



First United Methodist Church

Manhattan, Kansas

CONNECTING to Christ | GROWING in Community | SERVING the World



VOLUME 93 | NO. 7 | JULY 2025

It's hard to believe it's already July! In the Great Plains Conference, this is "moving month" as many churches welcome new pastors. Let's keep all those transitions in our prayers. July also marks the halfway point of the year, and believe it or not, it's only 177 days until Christmas!

I'm thrilled to be serving as your Senior Pastor for the coming year, and to have Courtney joining me as our Associate Pastor. Together, we're dreaming of new ministry opportunities and ways for our church to grow. I'm honored to be in prayer with you as we seek how God is leading us forward in ministry together.

This July, I'll be leading a three-week Wednesday evening study on The Discipline. Come to one session or all three. Each will stand on its own. We're calling it Donna, Dessert, and the Discipline! Class starts at 7:00 p.m. in the Link, and yes, there will be ice cream with all the toppings.

I'm also excited about our one worship service in July, with communion every Sunday. It's a wonderful chance for all of us to be together. Music styles will alternate so our musicians and volunteers can enjoy some summer rest as well. Adult Sunday School classes continue to gather and grow, with flexible scheduling.

I hope to see you Sundays at 10:00 a.m. And please remember, my door is always open. If you'd like to talk or introduce yourself, make an appointment. I'd love to get to know you better.



Loving God and Loving Neighbor,
Rev. Donna Voteau
Cell 816-806-0482

SUNDAY MORNING SCHEDULE

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

10:00 am - Summer Worship Service
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.

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 church office will be closed
THURSDAY, JULY 3
in recognition of the
July 4th holiday.**

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.



First United Methodist Church

Manhattan, Kansas

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

ISAIAH

chapter 40

VERSE 31

SCRIPTURE FOCUS FOR JULY

“But those who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength,
they shall mount up with wings like eagles,
they shall run and not be weary,
they shall walk and not faint.”

July often brings both the heat of summer and a season of transition. Families travel, routines shift, and the pace of life can feel both energizing and exhausting. In the midst of all this, Isaiah reminds us that renewal is not something we achieve through effort alone, but something we receive through patient trust in God.

This verse is a beautiful promise to all who feel tired, uncertain, or simply stretched thin. When we lean into the rhythm of God’s timing and wait for the Lord, strength is not only restored, it is transformed. We are lifted, renewed, and equipped to carry on, even when life feels heavy. This waiting is not passive or idle. It is a faithful kind of waiting, full of hope and grounded in prayer. It is the kind of waiting that creates space for God to move within us and around us.

Isaiah uses the image of an eagle to describe the kind of strength God gives. Eagles soar not by flapping harder, but by riding the currents of the wind. In the same way, our strength comes from surrendering to the Spirit and allowing God to carry us. Whether we are running at full speed or barely managing to walk, God’s promise is that we will not be overcome.

Let this verse be your reminder that it is okay to pause. It is okay to rest. And it is more than okay to trust that God is already at work. As we move through these summer days, may our spirits be renewed, our paths made steady, and our hearts lifted with hope. May we find new strength in the presence of God and be reminded that we never walk this journey alone.

Cathlene Higgins, Connections Coordinator



July 6th Patriotic Music during Worship at 10:00 am

We look forward to hearing Brass Instruments, Flutes and Piccolos,
Organ, Piano, a Timpani and other Percussion.

All players will participate in a very special arrangement of
"The Battle Hymn of the Republic" with a vocal quartet. The finale
will be a very special postlude to end the service!

It will be a special Sunday of music for all!

BACKPACK DRIVE

Supporting the USD 383 Fit Closet

July is FUMC's annual donation drive for the FIT Closet. This year, we are specifically asking for new, high-quality, durable backpacks for junior high and senior high students. These older students often receive fewer donations, and adult-sized, durable backpacks are essential to meet their needs throughout the school year.

The FIT Closet is a USD 383 program supporting students experiencing homelessness or housing insecurity. (FIT stands for Families in Transition.) While it may be hard to imagine homelessness in our community, 158 students in Manhattan met the FIT criteria last school year. The FIT Closet helps by providing school supplies, clothing, shoes, coats and more — all at no cost to the students, thanks to community donations.

Barb Wright, FUMC Missions Coordinator,
is leading this year's collection.

Please leave your donated backpacks in the marked containers in the front entrance of the church or in the Link during the month of July.

Thank you for caring for the students in our Manhattan community.





4 | First United Methodist Church



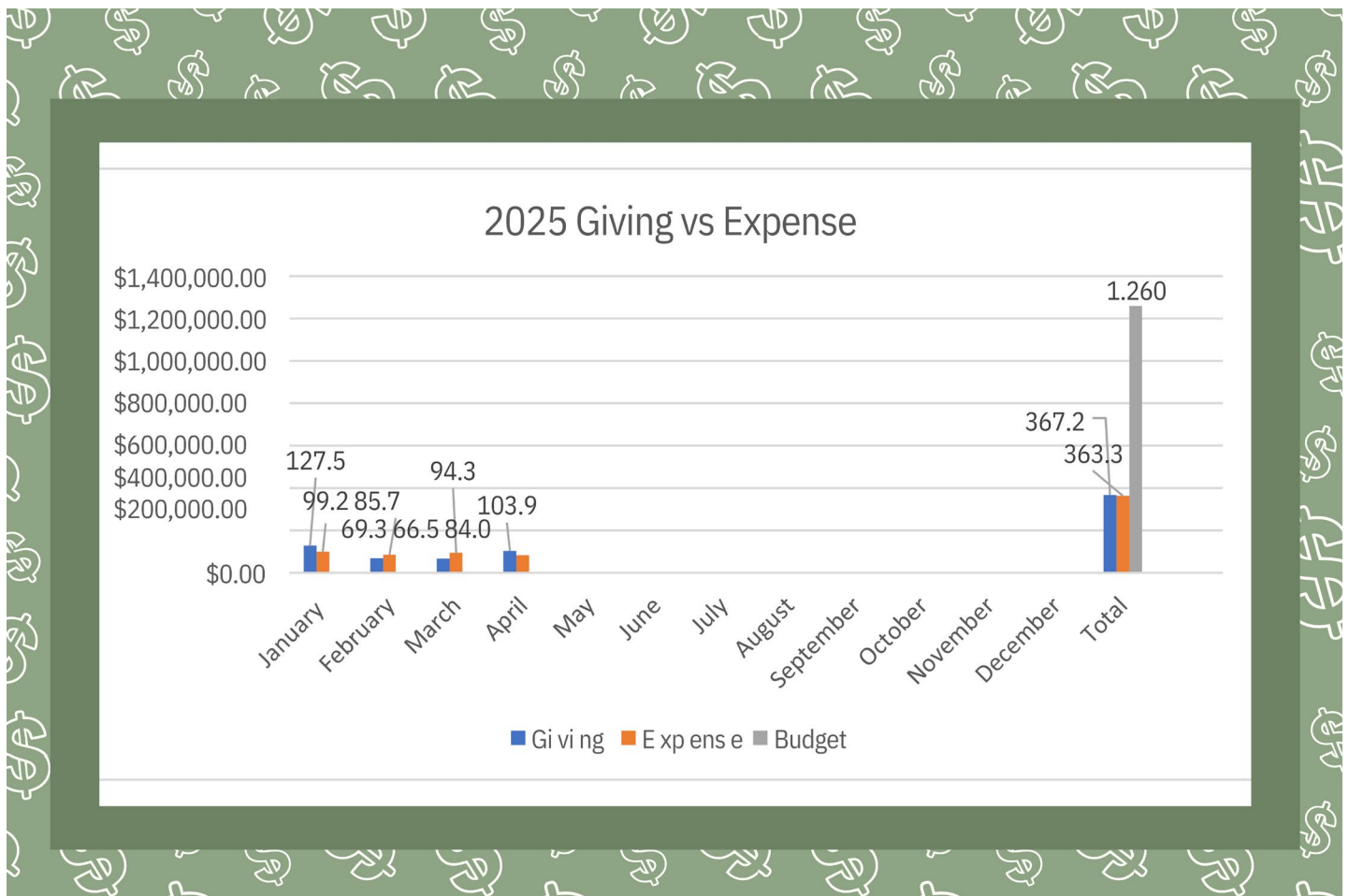
YOUR FUMC OFFERINGS AT WORK

The First United Methodist Church of Manhattan performs God's work by providing and supporting a variety of programs that assist families, individuals, and children in our community as well as internationally. The means by which the Church provides these needed services on your behalf is accomplished in large part by your generous Giving. To that end we want to provide you with timely updates of the Church's financial position.

The attached graph (which will be updated monthly) provides a snapshot in time that compares actual monthly Giving to actual monthly expenses. You will note that Expenses have exceeded Giving by \$15.3K dollars year-to-date. Most importantly this graph reflects the status of Church-wide year-to-date Giving to the general operating fund, as compared to the budget goal. Applying a simple analysis using five months of actual Giving, coupled with seven months of projected Giving based upon a 2024 trend line, Giving would fall short of the budget goal by an estimated \$276K dollars. The better news is that when Expenses (Actual + Projected) are compared to Giving (Actual + Projected), the deficit is approximately \$69K dollars. As you can see, we have a lot of work to do if we are to meet either the budget goal or projected Expenses. Either shortfall, Budget or Expenses, means the Church does not fully fund the missions and activities within the community it serves.

Your Finance Committee, along with pastors and all committees within the Church, continue to focus on identifying ways to meet that worthy goal. But it will also need a unified congregation focused on stewardship and prayer.

Finance Committee



Student Ministries



CHILDREN'S
MINISTRY FUMC

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

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

Ronald Atkinson, Coordinator of Youth Ministries
youth@fumcmanhattan.com



SAVE
THE
DATE



FAMILY MISSION MONTH

JOIN US EACH
SUNDAY IN JULY FOR
A DIFFERENT MISSION
OPPORTUNITY

JULY 6TH FUMC FOOD PANTRY AND BLESSING BOX

JULY 13TH MANHATTAN HOUSING AUTHORITY 5TH
AND LEAVENWORTH

JULY 20TH UMCOR RELIEF KITS

JULY 27TH WESLEY HOUSE

FUMC PRESENTS
God and Films

This July, gather with your friends, and join us on Wednesdays from 3-5pm for a Movie Afternoon. Enjoy the film from a unique perspective on the big screen, where we dive into finding Faith in various films through story-telling.

612 Poyntz Ave.
Manhattan, KS, 66502

More information
Youth@fumcmanhattan.com

Youth Ministries

WWW.FUMCMANHATTAN.COM



What's Up With ANAPRA?

Located near Juarez, Mexico just across the U.S. border from El Paso, Texas lies a small town called Anapra. Within this impoverished community is the Christian-based Susanna Wesley School (SWS) whose charter is to instruct disadvantaged children in grades 1-6. The First United Methodist Church (FUMC) became involved with the school in 2000. From that first encounter a committed bond was established that has existed for 25 years. FUMC members have faithfully supported the school over that time with their gifts and service. Members remitted donations earmarked for the school to FUMC, which in turn disbursed the funds to SWS monthly or as needed by the school. Members donating to the Anapra school received a charitable tax donation receipt.

Because the SWS school is located outside of the United States the handling and disbursement of funds came under some recent scrutiny. To address these issues an organization titled Friends of Anapra LLC was established and is hosted by the Greater Manhattan Community Foundation (GMCF) of Manhattan, Kansas. This arrangement provides a more efficient method for FUMC members, and others, to continue their Giving and support to the school. With this new arrangement, FUMC members should no longer remit Anapra donations to the church.

Members desiring to continue their financial support to Anapra should now use the direct Giving arrangement that has been established and hosted by GMCF. GMCF is a 501(c)(3) organization meaning that donations made through this organization are considered charitable donations for tax purposes. Donations to the "Anapra School Mission Fund" should be remitted through the GMCF hosted website "swsanapra.org."

Once the site page opens simply click on "Giving;" scroll down until you see the option "Donate Here via GMCF" and click on that option; then complete the information for your donation. This website accommodates one-time or automatic recurring donations using a credit card. Questions, or need assistance, should be directed to GMCF at (785) 587-8995.

FUMC is proud of its long-time relationship and support of Susanna Wesley School in Anapra. This new Giving arrangement allows FUMC members to continue their support of that important mission by remitting their charitable donation(s) directly through the website.

Gary Beets
Chair, Finance Committee



GUEST SPEAKER: LES KUEHNE
COME LEARN ABOUT RAILROAD SAFETY!

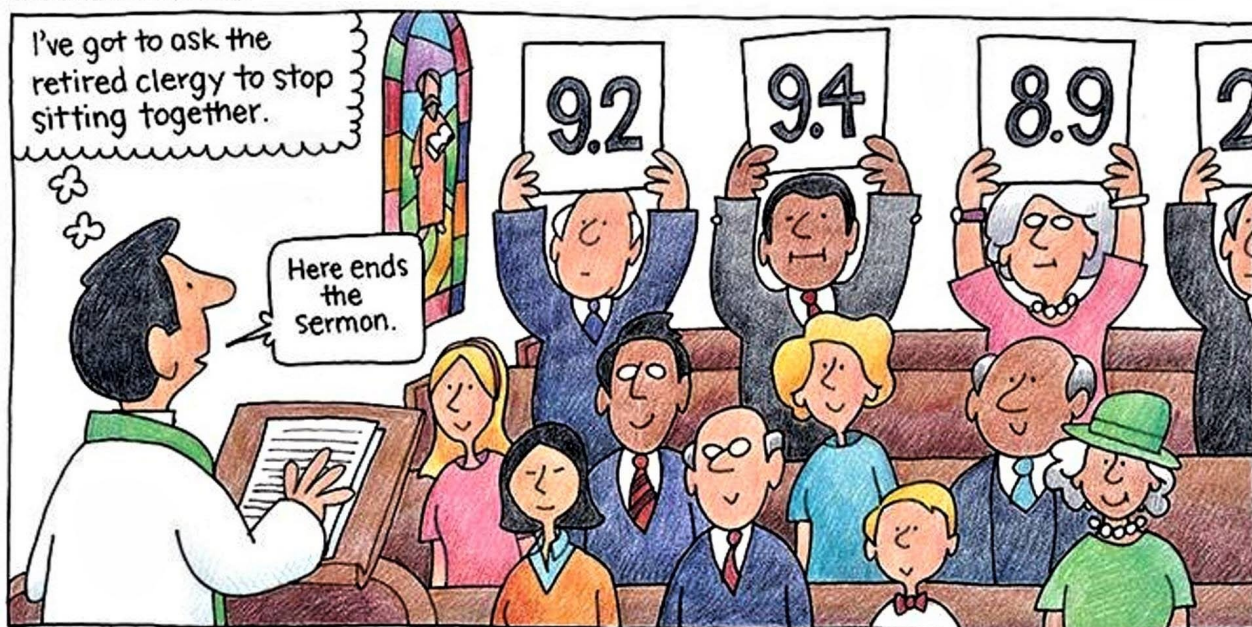
THURSDAY, JULY 10
FELLOWSHIP HALL
BREAKFAST SERVED
AT 6:45 AM

UNITED METHODIST
MEN





SERMON REVIEWS



Calling All Members!

Hello, fellow members of First United Methodist Church (FUMC)! My name is Gary Beets, and I am currently serving as your chair on the Finance Committee. My wife Mary and I are new to the church, so I suppose I should start with a brief introduction. I was baptized in a Methodist church as a small child. My parents attended church on major holidays, such as Easter and Christmas. After a while, even that attendance ended, and I had not been affiliated with a church of any denomination for 70 years. My wife and I moved to Manhattan, KS in 2023, after selling our small ranch in Colorado. Upon arriving in Manhattan, we decided to seek out a church.

So why FUMC now? Well, there is another story behind that, but I will not belabor it as part of this article. I can simply say that a couple of my prayers were answered, and I felt the need to return the favor by attending church. As I had been baptized Methodist, there was a natural inclination to look first at Methodist churches. Upon my first glimpse of the FUMC building, I somehow knew this was going to be the place for me!

The size of the church building, coupled with the old stone façade, told me it was a grand place that has weathered the test of time, people, and events. The current building is one hundred years old this year! I recently learned that the original church was established in 1855, which means that the church has had a presence in Manhattan for 170 years! This predates the Civil War and the two World Wars. If only the historical documents, walls, and pews of the church could talk; imagine the stories they could tell!

For me, this is exactly the kind of church I was looking for and desiring to be associated with... a church with history, character, strength, goodwill, and endurance to stand up to time, events, and challenges. FUMC serves as the connection between God and Jesus Christ and the community in which we live and raise our families. Tested over time, it has been that way

for 170 years! Someone once said, "America is great because America is good. When America ceases to be good, it will cease to be great." We can easily substitute FUMC into this saying with "FUMC is great because it is good. When FUMC ceases to be good, it will cease to be great." "Good" in the context of this saying refers to the level of goodwill and support that stems from the church's congregation.

In doing a little research on the church's long history, I found that our church has met its obligations, including apportionments, each year of its existence. That is a tremendous record that demonstrates how a unified goodwill-minded congregation has consistently supported FUMC's focus on conducting God's work within our community.

Fast forward to today..... as chair of the Finance Committee, we find ourselves facing a steep hill to climb if we are to come close to raising enough revenue to match the budget. The operating areas of the church are prudently looking at expenses in terms of "need to have" versus "nice to have." This has the potential effect of bringing expenditures in under budget. While this may help, it will not be nearly enough to address the projected shortfall.

More importantly, significantly coming in under budget means that some FUMC outreach activities/missions and apportionments may not be funded fully, which in turn means that these activities/missions may not fully meet the needs of those they serve.

We find ourselves standing on the shoulders of almost two centuries of FUMC members who came before us. It is now our turn to step up to meet the needs of the church and our community. I invite you to think about Giving and the good that can come from it.

FUMC is Great because it is Good. Let us work together to keep it that way!

Gary Beets

*"We find ourselves
standing on the
shoulders
of almost two
centuries
of FUMC members
who came before us."*

A FAITHFUL REVIEW: AGREED UPON PROCEDURES RESULTS

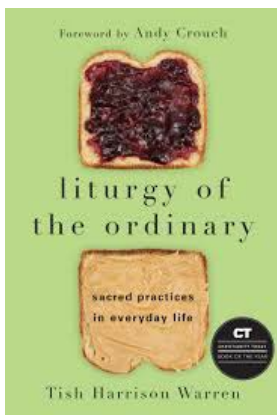
General Conference of United Methodists adopted a recommended procedure to follow regarding Methodist Churches in the U.S. Following that the Great Plains Conference sent out the recommended procedures for churches in our conference of various sizes as defined by revenue size.

For our church, it was recommended that we either have full audit performed by a CPA firm (estimated cost \$25K), or have Agreed Upon Procedures tested by a CPA firm (estimated cost \$6K) once every two years. The Finance Committee decided in 2024 to use the AUP procedures, annually, and to have it performed by Sink Gordon & Associates during the year 2025. The AUP sent out by our Conference listed nine procedures to be tested.

Sink Gordon & Associates have completed the testing of those procedures and issued a report which is located in the church office. We are pleased to report that in all the tests performed the only exceptions noted were that one offering cash count report could not be located, one journal entry posted did not have appropriate documentation (both of which occurred under previous personnel), two outstanding checks written six months ago have not cleared bank and that we look at different ways or procedures in posting of giving records. The CPA's noted, it will be difficult given the way the procedures are written and with the Discipline requiring the Financial Secretary's responsibilities to the giving records for this procedure test to be satisfied without exception given the size of church staff. All other tests were performed without any noted exceptions.

Given that this is the first time these testing procedures were performed for us and that the testing procedures were performed on transactions during the year 2024, Noni's first partial year at our church is a proud time for us. The Finance Committee, Noni, Pastors and volunteers who have been involved in various financial related procedures should all be congratulated!

Frank Laubhan
Church Treasurer



LOOKING FOR A SUMMER BOOK TO REFRESH YOUR SOUL?

**Try reading, "Liturgy of the Ordinary"
by Tish Harrison Warren**

It invites you to find God in your everyday routines. From brushing your teeth to checking email.

Deep, gentle, and full of grace. Perfect for slow summer days.

GROCERIES FOR GOD DILLONS COMMUNITY REWARDS



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.

As a point of update, the Church Council oversees all money received for Groceries for God. In the past year they have voted to approve the following expenditures:

- Chicken for the KSU Men's basketball dinner
- Generational Speaker Dinner
- Chicken for the KSU Women's volleyball dinner
- Updating the church AED
- Purchase of a new computer for the senior pastor
- Purchases made for the Organ Dedication reception
- Printing of the Christmas Eve bulletins

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.



First United Methodist Church
Manhattan, Kansas

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Manhattan, KS 66502-6041

Pastors: Donna VotEAU, Courtney Fellers
Editor: Cathlene Higgins

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**HAPPY [4TH OF JULY]
INDEPENDENCE
DAY**



Today we celebrate the birth of our nation and the freedom that we enjoy as a result. Let us take a moment to reflect on the sacrifices made by those who came before us, and to honor their memory by continuing to uphold the ideals of liberty and justice for all.