team!

Looking for a new way to serve your church?
Want to help spread the word of Christ!?
Have an interest in computers and media?

We need you!

Each Sunday we need volunteers to help run the slideshows and record the service. Our slideshows enhance our Worship experience for those here, while recording and livestreaming helps spread the word of Christ beyond our walls!

Talk to Leah or Sarah to sign up!

Outreach & Evangelism

5th
SUN
DAY

May 30th

Aug 29th

Oct 31st

Shopping Cart Ministry

May

Laundry & Dish Soap

June

Cereal

July

Ramen Noodles



Year Round Giving Items

May - Hygiene Items

June - Toys

July - Clothing

Community Garden

Our Outreach and Evangelism Committee are continuing plans to sponsor a Community Garden located at 1808 A Street. Plans are underway for signage and applications for plots. This project is focused on enabling community members to learn how to grow their own food and to give them access to fresh, home grown fruits and vegetables. The April Fish Offering collections were designated to help this project. For continued giving, please include "Community Garden" in your memos.



Scout Update

Scout Troop 108 is 100 years old as of April 19th! The first Charter from the National B.S.A. was signed on April 19th, 1921, and chartered to the Chamber of Commerce. After the first year, it began meeting at the First United Methodist Church of Garden City, and has been here ever since! Many members' families have been involved through the years, as scouts, leaders, and church partners.

Several years ago the National organization launched a new format, Scouts BSA Family Scouting. Now girls have joined us at all levels, 1st through 12th grades.

Many events now allow Family Members to participate also. Currently the Troop, 6th through 12th grades, have 20 youth members, and 4 Adult leaders, Karen Nonhof, Kenneth Gossman, Tracy Henry, and Danny Hoff. Michael Roark is Charter Rep and Webelos Leader.

To honor and celebrate our 100th Year, we have challenged each other to do 100 hours of community service each. 12 youths and 3 adults went to Mandan Camp at Ford County Lake for a Spring Cleanup Day, getting the first 90 hours all together. Monday the 19th, we picked up trash along Taylor Street and then returned to church for Birthday Cake and ice cream. Our next project will be painting the church parking lot. If anyone needs help this spring or summer for projects they cant do, contact us!

Now is a great time to join up, as spring projects, campouts, and summer camp are all approaching. All levels are currently recruiting! We meet on Monday nights at 6:30pm. Come on in to discuss joining for the fun and becoming better citizens and learning all kinds of new things!

Lastly, much, much thanks to the church for chartering this youth activity, providing meeting space, and helping provide vehicles for getting to our campouts, field trips, and other activities!

- Karen Nonhof, Scout Leader

Picture of backpacking 2 nights and 3 days at Elk City Reservoir National Recreational Trail last September.



Join a small group!

Summer schedules may vary.
Contact the church office for more information!

Sundays

Sunday Schools | 10:45 AM

Youth Group | 6:00 PM | Basement

Mondays

Young-ish | 6:00 PM | Room 214

Celebrate Recovery | 6:30 PM | Room 206

Boy Scouts & Cub Scouts | 6:30 PM

Bell Choir | 7:00 PM | Room 202

Tuesdays

Men's Emmaus | 12:00 PM | Welcome Center

Women's Bible Study | 12:00 PM | Wesley Hall

Wednesdays

New Covenant | 9:30 AM | Wesley Hall

Soul Sisters Bible Study | 6:00 PM | Center Fellowship Hall

Youth Bible Study | 6:30 PM | Basement

Men's Bible Study | 7:00 PM | Welcome Center

Women's Bible Study | 7:00 PM | North Fellowship Hall

Zoom Bible Study | 7:00 PM | Online with Pastor Joel

Praise Team | 8:00 PM | Sanctuary

Monthly Groups

Prayer Warriors

Last Sunday of the Month | 6:30 PM | Wesley Hall

Walk to Emmaus Community Gathering

Third Saturday of the Month | 7:00 PM

*For where two or three are gathered in my name,
I am there among them.*

- Matthew 18:20

FINANCIAL UPDATE

JANUARY - MARCH CONTRIBUTIONS

\$157,709.32

JANUARY - MARCH EXPENSES

\$170,064.43

JANUARY - MARCH DIFFERENCE

- \$12,355.11

FISH OFFERING

May and June

Church Camp Scholarships

Help our children attend church camp
this summer and grow in their faith
and discipleship of Jesus Christ!

YOUTH MINISTRY

Grace and peace to the First UMC, family. Our youth ministry is one of the arms of our church through which we practice our vision and mission of being the hands of Jesus Christ. The boys and girls are a blessing to our church and our community. I regret to inform our congregation that our longtime Youth Directors have resigned effective April 30th, 2021. We thank Justin and Manny for all of their good work during their time as youth directors. We have meanwhile assigned our Associate Pastor, Rev. Joel Plisek, as our interim Youth Pastor while we search for a full-time youth director.

- Charles Nyamakope, Senior Pastor

News from the BBC

As you well know, COVID caused many changes for all of us. Thankfully, the Bernadine Bell Choir could spread out a bit and incorporate safety precautions, allowing us to resume our weekly rehearsals. We were also happy to resume our periodic presentations in Sunday worship.

If you have noticed when we play on Sunday mornings, I have been conducting with bells in my hands. That's because we are in need of more ringers! Handbells present a truly unique musical experience. Since each bell is a separate note, the ringers must truly work as a team in order to make the music happen - putting each note in its proper place in space and time. Our rehearsals (on Monday evenings at 7 pm, in room 202 or, sometimes, in the sanctuary) are open. If you would like to come observe and check us out, you are welcome to do so. If you are interested in joining the bell choir, please contact director Silver Woodbury - silverbell@cox.net or 405-519-0331.

The Bernadine Bell Choir strives to play for church services once monthly during our ringing season (September through May). Our final Sunday to play in church for the Spring season is Sunday, May 9th. As before the pandemic, we will ring for both Sunday services. We will take a break over the summer, then start fall rehearsals on Monday, August 23, 2021. Again, we are accepting new ringers. If you would like to take some time over the summer to ask questions and get a feel for ringing — before the fall season starts, I would be happy to meet with you!



Silver Woodbury, Bell Choir Director
C: (405) 519-0331
silverbell@cox.net

Service in the Park

Sundays | June 6th - August 29th | 8:30 AM

Finnup Park

Last years park services came as such a blessing to us while we navigated the difficulties of the Covid-19 pandemic. Many parishioners who normally did not attend park services began joining us there while we practiced social distancing and enjoyed the outdoors! We averaged an attendance of 210 each week and met there from June until the beginning of October! Our Praise Team blessed us with music and it was at these services that Pastor Charles started to get to know us. As things have slowly returned to normal, we expect this year's park services to also be more "normal," but we certainly will not forget the tremendous blessing they were for us in 2020. We hope to see many familiar and new faces at the park services this summer as they resume the 8:30 AM time and a more traditional experience.

Grab a friend and bring your seats!

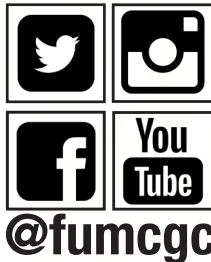
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1106 N. Main St.
Garden City, KS 67846

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CONTACT US

First United Methodist Church
1106 North Main Street
Garden City, KS 67846
(620) 275-9171
fumcgc@fumcgc.com
www.fumcgc.com



SATURDAY NIGHT LIGHT

5:45 p.m. Traditional Worship, Chapel

SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP

8:30 a.m. Traditional Worship, Sanctuary

9:45 a.m. Sunday School for all ages

11:00 a.m. Contemporary Worship, Sanctuary

Nursery care is provided

Ongoing Prayer Concerns

- | | | | |
|---|---|--|--|
| • Diane Baker | • Cassey Hammer
(friend of Mel & Jane Crist) | • Evelyn Ohde
(grandmother of Rhonda Soto) | • Jacob Rossman
(nephew of Diane Keller) |
| • Renee Burell (cousin of Kelley Bicket) | • Ron Harman | • Ron Olomon | • Ronnie Ruff (friend of Katelynnne Sisk) |
| • Alice Childers | • Nancy Hitz | • Isabel Orosco | • Eileen Schwindt |
| • Kelly Chopp | • Dorothy Holsted | • Linda Ortiz (mother of Manny Ortiz) | • Joyce Sebranek
(mother of Mark Sebranek) |
| • Judy Chiorazzi (fiend of Brenda Jackson) | • Lue Ann King (friend of Norma Nolte) | • Peggy Pettz (mother of Brenda Harder) | • Bev Sharp |
| • Don Clark (friend of Jackie Miller) | • Betty Keilman (aunt of Bonnie Molz) | • Lydia Ramos (mother of Temo Ramos) | • Leroy & Joyce Stapleton |
| • Rusty Collier (son-in-law of Kitty Caldwell) | • Lori Kochanowski
(sister of Shelly Stroup) | • Margaret Robinson | • Scott Stegman |
| • Keith Conley | • Linda Koelzer (friend of Dena Crouch) | • Ronaldo & Amalia Rivera (grandparents of Sammy Ortiz) | • Karen Valencia |
| • Madonna Crossman
(grandmother of Kyle Korf) | • Bob Krug | • Sara Robinson | • Joe Vanderweide |
| • Jane Embree | • Marlene Lee | • Jhayliegh Rosales
(granddaughter of Vicki Becker) | • Christine Vogt |
| • Nadine Erskin (friend of Bonnie Molz) | • Piper Leigh | | • Regina Wilson |
| • Linda Finley | • David Meyer | | • Ann Zemp |
| • Larry Gardner (friend of Harley Foulks) | • Sandy Mott (friend of Norma Nolte & Pauline Craft) | | |

If you'd like to receive the Disciples Dispatch by email, contact the main office at (620) 275-9171 or fumcgc@fumcgc.com