



First United Methodist Church

Manhattan, Kansas

CONNECTING to Christ | GROWING in Community | SERVING the World

VOLUME 94 | NO. 8 | AUGUST 2026

We are days away from the back-to-school buzz. Many are getting school supplies together, starting with last year's backpack. Maybe you're like me, one year, when we just threw backpacks into the closet because we were so finished with that year and didn't open them until August. What a surprise we found! Maybe you have a new college student you are excited and anxious about sending off to university. Or you've lived with your college student all summer, and your garage looks like a used furniture store. You're counting the days until they return to school so you can get your car back in the garage. And then there are those who haven't been in school for years and haven't been prepping children for a new school year in a long time. No matter where you find yourself, living in a college town has a rhythm built on the school year, and we tend to measure time by that rhythm.

Each one of us approaches changes in life's daily rhythm differently. This doesn't just apply to school. All of life's transitions can be both exciting and anxiety-inducing. Some we choose and celebrate; others arrive uninvited. My hope at the beginning of August is for us to join in praying for one another, specifically about life's transitions - whether it's back-to-school, adjusting to health challenges and illness, retirement, death of a spouse, becoming a parent for the first time, job loss, or any time life will be different. Here is a prayer I have written that we can pray together:

Gracious and Loving God, We thank you for your tender care for all of your beloved children. Your love is steadfast and sure. When we have doubted that, forgive us. As a community of faith, we are committed to caring for one another as Jesus taught us. We ask for your reassuring presence to be made known in each other's lives. When you call us to show up for one another, we will go. When you call us to hold space and pray, we will hold space and pray. We will commit to loving one another in all we do. Thank you for the gift of relationships and the way you express yourself as we live in community. It is in your holy name we pray, Amen.



I pray for you and give thanks for you. Courtney

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 office will be closed:
August 10
for Staff Development**

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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Manhattan, Kansas

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

CONTACT YOUR CHURCH STAFF

The church office is open Monday through Thursday from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Please see the staff directory below and feel free to contact the appropriate staff member as needed. The staff is available by calling the main church number at 785-776-8821 or by emailing as listed below

Church Office	Cathlene Higgins, Connections Coordinator chiggins@fumcmanhattan.com
	Megan Anderson, Administrative Assistant manderson@fumcmanhattan.com
Pastor	Mike Chamberlain pastormike@fumcmanhattan.com
Associate Pastor	Courtney Fellers cfellers@fumcmanhattan.com
Director of Finance	Noni Buster finance@fumcmanhattan.com
Director of Facilities	Fred Caldwell caldwell.fred@gmail.com
Weekday Early Education Director	Lindsay Kinsinger preschool@fumcmanhattan.com
Children's Director	Misti LeMoine children@fumcmanhattan.com
Youth Director	Jeff Cunningham jcunningham@fumcmanhattan.com
Media and Tech Director	Robbie Phillips rphillips@fumcmanhattan.com
Music Director/Organist	Dan Myers danbm041158@gmail.com
Choir Director	Mark Lucas drmarklucas62@gmail.com
Bell Director Beginner/Spirit Ringers	Kathy Leonard kantink@gmail.com
Bell Director Rhapsody Ringers/Allegro Ringers	Nancy Monical nmonicalks@gmail.com



August Pad the Pantry Food Drive!

HELP US FILL THE SHELVES!

As a new school year begins, many families in our community face increased financial pressures. Together, we can help ensure no one has to worry about where their next meal will come from.

Throughout August, pick up a grocery bag at church, fill it with pantry staples, and return it during worship. As the bags fill our sanctuary, they'll serve as a visible reminder of what God can do through a generous congregation.

Suggested Pantry Items



Every Bag. Every Item. Every Donation Makes a Difference.

"For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat." — Matthew 25:35



Student Ministries



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

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

FINISH THE SUMMER STRONG...



First Families Bible Trivia:

Before summer comes to an end, join us for one last round of Bible Trivia! Everyone—from children to adults—is invited for a morning of learning, laughter, and a little friendly competition. We hope you'll join us as we wrap up another wonderful summer together.

Take a well deserved break:

Summer goes by fast! We hope our students enjoy every backyard barbecue, swimming pool, road trip, and lazy afternoon before school starts. We can't wait to hear all about your adventures when we gather again this fall!

Catching Our Breath in August

SEE YOU SEPTEMBER 9TH

FALL SERIES: THE BOOK OF DANIEL

3RD FLOOR ED CENTER

We are taking August off from meeting to recharge and prepare for the exciting new school year! We will be back on September 9th with Hangouts, Devotional Donuts, and a gathering after Midweek Renewal.



... START THE FALL OFF EVEN STRONGER!

Blessing of the Backpacks - AUGUST 9

As a new school year begins, we invite students of all ages, along with teachers and school staff, to bring their backpacks, briefcases, or school bags to the worship service of their choice for our annual Blessing of the Backpacks.

Together, we will ask God's blessing for a year filled with wisdom, safety, growth, and encouragement as we send everyone involved in education into the new school year with our prayers, for God's guidance, protection, wisdom, and encouragement throughout the school year.

AUGUST 9, 2026 DURING CHILDREN'S TIME

BLESSING OF BACKPACKS

**ALL STUDENTS, TEACHERS, FACULTY AND STAFF!!!
IF YOU WORK IN EDUCATION WE WANT TO BLESS YOUR
YEAR. BRING A BACK PACK SO OUR WHOLE
CONGREGATION CAN PRAY OVER YOU AND THE NEW
SCHOOL YEAR.**



STUDENT MINISTRY WEDNESDAY SCHEDULE	
3:00	YOUNG UNITED METHODISTS
3:30	HIGH SCHOOL HANG OUT
3:50	MIDDLE SCHOOL PICK UP
4:15	STUDENT MINISTRY BELLS
4:30	YOUTH LESSON STARTS
5:30	MIDWEEK DINNER
6:00	MIDWEEK DEVOTION

Student Ministries Return September 9!

Wednesday evenings are about to get a whole lot more fun! Beginning September 9, our Student Ministries kick off another exciting year of faith, friendship, and fun. Young United Methodists (YUM) welcomes students in 4th and 5th grades, while Youth Group is open to students in grades 6–12.

Each week includes snacks, games, meaningful lessons, great conversations, and plenty of time to simply hang out together. Whether you've been coming for years or you're looking for a place to belong, we'd love to welcome you. Bring a friend and join us—we can't wait to see you this fall!

WHAT ABOUT MONEY?

Everything that happens at FUMC is dependent on the offerings and donations of everyone in the congregation, the city, and beyond. Regular offerings make the ministry and music possible. They enable the congregation to exist, and to provide a welcome space to belong to and to grow as Christians.

If you are able, please support FUMC by making regular offerings by following the QR code to the right. If you have questions or need help, please contact Noni Buster by calling the church office or by email at finance@fumcmanhattan.com



MUSIC IN WORSHIP – AUGUST 2026

Throughout August, we look forward to worshipping together and to the many ways God is praised through music, prayer, scripture, and fellowship. We are grateful for those who will be sharing their musical gifts during the 11:00 Traditional Service this month.

August 2 – Little Apple Barbershop Chorus; also sharing in worship: Cesar Martinez Reyes, oboe

August 9 – Devon Autry and Javi Garza, percussion

August 16 – Jeanne Lucas, voice

August 23 – Evan Wylde, voice, with Marty Kump, guitar

August 30 – Chancel Choir returns to worship; also sharing in worship: Chad, Segen, Solveig, and Gantt Chase, strings and piano



FLINT HILLS PRAISEFEST is Kansas's largest free Christian music festival. The festival theme is "Bold Hope", and it

features free admission, community service packing events, and a Saturday night headlining performance by Megan Woods.

- Key Festival Dates: Thursday, September 24 – Sunday, September 27, 2026
- Location: CiCo Park, Manhattan, KS
- Headliner: Megan Woods performs on Saturday, September 26
- Global Impact Event: September 23–26 (Volunteers aim to pack over 105,000 meals)
- Praisefest 5K: Saturday, September 26 at 8:00 AM at CiCo Park

HAND BELL CHOIRS

"Life doesn't require that we be the best, only that we try our best." – H. Jackson Brown Jr.

Adult choirs:

Hand bell choirs begin rehearsals the week of August 23, and we are looking for YOU to join us.

There are 3 choirs that play in worship one Sunday each month, and we can help you determine your best fit:

- **Rhapsody Ringers**
Rehearses Sunday evenings from 5:30 - 7:00 pm. For more information, contact Nancy Monical, nmonicalks@gmail.com, 785-410-1085
- **Allegro Ringers**
Rehearses Monday evenings from 5:45 - 6:45 pm. For more information, contact Nancy Monical, nmonicalks@gmail.com, 785-410-1085
- **Spirit Ringers**
Rehearses Tuesdays mornings from 11:30 - 12:30 pm. For more information, contact Kathy Leonard, kantink@gmail.com, 785-317-0598
- **No Stress Bells**
Rehearses Tuesday evenings from 6:00 - 7:00 pm. If playing in church isn't your wish, this is the choir for you! Beginners are welcome, we will teach you! This is a great small group opportunity for you! For more information, contact Kathy Leonard, kantink@gmail.com, 785-317-0598 (starting September 8)

Childcare is available for all Rehearsals!

Student Ministry Choir (4th-5th-6th grade)

Student Ministry Bells meets Wednesdays from 4:15 - 5:00 pm, and play in worship 1-2 times per semester.

For more information, contact Kathy Leonard, kantink@gmail.com, 785-317-0598



A time for conversation.
A way to connect.
A time of growth.
A place to serve.

YOUNG PROFESSIONALS

Wednesday Night at 6:30 pm
FUMC Library



READY TO HIT THE RIGHT NOTE?

The FUMC Chancel Choir is excited to begin a new season on Sunday, August 30, and we would love for you to join us! Whether you're a longtime choir member or have always thought about singing with the choir, everyone is welcome.

Our day will begin with rehearsal at 9:00 a.m., followed by singing in the 11:00 a.m. worship service. After the service, we'll gather for a potluck lunch and an extended rehearsal as we prepare the music we'll be singing throughout the fall

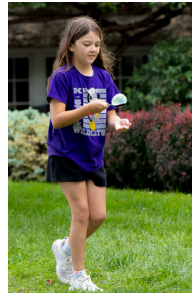
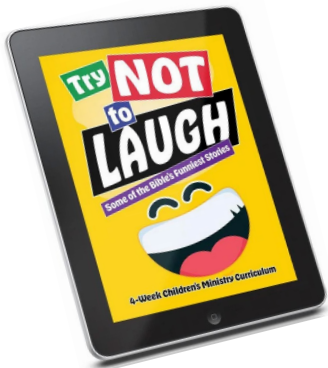
season.

This kickoff day is the perfect opportunity to get to know the choir, enjoy fellowship, and get a head start on learning the music. If you can't make it on August 30, don't worry—we welcome new singers any Sunday throughout the year.

Looking ahead, we're already preparing for the holiday season. This year's Christmas cantata will be a beautiful Service of Lessons and Carols, presented during the 11:00 a.m. worship service on Sunday, December 13.

If you enjoy singing and would like to use your gifts in worship, we'd be delighted to have you join the FUMC Chancel Choir. If you have any questions, you can reach Dr. Lucas at drmarklucas62@gmail.com. We look forward to welcoming you!

VACATION BIBLE CAMP 2026



Name: John



Joke: Why did the scientist
not go to the
party.

cause it didn't have the
guts.





Help FUMC earn cash by using your Dillons Plus card. By signing up for Groceries for God, you will still earn your fuel points and rewards and FUMC will earn bonus cash.

To participate in Groceries for God:

1. Go to dillons.com/communityrewards.
2. Create an account including your e-mail address - If you do not have an email address see instructions below
3. Enter your shopper card number or alternate ID# and last name
4. On the account summary screen scroll all the way down to Community Rewards - click "enroll"
5. Fill in personal information. Enter "MY114" you will then see First UMC Groceries for God.
6. Click in the circle as this is our Groceries for God program.
7. Click on save and you should get a note at the top of the page indicating that your sign up has been completed.

You will automatically start earning rewards for FUMC right away on qualifying purchases*, made using your Shopper's plus card!

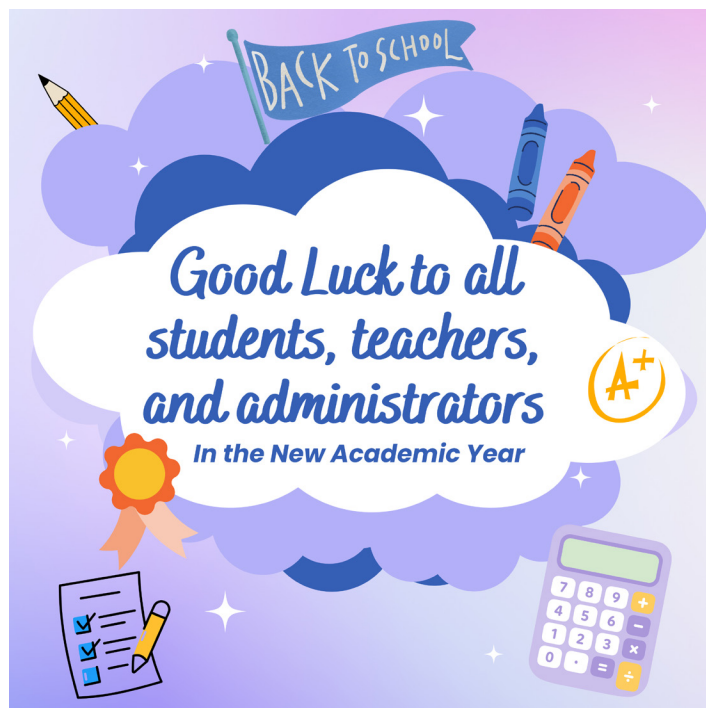
*Things that do not qualify are fuel, postage, alcohol, tobacco, Kroger gift cards, variable load gift cards among other things, but can be found on the website.

If you DO NOT HAVE INTERNET, but use this program, you will need to call 1-800-576-4377 and it will be #3 on the recorded menu. They will walk you through the process. Or walk into one of the two stores in town.



Every day, Thrive! is helping individuals and families in our community move toward stability, hope, and brighter futures. Through meaningful relationships, encouragement, and practical skill-building, Thrive! works to reduce poverty and empower people to reach their goals. But this important mission cannot happen without caring volunteers who are willing to share their time, compassion, and talents.

There are many ways to get involved, and every volunteer makes an impact. Whether you enjoy mentoring, organizing, listening, encouraging others, or simply lending a helping hand, you can be part of changing lives right here in our community. If you are looking for a meaningful way to serve and make a real difference, consider volunteering with Thrive! Together, we can help strengthen families, build hope, and create lasting change.



Scripture Focus for August

"For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body...Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it."

1 Corinthians 12:12, 27

As summer gives way to fall, many of us find ourselves settling into new routines. The school year begins, calendars begin to fill, and life takes on a familiar rhythm once again. It's also a wonderful time to pause and ask ourselves: How is God calling me to participate in the life of His Church this season?

In this bible verse, Paul reminds us that the Church is made up of many members, each uniquely gifted by God. No two people are exactly alike, and that's by God's design. Each of us has been given gifts that strengthen the church and bless others. Some teach, some sing, some serve behind the scenes, some welcome visitors with a warm smile, some prepare meals, some pray faithfully, and others quietly care for those in need. Every act of service and every gift matters because each one helps the Body of Christ flourish.

Whether your gift is leading, listening, praying, encouraging, organizing, visiting, or simply showing up faithfully each week, God uses every member to strengthen the Body of Christ. Sometimes the greatest gift we offer isn't a task we complete, but our presence. When we worship, learn, and serve together, we encourage one another simply by being there for one another.

At First United Methodist Church, our mission is Connecting to Christ, Growing in Community, and Serving the World. Those three statements are more than words—they are an invitation for each of us to actively live out our faith. We connect to Christ through worship, prayer, and Scripture. We grow in community by participating in Bible studies, Sunday school classes, small groups, fellowship opportunities, and by building relationships with one another. We serve the world by sharing Christ's love both within our church family and throughout our community.

As we begin a new ministry season, perhaps this is the perfect opportunity to reconnect. If you've stepped away from a Bible study, consider joining one this fall. If you've been thinking about volunteering, there is a place for your gifts. If you've been faithfully serving for years, thank you. Your commitment, generosity, and willingness to share your gifts continue to make a difference in the life of our church. Every person, every gift, and every act of service helps us become the church God has called us to be.

Whether you've been part of First United Methodist Church for decades or are simply beginning to explore what church life is all about, know that there is a place for you in this community as we seek to connect to Christ, grow together, and serve the world. When each of us shares the gifts God has given us, we become a church that is truly Connecting to Christ, Growing in Community, and Serving the World.

Cathlene Higgins, Connections Coordinator

Curious about First United Methodist Church? Check out the FUMC 101 invitation to the right. We'd love to have you join us to learn more. There's no obligation, just an opportunity to connect, ask questions, and get to know our church family.

FUMC 101: PIZZA WITH THE PASTORS

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**

**SUNDAY, AUGUST 30
12:15PM**



Pathways

walking group

August 8, 9:30 AM
Community Park Loop
680 Knox Lane



EVER WONDER HOW THE SANCTUARY CHANDELIER GET LIGHT BULBS CHANGED?

See Left: It takes more than a ladder! First, a lift is rented and the pews are carefully moved to make room for it. Then, with the help of our Tuesday Geezer Group, Fred Caldwell replaces the bulbs in one chandelier. The lift is then repositioned, and the process is repeated until all four chandeliers are shining brightly once again.

Thank you to everyone who helps keep our sanctuary beautiful and ready for worship!

CREATING MORE SHADE FOR PRESCHOOL PLAY

Right: This summer's storms claimed several of the trees that once provided much-needed shade on the FUMC Preschool playground. As the hot days continue, volunteers are busy building a pergola to create a shaded space over the sandbox and surrounding play area.

Their dedication will help ensure that our preschoolers have a more comfortable place to play and explore for years to come. Thank you to these faithful volunteers for investing their time and talents in our youngest members!





First United Methodist Church

Manhattan, Kansas

612 Poyntz Avenue
Manhattan, KS 66502-6041

Pastors: Mike Chamberlain, Courtney Fellers
Editor: Cathlene Higgins

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♥

OGDEN FRIENDSHIP
HOUSE OF HOPE

♥

Spaghetti

DINNER

Fundraiser

Join us for a delicious meal and
help support our mission!

Good Food. Great Company. Stronger Community.

AUGUST 15TH

5:00 PM – 7:00 PM

COLLEGE AVENUE
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
1609 College Ave
Manhattan, KS 66517

DINE IN OR TAKEOUT!

ADULTS

\$10

CHILDREN
(12 & UNDER)

\$5

TAKEOUT PLATES
available at
the same cost!

SPAGHETTI
Classic spaghetti
with savory meat
sauce.

SALAD
Fresh garden salad
with your choice
of dressing.

DESSERT
Delicious dessert
to top off your
meal!

♥

Every meal supports the
Ogden Friendship House of Hope

♥

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

All proceeds support the programs and services of
Ogden Friendship House of Hope.