



First United Methodist Church

Manhattan, Kansas

CONNECTING to Christ | GROWING in Community | SERVING the World

VOLUME 93 | NO. 11 | NOVEMBER 2025

I am certainly surprised to be already writing a newsletter article for November. We have so many wonderful things planned for November. This is the month we celebrate Thanksgiving. Thanksgiving is our duty and privilege. Perhaps we can each be certain to offer our thanksgiving for each other and our church. Please check the newsletter for dates, as many events have been rescheduled.

Sadly, we will have to postpone the Fort Riley band scheduled for Sunday, November 9. We will honor our veterans in our worship service on the Sunday the 9th then through music at a later date.

The new member class will now be held on Sunday, November 16, at 4:00 pm. It has been such a privilege to welcome new members into the church. We have much to thank God for in adding wonderful persons full of new ideas and bringing many gifts to our church.

The United Women of Faith is having their terrific sale on Sunday, November 23, at the Connecting Link. This is a terrific way that we can support the mission activities that the women support. The sale is always full of wonderful things, some homemade, including the pies and cookies that are so yummy.

Christmas is just around the corner. Advent night is set for November 30th. This is such a great event for the children and their families. We absolutely realize what a great chance this is to just spend time as a family and celebrate Advent. You can look forward to dinner, crafts, and of course, a fun surprise for all.



What a great month. I am always thrilled to be your pastor and be in ministry together, bringing the kingdom here in Manhattan and beyond.

*Loving God and Loving Neighbor,
Rev. Donna Voteau
Cell 816-806-0482
dvoteau@greatplainsumc.org*

SUNDAY MORNING SCHEDULE

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

8:45 am - Contemporary Worship
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
Tue., Nov. 11
in Recognition of Veterans Day
and
Wed., Nov. 26 - Fri., Nov. 28
in Recognition of Thanksgiving

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.



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

785-776-8821



1 TIMOTHY

chapter 5

VERSE 17

SCRIPTURE FOCUS FOR NOVEMBER

“Enter his gates with thanksgiving, and his courts with praise! Give thanks to Him; bless His name! For the LORD is good; His steadfast love endures forever, and His faithfulness to all generations.”

November just feels like a month made for gratitude, doesn't it? The air gets cooler, the leaves crunch underfoot, and before long, we find ourselves gathered around tables with friends and family. Psalm 100 reminds me that thanksgiving isn't just something we do once a year. It's a way of living, a daily invitation to enter God's presence with a thankful heart. Even when life feels uncertain or busy, there's always something we can thank Him for, whether it's the big moments or the quiet, ordinary ones that often go unnoticed.

I've noticed gratitude has a funny way of changing how we see things. When we pause to notice God's goodness through answered prayers, the kindness of others, or just a quiet moment of peace, our focus shifts. Suddenly, we're not just seeing what's missing or stressful, but what's good and steady. And the truth is, there's a lot of good when we take time to look for it. Even small things, like a kind word from a friend, a sunny day, or a comforting cup of coffee, can remind us that God's love is all around us.

This is also a wonderful month to reflect on our community. Think about the people in your life who have lifted you up, encouraged you, or simply walked alongside you in faith. This could be family, friends, neighbors, or members of our church family. Sharing your gratitude with them through a note, a phone call, or a simple act of kindness, can make their day and deepen the connections that bring us joy and strength. Gratitude isn't just a feeling; it's something we can actively live out, and it spreads when we share it.

As Thanksgiving approaches, let's be intentional about slowing down and giving thanks. Look back on this past year and take note of the ways God has been faithful. Maybe He provided in ways you didn't expect. Maybe He brought encouragement just when you needed it most. Maybe He gave you patience for challenges or courage to take steps of faith. Reflecting on these blessings helps us to trust in His goodness, even when life doesn't go as planned.

And notice, God's goodness doesn't fade when the turkey leftovers are gone. Psalm 100:5 tells us His love endures forever. That means His faithfulness is steady through every season, not just the sunny ones. The same God who has walked with us this year will walk with us into the next. That is a reason not just to be thankful in November, but to carry gratitude into every day of our lives.

So as we gather this November, whether your table is full of people or just a few close friends, let's take a moment to truly give thanks. Not just for the blessings around us, but for the God who never stops giving. Let every prayer, every smile, every shared story of gratitude be an offering of praise. And let's remember to carry that thankfulness forward, letting it shape how we live, love, and encourage one another in the months to come.

Cathlene Higgins, Connections Coordinator



POSTPONED

MILITARY BAND



NOVEMBER 9 AT 3:00 PM
ICE CREAM SOCIAL FOLLOWING



Calling all Young Professionals!

**Join us on Wednesday evenings at 6:30 pm
in the Classroom 1 & 2!**



**Led by
Pastor Courtney**

A time for conversation.
A way to connect.
A time of growth.
A place to serve.

We would love to see you there!

If you need childcare, please email Rachel Hill at nursery@fumcmanhattan.com



*And what does the LORD require of you?
To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with
your God. - Micah 6:8*

Many years ago, it was Pastor Jim Reed who introduced me to the Micah Society at FUMC. At that time, the Society studied justice and carried out social action in accordance with Micah 6:8.

I thank Jim and the members of the Society for helping me understand that social justice and action are among our faith's "anchors," steadying us during the storms of injustice. I hope to learn more about the anchors of our faith while serving as your FUMC United Women in Faith (UWF) Social Action Coordinator. This is my first year to serve on the FUMC United Women in Faith unit team, and I hope to hear from UWF members, potential members, and friends about the social action you think our UWF units (called "circles") could engage in. Nationally and in the Great Plains Conference (which includes KS and NE), social actions address:

- Maternal and Child Health
- Economic Inequality through the Della Lamb ministry in Kansas City
- Racial Justice
- Ministry to Incarcerated Families in the Topeka [Women's] Correctional Facility
- Climate Justice and Food Access through the Big Garden in Omaha, NE

I'm curious about local social actions you might be interested in. What could our three UWF circles and the UWF church unit focus on? Please let me know by either contacting me directly (emjohanne@gmail.com) or inviting me to your circle or small group meetings. All women of FUMC and across the community are welcome to become members of the United Women in Faith (UWF) and to be involved in our Social Action missions.

The early Christians used an anchor as a secret symbol for their faith. It represents that Jesus provides a firm foundation, preventing the soul from drifting away into despair

Elaine Johannes, UWF Social Action Coordinator 2026 (emjohanne@gmail.com)

Sacred Sweets

November 23rd, 8:30 am- noon
Fellowship Hall & the Link

Organized by:



United
Women
in Faith

Join us to purchase
fellowship time sweets to
help sweeten your
Thanksgiving gatherings



(Cash or Check only)

SHOULD I BECOME A CHURCH MEMBER?

Join us to find out what
membership looks like at FUMC,
learn our church history,
meet the staff and ask questions.
No obligation to join.

NOVEMBER 16 @ 4 PM





PAD THE PANTRY



As the weather cools, warm meals matter more than ever.
In November, we're asking for donations of

**HOT CEREAL
or
DRIED BEANS**

You can place your contributions in the Food Pantry Bin
located in the Connecting Link.
Thank you for your kindness and continued support!



**THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 6:45 AM
FELLOWSHIP HALL**

**GUEST SPEAKER
JOHN REIMER,
GREAT PLAINS UMM LEADERSHIP TEAM**

Everyone is welcome to attend,
no reservations needed.





YOUR FUMC OFFERINGS AT WORK

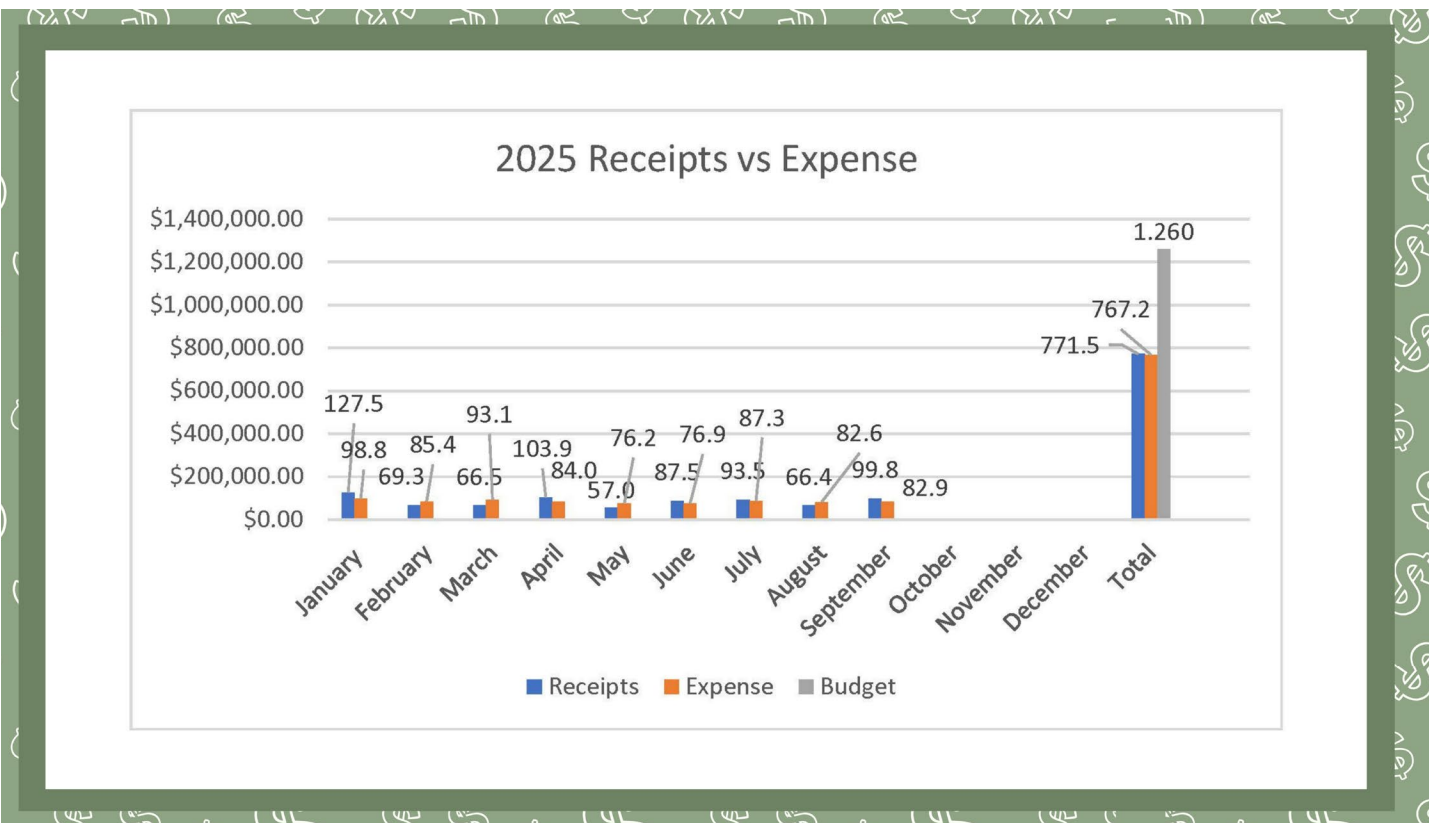
The graph below, which is updated monthly, provides a snapshot in time that compares First United Methodist Church's (FUMC) actual monthly Giving to actual monthly expenses. You will note that Receipts are slightly ahead of Expenses by \$4.3K dollars year-to-date. Applying a simple analysis using nine months of actual Receipts, coupled with three months of projected Receipts based upon a 2024 trend line, Receipts and Expenses are projected to break even at the end of the fiscal year. The major unknown remains the church's apportionment

obligation.

Apportionments are funds that local Methodist churches make to assist in funding wider ministry activities. To date, the church has paid \$54.3K toward its obligation of \$108K. This represents good faith and commitment that FUMC can and will stand behind its obligation in support of God's ministry. While this is a positive indicator, the church is still facing a shortfall of \$53.7K. With only two months remaining in the year, time is running out! If FUMC is to fulfill its apportionment obligation this year we need to take action now. Gifts to be applied toward the church's apportionment can be remitted in a number of convenient ways. All you have to do is indicate that your gift is for "Apportionment".

Your pastors, along with all committees within the Church, continue to focus on identifying ways to best use your Gifts to meet ministry and community needs. But it also needs a unified congregation focused on stewardship, prayer, and action.

Gary Beets
Chair, Finance Committee



Student Ministries



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

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



The weather may not feel like it yet, but the holiday season is right around the corner—and we couldn't be more excited! As we head into November, Student Ministry is buzzing with opportunities to connect, grow, and celebrate together.

Our Christmas Program is coming up on December 7th, and we can't wait to see everyone on Wednesday nights for rehearsals. It's always a special time to share the story of Christmas and the joy that comes with it.

Mark your calendars for Advent Night on November 30th—a night full of laughter, community, and the true spirit of the season. And don't forget, our First Families event this month will be a Bible Scavenger Hunt on November 2nd—so be sure to bring your Bible; you'll definitely need it!

There's so much happening in November and December, and we hope you'll join us for every bit of the fun, faith, and fellowship that make Student Ministry such a special part of this season.

A festive poster for "The Christmas Story" by Student Ministries. The background is dark green with white snowflakes and gold stars. On the left is a red Christmas ornament, and on the right is an orange one. The text is in yellow and pink. It says "Calling all Children PreK-5th and Youth" at the top, followed by "Practices start November 5th on Wednesdays at 7:00 pm." Below that, in large pink letters, is "The Christmas Story", and in smaller white letters, "BY STUDENT MINISTRIES". At the bottom, it says "There's a part for all: singing, costume design, narration, sound assistance..."

Calling all Children PreK-5th and Youth

Practices start November 5th on Wednesdays at 7:00 pm.

The Christmas Story

BY STUDENT MINISTRIES

There's a part for all: singing, costume design,
narration, sound assistance...



First Families

November 2nd @ 10 am

Join us for a scavenger hunt!

Bring your Bibles.



ADVENT NIGHT

You're
Invited
to a
Family
Tradition



Sunday, November 30th

Pizza Dinner @ 5:30 pm in Fellowship Hall

Crafts and a surprise visitor following dinner.



SAVE



THE DATE

> FUMC CHARGE CONFERENCE

DECEMBER 7, AT 4:30 PM

BLESSINGS BOX NEEDS

PEOPLE IN OUR COMMUNITY WHO ARE IN NEED OF FOOD AND PERSONAL ITEMS CAN STOP BY 24 HOURS A DAY TO TAKE WHAT THEY NEED. ANYONE CAN DONATE TO THE BLESSING BOX



Hygiene Products



Easy open canned goods



Plastic Silverware



On the go snacks



Peanut Butter

One Worship Service Each Sunday of Advent

Nov. 30 - Dec. 28

*Discipleship at 9:00 am
Worship at 10:00 am
Each Sunday*



**GROCERIES FOR GOD
DILLONS COMMUNITY REWARDS**

The logo for Dillon's Food Stores, featuring the word "Dillon's" in a stylized red script font with a swoosh underneath, and the words "FOOD STORES" in a smaller, red, sans-serif font below it.

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 Automated External Defibrillator (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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Pastors: Donna Votau, Courtney Fellers
Editor: Cathlene Higgins

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