

DISCIPLES*dispatch*

Newsletter of the First United Methodist Church

November - December 2021 - January 2022

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

NOVEMBER

- 7: All Saints Sunday
- 14: UMW Bake Sale
- 22-26: NO PRESCHOOL (Thanksgiving)
- 24-26: CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED (Thanksgiving)
- 28: Advent Sunday and Hanging of the Greens

DECEMBER

- 11-12: Living Christmas
- 20-31: NO PRESCHOOL (Christmas)
- 23-27: CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED (Christmas)
- 24: Christmas Eve Services

JANUARY

- 6: 3-Year-Old Preschool Resumes
- 7: 4-Year-Old Preschool Resumes
- 10: Normal Weekly Activities Resume
- 15: Emmaus Team Training
- 20-21: Red Cross Blood Drive
- 25: Ground Hog Supper

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UPCOMING EVENTS

NOVEMBER

7 All Saints Sunday

14 UMW Bake Sale

24-26 Office Closed for Thanksgiving

28 First Sunday of Advent and Hanging of the Greens

DECEMBER

11-12 Living Christmas

23-27 Office Closed for Christmas

24 Christmas Eve Services

JANUARY

10 Normal Weekly Activities Resume

15 Emmaus Team Training

20-21 Red Cross Blood Drive

25 Ground Hog Supper

UMW BAKE SALE & SILENT AUCTION
Sunday, November 14, 2021
Before & After Service
Wesley Hall
All proceeds will go to Missions



NOV. 28, 2021
12:00 PM
SANCTUARY

Hanging OF THE Greens

Join us after Sunday School to decorate the Sanctuary for Advent

Living Christmas

EXPERIENCE THE NATIVITY ON DEC. 11 & 12 BY THE PLAYGROUND

Actors, Directors, Singers, and Servers are needed!

FREE TO THE PUBLIC & HOT COCOA WILL BE SERVED

Performances at 6, 6:30, 7, and 7:30 PM

Christmas Eve

December 24

Glow Sticks 6 PM
Candelight 8 PM

Online @ fumcgc.com

Offering will support Genesis Family Health & Emmaus House

BLOOD DRIVE

FUMC FELLOWSHIP HALL
JANUARY 20 & 21

PRESENTED BY OUR
OUTREACH & EVANGELISM
COMMITTEE



2022 GROUNDHOG SUPPER

JAN. 25

FELLOWSHIP HALL

PRESENTED BY THE UNITED METHODIST MEN

FROM THE SENIOR PASTOR'S DESK

The Book of Psalm 46:10 says, "Be still, and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth." The lord continues to be with us through His guidance as we take our next steps of faith.

Hello, Greetings to you all (*Makadiiko, ndinokukwazisai mese*).

As we move down the road into fall, please keep up with how you can be involved in fulfilling the ministry and mission of our congregation. The period of August to October has been full of interesting and challenging events in our congregation.

The sermon series on the Book of Nehemiah: Rebuild, Restore, Revive opened the Church building for various activities with effect on August 22. This revival was spiced up by a stewardship campaign in which several sermons and testimonies strengthened our faith. Our congregation continues to provide leadership in our district in several ways.

We hosted the Dodge City Clergy meeting on October 5, in which the Bishop, Ruben Saenz Jr., was the Guest Speaker. The congregation also hosted the Network Church Conference for four congregations that included the First UMC from Dodge City, Liberal and Ulysses on October 17.

We are also excited to share with you that five of our staff members attended the Church Leadership Institute at the Church of Resurrection in Kansas City from September 29 to October 1. The staff are already implementing some of the knowledge they got.

Allow me to invite the whole congregation to continue focusing on our vision as the hands of Jesus Christ throughout our ministry programs.

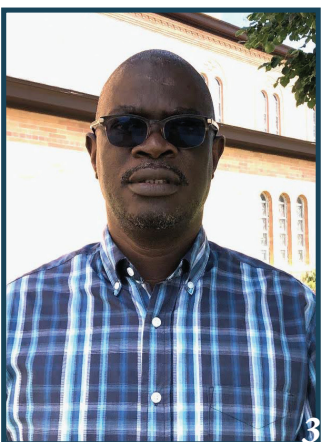
Lastly, please enjoy reading about the activities of our congregation from several articles in this dispatch.

Thanks and may God bless you (*Ndinotenda, Mwari amukomborerei*).

Thank You

The Pastors greatly appreciate all of your kind words, cards and gifts during Pastors Appreciation Month!

Charles Nyamakope
Senior Pastor
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ASSOCIATE PASTOR'S REFLECTION

JESUS IN THE FACE OF INTERRUPTIONS

"While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child and she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of swaddling cloths, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn." (Luke 2:6-7)

Christmas adds a lot to the festivities for family gatherings. We look forward to family celebrations, decorating the house with Christmas greens, trees, lights, bows, and bringing out the manger scenes. The Advent candles and the devotions we use will help us count down the days to Christmas, building up the anticipation for the celebration of our Lord's birth. It is fun to go shopping for the "just right" gifts for our family members. It can be fun to go shopping in the stores and malls together, or some like to forgo the crowds and order online. To see the surprised and happy looks upon the faces as your loved ones opening their gifts, is a special part of Christmas. In order to protect some of our most vulnerable and beloved family members, our whole family may not be able to gather for Christmas. There was another family, who also, was going through major interruptions in their lives.

Joseph and Mary were busy making plans. While we don't know, we could imagine Joseph was putting the finishing touches on a new cradle and Mary busy making baby blankets and baby clothes. Mary could feel the baby move and she wondered about this child, whom the Angel Gabriel told her would be the Son of God. She talked with her mom and her sister daily, helping Mary prepare for the baby. Mary had asked Sharon to be her mid-wife, as she had helped many of the women in Nazareth. Mary was excited about the baby, and everything was falling in place. That all changed when Roman Soldiers marched into the town square and declared Caesar Augustus' decree about being enrolled in a census and each person had to return to their hometowns. This meant, Mary and Joseph would have to travel to Bethlehem while the Baby was almost due. What if it was time for the baby to come, who would Mary have as a midwife? She was so confident with Sharon helping her through her delivery of her first born. Who would be there for her now? It was an arduous trip when she was this close to her delivery date. The new cradle could go unused for a while. Everything was being interrupted.

As we anticipate families traveling, there are interruptions of social distancing, masking along with the security precautions at airports. Hotels are working to disinfect rooms and public areas. As people travel by cars, they will be discovering many restaurants are closed. Joseph and Mary experienced similar traveling problems. When they arrived at Jerusalem there was no room for them. Not one relative had space for them. Not one member of the community could offer them hospitality, because the town was overflowing. There wasn't even any room for them in the inn. But the innkeeper offered his barn. "And she gave birth to her first son and wrapped him in bands of swaddling clothes and laid him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn." Into this broken world, into this fear and pain, and hurt our Lord answers the powers of sin and death and brokenness. "Do not be afraid; for I bring you good news of a great joy for all the people, to you is born, this day in the city of David. a Savior, who is Christ the Lord!" To YOU is born a Savior. Our Lord Jesus became IMMANUEL, God with us. God came himself to heal our hurts. God came himself to bring us comfort. God came himself to give us his peace to calm our fears. God came himself to defeat the powers of sin and death. Especially during this time of COVID and other brokenness intruding into our lives, we need to hear the good news the Angel declared to the shepherd. Even if we can't be together like normal; even if shopping and giving gifts is different, even if loved ones have COVID or we are protecting them from COVID, Christmas comes. Jesus comes. Jesus is Immanuel. Do not be afraid! For unto us a Savior is born, who is Christ the Lord. God is with us. Have a blessed Christmas!



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Thank You
The Pastors greatly appreciate
all of your kind words,
cards and gifts during
Pastors Appreciation Month!

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

3 YEAR OLD PRESCHOOL

DATES OF NOTE:

NO SCHOOL: NOV. 22 - 26

Christmas Party: DEC. 16

NO SCHOOL: DEC. 20 - 31

NO SCHOOL: JAN 1 - 5

SCHOOL RESUMES: JAN 6

4 YEAR OLD PRESCHOOL

DATES OF NOTE:

NO SCHOOL: NOV. 22 - 26

Christmas Party: DEC. 17

NO SCHOOL: DEC. 20 - 31

NO SCHOOL: JAN. 1 - 6

SCHOOL RESUMES: JAN. 7

NO SCHOOL: JAN. 28

TEACHERS NEEDED!

Bible Zone and
Sunday School
Teachers are
needed!
Sign up with
Miss Missy!

Join us for our all church Advent Study!

THE HEART THAT GREW THREE SIZES

*Children in Room 201
Youth in Basement
Adults in Room 209*

FINDING FAITH IN
THE STORY OF THE GRINCH

Starting Wednesday, December 1st



READY FOR YOUR KID TO BE A STAR?!

DURING CHILDREN'S CHURCH EVERY
SUNDAY MORNING, THEY WILL BEGIN
PRACTICING, BUILDING UP TO THEIR
CONCERT DURING OUR 9:30 AM SUNDAY
MORNING WORSHIP ON DECEMBER 12TH!

IF THEY LOVE TO SING, MAKE SURE YOUR
KIDS, AGES 4 THROUGH 4TH GRADE, HEAD
ON DOWN TO CHILDREN'S CHURCH EVERY
SUNDAY MORNING DURING WORSHIP
TO BEGIN PRACTICING!



Adult Education



Missy Allen
Director of Children's Ministry
and Adult Education
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missy@fumcgc.com



NYAMAKOPE VILLAGE WATER PROJECT



The second borehole is complete!



LEARN PASTOR CHARLES' NATIVE LANGUAGE "SHONA!"

Shona is an official language of Zimbabwe, along with Ndebele and English. Although Shona is taught in schools, it is generally not the medium of instruction beyond the primary level, which is English. The Shona language is Pastor Charles and his family's native language. Listed are a few basics of the Shona language.



GOOD MORNING	MANGWANANI AKANAKA
GOOD AFTERNOON	MASIKATI AKANAKA
GOOD EVENING	MANHERU AKANAKA
HOW ARE YOU?	URISEI?
NICE TO MEET YOU	NDAFARA KUKUONA
WHAT IS YOUR NAME?	ZITA RAKO NDIANI?
MY NAME IS...	NDINONZI...
PASTOR	MUFUNDISI
PASTOR'S WIFE	MAI MUFUNDISI
GOD	MWARI
THANK YOU	NDATENDA

OUTREACH & EVANGELISM

The Outreach and Evangelism Committee continues to be busy with many service projects!

We partnered with the Broken Chains Jail Ministry for our 5th Sunday project in August to collect Bible and Devotional books that could be passed out to the inmates at the Finney County Jail. The turnout was amazing! Thank you to everyone who donated! Along with that collection, we wrote cards of encouragement to inmates who are currently in the jail. Thank you to all who participated in that as well, we know it pushed many people, including myself, out of your comfort zones. If this is something you would like to continue to do, let a committee member know and we can show you how to find the information you need.

Our latest 5th Sunday project was on October 31st as we partnered Numana for a meal packing event. Our goal was to pack and send 25,000 meals to Haiti.

Along with our 5th Sunday projects, we have continued with our normal giving opportunities as well as adding a new one to our line up this year. We have continued to collect items to send to Genesis Family Health and the Emmaus House. Specifically, we are collecting items for Thanksgiving meals. A list of ideas can be found on our website, Facebook page or in the Welcome Center. Donations are due Nov. 7th.

Operation Christmas Child will also be wrapping up soon. Thanks to your generous donations, we will be able to send 50 shoe boxes to children in need! If you picked up a card for donations please have those back to the church by November 14th.

We look forward to the new opportunities that God will provide for us in 2022 to continue to be the Hands of Jesus Christ.



Year Round Giving Item
November - \$9 Donation
December - Prayer
January - Hats, Gloves & Scarves

~ Bri Boller
Outreach & Evangelism
Committee Chairperson

Shopping Cart Ministry
November Thanksgiving Items
December Peanut Butter
January Soup

'TIS THE SEASON OF ADVENT! CHRISTMAS GIVING BOXES

HELP US SUPPORT OUR
NEIGHBORS TO THE WEST,
SECOND BAPTIST CHURCH,
BY DONATING TO THEIR
COMMUNITY SOUP KITCHEN



COLLECTION FOR NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER

SEE WELCOME CENTER FOR DONATION DETAILS



MOVIE NIGHT!

PRESENTED BY THE
FAMILY LIFE COMMITTEE

DR. SEUSS' "HOW THE GRINCH
STOLE CHRISTMAS"

COME DRESSED IN YOUR PAJAMAS
PIZZA, POPCORN, AND POP PROVIDED!

DECEMBER 19TH @ 6 PM
FELLOWSHIP HALL

BROKEN CHAINS MINISTRY

Broken Chains Ministry continues to bring a worship/small group discussion/prayer hour to the male inmates in B pod of Finney County Jail every first and third Sunday of each month. We are building meaningful relationships with the men while encouraging their personal relationships with God. The men tell us they are eagerly watching the clock—awaiting our arrival--each time we are scheduled to visit!

We thank again the Outreach and Evangelism Committee for dedicating the fifth Sunday event in August to our ministry—collecting dozens of books and Bibles for the inmates—and arranging for the congregation to write cards to the inmates. Our heartfelt thanks to those of you who contributed to this event. The inmates were thrilled to receive the cards and books!

If you are interested in learning more about our ministry---either becoming part of our team—or supporting the ministry in other ways, please contact me at 276-1500, or Pastor Joel.



~ Lisa Dockter, Broken Chains Ministry Leader

NEWS FROM THE BBC

Happy Fall, Y'all! With the careful return to "normalcy," we all are getting busier.

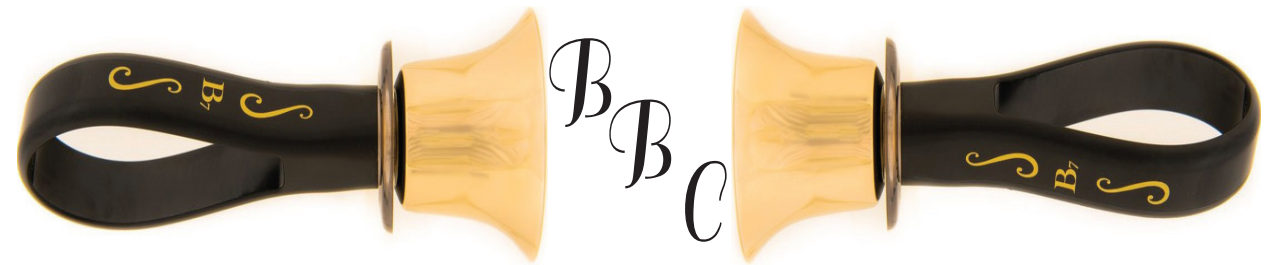
As we have been learning about stewardship over the past few Sundays, volunteering your time and special abilities to the church is just as important as giving your pledges, offerings and tithes.

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 or would like to ask questions and observe a rehearsal, 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 scheduled upcoming Sundays to play in church this fall are November 14th (with the Chancel Choir), November 21st and December 19th.

We will take a break over Christmas and New Year's, then start spring rehearsals on Monday, January 10, 2022.



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



JOIN A SMALL GROUP!

Group times and locations subject to change
Contact the church office for more information!

Sundays

Sunday School | 10:30 AM
Broken Chains Ministry | 3:00 PM | Finney County Jail
Youth Group | 6:00 PM | Basement

Mondays

Boy Scouts | 6:00 PM | Basement
Youngish Bible Study | 6:00 PM | Wesley Hall
Bernadine Bell Choir | 7:00 PM | Room 202

Tuesdays

Senior Chicks Bible Study | 10:00 AM | Welcome Center
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
Wednesday Night Meal | 5:15 PM | Fellowship Hall
Soul Sisters Bible Study | 6:00 PM | Room 216
Chancel Choir | 6:00 PM | Choir Room
Youth Bible Study | 6:00 PM | Basement
God's Crew | 6:00 PM | Room 217
Bible Zone | 6:00 PM | Rooms 201, 208, 210
Men's Bible Study | 7:00 PM | Welcome Center
Women's Bible Study | 7:00 PM | Hearthstone & Room 209
Zoom Bible Study | 7:00 PM | Online with Pastor Joel
Praise Team | 8:00 PM | Sanctuary

Thursdays

Ladies Bible Study | 8:30 AM | Room 206
Men's Emmaus | 12:00 PM | Welcome Center
Disciple I | 7:00 PM | Room 214

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

FINANCIAL UPDATE

JANUARY - SEPTEMBER CONTRIBUTIONS

\$439,246.95

JANUARY - SEPTEMBER EXPENSES

\$511,695.92

JANUARY - SEPTEMBER DIFFERENCE

- \$72,448.97

FISH OFFERING

November: Giving Tree

December: Emergency Fund

January: Youth Group



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Text FUMCGC to
(620) 233-9609

A WORD FROM OUR TRUSTEES

What is that smell? Who's making all that racket? Why is there a big yellow dumpster in the parking lot? All those things are project progress indicators within the church building. The Trustees have overseen the finalization of the video camera system in the sanctuary that couples with the video feed to other parts of the building – including the kiosk screens in the Welcome Center that scroll upcoming events to members and guests that enter that part of the building. Now, nursery staff, ushers, security personnel, children's church and north fellowship hall can all view and hear the worship service or anything else taking place in the sanctuary. Those persons are no longer excluded from Sunday morning worship!

That same system also drives our online presence via webcast streaming through the website and YouTube. It is important to note that there are members of this church that, for a variety of reasons, are still engaged with us but from home or on their phone elsewhere. The perception that people are "missing" from the pews is only half true: they may not be with us physically in the building, but they are connected and participating. Thanks to the Media Committee for the groundwork on this project.

The security camera system is complete. Those that need to are now able to see the church, inside and out, through a secure web interface 24 hours a day. Yes, those sixteen cameras have amazing night vision. Thanks for the Security Team for the development and implementation of this project.

The latest visible projects include remodeling of both the Wesley Hall kitchen and the kitchen in room 214 upstairs on the east end of the building. Both kitchens see regular use, and now, more than they have in the past two years. The cabinets and counter tops will match the welcome center and new appliances will be installed. After sixty years, both spaces needed an update.

Some classrooms on the second floor have been painted and recarpeted and we will continue to do those as members request it and we have funds to accommodate the request. The rooms used most frequently got that treatment first, but if your Sunday school room needs a facelift, let me know and the Trustees will consider it.

The Trustees are finishing up a productive year and look forward to working on other parts of the building, including the sanctuary bathrooms and replacement of some windows in 2022. One important note to make: all the projects listed above were paid for with gifted money and memorials for capital improvements from many persons over the years, including the Wooley Grant and Charles Norwood Trust. None of the money invested in these projects came from the budget and we could never have afforded them without the kindness and generosity of these individuals that gave, in some form, to facilitate capital improvements to the church. If these kinds of improvements are important to you, talk to me or Jenny about donations specifically for this purpose now or in a legacy giving scenario. Regular tithing will keep the budget running, but it will not allow for improvements like these.

~ Doug Harder, Trustees Chairman

trustees 11

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contact the main office at (620) 275-9171
or fumcgc@fumcgc.com

SATURDAY NIGHT LIGHT

5:45 PM Traditional Worship, Chapel

SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP

9:30 AM Sunday Morning Worship, Sanctuary
10:30 AM Sunday School for all ages
Nursery care is provided

Ongoing Prayer Concerns

- **Kathleen Atchinson**
(friend of Don Ploger)
- **Diane Baker**
- **Derek Beltran**
(grandson of Manny Beltran)
- **Renee Burell**
(cousin of Kelley Bicket)
- **Alice Childers**
- **Judy Chiorazzi**
(friend of Brenda Jackson)
- **Kelly Chopp**
- **Don Clark**
(friend of Jackie Miller)
- **Mary Anne Cook**
- **Madonna Crossman**
(grandmother of Kyle Korf)
- **Keith Conley**
- **Richard Cotton**
- **Jane Embree**
- **Nadine Erskin**
(friend of Bonnie Molz)
- **Linda Finley**
- **Mary Ellen Foulks**
- **Larry Gardner**
(friend of Harley Foulks)
- **Marideth George**
(mother of Darren George)
- **Ron Harman**
- **Nancy Hitz**
- **Dorothy Holsted**
- **Sherina Huber**
(cousin of Jacob Brungardt)
- **Betty Keilman**
(aunt of Bonnie Molz)
- **Lori Kochanowski**
(sister of Shelly Stroup)
- **Linda Koelzer**
(friend of Dena Crouch)
- **Bob Krug**
- **Marlene Lee**
- **Piper Leigh**
- **Norb Liebig**
(brother of Jane Crist)
- **Lisa Loving**
(friend of Jacob Brungardt)
- **David Meyer**
- **Meranda Newton**
(friend of Jacob Brungardt)
- **Ray Nichols**
(brother of Will Nichols)
- **Evelyn Ohde**
(grandmother of Rhonda Soto)
- **Ron Olomon**
- **Isabel Orosco**
- **Linda Ortiz**
(mother of Manny Ortiz)
- **Peggy Pettz**
(mother of Brenda Harder)
- **Perez/Hernandez Families** (friends of Michael & Brenda Jackson)
- **Lydia Ramos**
(mother of Temo Ramos)
- **Ronaldo & Amalia Rivera**
(grandparents of Sammy Ortiz)
- **Sara Robinson**
- **Jhayliegh Rosales**
(granddaughter of Vicki Becker)
- **Jacob Rossman**
(nephew of Diane Keller)
- **Ronnie Ruff**
(friend of Katelynne Sisk)
- **Nikee Salmans**
(friend of Kyle Korf)
- **Joyce Sebranek**
(mother of Mark Sebranek)
- **Bev Sharp**
- **Mary Lou Shea**
- **Leroy & Joyce Stapleton**
- **Ardith Stones**
- **Roxie & Wayne Thompson**
- **Karen Valencia**
- **Joe Vanderweide**
- **Caleb Woods**
(grandson of Glen & Mary Ellen Woods)