



First United Methodist Church

Manhattan, Kansas

CONNECTING to Christ | GROWING in Community | SERVING the World

VOLUME 94 | NO. 10 | OCTOBER 2026

One of the things that occupies my mind more than I want at the moment is the matter of navigating the boundary of politics and faith. We live in a time of politics saturating our lives, so I suppose that isn't surprising, but it gets particularly troublesome as an election season approaches and everyone becomes more sensitive to hints of politics in all manner of things.

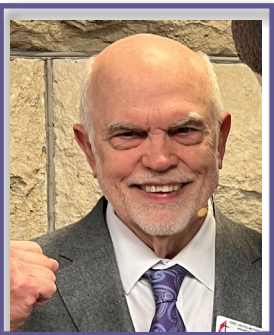
When we gather as the people of God, our attention is meant to be focused on God—in our praise, our thanksgiving, and our worship. We are all aware at some level of the differences that divide us in many areas of our lives and beliefs, but we gather as one people in our common identity as brothers and sisters in faith.

As your pastor, I should also say this: I do have personal political views, I contribute, and I vote. What I do not do, however, is plant a sign in my yard or put a bumper sticker on my car. As someone identified with a particular church and as a pastor, it seems to me that those could be misunderstood as a claim of Divine endorsement—literally putting words into God's mouth. The formal name for that is blasphemy—using the name of God for vain purpose.

Likewise in the pulpit, I believe the pastor's call is to remain focused on the word of God, not on any political movement's policy agenda. That doesn't mean that preaching doesn't touch hot button issues as they are being lived out in society. Cruelty is cruelty. Injustice is injustice. Sin is sin. Scripture speaks clearly about those and about humility, love of one's enemy, care for the sick, welcome of the stranger, and any number of other matters of faith and morals. Often it makes us uncomfortable.

I hope that you will agree with me that as it speaks faithfully, we will allow the word of God to land where it needs to land—even when we, or our politics, are discomforted.

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:
Monday, October 12
in observance of Columbus Day
and Indigenous Peoples' 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.

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

KSU WOMENS TEAM MEALS

OCTOBER 4 AT 12:30 PM

NEW TIME – AFTER WORSHIP

ENJOY A MEAL AND MEET THE TEAM AND COACHES



**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.**



WEDNESDAY
10/28/26
7:30 PM

VIENNA BOYS CHOIR

HOSTED IN THE
FIRST UNITED
METHODIST
CHURCH
SANCTUARY

TICKETS CAN BE PURCHASED THROUGH
MCCAIN AUDITORIUM STARTING JULY 20





UNITED METHODIST MEN BREAKFAST OCTOBER 8 - 6:45 AM - FELLOWSHIP HALL

Come for the breakfast, stay for the conversation! Join us for the next United Methodist Men's Breakfast featuring Scott Voos, Director of Be Able, a local organization dedicated to serving people who may find themselves falling through the gaps of traditional support services. Scott will share more about Be Able, the needs they see in our community, and how they are working to serve their neighbors with compassion, dignity, and respect. Everyone is welcome, men and women alike! Come enjoy a free breakfast, meet some new people, and hear about an organization making a difference right here in our community. No reservation or membership required, just come hungry and bring your curiosity!

SUNDAY MORNING FELLOWSHIP

Fellowship Time happens right after the first worship service and before Discipleship Hour at 10:00 a.m. Stop by the Fellowship Hall for coffee, grab a donut, and enjoy a little conversation before heading off to your class. Everyone is welcome!



PAD THE PANTRY KICKOFF

Pad the Pantry was a HUGE success! Thanks to the incredible generosity of our congregation, more than 800 individual food items were collected this August and September to help stock our Food Pantry and support neighbors in need. Thank you for helping us fill the shelves and show what happens when our church comes together!



Pastor

APPRECIATION MONTH!

A dedicated time to honor the hard work, spiritual guidance, and constant care provided by our Pastors.

Meaningful Ways to Celebrate

- **Write Notes:** Send a hand-written thank-you card or organize a collection of notes from your small group.
- **Offer Prayer:** Dedicate a specific time during a Sunday service to pray for your pastor and their family.
- **Provide a Meal:** Deliver a homemade dish or a gift card to a coffee shop.
- **Say Thank You:** Let them know how much you appreciate them. Give them a hug, or simply take a moment to say, "Thank you!"



Wednesday Morning Gathering

What began as a single book study with Pastor Mike will continue. Join him to discuss "Mere Christianity" by C.S. Lewis.



Wednesdays at 10:00 AM
in Fellowship Hall



All are welcome



PATHWAYS

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.

UPCOMING DATES:

October 10 at 9:30 am: Tuttle Creek State Park, 5800 River Road, A. Park at the Kansas Department of Wildlife office. An Annual or day permit is required (\$5.00 for visitors, \$3.25 for Seniors). We will walk the Cottonwood Nature Trail and Eagle Pass Trail

November 14: Linear Trail. Meet at 530 Richards Drive; parking is allowed at the Doubletree Hotel.

December 12: Anneberg Park Perimeter Trail, 901 Twin Oaks Drive. We will meet at the fishing dock by Jerry Dishman Lake.



HEADS UP, GROWN-UPS

The youth are taking over.

(yes, the whole service)

Our students are leading the music, the prayers, and everything in between. Come worship with us!

YOUTH SUNDAY

Oct 18

Sunday morning

8:45 & 11:00 am

Both services

First United Methodist Church · 612 Poyntz, Manhattan · FUMC Student Ministries

Groceries for God



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 e-mail 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 items, that can be found on the Dillons website.*

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

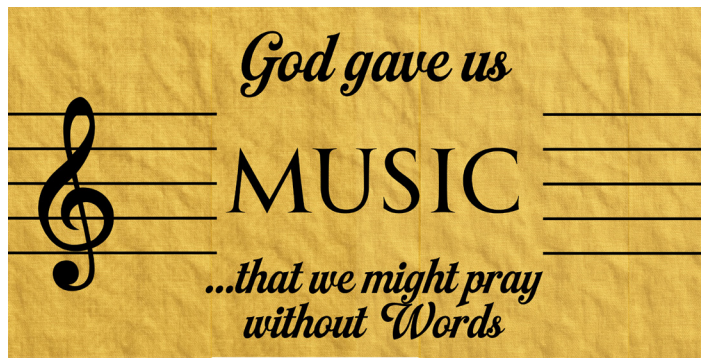


PAD THE PANTRY

October Request:
Ramen Noodles
Chunky Soups

Help us serve local families in need by helping fill the shelves of the FUMC food pantry.

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



MUSIC IN WORSHIP - OCTOBER 2026

Join us in October as we celebrate worship through music and the gifts of those sharing their talents at the 11:00 Traditional Service.

October 4--Chancel Choir, Bell Choir, Rockhills String Quartet

October 11--Chancel Choir, Bell Choir, Trumpet and Percussion.

October 18--YOUTH SUNDAY

October 25--Chancel Choir; Bell Choir, KSU Brass Quintet (Special Postlude: "Phantom of the Opera")

YOUR GIVING MAKES A DIFFERENCE

Everything that happens at FUMC is dependent on the offerings and donations of everyone in the congregation, the city, and beyond. Regular offerings make the ministry and music possible. They enable the congregation to exist, and to provide a welcome space to belong and to grow as Christians.

If you are able, please support FUMC by making regular offerings by following the QR code below. If you have questions or need help, please contact Noni Buster by calling the church office or by email at finance@fumcmanhattan.com



Scripture Focus for October

"Like good stewards of the manifold grace of God, serve one another with whatever gift each of you has received."

1 Peter 4:10

I have been thinking a lot about what "church" really looks like.

Last week, I had the opportunity to help with the funeral of a young father who died unexpectedly. He was in his early 50s, with a wife and three young children. His family was not part of FUMC, but they live in a cul-de-sac with many of our church members. Their church was very small, and because the funeral was expected to be quite large, their neighbors asked if we would open our doors to them. We did.

The church was filled with family, friends, school friends, teammates, neighbors and people who simply wanted to surround this family with love. But what happened after the service is what has stayed with me.

The neighbors from our church provided food, set up the tables, served the family and their guests, cleaned everything up and made sure that people had what they needed. Nobody needed to ask who was "from our church" and who wasn't. There was simply a family who needed help, and people who were willing to help.

As I watched all of this happening, I kept thinking, This is church.

Sometimes we make church much more complicated than it needs to be. We think about worship, programs, committees, buildings, schedules and all the many things that make church happen. But sometimes church looks like setting up a table for someone who is hurting. Sometimes it looks like bringing a casserole. Sometimes it looks like washing dishes when everyone else has already gone home.

And sometimes it looks like opening your doors.

Right now, FUMC is also hosting the Great Plains Residency Retreat, bringing together people preparing to serve as Methodist pastors. Many of their churches are much smaller than ours. We are blessed with a larger campus, a kitchen, a Fellowship Hall, classrooms and spaces for people to gather and learn. We even have hymnals that we have replaced but that can still be useful to someone else. So we share.

And maybe that is another picture of church.

God has given us things we can use, and part of being good stewards is recognizing that they don't have to be used only by us. A kitchen can cook a meal for our congregation, but it can also feed people we may never meet. A classroom can hold one of our Bible studies, but it can also provide a place for someone else to learn. An "old" hymnal might become a treasured resource in another congregation.

We are blessed, not simply so that we can have more, but so that we have something to share.

I think that is what has been on my heart lately. Church is not just what happens inside our walls. Church is what happens when God's people see a need and say, "What do we have that might help?"

Sometimes the answer is a building. Sometimes it is a meal. Sometimes it is a hymnal. Sometimes it is a listening ear, a helping hand or a willingness to stay late and clean up the dishes.

And, if we're being honest, sometimes it is finding out who knows where the coffee pot is. Because let's be honest, making the perfect brew is an important spiritual gift.

Whatever gift we have been given, big or small, we have the opportunity to use it for someone else.

This is church.

Cathlene Higgins, Connections Coordinator



FALL KICK OFF 2026

*An excellent day
of indoor activities!*



Join Friends of Anapra on the November mission trip to the Susanna Wesley School!



Mission

The Susanna Wesley School is a private Christian school in Anapra, Mexico, just across the border from El Paso, Texas. The school has 1st through 6th grade students in classes of approximately 20 to 25 students in each grade.

The school was founded over 25 years ago by Antonio Briones, a pastor who recognized the need for Christian education for the children of Anapra. Antonio and his wife Dina operate the school to this day, providing exceptional educational opportunities in a poverty-stricken area and sharing the gospel of Jesus Christ with the students and their families.

Friends of Anapra is a Manhattan, Kansas-based 501(c)(3) organization with a mission to support this incredible school through regular mission trips to maintain and update facilities, as well as monthly financial support for teacher salaries and operational expenses.

How can I Participate?

Contact Friends of Anapra (info below) and let them know you want to go. The cost is \$600 per person (\$400 for students). We will depart for Anapra from Kansas on November 7 and cross the border on Sunday the 8th. The week of November 9-13 we will engage in mission work at the school. We will depart for Kansas on Saturday, November 14 to arrive home Sunday afternoon, November 15.

For questions or if you would like to go on the mission trip please contact Friends of Anapra leader Jeff Gill at 785-207-1746 or jeff@swsanapra.org. We need a final count by October 15, so please reach out by then if you want to go on this trip.

What if I can't go to Mexico this fall, but still want to support the mission?

Every dollar contributed to Friends of Anapra goes to the Susanna Wesley School! Check out www.swsanapra.org for more info. Also, please forward this email to anyone you think may want to join our mission. Thank you and God Bless You!

Can't go but want to help? Click this button.

For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them. - Ephesians 2:10



First United Methodist Church
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612 Poyntz Avenue
Manhattan, KS 66502-6041

Pastors: Mike Chamberlain, Courtney Fellers
Editor: Cathlene Higgins

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