

DISCIPLES *dispatch*

Quarterly Newsletter of the
First United Methodist Church
Garden City, Kansas

November - December 2022 - January 2023

WHAT'S INSIDE?

- 2** Upcoming Events
- 3** From the Senior Pastor's Desk
- 4** Associate Pastor's Reflection
- 5** Education & Youth Ministries
- 6** United Women in Faith
- 7** Impacting Lives in Zimbabwe, Africa
- 8** Broken Chains Ministry
Leadership Institute 2022
- 9** The Way Forward
- 10-11** What Do We Believe?
- 12-13** Book of Discipline ¶2553
- 14** Join a Small Group! + Financial Update
Fish Offering + Holiday Church Service
- 15** 'Tis the Season!
- 16** Ongoing Prayer Concerns



*We are
the hands
of Jesus
Christ*

Connect with Us!



FUMCGC.COM



FUMCGC



FUMCGCKS



**TEXT
"FUMCGC" TO
(620) 233-9609**

UPCOMING EVENTS

NOVEMBER

- 6 All Saints Sunday
- 13 Laity Sunday
- 23-25 Church Office Closed
- 24 Thanksgiving Day
- 27 First Sunday of Advent



The Emmaus House is collecting these items for their annual Thanksgiving Food Boxes. Drop these items off in the shopping cart by November 16th.

- | | |
|-------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Canned Corn | Canned Green Beans |
| Canned Fruit | Canned Soup |
| Instant Potatoes | Cake & Cookie Mixes |

- 30 Hanging of the Greens

DECEMBER

- 7 Caroling at Nursing Homes
- 14 Praise & Worship Night
- 17-18 Living Christmas

- 23-27 Church Office Closed

- 24 Christmas Eve Services

- 25 Christmas Day

JANUARY

- 1 New Years Day
- 11 Wednesday Activities Resume
- 15 Final Way Forward Discussion
- 17-18 Community Blood Drive
- 22 Way Forward Test Vote
- 31 UMM Groundhog Supper
- 2

Sunday, January 15
11:30 AM in the Sanctuary. Lunch provided.

WAY FORWARD DISCUSSION

This is our final discussion. We will use this time to wrap up discussions and answer any final questions you may have ahead of the test vote the following week.

Chapel is open during the noon hour for prayer weekdays

Community Blood Drive

January 17-18 in Fellowship Hall

Help Save Lives
DONATE BLOOD

Commerce Bank Member FDIC

FUMC
Garden City, KS

Sunday, January 22
10:30 AM in Fellowship Hall
No Sunday School
MEMBERS ONLY MAY VOTE

WAY FORWARD TEST VOTE

2023 GROUNDHOG SUPPER

JANUARY 31ST

PRESENTED BY THE UNITED METHODIST MEN

FROM THE SENIOR PASTOR'S DESK

Grace and peace to you, in the name of Jesus Christ!

This pastoral letter comes to you within a context, our congregation is going through a discernment process to decide whether to stay UMC or disaffiliate. This is a process needing a lot of prayers and wisdom to make this important decision for us and future generations of our faith. I, therefore, invite you to read Jeremiah 29:11: "For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." This message was communicated to a community of Jewish exiles in Babylon, experiencing persecution with the possibility of losing their identity and religion. God, through Prophet Jeremiah, speaks to those exiles giving them support and hope.

We have already done two congregation-wide discussions sharing information on the current state of the UMC on human sexuality. Information has also been shared on what we think we can be, if, as a congregation, we decide to disaffiliate. Our information sharing and discussions are also going on in some of our Sunday school classes and small groups, including our youth groups.

We expect that by January 15, 2023, every member of our congregation will have been empowered enough to participate in a way forward test vote, which is scheduled for January 22, 2023. The results of this test vote will empower our Church Council to either invite the District Superintendent to schedule a Church Conference for an official vote on this matter or not.

Included in this newsletter is valuable Way Forward information such as the Book of Discipline ¶2553 as the available tool for any disaffiliation conversation on human sexuality. Also included in this newsletter is an article with the current UMC position on human sexuality.

Friends, we have many good things happening in our congregation, so let's not lose focus of our mandate to make disciples of Jesus Christ (Matthew 28:19-20).

In November, I shall be on my annual vacation in Africa. I, therefore seek your prayers and support as I travel to meet with the communities our congregation has gifted with water wells, boreholes, and the Nyamakope UMC sanctuary roof repair project. Your generous gifts are transforming lives in Zimbabwe. We are surely the hands and feet of Jesus Christ.

I wish you a Merry Christmas and a prosperous 2023. Amen.

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



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



ASSOCIATE PASTOR'S REFLECTION

TRUST

“Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not rely on your own understanding.” (Proverbs 3:5)

As we enter this time of discernment for the FUMC of Garden City, we come to the table with questions, confusion and hurt. A decision must be made and no matter what happens it seems like a no-win situation. In situations like that we need to hold on to Jesus in trust and realize that no matter what happens Jesus is still Lord of the Universe, and He can make something out of nothing.

As a child we find someone we trust to give advice. We fully put our confidence into these words of advice. A listening ear is tuned into an answered question. When we grow up, we will still need advice on something. Most of us have someone we can go to for that advice, or just someone special who will listen to our problems. Either way we trust in the outcome of the conversation.

Life throws us many curves in the road we travel. Some days are hard to handle within difficult times. Others are good days which deserve celebration. Whichever we get we should put our trust in the Lord.

As we mature, we begin to spend time in prayer. Sometimes praying alone and sometimes with others. Some are prayers of thanks while others we ask for help. As we grow, we place our trust in answered prayers.

These answered prayers are in line with God's will. We trust that these answers are for our good. Even though in our human form we think differently.

It may be hard to accept or easily receive in love. Psalm 56:3 “When I am afraid, I will trust in You. In God, whose word I praise, in God I trust; I will not be afraid. What can mere mortals do to me?”

May you put your trust in the Lord through your conversation with Him. My prayer is that all who pray receive answers they can carry in their heart, knowing they were given by God in Love for us.



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



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

Thanksgiving Break

Nov. 23-25

Christmas Break

Dec. 22-Jan. 4

School Resumes Jan. 5

4 YEAR OLD PRESCHOOL

Thanksgiving Break

Nov. 23-25

Christmas Break

Dec. 22-Jan. 4

School Resumes Jan. 6

TEACHERS NEEDED!

Sunday School and Bible Zone Teachers

are needed!

Sign up with Miss Missy!

NO

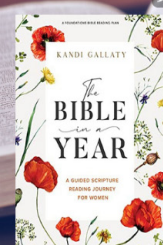
SUNDAY SCHOOL

SUNDAY DECEMBER 25TH
SUNDAY JANUARY 1ST

Calling all women!!

Do you want a bible study with accountability?

Join us for this new Bible Study!



The Bible in a Year:
A Guided Scripture
Reading Journey
for Women
by Kandi Gallyaty

Contact
Missy Allen
for more details!

YOUTH GROUP MEALS NEEDED

We need those to help provide meals for the youth group every Sunday evening

To help out, please see the sign up sheet on the youth group bulletin board in the Welcome Center



NURSERY WORKERS NEEDED!

WE NEED THOSE ABLE TO HELP IN THE NURSERY DURING OUR ACTIVITIES!

If interested, please contact Missy Allen!



First United Methodist Church

Garden City

WE ARE THE HANDS OF JESUS CHRIST

Missy Allen
Director of Education
and Youth Ministries
C: (620) 271-4964
missy@fumcgc.com



UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH

The Annual Mission Retreat that the Garden City UWF hosted, October 8 for the Dodge City District was a real blessing for the givers and the receivers.

Holly Heyroth Opundo gave a presentation via video conferencing about her mission work in East Africa. She began her mission work in 2002, after obtaining her education degree from Kansas State University. Holly and her husband, Lawrence are currently engaged in a kindergarten and secondary school in Kenya. Their hope is to someday have a K-12 school. Holly and Lawrence's vision in Kenya is based on James 1:27, "to look after orphans and widows in their distress." She began as a house parent at Angel House Orphanage in Tanzania. Angel House is proud that 23 students have graduated from college.

Teresa Tuchscherer gave a presentation on the Topeka Correctional Facility for Women. She is the chairperson of the prison ministry, where she has been a volunteer for 20 years, along with being a clerk in a law office. There is an active Methodist Women's unit at the prison that centers around women helping women. Participation in parenting classes is another positive program that the women can be involved with. After completion of these classes, they can earn a retreat with their families.

\$2,266 was raised from our "Chicken Feed" that will go to help the Incarcerated Women's Program in Topeka and the Angel House in Tanzania.

I would like to thank the UWF Executive Committee, the mission retreat committee, and the volunteers for making the retreat a successful one.

~ Risa DeVaney
UWF President



United
Women
in Faith

IMPACTING LIVES IN ZIMBABWE, AFRICA

As a congregation, we are practicing our call and mission as the hands and feet of Jesus Christ. Our congregation helped sponsor the drilling of four boreholes or water-wells in Zimbabwe, known as the Nyamakope Village Water Project. Three of these boreholes are solar powered. This is in response to the call to help provide clean water for rural communities in Zimbabwe. This project used more than \$30,000 donated by our congregation. The fourth and last borehole was donated to the Isambulo United Methodist Church in Bulawayo, Zimbabwe. Pastor Charles is going to officially handover the completed borehole project to this community this November. Our congregation also received a call to help repair the Nyamakope UMC Sanctuary roof, which was destroyed by a hailstorm. This is Pastor Charles and Tecla's home Church, which also doubled as their first grade classroom. Our congregation donated \$6,000 towards this project. Thank you for your generous contributions.



BROKEN CHAINS MINISTRY

God continues to do great things at the Finney County Jail through our little ministry team! We are now regularly ministering to over 30 men every first and third Sunday of the month—and offering Communion every first Sunday. We just finished studying the armor of God with them—and are believing they are now more empowered to resist the fiery arrows of the enemy!

We would be so blessed to have more team members. If you feel so led, please contact me at bearschic@yahoo.com for more information. If not, we would appreciate your prayers for the Holy Spirit to continue to use us to bring the gospel to these precious children of God. As our inmates say after I pray to them, “Prayers go up; blessings come down!”

Romans 12:10-16 – *Be devoted to one another in love. Honor one another above yourselves. Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord. Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer. Share with the Lord’s people who are in need. Practice hospitality. Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse. Rejoice with those who rejoice; mourn with those who mourn. Live in harmony with one another. Do not be proud but be willing to associate with people of low position. Do not be conceited.*

~ Lisa Dockter
Broken Chains Ministry Leader

LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE 2022



L-R: Pastor Joel Plisek, Jacob Brungardt, Jenny Maier, Missy Allen, Pastor Charles Nyamakope



This is the second time that I went to the Leadership Institute, and this year, I found it to be more practical to my ministry. I had breakout sessions about how to be more effective in my ministry during funerals, elderly care, and ministering to people with mental health issues. The time that I spent with my fellow staff was priceless and we were able to get to know each other even better. Plus, we adopted a clergy member from South Carolina named Christopher Greene who did not have transportation to get to and from the Church of the Resurrection. We enjoyed getting to know him as he, jokingly, called us the crazy people from Kansas!

~ Pastor Joel

This year's Leadership Institute was so awe-inspiring! I think my dad said it best. I was too new to my work, so I didn't know what to retain from last year's institute. But, after a solid 15 months of work with the church, I was inspired, pumped up, and ready to take what I've retained with this 3-day conference, and implement them into our church! We've already begun with implementing Facebook groups and new design changes, such as what's on the front of this dispatch! I can't wait to continue to use what I've learned here to better the ministry I run with our congregation. Blessings to you all

~ Jacob Brungardt

THE WAY FORWARD

For the benefit of those that did not attend the way forward discussions currently underway at our congregation, the information below is a summary of my presentations during the discussions. It should be noted that since 1972, conversations on human sexuality have been going on at every General Conference of our Church. These conversations have been before the General Conference, up to the 2019 Special Session of the General Conference. Several alternative legislations to address this issue have been tried without success and the 2019 Special Session of the General Conference further tightened the current position of our church on human sexuality.

Listed below is the current, official position of our Church on human sexuality.

1. The practice of homosexuality is not compatible with Christian teaching (Book of Discipline ¶161F & ¶161G).
2. The UMC will not ordain self-avowed, practicing homosexuals (Book of Discipline, ¶304.3).
3. Church Agencies will not fund homosexual causes (pro or anti) (Book of Discipline, ¶613.19, ¶806.9).
4. United Methodist Pastors cannot officiate same sex weddings and local churches cannot host such ceremonies (Book of Discipline, ¶341.6).

It should, however, be noted that in our Church, Pastors provide pastoral care to all, regardless of race, tribe, or sexual orientation. The doors of the Church are open to all.

Now, some have felt that the wording of the Book of Discipline on human sexuality must be further reviewed. The failure to meet by the General Conference in 2022 to address this issue caused impatience to some groups in the denomination.

Because of this impatience, the Global Methodist Church was formed on May 1, 2022. Since the formation of this Church, some congregations are disaffiliating from the UMC to join the Global Methodist Church, or to become independent Churches.

Some feel we should wait for the 2024 General Conference to find out if the Book of Discipline will be changed and if it is changed, how is it going to be worded?

Others are also of the opinion to disaffiliate before the 2024 General Conference, taking advantage of ¶2553 which is currently set to expire in December 2023. The question that one might need to answer is: What if the 2024 General Conference fails to gain the needed majority to change the current wording in the book of Discipline?

Some are also saying that the reasons for disaffiliation are not only on human sexuality, but on other issues not related to human sexuality. The problem with this thinking is that the Book of Discipline ¶2553 states that churches may disaffiliate ONLY on issue of human sexuality. One other issue for us to think about is if this congregation disaffiliates based on human sexuality, what does that mean for the LGBTQ+ members we currently have in our congregation? Are we going to put a notice on our doors saying they are not welcome to the new congregation?

Some are also saying we should disaffiliate because some Bishops in the UMC are violating the current Book of discipline by refusing to implement the provisions of the 2016/19 Book of Discipline on human sexuality. My thinking is we have 66 active bishops of the UMC worldwide, and they may at their own time probably tell us why some of them are not following the Book of Discipline on this issue. As a clergy of the UMC, I remain guided by the provisions of the Book of Discipline and my conscience as shaped by my cultural heritage.

As a congregation we have been given an opportunity through the current way-forward conversations to freely express ourselves guided by ¶2553 of the Book of Discipline. We will do a test vote for our congregation on January 22, 2023 to find out the extent to which we want the future of our congregation to be. If the test vote shows that the majority want to disaffiliate from the UMC then a Church council shall be called to invite the District Superintendent to schedule an Church Conference for an official disaffiliation vote. If the test vote shows that the majority want to stay in the UMC then our congregation shall remain part of the UMC as before.

If anyone has a question on the procedure of this way forward journey, please feel free to text or email me.

~ Pastor Charles

WAY FORWARD DISCUSSION

Important Resources for the Way Forward

The Bible

The UMC Book of Discipline, 2016

The United Methodist Church

www.umc.org

The Great Plains Annual Conference

www.greatplainsumc.org

www.greatplainsumc.org/beumc

“In Layman’s Terms” Podcast

<https://inlaymansterms.podbean.com/>

The Global Methodist Church

<https://globalmethodist.org/>

The Wesleyan Covenant Association

<https://wesleyan covenant.org/>

The Good News Magazine

<https://goodnewsmag.org/>

African Bishops Call For Unity Article

<https://www.umnews.org/en/news/african-bishops-call-for-unity-condemn-advocacy-groups>

YouTube - Why Stay in the UMC - Adam Hamilton

Proud to be UMC

www.proudtobeumc.com

Testimonies from other UMC Congregations who have stayed or disaffiliated

The FUMCGC Disciples Dispatch Newsletter 9

WHAT DO WE BELIEVE?



The United Methodist Church

Our Beliefs

The United Methodist Church finds itself in a season of splintering. The following document is prepared by the cabinet and conference staff following district gatherings to clarify the denomination's core doctrines and to answer key questions arising around church disaffiliations.

God

We believe there is one living and true God who is eternal, holy, all powerful, all knowing, and ever present. God is the maker and preserver of all things — both what is seen and what is not seen. In the unity of the Godhead, there are three persons in one — the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.



Holy Spirit

The Holy Spirit is the third person in the Trinity. The Spirit is at work in the world and the lives of individuals. It transforms, empowers, and guides believers. Through the Holy Spirit, we experience the fruit of the spirit and spiritual gifts.

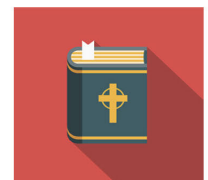
Mission

We believe the mission of the Christian life is summed up in the two great commandments of loving God and loving our neighbors. Scripture informs us that this is lived out as we love mercy, seek justice, walk humbly with God and "Go and make disciples of all nations."

The Bible

The Bible is the inspired word of God and is the primary source for Christian doctrine. It contains all things needed for salvation and living a life unto God.

The Bible is foundational for our beliefs, but United Methodists also look to the traditions of the Church, reason, and experience to help inform our faith and help interpret scripture.



Jesus

We believe Jesus was born of a virgin. Jesus Christ is both fully God and fully human. Jesus is the very Word of God and the savior of all humankind who came to earth to live, to teach us how to love, and to restore us to God. Jesus willingly

endured the suffering, shame, and death on the cross in order to pay the debt for humanity's sin. He then rose from the dead and ascended into heaven. Jesus is acknowledged as the way to salvation.

The Creeds

Core UM beliefs are summed up in various creeds. One is the Apostle's Creed (UM Hymnal #881). Another is the Nicene Creed (UM Hymnal #880), which is printed below:

We believe in one God, the Father, the almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen. We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary, and became truly human.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one, holy catholic and apostolic church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Resurrection

We believe that Jesus physically rose from the dead, walked the earth, ascended to heaven, and will come again to judge all humanity and establish his reign over the earth.



Doctrine of Grace

We believe grace is the unearned and undeserved favor of God extended toward all humanity. United Methodists believe in three forms of grace:

- Prevenient grace that is at work in our lives drawing us to God prior to salvation.
- Justifying grace that brings us into right relationship with God through faith in Christ.
- Sanctifying grace that continues to work in us to transform us into the image of Christ.

WHAT DO WE BELIEVE?



The United Methodist Church

Our Truths

Much information is being shared regarding disaffiliation and the disaffiliation process. Below are some of the most common questions.

Will We Change Our Articles of Religion?

While it's true that there are some United Methodists who don't share all of the beliefs in our Articles of Religion (Book of Discipline ¶104, Section 3), the vast majority of United Methodists hold dear to the teachings about the Trinity, the divinity of Jesus, the Holy Spirit, scripture and many other aspects that are central to our faith. It is nearly impossible to change our Articles of Religion under church law, so no, these important doctrines will not change.



Where Should Our Attention Be Focused?

Jesus gave us an important directive in Matthew 28:18-20. We are to make disciples of all people. That is the mission. That is what The United Methodist Church stands for in the 21st century. And that is where all local churches are asked to place their focus.

Will Every Church Need to Vote?



No vote is necessary. The only churches that need to vote are those with a large part of the congregation desiring to leave. In these cases, it may be wise to conduct a straw poll of the membership before a Charge Conference for an official vote is requested from the District Superintendent.

Why Should We Stay UMC?

Start by asking what you love about your church now.

And then here are some strengths of The United Methodist Church:

- **Your church is already part of your community** — For decades, in fact more than 100 years in many cases, your church has been part of the community. It's helped in times of need. It has welcomed people who are hurting. It has been part of weddings and funerals. And it is known by people who have not even set foot inside your doors.
- **Together, we make a huge impact on the world** — The UMC has more than 350 missionaries around the world and mission partnerships on most continents around the world. And when disaster strikes, the United Methodist Committee on Relief is there to serve as the hands and feet of Christ.
- **Our appointive system ensures a pastor for each congregation** — Our system works to ensure a pastor for each congregation. Those outside the connection may have to recruit their own pastors and then focus efforts on retention.
- **The annual conference provides expertise and resources** — Some examples include training, consultations, grants, and Zoom licenses.

Why are traditionalists being forced to leave?

No one is being forced to leave the UMC. ¶ 2553 was added during the 2019 General Conference as part of the Traditional Plan as a means for progressive congregations, who so desired, to leave the denomination. When General Conference continued to be postponed some traditionalist leaders decided they could no longer remain in the UMC. This has resulted in some traditional-leaning congregations using ¶ 2553 to disaffiliate from the UMC.

What If ...

The margin isn't enough to leave?
If a Church Conference vote does not reach 67% then a congregation will remain in the UMC. Congregations are encouraged to conduct a straw poll to see if there is adequate support of disaffiliation from the church membership prior to voting to limit further fracturing of a congregation.

We don't have the money?
The required payments were passed as part of the Traditional Plan. Churches that desire to leave must meet those requirements to disaffiliate.

A congregation disaffiliates but some members want to remain UMC?
Congregations that vote to disaffiliate should notify all members of the decision and provide options for those who want to remain UMC members. This would include assisting them to connect with another UMC either in person or online. Their membership can be transferred to any UMC where they desire to be active.

BOOK OF DISCIPLINE ¶ 2553

¶ 2553. Disaffiliation of a Local Church Over Issues Related to Human Sexuality—

1. Basis-- Because of the current deep conflict within The United Methodist Church around issues of human sexuality, a local church shall have a limited right, under the provisions of this paragraph, to disaffiliate from the denomination for reasons of conscience regarding a change in the requirements and provisions of the Book of Discipline related to the practice of homosexuality or the ordination or marriage of self-avowed practicing homosexuals as resolved and adopted by the 2019 General Conference, or the actions or inactions of its annual conference related to these issues which follow.

2. Time Limits--The choice by a local church to disaffiliate with The United Methodist Church under this paragraph shall be made in sufficient time for the process for exiting the denomination to be complete prior to December 31, 2023. The provisions of ¶ 2553 expire on December 31, 2023 and shall not be used after that date.

3. Decision Making Process--The church conference shall be conducted in accordance with ¶ 248 and shall be held within one hundred twenty (120) days after the district superintendent calls for the church conference. In addition to the provisions of ¶ 246.8, special attention shall be made to give broad notice to the full professing membership of the local church regarding the time and place of a church conference called for this purpose and to use all means necessary, including electronic communication where possible, to communicate. The decision to disaffiliate from The United Methodist Church must be approved by a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of the professing members of the local church present at the church conference.

4. Process Following Decision to Disaffiliate from The United Methodist Church--If the church conference votes to disaffiliate from The United Methodist Church, the terms and conditions for that disaffiliation shall be established by the board of trustees of the applicable annual conference, with the advice of the cabinet, the annual conference treasurer, the annual conference benefits officer, the director of connectional ministries, and the annual conference chancellor. The terms and conditions, including the effective date of disaffiliation, shall be memorialized in a binding Disaffiliation Agreement between the annual conference and the trustees of the local church, acting on behalf of the members. That agreement must be consistent with the following provisions:

a) Standard Terms of the Disaffiliation Agreement. The General Council on Finance and Administration shall develop a standard form for Disaffiliation Agreements under this paragraph to protect The United Methodist Church as set forth in ¶ 807.9. The agreement shall include a recognition of the validity and applicability of ¶ 2501, notwithstanding the release of property therefrom. Annual conferences may develop additional standard terms that are not inconsistent with the standard form of this paragraph.

b) Apportionments. The local church shall pay any unpaid apportionments for the 12 months prior to disaffiliation, as well as an additional 12 months of apportionments.

c) Property. A disaffiliating local church shall have the right to retain its real and personal, tangible and intangible property. All transfers of property shall be made prior to disaffiliation. All costs for transfer of title or other legal work shall be borne by the disaffiliating local church.

BOOK OF DISCIPLINE ¶ 2553

- d) Pension Liabilities. The local church shall contribute withdrawal liability in an amount equal to its pro rate share of any aggregate unfunded pension obligations to the annual conference. The General Board of Pension and Health Benefits shall determine the aggregate funding obligations of the annual conference using market factors similar to a commercial annuity provider, from which the annual conference will determine the local church's share.
- e) Other Liabilities. The local church shall satisfy all other debts, loans, and liabilities, or assign and transfer them to its new entity, prior to disaffiliation.
- f) Payment Terms. Payment shall occur prior to the effective date of departure.
- g) Disaffiliating Churches Continuing as Plan Sponsors of the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits Plans. The United Methodist Church believes that a local church disaffiliating under ¶ 2553 shall continue to share common religious bonds and convictions with The United Methodist Church based on shared Wesleyan theology and tradition and Methodist roots, unless the local church expressly resolves to the contrary. As such, a local church disaffiliating under ¶ 2553 shall continue to be eligible to sponsor voluntary employee benefit plans through the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits under ¶ 1504.2, subject to the applicable terms and conditions of the plans.
- h) Once the disaffiliating local church has reimbursed the applicable annual conference for all funds due under the agreement, and provided that there are no other outstanding liabilities or claims against The United Methodist Church as a result of the disaffiliation, in consideration of the provisions of this paragraph, the applicable annual conference shall release any claims that it may have under ¶ 2501 and other paragraphs of The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church commonly referred to as the trust clause, or under the agreement.

Do you have any unanswered questions?
The Way Forward Committee wants to know!

Nov. 13 @ 10:30 AM in Wesley Hall
Nov. 15 @ 5:30 PM in Welcome Center
Nov. 21 @ 7 PM in Welcome Center
Nov. 29 @ 7 PM in Chapel
Nov. 30 @ Noon in Welcome Center
Dec. 6 @ Noon in Chapel
Dec. 18 @ 10:30 in Wesley Hall

**WAY
FORWARD
Q&A**

JOIN A SMALL GROUP!

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

SUNDAY

Sunday School | 10:30 AM
Youth Group | 6:00 PM | Basement

MONDAY

Youngish | 6:30 PM | Wesley Hall

TUESDAY

Senior Chicks Bible Study | 10:00 AM | Welcome Center
Women's Bible Study | 12:00 PM | Wesley Hall

WEDNESDAY

New Covenant Bible Study | 9:30 AM | Wesley Hall
Women's Bible Study | 1:00 PM | Hearthstone Room
Chancel or Bell Choir | 6:30 PM | Choir Room or 202
Bible Zone | 6:30 PM | Rooms 201, 208, & 210
God's Crew | 6:30 PM | Room 217
Youth Bible Study | 6:30 PM | Basement
Soul Sisters Bible Study | 6:30 PM | Wesley Hall
Young Men's Bible Study | 6:30 PM | Room 209
Men's Bible Study | 7:00 PM | Room 214
Pastor Joel's Zoom Bible Study | 7:45 PM | Zoom
Praise Band | 8:00 PM | Sanctuary

THURSDAY

Ladies Bible Study | 8:30 AM | Room 206

MONTHLY GROUPS

Prayer Warriors | 6:30 PM | Wesley Hall
4th Sunday of Every Month

Broken Chains Ministry | 3:00 PM | Finney County Jail
1st and 3rd Sunday of Every Month

Emmaus Community Gathering | 7:00 PM | Room 214
3rd Saturday of Every Month

FINANCIAL UPDATE

JANUARY - SEPTEMBER CONTRIBUTIONS

\$478,046.84

JANUARY - SEPTEMBER EXPENSES

\$561,314.13

JANUARY - SEPTEMBER DIFFERENCE

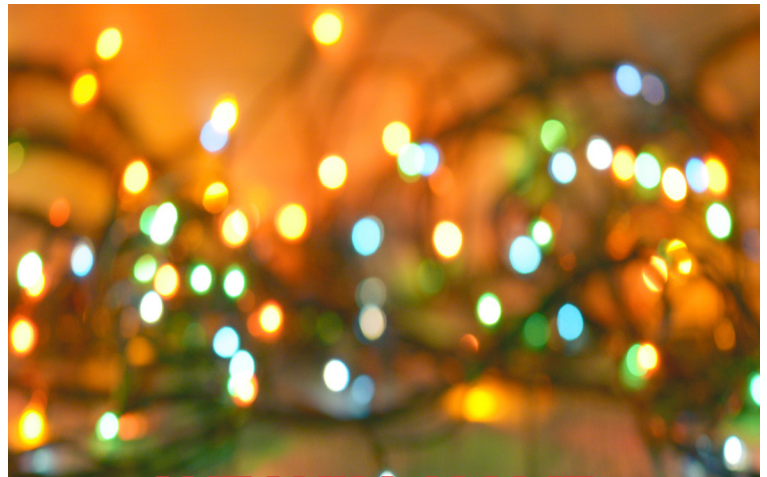
- \$83,267.29

FISH OFFERING

November: Numana

December: Emergency Fund

January: Emergency Fund



WE WILL HAVE
REGULARLY SCHEDULED
CHURCH SERVICES
ON CHRISTMAS DAY
AND NEW YEARS DAY

'TIS THE SEASON!

NOVEMBER 30
6:30 PM
SANCTUARY

Hanging
OF THE
Greens

Join us after our
Fellowship Meal to
help decorate the
Sanctuary for
Advent

Christmas Caroling

December 7th

Meet in Fellowship Hall
Caroling to nursing homes
Pizza will follow afterwards

Praise & Worship Night Wednesday, December 14th

7:00 PM in Fellowship Hall
Christmas Themed
Potluck & Music

Living Christmas

FREE TO THE PUBLIC & HOT
COCOA WILL BE SERVED

EXPERIENCE THE
NATIVITY ON
DEC. 17 & 18
BY THE PLAYGROUND

Actors,
Directors,
Singers, and
Servers are
needed!

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

Christmas Eve

Saturday, December 24

Glow Sticks

6 PM

Candelight

8 PM

Online @ fumcgc.com

Communion will be served
at both services

First United Methodist Church
1106 N. Main St.
Garden City, KS 67846

Address Service Requested

NONPROFIT MKTG
U.S. Postage Paid
Garden City, KS 67846
Permit No. 36

CONTACT US

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

If you'd like to receive the Disciples Dispatch by email,
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 Worship Service, Sanctuary
10:30 AM Sunday School
Nursery care is provided

Ongoing Prayer Concerns

- **Jesse Andrade**
(father of Angela Garcia)
- **Diane Baker**
- **Wilbur Batchelder**
(father of Janet Hands)
- **Pastor David Bell**
- **Derek Beltran**
(grandson of Manuel Beltran)
- **Richard Beltran**
(son of Manuel Beltran)
- **Thomas Beltran**
(grandson of Manuel Beltran)
- **Mark Bridges**
(friend of Rosemary Mehrer)
- **Renee Burell**
(cousin of Kelley Bicket)
- **Alice Childers**
- **Kelly Chopp**
- **Barbara Clark**
(sister of Mary Hamlin)
- **Don Clark**
(friend of Jackie Miller)
- **Keith Conley**
- **Bryant Cope**
(father of Kelley Cook)
- **Richard & Sheila Cotton**
- **Rege Craft**
(son of Pauline Craft)
- **Madonna Crossman**
(grandmother of Kyle Korf)
- **Jane Embree**
- **Nadine Erskin**
(friend of Bonnie Molz)
- **Liam Fielding**
(cousin of Stacie Near)
- **Mary Ellen Foulks**
- **Larry Gardner**
(friend of Harley Foulks)
- **Paul Garrison**
(brother of Silver Woodbury)
- **Marideth George**
(mother of Darren George)
- **Ron Harman**
- **Mark Hale**
(friend of Bob Tempel)
- **Kayla Henningsen**
- **Nancy Hitz**
- **Dorothy Holsted**
- **Sherina Huber**
(cousin of Jacob Brungardt)
- **Abbie Huff**
(granddaughter of Kitty Caldwell)
- **Betty Keilman**
(aunt of Bonnie Molz)
- **Lori Kochanowski**
(sister of Shelly Stroup)
- **Linda Koelzer & Family**
(friends of Dena Crouch)
- **Andrew Larson**
- **Marlene Lee**
- **Piper Leigh**
- **Norb Liebig**
(brother of Jane Crist)
- **Brooke Lopez**
(daughter of Mary Hamlin)
- **Lisa Loving**
(friend of Jacob Brungardt)
- **Larry & Sally Martin**
(parents of Larilee Josserand)
- **Damon McDonald**
(friend of Janet Hands)
- **Loretta Mehrer**
(sister of Eldon Mehrer)
- **Roger Murray**
(father of Cory Murray)
- **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)
- **Jemma Penner**
(friend of Jacob Brungardt)
- **Kuttler Perry**
(friend of Jacob Brungardt)
- **Lydia Ramos**
(mother of Temo Ramos)
- **Ronaldo & Amalia Rivera**
(grandparents of Sammy Ortiz)
- **Sara Robinson**
- **Sandy Rodney**
(mother of Mike Cook)
- **Jhayliegh Rosales**
(granddaughter of Vicki Becker)
- **Ronnie Ruff**
(friend of Katelynne Sisk)
- **Nikee Salmans**
(friend of Kyle Korf)
- **Mary Lou Shea**
- **Pamela Smith**
(friend of Jenny Maier)
- **Roxie & Wayne Thompson**
- **Kelly Widows**
- **Karen Valencia**
- **Joe Vanderweide**
- **Duane West**