



First United Methodist Church

Manhattan, Kansas

CONNECTING to Christ | GROWING in Community | SERVING the World

Happy Thanksgiving

VOLUME 94 | NO. 11 | NOVEMBER 2026

With the holidays approaching, I thought you might be interested in this statistic. If you ask Americans to name their favorite holiday, Christmas wins by a huge margin. If you ask which holidays they like, however, Thanksgiving comes out on top. Almost everyone likes it, and hardly anybody dislikes it.

So what does that tell us? Why is Thanksgiving such a well-loved holiday?

One answer, clearly, is that it doesn't carry the stresses we associate with Christmas and with so many other holidays that make demands on us. Thanksgiving comes with very little stress at all. I say that, of course, with a respectful nod to the mothers in the kitchen, or whoever it is preparing the feast!

Thanksgiving is also not a time of commercialization. Unlike Christmas ads, Thanksgiving ads feature travel, gathering, and food. (Black Friday doesn't count. It's really the kickoff of the Christmas season.)

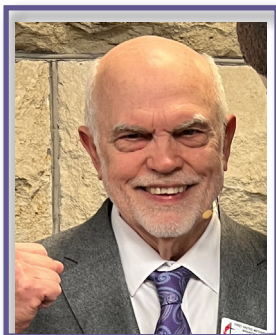
Thanksgiving is a time of gathering. Families sit around the table, and relatives come together from far and wide, sometimes enduring difficult travel and late-November weather. It matters to them. It matters that people are with one another. Stories are told, jokes are told, loved ones are remembered, and there's laughter. There's relationship. There's family. And even when family is very small or very different, we search for ways to gather with others.

Isn't it interesting that when we come together to give thanks, what counts most is people? It is the one indispensable ingredient. There are turkey people and ham people. There are stuffing people and dressing people. There are mashed potato people and scalloped potato people. I even once had dinner with a creamed-onion person —

evidently a New England thing. Whatever the menu, we feast. But what really draws us together isn't what's on the table. It's the love shared by those gathered around it.

As we look forward to Thanksgiving this year, we remember the blessings we have received from a gracious, benevolent, and loving God. The faces we see are expressions of God's love in the world: the faces around the table, and the faces gathered together in the sanctuary for worship. In this moment, we know that we are truly blessed.

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 office will be closed:
Wednesday, Nov. 11
and
Wednesday, Nov. 25 -
Friday, Nov. 27**

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.



First United Methodist Church

Manhattan, Kansas

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

785-776-8821

KSU MENS TEAM MEAL

NOVEMBER 1ST

5:30 PM

ENJOY A MEAL AND MEET THE TEAM AND CO.



**FRIED CHICKEN
WILL BE PROVIDED
BY THE CHURCH.**

**ADDITIONAL MEAT
DISHES, SIDES
AND DESSERTS
ARE POTLUCK.**



**** AN EVENT FOR THE
ENTIRE FAMILY!**



****IMPORTANT**
BRING YOUR OWN
TABLE SERVICE
INCLUDING PLATES,
SILVERWARE/NAPKINS
, & DRINKS.**

FUMC MANHATTAN

COLLEGE LUNCH

FREE FOOD. COME HANG.



NOV 8 • 12:15 PM | **RIGHT AFTER SERVICE
FELLOWSHIP HALL**

ALL COLLEGE STUDENTS WELCOME

A free meal, fellowship,
and a chance to connect.





We're excited to announce that Sew Sisters is expanding at First United Methodist Church!

Sew Sisters is a welcoming group for anyone who enjoys sewing, quilting, crafting, or simply spending time together while using our talents to bless others in our community.

Whether you're an experienced seamstress or just getting started, everyone is welcome! Come sew, learn, share ideas, and enjoy fellowship with other Sew Sisters.

More than just sewing, Sew Sisters is about building friendships, sharing creativity, and putting our hands to work for a good cause. Whether you come with a project in mind or simply want to learn something new, you'll find encouragement, fellowship, and opportunities to make a difference through the gifts we share.

Donations are greatly appreciated! We welcome the following items:

- cotton fabric,
- sewing supplies,
- notions,
- batting,
- thread, and
- other materials that can be used for our projects, or
- monetary donations.

The expanded group will meet on the second Wednesday of each month from 1-4 p.m. in the Alan Lee Building, beginning November 11. (We will not meet in December.) The original Sunday afternoon group will continue to meet as previously scheduled.

If you are interested or have questions, please contact Barb Sollner at (785) 341-3268 or bsollner@gmail.com.

As disciples of Jesus Christ, we are called to grow in our love of God, ourselves, and our neighbors, and from there, to live a life of love. One way we express that love is by caring for one another, especially when life is hard. We have the privilege of walking together as sources of light, love, support, and care. None of us were meant to do life alone. As the church, we choose to walk with each other through every season of life.

At FUMC, a team of congregants serves as Congregational Care Ministers (CCMs). Trained through the nonprofit organization The Caring Congregation, they visit, pray, listen, and offer a steady presence to those who need it. In a church of our size, it takes all of us to care for one another.

So, I ask: How is it with your soul? How can our CCMs care for you?

If you have a prayer request, you'll find request boxes on the candle holders in the sanctuary. You're also welcome to email me, call the church, or leave your request in the office. Would you like to meet with someone for prayer, or have a time to share your story? Do you have a loved one in a care facility who would benefit from a monthly visit? This team wants to care for you and your family in whatever way you need.

Maybe you feel called to join this team. If so, we'd love to welcome you! Please reach out to me.

"So we cared for you. Because we loved you so much, we were delighted to share with you not only the gospel of God but our lives as well." 1 Thessalonians 2:7-8

Pastor Courtney Fellers
cfellers@fumcmanhattan.com



**November JAM Christmas
Program Practice**

JOIN US AS WE LEARN OUR
CHRISTMAS PROGRAM
SONGS & ACTIONS

Nov. 8, 15, 22 & 29th at 10 am during JAM in the Cool Lounge
(3rd Floor Education Center)

December 5th from 10-10:45 am in the Sanctuary
December 6th from 10-10:45 am in the Sanctuary
Program is on December 6th during the 11:00 am Service

The poster features a festive winter theme with white snowflakes on a grey background. On the left, a musical staff with various notes and a treble clef is shown. On the right, a stylized Christmas tree is formed by green musical notes, topped with a yellow star. The text is in a mix of red, black, and green fonts.



Save the Date!

Nov. 29, 2026
5:30-7:30 pm
Pizza Dinner 5:30-6 pm in Fellowship Hall

**Gingerbread
BASH**

**First Ever Family
Gingerbread Bash**

You Won't Want to Miss This!

The poster has a dark blue background with white stars. At the top left, a torn paper effect contains the text 'Save the Date!'. The main title 'Gingerbread BASH' is in a large, brown, gingerbread-like font with a yellow star on the 'G'. Below it, the date and time are in white. The bottom half features a white banner with the event name and a final line of text. On the left, there are colorful, geometric, low-poly Christmas trees. On the right, there is a low-poly illustration of the Holy Family (Mary, Joseph, and baby Jesus) in traditional robes.

Pad the Pantry



November Request

- Hot Cereal
- Dried Beans

All donations can
be placed in the bin
labeled "Food Pantry"
found behind the
desk in the
Connecting Link



YOUNG PROFESSIONALS

WEDNESDAY
NIGHT
AT 6:30 PM
FUMC LIBRARY

A TIME FOR CONVERSATION
A WAY TO CONNECT
A TIME OF GROWTH
A PLACE TO SERVE

FUMC STUDENT MINISTRIES

Advent

A Youth Study

Four weeks of waiting, watching, and making room for
the light of Christ.

Hope • Peace • Joy • Love

Wednesdays • Nov 18 – Dec 16

3:30–5:30 pm • Youth Hangout

No meeting Nov 25 (Thanksgiving week)

First United Methodist Church • 612 Poyntz Ave, Manhattan, KS



SAVE THE DATE

PATHWAYS
SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 14, LINEAR TRAIL
at 530 Richards Drive;
parking is allowed at the Doubletree Hotel.

Everyone is welcome to come for a devotion and walking/light hiking on various local trails. Wear comfortable shoes and bring a water bottle. Sunscreen and bug repellent are recommended.



HOLIDAYS LIGHTED PARADE
FRIDAY, DECEMBER 4, 5:30 PM



Join us on the steps of the Sanctuary for a fun night of watching the parade. Hot Chocolate will be served in the Courtyard starting at 5:00 pm. Glow in the dark bracelets and necklaces will be available for the kids!

FUMC 101: PIZZA WITH THE PASTORS
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 6, 12:15 PM

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 or call 785-776-8821

FLUTE ENSEMBLE CHRISTMAS CONCERT
MUSIC CELEBRATING THE SEASON
FRIDAY, DECEMBER 11, 7:00 PM
in the Connecting Link

Enjoy the beauty of the season through the uplifting sounds of our flute ensemble. Join us for a festive musical celebration filled with the joy and spirit of Christmas!



THANKSGIVING SUNDAY

The Stewardship Committee ask you to dream big, discern with God, and prayerfully consider increasing your giving this year. Complete your Estimate of Giving card mailed to you and return it on Sunday, November 22, 2026 during worship. If you are not able to be present, please mail in your card, or refer to our website where you can fill it out online.

*Thanksgiving
Sunday*

CHARGE CONFERENCE
SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 29, 2:00 PM,
SANCTUARY

A cluster conference of 21 churches to do the annual business of the church.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 1, 5:30 PM,
SANCTUARY

All church conference to vote on
the proposed sale of the parsonage.



Make a Joyful Noise!



Chancel Choir:

Love to sing? Join our Chancel Choir as they rehearse together and lead music during our Sunday morning Traditional Worship Service. Whether you've sung in a choir for years or simply love to sing, we'd love to have you!



Handbell Choirs:

Curious about ringing handbells? We offer groups for beginners through advanced ringers, so there's a place for you no matter your experience level. Come discover the joy of making music together!

Interested in learning more?

Contact Mark for Choir: drmarklucas62@gmail.com or Kathy for Bells: kantink@gmail.com



GUEST FOR THIS MONTH

UNITED METHODIST MEN



**LARRY
FOX**
City Commissioner

**Thursday, November 12
6:45 am in Fellowship Hall**

UNITED METHODIST
MEN ARE HIRING

MONTHLY COOK

Love cooking and enjoy serving others? The United Methodist Men are looking for someone to help make their monthly breakfast meetings a success!

What you will do:

- ✓ Plan and Shop
- ✓ Prepare breakfast
- ✓ Serve the meal
- ✓ Clean up

APPLY NOW

Please email Chris Little, FUMC UMM President, for inquiries or questions: crlittle1@mac.com



Come to the Stable

SUNDAY MORNING, DECEMBER 6

Share a little Christmas joy with your church family! Bring your favorite nativity scene to display for others to enjoy.

Whether it's a treasured family heirloom, a meaningful gift, or simply a favorite part of your Christmas traditions, we would love to see it!

Sign up for this special opportunity to share the stories and memories that make Christmas meaningful to each of us by going to our church website www.fumcmahattan.com

Questions? Contact Miriam by email at: mirmabbott@gmail.com





First United Methodist Church
Manhattan, Kansas

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Manhattan, KS 66502-6041

Pastors: Mike Chamberlain, Courtney Fellers
Editor: Cathlene Higgins

Return Service Requested

NONPROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
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MANHATTAN, KS
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UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH'S
TREASURES & SWEETS
NOVEMBER 22, 2026
CONNECTING LINK
8:30 AM - 12:30 PM

**Join us to purchase treasures & sweets to help
sweeten up your Thanksgiving gatherings or
kick-off your Holiday Gift Giving!
(Cash, Check or Credit Card Accepted)**