



First United Methodist Church

Manhattan, Kansas

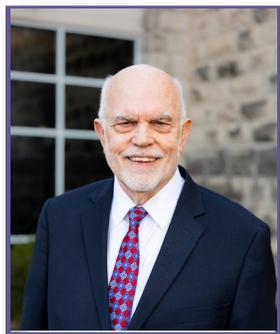
CONNECTING to Christ | GROWING in Community | SERVING the World

VOLUME 94 | NO. 3 | MARCH 2026

"Multi-tasking." It's a term that didn't even exist when many of us were growing up, but anyone living fully in our modern information age knows that it's real. Picture this: in a dorm room across town, a young college student is sitting in front of a television, a laptop on her knees. On the computer's screen is 1.) a paper for a freshman English class, 2.) an internet page streaming TikTok videos, and 3.) an instant message window with multiple on-going conversations. Did I mention the snack next to the chair... or the cell phone waiting to ring? To ever-growing generations of young men and women, this is the world in which we all live. To those of us who grew up in an earlier age it's evidence of little less than chaos!

Truth be told, however, all of us multi-task to some degree. New studies reveal that we do a lot of it while we're driving. It's not cell phones that cause the most accidents through inattention while driving either, it's eating! Do YOU drink coffee while you're driving? Eat a muffin on the way to work? Start on the hamburger you got at the drive-thru before you get to wherever you're headed? I know, me too. However, even if the term is a new one as are some of the activities, we've all been doing it for a long time. Though the stuff around us may change, human behavior really doesn't change much at all (anyone remember TV trays? - anyone still have TV trays?)

Among all the tasks that we do each day, here's one that I'd invite you to think about - praying. Paul tells the Thessalonians that they should "pray without ceasing." Clearly, he was expecting his readers to multi-task! He adds two other tasks as well: "rejoice always" and "give thanks in all circumstances." Paul's got them up to three!



Whatever else we are doing, Paul is encouraging us to do it joyfully, thankfully, and prayerfully. So here's a question... What would your drive to work look like if these were part of your multi-tasking? What would dinner with your family be like if these were part of your multi-tasking? What would the serious conversation you need to have with a loved one be like if these were part of your multi-tasking?

"Multi-tasking" It's a new thing..... and it's a very old thing.

Multiple blessings for all your "tasks"

Pax, Mike

SUNDAY MORNING SCHEDULE

Worship in-person or live on our website. Replays will also be available on our website.

8:45 am - Contemporary Worship

9:45 am - Fellowship Time

10:00 am - Discipleship Time

11:00 am - Traditional Worship

11:30 am - Radio Broadcast on KMAN 1350 AM, 93.3, or 93.7 FM

The church office is open Monday through Thursday 9:00 am - 4:00 pm and on Sunday Mornings.

The church office will be closed Monday, April 6 in recognition of Easter.

Please use the double doors from the parking lot into the Connecting Link during the week for all meetings and to visit the office. Thank you.

The newsletter is published monthly on the 28th for the following month. The deadline for submissions is the 15th of each month. If you have items for the congregation, please send them to Cathlene Higgins, Connections Coordinator, at fumc@fumcmanhattan.com.

When the newsletter is available you will receive a notification via email with a link to our website. If you prefer to receive a paper copy in the mail, please contact the office at 785-776-8821. If you have items for the bulletin, website, or Sunday morning worship screens, those should also be sent to Cathlene, fumc@fumcmanhattan.com.



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www.fumcmanhattan.com | fumc@fumcmanhattan.com | 785-776-8821

APRIL EVENTS

Thursday, 4/2 _____

Maunday Thursday Service, 7pm, Sanctuary

Friday, 4/3 _____

Good Friday Service, 7pm, Sanctuary

Sunday, 4/5 _____

Easter Sunday

Monday, 4/6 _____

Church office closed

Sunday, 4/12 _____

FUMC 101; Pizza with the Pastors, 12:15pm, Connecting Link

Sunday, 4/19 _____

Bradley Welch Organ Recital, 3pm, Sanctuary

Tuesday, 4/21 _____

KSU Brass Recital, 6pm, Sanctuary

Friday, 4/24 _____

Confirmation Retreat Leaves

www.fumcmanhattan.com



PATHWAYS:

DEVOTION AND A WALK

connection ● creation ● action



Join us Saturday, April 11 at 9:30 a.m. in the parking lot of the Konza. Everyone is welcome! Amy Bipes is coordinating this new group on the 2nd Sat. of each month. Different locations will be announced.



FUMC 101: *Learn, Ask, Explore*

APRIL 12 AT 12:15PM

Join us in the Connecting Link for pizza while we learn what it looks like to be a Methodist, ask questions of the pastors, and explore membership options.

RSVP to Cathlene
chiggins@fumcmanhattan.com
785-776-8821

Find Your Sunday Morning Community, Adult Discipleship Groups

Seekers

Seekers is a group of young-at-heart seniors who are passionate about growing in faith and building meaningful friendships. At the core of this class is a strong sense of fellowship, where connection and conversation are just as important as study.

Each week, the class explores Scripture using the United Methodist Lectionary, taking time to understand the historical context and how those passages speak into our lives today. Sessions often include a short video for added insight, along with thoughtful discussion that allows everyone to learn from one another's experiences. The class also draws from John Wesley's teachings, helping connect faith to our Methodist roots.

By exploring the culture, setting, and people within each passage, the group works to better understand both the original message and its meaning for today. Members are encouraged to ask questions, share perspectives, and reflect on how God is at work in their daily lives. This shared learning environment helps deepen understanding, strengthen faith, and build lasting connections within the class.

Seekers meets Sundays at 10:00 AM on the third floor of the Education Center in the last classroom on the left.

If you're looking for a place to grow in faith, ask questions, and connect with others, Seekers would love to welcome you. (Article continued on the next page.)

UNITED METHODIST MEN



Thursday, April 9 6:30 am Fellowship Hall

Guest Speaker:

**James Wiser,
Dean of KSU Libraries**

Join us as we welcome James Wiser as our speaker this month. He and his family attend FUMC, and he serves as the new Dean of Libraries at Kansas State University Libraries. We're glad to hear from one of our own as he shares about his work at Kansas State University. He'll talk a bit about his new role and the important work happening within the university libraries.



Adult Discipleship Groups Continued:

Faithlinks

Looking for meaningful conversation and connection? Faithlinks is a welcoming class centered on Bible-based studies that explore how Scripture speaks into everyday life. Each session begins with a short video to spark thoughtful discussion, making it easy to engage, whether you love to share or simply listen and reflect.

Participants are primarily in their mid-50s to mid-70s, creating a warm, supportive environment where life experience enriches the conversation. The class meets each Sunday morning in the Church Library, a comfortable, relaxed space perfect for learning and connection.

Conversations often focus on how biblical teachings shape our daily decisions, relationships, and faith journeys. Class members value the opportunity to learn from one another, offering encouragement and perspective through shared experiences and thoughtful discussion. It is a space where questions are welcomed and faith continues to grow.

If you're looking to grow in faith while building genuine relationships, Faithlinks would love to welcome you.

Rooted Parents: It's a Season

Rooted Parents is a Sunday School class for parents in every stage of life—from expectant and new parents to those raising school-aged children, teenagers, and even adult children. We meet in The Link each Sunday (except the first Sunday of the month) from 10 to 10:45 a.m. during the discipleship hour.

This class offers a space for encouragement, honest conversation, and growing in faith together. We begin with fellowship, then move into Scripture, guided discussion, and practical take-home applications, ending in prayer.

After a six-week journey through Ecclesiastes—learning to trust God in every season—we'll soon begin a new series on 1 Corinthians 13, focusing on what truly matters in our homes and how love shapes the legacy we leave.

Open Door

Open Door is a welcoming, Scripture-based class for adults ages 70 and up who are seeking continued growth in faith and meaningful connection with others. With a strong foundation in God's Word, this class offers a steady and thoughtful approach to discipleship in a supportive community.

Each Sunday, the group gathers to explore a printed Sunday School curriculum, using it as a guide for engaging, discussion-based learning. Conversations are rich with insight, life experience, and a shared desire to better understand Scripture and its relevance for today.

The class meets in Classroom 1/2 and offers a friendly, relaxed environment where everyone is encouraged to participate, reflect, and grow together in faith.

If you're looking for a place to connect, learn, and be encouraged, Open Door is always open to you.

Please join a class on any Sunday or for further inquiries, please contact Cathlene in the office any time: chiggins@fumcmanhattan or 785-776-8821.

Student Ministries



Jeff Cunningham, Director of Youth Ministries
youth@fumcmanhattan.com

Upcoming Dates for Youth Families

April 25-26 Confirmation Retreat

May 3rd Confirmation Sunday

May 13th Last Day of Youth Hangouts

May 17th Graduation

June 3rd Summer Schedule Starts



Misti LeMoine, Director of Children's Ministries
children@fumcmanhattan.com

EASTER SUNDAY

APRIL 5TH

Bring your Easter Baskets to Church & meet in the Courtyard for the 10 am Egg Hunt.

Each child will gather a dozen eggs.

There will be 4 Golden Eggs to redeem for larger prize.



Questions: children@fumcmanhattan.com



May Day Baskets

JOIN US IN JAM ON APRIL 26TH
OR APRIL 29TH AS WE MAKE
MAY DAY BASKETS. THEN ON
MAY 1ST, MEET AT CHURCH AT
4:30 PM TO DELIVER THEM.

VACATION BIBLE CAMP is COMING

June 22-25, 2026



FUMC FOOD PANTRY

PAD THE PANTRY

This month, we are asking for donations of sugar and cake mixes to help keep our food pantry stocked for our community. If you are able to contribute, please place your donations in the bin labeled "Food Pantry" located in the Connecting Link behind the desk.

Thank you for helping us continue to provide needed items to those we serve.



Worship Attendance

	In Person monthly average	Facebook	Youtube	Website	Notes
January 2025	296	344	142	*	3 weeks due to snow storm
February 2025	298	451	249	*	
March 2025	294	334	350	*	
April 2025	400	835	283	*	Lenten Services
May 2025	246	195	182	*	Memorial Weekend
June 2025	211	219	284	*	
July 2025	195	163	152	*	Single Service
August 2025	244	277	245	106	
September 2026	349	248	377	145	Midweek Began
October 2025	468	192	222	112	
November 2025	283	285	286	116	
December 2025	308	413	203	242	
January 2026	351	361	269	312	Snow cancelled one service

*New Website, prior numbers not available.
Facebook numbers are views over one minute.



Celebrating 100% Apportionments: Your Generosity at Work!

After a long year that at times made this goal seem uncertain, we are proud to share that our church has paid 100% of our apportionments. This is a meaningful accomplishment and a reflection of the faithfulness and generosity of our congregation. Well done, church.

Apportionments are the way United Methodist churches work together to support ministry beyond the walls of our local congregation. Through these shared funds, churches across our connection support campus ministries, camps, leadership development, justice initiatives, disaster response, and other ministries serving communities throughout the Great Plains and beyond.

"You will be enriched in every way for your great generosity, which will produce thanksgiving to God through us; for the rendering of this ministry not only supplies the needs of the saints but also overflows with many thanksgivings to God."
2 Cor. 9:11-12 NRSV

Manhattan First UMC

Thank You

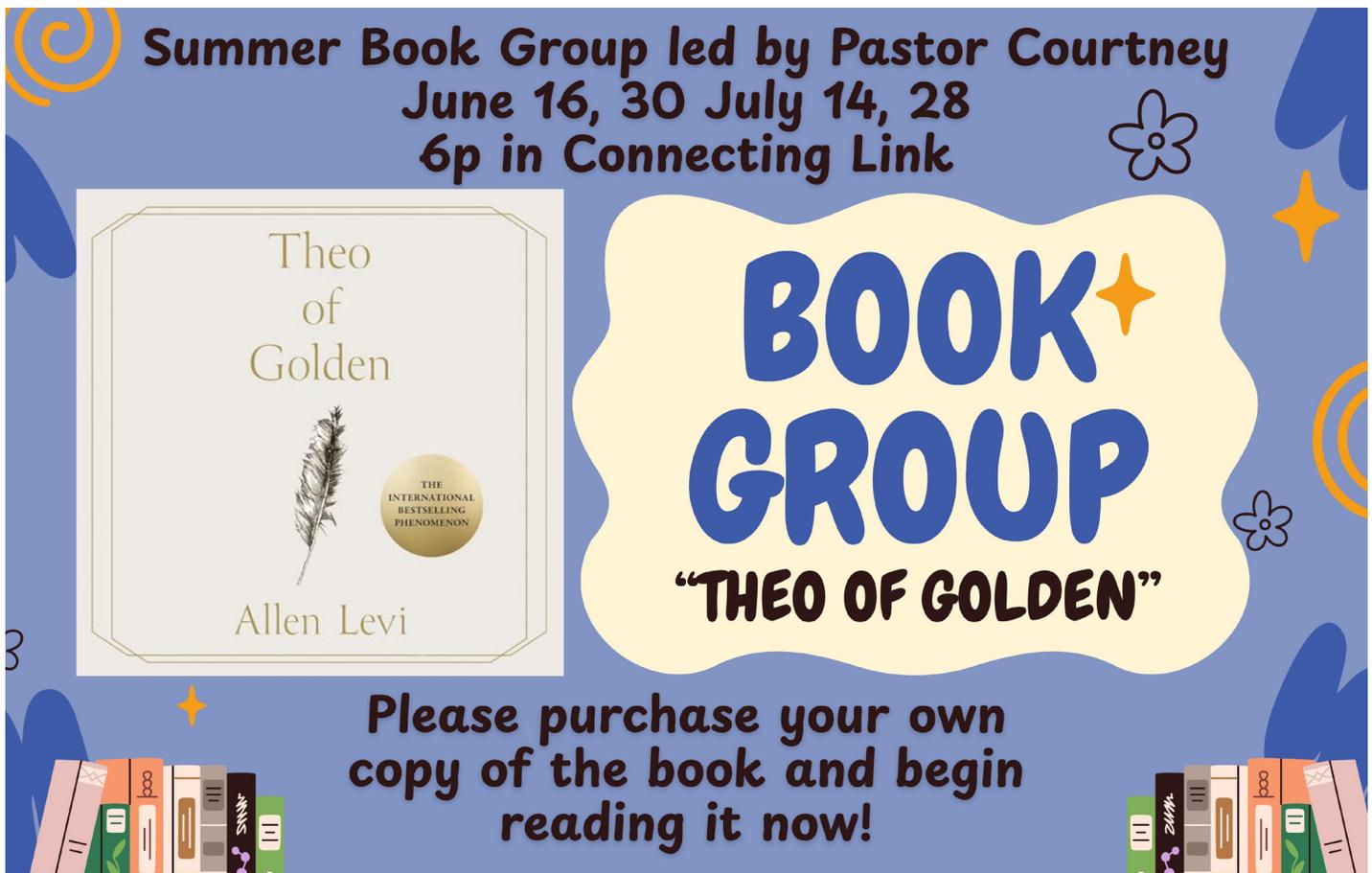
For giving faithfully 100% to the 2025 mission shares covenant.


BISHOP DAVID WILSON
Great Plains UMC


CHRISTY BOGNER
CFO, Treasurer

This certificate is more than recognition. It is a reminder that together we are part of something larger than ourselves. Thank you for your commitment, your generosity, and your continued support of the mission and ministry of the church.

The Church Staff



Summer Book Group led by Pastor Courtney
June 16, 30 July 14, 28
6p in Connecting Link

BOOK GROUP
"THEO OF GOLDEN"

Please purchase your own copy of the book and begin reading it now!



YOUNG PROFESSIONALS

A TIME FOR CONVERSATION.
A WAY TO CONNECT.
A TIME OF GROWTH.
A PLACE TO SERVE.

JOIN US ON WEDNESDAY EVENINGS AT 6:30 PM
IN THE CLASSROOM 1 & 2!

Scripture Focus for April

"Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep."

Romans 12:15

One of the reasons I started writing this monthly Scripture focus was to give all of us something to talk about. Something we could mention to someone we've never met before, or a small spark to start a conversation with the person sitting next to us in the pew on Sunday morning.

This month, our conversation starter is a verse that is all too familiar. It sounds simple. Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. But like so many things that sound simple, it is easy to forget in real life.

I'll admit it. I sometimes get so caught up in my own little world - checking my email, thinking about the week ahead, worrying if I remembered to feed the dog - that I forget to celebrate the small joys around me. And don't even get me started on sharing in someone else's sadness without awkwardly fumbling my words.

This verse reminds us that our faith isn't just about private devotion or inward reflection. It's about being present with each other, noticing what's happening in someone else's life, and really engaging in the mess, the joy, and the celebration of living together as a community.

Here's the practical part. This spring, I want to challenge myself, and all of us, to use this as a conversation starter. See someone smiling about a new grandchild? Share in their joy. Notice someone looking tired or down? Ask them how they're doing and really listen. Maybe even say, "I'm praying for you," or better yet, share a funny anecdote that might make them smile. Trust me, it works better than you think.

And here's where the season helps. Spring gives us lots of natural conversation starters. Did someone's tulips survive the frost? Did the Easter Bunny finally get around to your neighborhood? Has anyone already eaten too many jellybeans? These light moments open doors to deeper conversations and shared laughter.

The goal is simple. Use Romans 12:15 as a gentle nudge to connect with people, celebrate life's wins, and share a shoulder when things get hard. Conversations like that often turn into the kind of connections that matter. And let's be honest, sometimes all it takes is one comment about the church coffee or the pollen count to start a meaningful exchange.

So this April, as Easter and spring fill us with new life and energy, let's remember that our faith is also alive in the ways we interact with one another. Joy and sorrow are easier to bear when we share them, and laughter, well, that multiplies when it's shared—even if it's over who managed to hide the last chocolate bunny.

And just to be clear, I am still practicing this myself. So if you see me awkwardly celebrating your good news or fumbling my way through sympathy, consider it my humble attempt at Scripture in action. Rejoice together. Share the journey. Start a conversation.

Cathlene Higgins, Connections Coordinator



First United Methodist Church
Manhattan, Kansas

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Pastors: Mike Chamberlain, Courtney Fellers
Editor: Cathlene Higgins

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