



# First United Methodist Church

Manhattan, Kansas

CONNECTING to Christ | GROWING in Community | SERVING the World



VOLUME 94 | NO. 3 | MARCH 2026

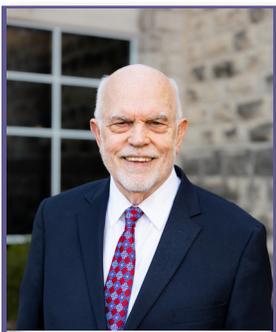
You will no doubt know of "The Geezers" a group of saints, living out part of their membership vows (prayers, presence, gifts, service, and witness) as Fred Caldwell directs them to varying projects around the church. They all, even literally as it turns out, throw their hats in the ring and get to it - What a gift!

Their gift led me to think about service, and our appreciation of it, more broadly. I believe that it was during the first Gulf War when people began thanking soldiers for their service. At the same time, there was a movement to look back to Vietnam veterans and include them in thanks as well. From then to this day, whenever I show my military ID for one reason or another, someone invariably says, "Thank you for your service."



The thanks are appreciated, but it always causes me to wonder about those who, for whatever reason, don't regularly receive our thanks for their service. A quick thought reveals any number of persons whose service I can appreciate and be thankful for: educators who dedicate their lives to the enrichment of students at all levels, public safety officers who, no less than soldiers, place themselves in harm's way on our behalf, public servants, elected and unelected, who seek the best for us while often getting an earful of the worst of us, medical professionals who understand that healing is a calling no less than a profession, legal professionals who seek justice without fear or favor. The list is really endless of those who provide, support, protect, and enrich our lives.

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My guess is that if you stop and think about your own life, you will realize two things: First, that the list of those to whom you owe thanks is beyond your knowing, and second, that your faithful service, to family, country, community, church means there are others who are thankful for you - some of whom you may not even know.

Life in a thankful world. Sounds wonderful! "Thanks for YOUR service this day and always."

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.

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](mailto: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](mailto:fumc@fumcmanhattan.com).



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# MARCH HAPPENINGS



**SATURDAY, MARCH 7, THUNDERING CATS BIG BAND CONCERT, 7:00 pm** – The Golden Age of Swing (A Tribute to Glenn Miller). Get ready for the high-energy sounds of the Thundering Cats in the FUMC Sanctuary! Directed by Dr. Frederick Burrack, this dynamic ensemble showcases talented local musicians and features community vocalists performing classic big band hits – complete with blazing trumpets, walking bass lines, and the kind of swing that makes you want to snap along. This special evening celebrates the timeless music of the swing era and is a Benefit Concert for the KSU Wesley House (free will offering encouraged).



**THURSDAY, MARCH 12, THE UNITED METHODIST MEN, 6:45 am.**

The UMM invite you to their monthly breakfast at 6:45 a.m. in the Church Fellowship Hall. This month's guest speaker will be Brady Kappelmann, Kansas State University Student Body President, who will share about student leadership and life on campus. Come enjoy a great breakfast, meaningful conversation, and an engaging program. All are welcome—no matter your age or gender—we would love to see you there!

FIRST UNITED  
METHODIST CHURCH  
MANHATTAN, KANSAS  
**Food Pantry**



**MARCH DONATION REQUEST - SPAGHETTIOS AND RAMEN**

The **FUMC FOOD PANTRY** continues to serve neighbors in our community by offering a welcoming place to shop for needed groceries, with church volunteers helping stock shelves and assisting guests each week. During the month of March, we are collecting SpaghettiOs and Ramen Noodles to help keep these popular items on hand. Donations may be placed in the bin marked “Food Pantry” located in the Connecting Link. Thank you for helping us care for our community in this simple and meaningful way.



**SMILE FOR THE CAMERA!**

We continue our effort to update the church database. Over the coming months, Cathlene will be taking photos of those serving on committees, groups, and members. This will happen at convenient times, such as before meetings or during church events. Photos take just a few seconds and help make our online directory even better but also help staff and volunteers put names with faces and help all of us stay better connected as a church family. Thank you for your help and patience as this important work continues.

**TIME CHANGE COMING UP...**

**MARCH 8, 2026 AT 2AM**



# FUMC EASTER SCHEDULE



**Sunday,  
March 29**

## **Palm Sunday**

Children and youth are invited to participate in the palm parade before both services

**Thursday,  
April 2**

## **Maunday Thursday**

7:00 pm, Worship in the Sanctuary

**Friday,  
April 3**

## **Good Friday**

7:00 pm, Worship in the Sanctuary

**Sunday,  
April 5**

## **Easter Sunday**

8:45 am, Contemporary Worship

9:45 am, Fellowship Time

Join us in the Courtyard for a special Easter Sunday coffee and snack

10:00 am, Easter Egg Hunt

The hunt will be held in the Courtyard on Poyntz Ave. All Children are invited to participate in the hunt. Please bring your own Easter Basket

10:30 am, Festive Music Prelude

A special time of uplifting music celebrating the joy and hope of the Resurrection. Come early to quiet your heart, reflect, and prepare for worship.

11:00 am, Traditional Service



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

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

## First Families March 1<sup>st</sup>

Join us in Fellowship Hall to test your luck at solving the puzzles to open the locks.

Kids - Bring your Sunglasses for a fun surprise.

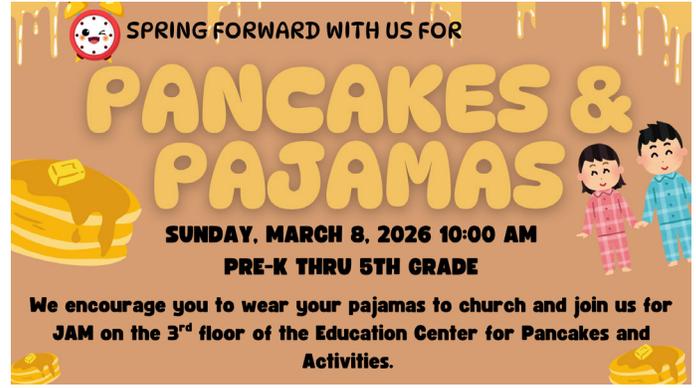


## PANCAKES & PAJAMAS

SPRING FORWARD WITH US FOR

**SUNDAY, MARCH 8, 2026 10:00 AM**  
**PRE-K THRU 5TH GRADE**

We encourage you to wear your pajamas to church and join us for JAM on the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor of the Education Center for Pancakes and Activities.



## PALM SUNDAY

MARCH 29

Children of all ages are invited to join us in fellowship hall 10 minutes prior to each Church Service to help us wave palm branches

STUDENT & FAMILY MINISTRIES



## EASTER SUNDAY

APRIL 5<sup>TH</sup>

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.

J.A.M. Jesus and me

Questions: children@fumcmanhattan.com



## TAKING REGISTRATIONS NOW



JOIN US FOR THIS AMAZING 3-DAY YOUTH EVENT. . .

- DYNAMIC WORKSHOPS AND SPEAKERS
- POWERFUL WORSHIP SERVICES
- DEDICATED YOUTH FELLOWSHIP TIME
- RECORD-BREAKING COASTERS AND RIDES

CONTACT JEFF CUNNINGHAM TO REGISTER  
YOUTH@FUMCMANHATTAN.COM



# You're invited to Join a United Women in Faith Circle

- **Koinonia Circle** - 4th Wednesday at 6:30 pm, various locations  
Contact *Amy Bipes*, amybipes19@gmail.com
- **Current Issues** - 3rd Tuesday at 9:15 am in the Church Library  
Contact *Linda Beech*, lbeech@ksu.edu  
or *Diana Cunningham*, keithdi@sbcglobal.net
- **Naomi Circle** - 2nd Wednesday at 10 am at Meadowlark Hills  
Contact *Shirley Van Der Stelt*, 785-539-7220
- **Simply Circle** - TBD Young Professionals  
Contact *Jill Sherman*, 620-786-9360

Or contact us at [uwf@fumcmanhattan.com](mailto:uwf@fumcmanhattan.com)

## 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	
<b>January 2026</b>	<b>351</b>	<b>361</b>	<b>269</b>	<b>312</b>	<b>Snow cancelled one service</b>

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

## Scripture Focus for March

**"Be still, and know that I am God."**

**Psalm 46:10**

Lent is a time to slow down. It asks us to pause, to simplify, and to sit with God.

I find this very hard to do, because stillness is not my spiritual gift. Forty days plus Sundays is a long time to be quiet. I am a work in progress, and so, for the first time in a long time, I actually gave something up for Lent. I'm not sharing what—Pastor Mike reminded us that God calls us to go behind closed doors when we pray and when we fast—but I am learning that this freed-up time is meant to be spent with God, and that even small moments of intentional stillness can help the soul begin to find its center.

Recently, Pastor Courtney shared a line from a book she is reading that put this into perspective for me. The line reads,

**“the spiritual law of gravity ensures  
that the chaos of the human soul will settle if it sits still long enough.”**

Strengthening the Soul of Your Leadership, written by Ruth Haley Barton, reflects on Moses and his time in the wilderness. Moses did not enter the wilderness with a calm spirit or a clear plan. He entered it after mistakes, fear, and running for his life. And then he stayed—not for a weekend or a quick reset—but long enough for the noise to settle and for God to reshape his understanding of who God was and who Moses was becoming.

I wonder if Lent is our invitation into that same kind of wilderness. Not a place of punishment or boredom, but a place where the soul can finally quiet itself. I am excellent at keeping busy—fixing things, planning, filling every quiet moment with noise—anything to avoid stillness. Lent does not let me get away with that. It calls me to stop, to breathe, and to let God work beneath the surface.

That is why Psalm 46:10 resonates so deeply during this season: “Be still, and know that I am God.” It is not just a suggestion. It is a command that refuses to be ignored, a reminder that stillness is where God meets us. Stillness is not laziness or disengagement. It is trust. When I stop striving, the soul settles. When the soul settles, God has room to speak.

Moses did not leave the wilderness unchanged. Lent reminds us that neither will we, if we are willing to stay long enough. Clarity does not come from doing more. Sometimes it comes from sitting quietly until the dust finally falls.

This Lenten season invites us to notice where God is asking us to stop. Where might the chaos of our souls finally settle if we gave it a little stillness? Could it be five minutes of quiet in the morning, a walk without your phone, or a pause before rushing to the next thing? I am still learning this myself, but I am starting to see that when I stop striving and let God in, even for a little while, clarity comes. The dust falls. The soul settles. And God meets us there, exactly where we are.

Sit. Be still. Listen. God is here.

Cathlene Higgins, Connections Coordinator  
chiggins@fumcmannhattan.com



**FIRST UNITED METHODIST**

# **PRESCHOOL**

**AND CHILDREN'S DAY OUT**

2026-2027 Priority enrollment for church members and currently enrolled families opens 2/23/26

Contact Lindsay Kinsinger for more information!



Play-based learning



Developmentally appropriate curriculum



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Our experienced teachers and research based curriculum offer children the opportunity to learn and grow in a safe, nurturing environment.

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Options to attend 2 days, 3 days, or 4 days per week  
9:00 am - 1:00 pm.



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**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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MANHATTAN, KS  
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**Midweek Renewal**  
Wednesdays  
★ Dinner at 5:30 pm  
★ Small Groups at 6:30 pm

A midweek opportunity for the whole family to pause, connect, and be renewed