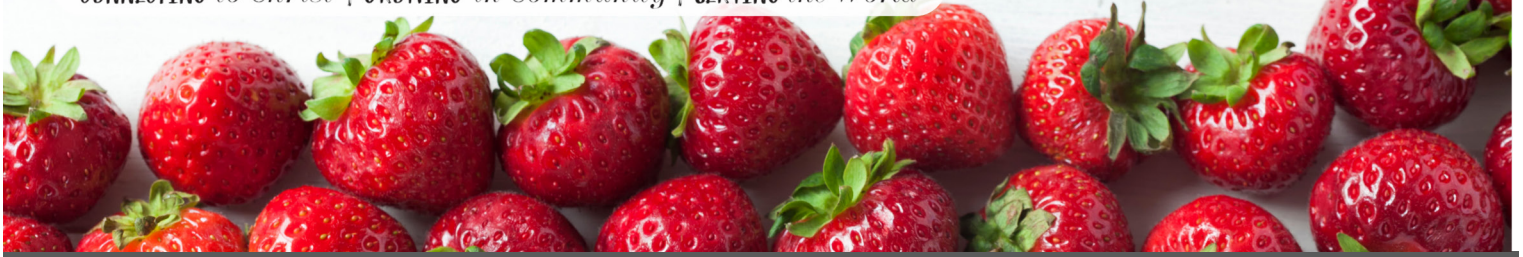




# First United Methodist Church

Manhattan, Kansas

CONNECTING to Christ | GROWING in Community | SERVING the World



VOLUME 94 | NO. 5 | MAY 2026

Jeff and I just finished talking about how May, right after December, has to be the busiest month of the year. I have lived long enough — in a military family, in parish ministry, and now just trying to keep up with the lawn — to believe that with my whole heart.

December, of course, gets all the sympathy. People talk about the holiday rush with a kind of weary solidarity. But May? May sneaks up on you wearing a graduation gown and a wedding veil, hauling a grill out of the garage, and handing you a moving box — all at the same time.

In parish life, May is not really Spring. It is the time of confirmations, senior celebrations, weddings, wind-downs, spin-ups... It is the last push before summer schedules scatter the congregation like dandelion seeds in a strong wind. And behind all of it, quietly, is the question every busy season eventually raises: Are we present to what we are rushing through?

There is a moment in the sixth chapter of Matthew — tucked right into the Sermon on the Mount — where Jesus says, simply, "Seek first the kingdom of God." Not second. Not eventually. Not after the graduation party and before the vacation. First. It is either the most impractical advice ever given, or the most practical — depending on whether you believe it.

May is glorious. The weddings and graduations are real reasons for joy. The grill coming out of storage is one of the great small pleasures of life. But the invitation underneath all of it — the one that does not show up on the calendar — is to notice what is holy in the hurry.



So here is a gentle pastoral challenge for the month: Before May is over, find one moment to stop. Just stop. Let the noise settle for a few minutes. Give thanks for whoever is graduating, whoever is getting married, whoever is moving on — and whoever is staying put. Then go fire up the grill (or find someone to fire one up for you).

Grace and peace to you in this beautiful, maddening, wonderful month.

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, May 25 in recognition of Memorial Day.**

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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[www.fumcmanhattan.com](http://www.fumcmanhattan.com) | [fumc@fumcmanhattan.com](mailto:fumc@fumcmanhattan.com) | 785-776-8821

# Pathways

Celebrate Mothers!  
Bring your mother,  
children, grandchildren,  
friends and Let's Walk!



All ages and  
fitness levels are  
welcome

This new ministry is  
sponsored by  
United Women in Faith.

Questions?

Call the church, 785-776-8821



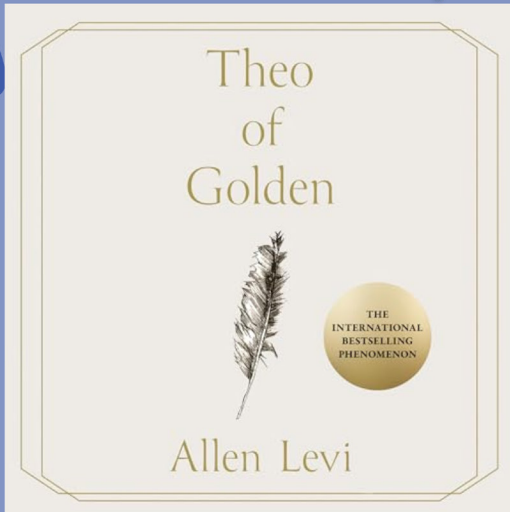
WALK,  
BREATHE,  
RECHARGE

SATURDAY  
MAY 9

9:30 AM

101 KONZA PRAIRIE LANE  
OFF MCDOWELL CREEK  
ROAD

Summer Book Group led by Pastor Courtney  
June 16, 30 July 14, 28  
6pm in The Library



BOOK  
GROUP  
"THEO OF GOLDEN"

Please purchase your own copy of the  
book and begin reading it now!  
Sign up on the church website.



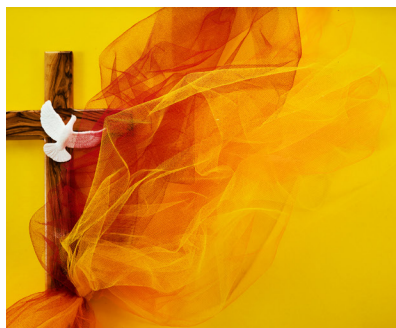


**YOUNG CHRISTIANS WEEKEND**  
**MARCH 27 - 29, 2026**





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



## Confirmation May 3, 2026

You're invited to a joyful morning of celebration as we honor our confirmation class!

During fellowship time, please join us for cake and punch as we recognize their accomplishments.

A brief presentation will follow during the discipleship hour, along with more time to celebrate together.

The confirmation ceremony will take place during the 11:00 Traditional service.

We hope you'll be part of this special day!



You're invited to

# GRADUATION CELEBRATION

## Class Of 2026

**SUNDAY, MAY 17TH  
8:45 AND 11:00  
WORSHIP SERVICES**

**WITH A RECEPTION AT  
10:00 AM  
IN FELLOWSHIP HALL**





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

# Student Ministries

**Join us on Sundays for JAM (Jesus and Me) for all ages**

<b>Wednesdays</b>	<b>First Families</b>
Youth Hangout from 3:30 pm-5:30 pm Youth, YUM, & JAM 6:30 pm-7:30 pm Last Wednesday for the summer is May 13th	We will not be having First Families in May but will resume on June 7 <sup>th</sup> so come to JAM on May 3 <sup>rd</sup>
<b>Youth Ministry Events</b>	<b>Children's Ministry Events</b>
May 3 <sup>rd</sup> Confirmation Sunday May 13 <sup>th</sup> Last Day of Youth Hangouts May 17 <sup>th</sup> : Graduation June 3 <sup>rd</sup> Summer Schedule Starts on Wednesdays 3:30 pm - 5:30 pm	May 1 <sup>st</sup> Come to FUMC to go deliver May Day Baskets at 4:30 pm June 15-21 Vacation Bible Camp Prep Week-Watch for details on how you can help out. June 22-25 Vacation Bible Camp-Sign up below and come join in on all the fun!

**It's time to sign up for Vacation Bible Camp!  
 June 22 - 25, 2026**



**Sign up by following the QR code to the left**  
[Or click this link now.](#)

# ReNEW VBC

## June 22-25, 2026

Sign-up is now LIVE!

We are also looking for volunteers and supply donations.



Scan to register



## UNITED METHODIST MEN BREAKFAST

**Thursday, May 14**  
**6:45 am, Fellowship Hall**

Guest Speaker  
Brend King, Milling Science



## Scripture Focus for May

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**"Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up"**

**Galatians 6:9**

May always feels like a month of transition. The school year is wrapping up, graduation celebrations begin, family calendars start filling with summer plans, and the pace of life seems to shift almost overnight. For some people, that change brings excitement. For others, it can feel a little overwhelming. If I am being honest, I have never been someone who looks forward to summer. I know many people love the sunshine and the long days, but I usually start dreading the heat before summer even arrives. Kansas heat has a way of settling in and staying longer than I would like, and every year I find myself wishing for cooler mornings and shorter afternoons.

Even so, there is something about this verse from Galatians that feels right for this time of year. Paul writes, "Let us not become weary in doing good." Those words speak to something many of us understand. Sometimes doing good can feel tiring. Sometimes caring for others can feel tiring. Sometimes simply showing up day after day can feel tiring. Most of us do not grow weary because we do not care. We grow weary because we care deeply.

We grow weary when we keep praying for someone we love and do not see answers right away, when we continue serving others and wonder if anyone notices, and when we try to keep faith in the middle of ordinary life that feels anything but easy. That is what makes this verse so comforting. Scripture does not pretend that doing good is always easy. It does not tell us that faithful living always feels joyful. Instead, it gently reminds us not to give up.

Some of the most important things we do in life happen quietly. A kind word, a meal shared, a note sent, a prayer whispered, a hand held in a hospital room, a lesson taught to a child, a choir rehearsal, a visit with a lonely friend, or a simple act of patience when no one else sees. These things may not seem dramatic, but in God's hands they become seeds.

And seeds often take time.

That may be one of the hardest lessons for me. I like quick results. I like to know that something made a difference. I like to see the harvest right after planting. But life rarely works that way. Faith rarely works that way. We often spend long seasons planting before we ever see what God is growing. A harvest does not appear the day after the seed is planted. It comes after time, after care, after patience, and often after more waiting than we would choose for ourselves. The farmer trusts that even when nothing seems to be happening above the ground, something important is still happening underneath.

There are seasons when it seems as if nothing is changing. There are moments when our efforts seem small. There are days when kindness feels unnoticed. There are times when our prayers seem to echo back in silence. Yet God reminds us that goodness is never wasted. Nothing offered in love is ever lost.

Even in seasons we do not particularly enjoy, God can still do beautiful work. That may be true of summer too. Even though I may complain about the heat, summer still brings its own kind of blessing. It slows some things down. It gives families time together. It fills the church with mission trips, Camp, fellowship, and moments that remind us that life is still growing all around us. Sometimes the seasons we would not choose for ourselves still carry gifts we would have missed otherwise.

Perhaps that is part of what Galatians is telling us. Keep going, keep loving, keep serving, keep praying, and keep trusting. Because in ways we cannot always see, God is still bringing growth.

As we move into this new season, may we remember that even when we feel tired, even when the days feel long, and even when the heat of life feels heavy, God is still at work. And in His perfect time, the harvest will come.

# Church News and Notes



	In Person weekly averages	Facebook monthly average	Youtube monthly average	Website monthly average	Notes
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 2025	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	3 weeks due to snow storm
February 2026	246	262	261	223	
March 2026	356	321	303	291	

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



## Flint Hills Masterworks Chorale Spring Concert Wednesday, May 6 at 6:00 pm Forum Hall, K-State Student Union

Experience an inspiring evening of choral music as the Flint Hills Masterworks Chorale presents John Rutter’s Mass of the Children. This special joint performance will feature the Flint Hills Masterworks Chorale, conducted by Alex Trout, together with the Flint Hills Youth Choir under the direction of Janie Brokenicky.

For questions, email [masterworksmhk@gmail.com](mailto:masterworksmhk@gmail.com).



## The Rockhill String Quartet of Kansas City Wednesday, May 20 at 7:30 pm Sanctuary

We are thrilled to welcome the Rockhill String Quartet of Kansas City for a special performance in our sanctuary. Their exceptional talent and beautifully blended sound promise an evening of inspiring music, rich harmonies, and remarkable artistry. Join us for a memorable musical experience that will uplift the spirit and delight the heart.



# Pad the Pantry

CANNED CHICKEN

and

CRACKERS

Each week, families in our area rely on the pantry for basic food items, and we want to make sure our shelves remain stocked so we can continue to serve those in need. Donations may be placed in the pantry bin located in the Connecting Link. Every item donated helps us extend care and compassion to our neighbors. Thank you for helping us continue this ministry of kindness in our community.

## Spring Flute Choir Concert

Sunday, May 3

4:00 p.m.

In the Link  
First United Methodist Church

# Easter 2026







**First United Methodist Church**  
Manhattan, Kansas

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Editor: Cathlene Higgins

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