



First United Methodist Church

Manhattan, Kansas

CONNECTING to Christ | GROWING in Community | SERVING the World

VOLUME 94 | NO. 6 | JUNE 2026

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.

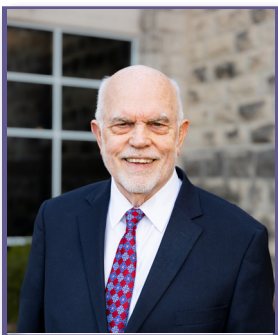
When the newsletter is available, you will receive a notification via email with a link to our website. If you prefer to receive a paper copy in the mail, please contact the office at 785-776-8821. If you have items for the bulletin, website, or Sunday morning worship screens, those should also be sent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

Today in our staff meeting, we talked about excess things stored in various spots in the church and what we might need to do with it since there was a request for one of the areas to be cleaned out and re-purposed. It's a funny but predictable thing that no matter what church you visit, it is guaranteed that there will be a space (or spaces) that are unusable because they filled with items saved "just in case," or retained because Ms. Jones donated them, or because they are a reminder of a hard decision and taking them out now would open old wounds. Big or small we are all very much alike.

A lot of relocation takes place in June as the school year ends, so maybe that's why the staff conversation stuck with me. As an Army brat, a soldier, and a pastor, I have more or less lived my entire life on the move. Hanging on to "stuff" that wasn't being used but needed to be carried from post to post or parsonage to parsonage never made much sense. When an unopened moving box with three different movers' stickers turns up, you know that a quick trip to Goodwill is in the offing.

Of course, we all accumulate more than physical "stuff" don't we? We accumulate successes, and friends, and accomplishments, and well-being—all things to be cherished. But we can also accumulate hurts, and grudges, and disappointments—all things that land in our mental and spiritual "junk rooms," eating up space and cluttering up our lives.

Perhaps moving month is a perfect time to do a quick inventory of all our "stuff" to see what needs to be moved out or left behind. Ironically, "good will" seems to be the answer regardless of whether the "stuff" is in our garage or in our heart.



Pax, Mike

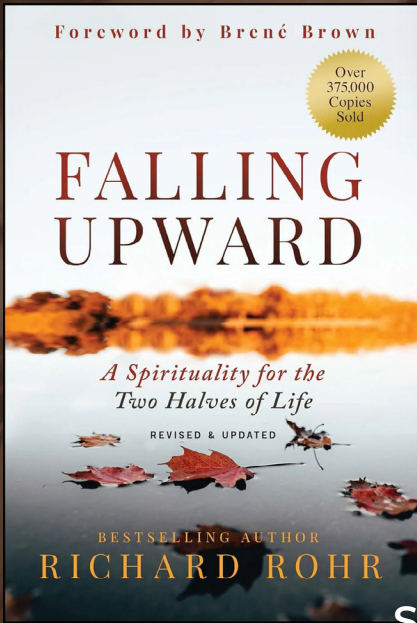


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Manhattan, Kansas

www.fumcmanhattan.com | fumc@fumcmanhattan.com |

785-776-8821



Book study

WITH PASTOR MIKE

Join Pastor Mike this summer as he takes us through Richard Rohr's book "Falling Upward".

"People at any age need to understand the arc and trajectory of their lives. Whatever stage you are in today, this book will help you more deeply understand your life's journey."

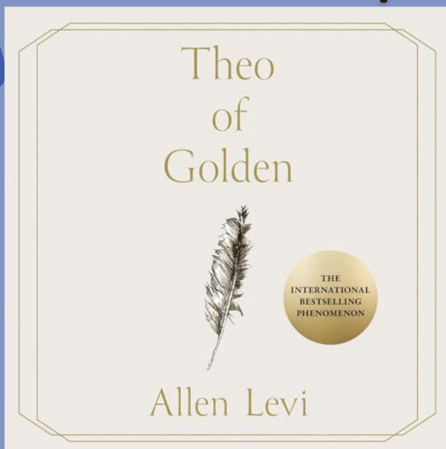
Wednesdays 10 am -11 am

Session 1 (The First Half of Life): June 10 - July 8

Session 2 (The Second Half of Life): August 5 - August 26

Reading Together. *Growing Together.*

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.

JUNE

mission focus

Our church food pantry is one small but meaningful way we care for neighbors in our community who may be struggling to provide food for themselves or their families. Open each Wednesday from 9:00–11:30 a.m. in the Alan Lee Building, the pantry offers assistance to those in need and reminds us that even simple acts of generosity can make a real difference.

As gardening season begins, we invite you to plant with generosity in mind. Consider setting aside a few extra plants or rows in your garden specifically for donation, such as tomatoes, green beans, peppers, zucchini, or other fresh produce that can be shared with pantry guests. You don't need a large garden to participate; even a few extra items are a gift. If your garden produces more than your family can use, we encourage you to bring those extra fruits and vegetables to the food pantry rather than letting them go to waste. Fresh, homegrown produce is a wonderful blessing for those we serve and is always deeply appreciated. It is especially appreciated because it is often the hardest item for families to access regularly.

If gardening is not your thing, nonperishable food donations are also greatly appreciated and may be placed in the bin labeled "Food Pantry" in the Connecting Link. Our June "Pad the Pantry" requests are bottles of ketchup and small jars of mayonnaise. When we share what we grow, we share more than food, we share care and community.



Summer Worship



We will continue our regular schedule of two worship services throughout the summer.

Join us at 8:45 a.m. for our Contemporary Service or at 11:00 a.m. for our Traditional Service as we worship together all summer long.

Save the Date



July 5 @ 3:00 pm
**MILITARY BAND
MUSIC**

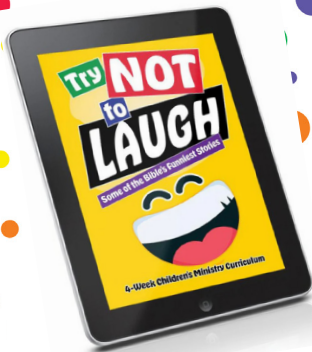
Join us on as we welcome the renowned 1st Infantry Division Band from Fort Riley for a special patriotic performance in the church sanctuary

September 13, Between Services
FALL KICKOFF

It's never too early to plan for the annual Fall Kickoff at church!

September 24 - 27
PRAISEFEST 2026

Praisefest is the largest free Christian music festival in Kansas, bringing together churches and communities for a day of worship, missions, music, food, and family fun. Featuring nationally known Christian artists along with local and regional worship teams like the FUMC Praise Band!



VACATION BIBLE CAMP

JUNE 22 - 25 9AM - 12PM

Get ready for a week of laughter, surprises, and unforgettable Bible adventures at our "Try Not to Laugh" Vacation Bible Camp! Kids will dive into some of the funniest stories in the Bible, from a talking donkey to fiery miracles and even a king caught on a potty break, while discovering powerful truths about frustrating God, obeying Him, and standing strong in faith. Packed with hilarious skits, exciting games, creative crafts, and hands on activities, this camp is designed to keep kids smiling, learning, and talking about Jesus long after the fun is over. Your kids will not want to miss this laugh out loud, faith adventure!

SIGN UP TO LAUGH ALL WEEK

If your child would like to participate, please sign them up by following this QR code.



VOLUNTEER SIGN UP

We need YOU to help make Vacation Bible Camp the funniest and most faith FUN week of the summer! From games and crafts to snacks and silly skits, there is a place for everyone to jump in and make a difference. Sign up to volunteer and help kids laugh, learn, and grow in God's love!



DONATIONS NEEDED

If you can help donate, snacks or craft supplies, please contact Misti LeMoine at children@fumcmanhattan.com.

WORSHIP ATTENDANCE

	In Person weekly averages	Facebook monthly average	Youtube monthly average	Website monthly average	Notes
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	
April 2026	388	374	400	259	

*New Website, prior numbers not available.

Facebook numbers are views over one minute.

United Methodist Men Breakfast

JUNE 11, 6:45 AM



GUEST SPEAKERS
DAVE ROMERO AND DAVE MACK

Join the United Methodist Men for their monthly breakfast gathering. We will be hearing from Dave Mack and Dave Romero, the co-presidents of Praisefest.

Praisefest is the largest, free, outdoor Christian music festival in Kansas. Mark your calendar for September 26th and join us at Cico Park for a day of worship with headliner Megan Woods.

Dave and Dave will be sharing a little bit about their experience running this ministry and how it continues to impact Manhattan.



Scripture Focus for June

"Taste and see that the Lord is good"

Psalm 34:8

I love that this verse uses the word taste. Not "analyze" or "study" or even just "believe." Taste. It's personal. It's something you have to do yourself.

What's interesting is where David was when he wrote this. He wasn't sitting in a comfortable place reflecting on how well life was going. He was running for his life from King Saul, scared, and honestly, at one point he had to pretend to be out of his mind just to get out of a dangerous situation. I read that and thought, okay, some days I might actually relate to that more than I'd like to admit.

And yet, right in the middle of all of that, he writes a psalm about how good God is. Not because everything was fine. But because God was still faithful even when things weren't. That sticks with me. Because it's easy to notice God's goodness when life is going smoothly. It's a different thing to look for it when you're stressed, or stretched thin, or just worn out. But David's point seems to be that it's still there. You just have to slow down enough to actually taste it. For me, that sometimes looks like a meal that brought people together. A garden that grew more than I expected. A month where somehow we had just enough. Small things, maybe. But real ones.

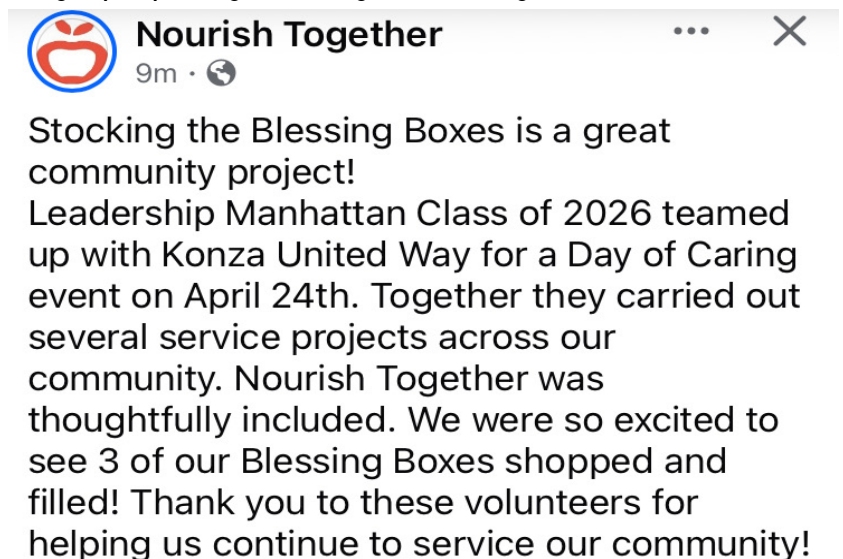
And here's the part I keep coming back to. We don't just get to receive that goodness. We get to pass it on. When we share what we have, when we notice someone else's need and do something about it, we're actually helping someone else have their own "taste and see" moment.

That's what our food pantry is about, when you get right down to it. A bag of groceries. Some garden produce. A small act of generosity. It doesn't sound like much, but for someone who's struggling, it can be a very real reminder that God sees them and cares.

We even got to see this lived out recently right here in our own community. Take a look at the photo to the right. That is "taste and see" in action, people showing up, stocking our Blessing Boxes, and making sure our neighbors have what they need. It is a great reminder that God's goodness often comes through the hands of others, sometimes people we have never even met.

This month, I hope we all find a way to help somebody else taste it.

Cathlene Higgins, Connections Coordinator



Nourish Together
9m · 🌐

Stocking the Blessing Boxes is a great community project! Leadership Manhattan Class of 2026 teamed up with Konza United Way for a Day of Caring event on April 24th. Together they carried out several service projects across our community. Nourish Together was thoughtfully included. We were so excited to see 3 of our Blessing Boxes shopped and filled! Thank you to these volunteers for helping us continue to service our community!



Sponsored by United
Women in Faith



SAT. JUNE 13 @ 9:30

PATHWAYS WALKING GROUP

Roger Schultz Community Park
801 Loma Ridge Dr. (Park off Miller Parkway)

We Love our GEEZERS!



GEEZER TASKS

I often hear the question, "What do the Geezers do?". I find myself momentarily at a loss for an adequate answer even though I am their supervisor. Therefore, I have compiled this list of weekly, frequently occurring, and infrequently occurring tasks accomplished by the Geezers for the benefit of the church. Fred Caldwell

- Collecting/taking items to Recycling Center
- Replacing burned out light bulbs
- Replacing damaged ceiling tiles
- Repairing pre-school toys & furniture
- Assembling new furniture
- Preparing Fellowship Hall for dinners
- Moving furniture in general
- Repairing/adjusting pre-school fence gates
- Painting curbs, handrails, step edges
- Trimming trees & shrubs
- Routine vehicle maintenance
- Move holiday decorations in/out of storage
- Replace broken outlet/switch plate covers
- Replace stained carpet tile
- Check Fire Extinguishers & Emergency lights
- Hang Dry Erase, Cork, Bulletin Boards
- Install parking lot & pre-school fence signs
- Repair door closer mechanisms & hinges

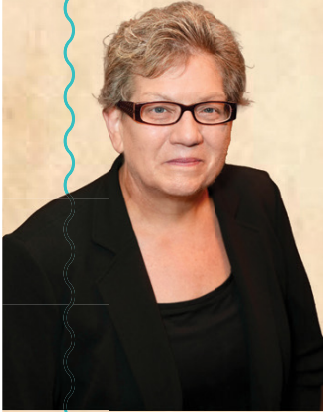
- Build Activity Board for Kid's Sunday School
- Repair damaged sheet rock wall & repaint
- Make sign for Food Pantry
- Repair concrete step
- Install motion activated light switches
- Install Ring Doorbell at the Parsonage
- Repair the Parsonage Garage siding
- Replace a Parsonage window screen
- Spot paint various pre-school rooms
- Build the Audio/Video Control Room
- Build the Food Pantry room wall
- Repair the Kitchen floor
- Fill parking lot potholes
- Convert Sanctuary ceiling lights to LED
- Rake leaves
- Clean leaves out of window wells
- Deploy & store ice melt containers
- Sand, stain, polyurethane woodwork
- Build shelves
- Install room numbers for entire campus
- Put yellow tape on front edge of choir risers
- Do minor plumbing repairs
- Install child locks on pre-school drawers
- Build a pre-school sand box & a playhouse
- Redistribute and rake level the pre-school sand playground
- Lubricate locks & hinges across entire campus
- Maintain water seal in floor drains p-traps
- Replace installed door stops when needed
- Mount pre-school key box & coat hooks on wall

And be available for an "Ad Hoc" labor force every Tuesday morning as needed. This group does it all!

Fred Caldwell, Director of Buildings

RETIRED

**DOING WHAT I WANT.
WHEN I WANT.**



Rev. Donna VotEAU

COME CELEBRATE AS REV. D SAYS

GOODBYE

after 47 YEARS

RETIREMENT COME & GO PARTY

2-4 pm Saturday, June 6

Aldersgate UMC

15315 W. 151st, Olathe, KS

PLEASE BRING A MEMORY TO SHARE





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.





Profreaders Needed Before I Accidentally Rewrite Scripture

I am looking for a few extra sets of eyes to help proofread our weekly Sunday bulletin and monthly church newsletter before they go out. Even with careful editing, little typos and missing details sometimes slip through. A few more volunteers willing to quickly read through them from home would be a huge help.

This is an easy, flexible way to volunteer that only takes a small amount of time from your couch each week or month. It is perfect for teachers on summer break, grammar lovers, detail spotters, or anyone who enjoys the English language and all its strange exceptions. If you would be interested in helping occasionally with proofreading or offering suggestions, please contact Cathlene at chiggins@fumcmanhattan.com. Your help would truly make a difference! *If you caught the typo you are qualified for the job!



We had a great time celebrating the Confirmation of 13 wonderful young people. Their hard work and dedication has paid off and we are honored to have them as new adults in the Methodist church.

Thank you to the Geezers for their faithful care in keeping our church campus clean and safe. After the May 18 storm brought down a couple of trees and left debris across the grounds, they had everything cleaned up in just one morning.



Music That Moves Us: Recent Performances at FUMC

Music at FUMC is a meaningful part of our life together, and our congregation truly values and enjoys great music. We are grateful for the wide variety of musical styles and the talented musicians who share their gifts with us throughout the year. Recently, we have been especially blessed to welcome four outstanding groups to our church, each bringing their own unique sound and helping fill our sanctuary with uplifting and memorable music.

Right: Bradley Welch on April 19

Below: The KSU Brass on April 21



Right: Flute Choir on May 3

Below: Rockhill String Quartet on May 20



Calling all YOUTH! Looking for a simple way to earn volunteer hours this summer? We could use your help! Grab a friend, crank up the music, and spend a little time each week helping tidy up the sanctuary area. Tasks include simple things like picking up recycling, replacing candles, putting out fresh bulletins, and other easy jobs that help keep our church welcoming and ready for Sunday mornings.

This is a fun, low-stress way to serve the church and make a big difference without taking up a lot of time. Students, families, and anyone willing to lend a hand are welcome! Please contact the church office if you would like to help.





First United Methodist Church
Manhattan, Kansas

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Pastors: Mike Chamberlain, Courtney Fellers
Editor: Cathlene Higgins

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