



First United Methodist Church

Manhattan, Kansas

CONNECTING to Christ | GROWING in Community | SERVING the World

VOLUME 93 | NO. 10 | OCTOBER 2025

One hundred years ago this month, the cornerstone was laid for our sanctuary. Perhaps you will want to go outside and check the date. If you have children, it can be a wonderful teaching moment about the importance of dates and how we remember them with cornerstones. They are a lasting reminder of when our building was built.

According to our written church history, the cornerstone was laid as construction began in 1925. The congregation had worshiped in a previous building that was removed to make way for the new sanctuary. In the walls of that earlier building, a time capsule was discovered. The contents of the metal box are now on display in the cabinet outside the sanctuary. Some of the items, including a Book of Discipline and a Hymnal, came with the original settlers of Manhattan on the Hartford steamship. With those two books, the laity were able to establish the first church.



It certainly took faith to begin such a project. Lucinda Harris—yes, the same woman connected with the Harris Building—donated \$16,000, a substantial gift at that time. According to Google, that would be about \$295,000 today. What a witness to her love for God and her belief that this church would be a place where people could grow in or discover faith.

We will celebrate the beginning of our church building with a hymn sing on October 19, 2025. Next year, we will mark 100 years of having the organ with a special concert. We even have the original 1926 bulletin from the organ's dedication concert. A world-renowned organist will join us to play, including several of the same pieces performed at that very first concert.



One hundred years later, we are still worshipping in this sacred place. What a legacy, and what a great cloud of witnesses surrounding us as we gather here. See you in October for joyful worship and, of course, the KSU Men's Basketball Dinner.

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
MONDAY, OCTOBER, 13
in observance of Columbus Day/
Indigenous PeoplesDay**

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 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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Manhattan, Kansas

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

785-776-8821

1 TIMOTHY

chapter 5

VERSE 17

SCRIPTURE FOCUS FOR OCTOBER

“The elders who direct the affairs of the church well are worthy of double honor, especially those whose work is preaching and teaching.”

October is Pastor Appreciation Month—a time to honor those who faithfully lead, guide, and shepherd our congregation. And yes, even though Pastor Courtney and Pastor Donna insist they “don’t want the attention,” I’m giving it to them anyway because they truly deserve it! Scripture reminds us “The elders who direct the affairs of the church well are worthy of double honor, especially those whose work is preaching and teaching.” These words emphasize the sacred calling of pastors and the responsibility of the church to support and uplift them in their ministry.



Our pastors carry the unique and often weighty task of caring for the spiritual needs of the congregation. They preach the Word faithfully, provide counsel in times of joy and sorrow, and help us grow as disciples of Jesus Christ. Their calling extends beyond Sunday mornings; it is lived out in countless hours of prayer, study, visitation, phone calls, meetings, and service. Recognizing this, the Apostle Paul urges us to show them not just respect, but “double honor” for their dedication and sacrifice.

This month, I encourage you to take time to express your gratitude. Words of thanks, a handwritten note, a phone call, or a simple act of service can be just as meaningful, if not more, than gifts that cost money. Small gestures of appreciation can remind Courtney and Donna that their ministry is making a difference and that their efforts are deeply valued by the people they serve.

As we celebrate Pastor Appreciation Month, let us not only honor Pastor Courtney and Pastor Donna with words but also commit to supporting them with our prayers. May we continually lift them up before God, asking for strength, wisdom, and encouragement as they lead us in faith. And may we also place our trust in their counsel and leadership, knowing that God has called and equipped them to guide our congregation. In doing so, we not only follow the instruction of Scripture but also strengthen the bond of love within our church family.



... KSU TEAM MEAL



Monday, October 13
6:00 pm in Fellowship Hall

- The church will provide the fried chicken!
- The meal will be potluck for sides and desserts. Please bring your own plate, silverware, and cup.

**Please RSVP on the church website or
at the church office at 785-776-8821**



SHOULD I BECOME A CHURCH MEMBER?

Join us to find out what
membership looks like.
learn our beliefs and
meet the members.
No obligation to join.



OCTOBER 1 @ 6:30PM





United
Methodist
Men
Breakfast

Coach Trey Brokaw

Track Coach, Kansas State University

**October 9
6:45 am
Fellowship Hall**



FALL FEST @ FELLERS FARM

2101 DEEP CREEK ROAD

OCTOBER 19TH, 4:00-6:00 PM

FOOD, FUN & FELLOWSHIP FOR ALL

4 PM: YARD GAMES, FALL CRAFTS, SELFIE STATION, HAYRACK RIDES, & FELLOWSHIP

5 PM: S'MORES, CIDER, LIVE MUSIC

BRING YOUR LAWN CHAIRS AND BE PREPARED TO KICK BACK AND GATHER TOGETHER!





We are excited to share that our church has recently switched to a new database system called Realm. For a number of years we relied on our previous provider, but the system was no longer keeping up with updates or fixing issues as they arose. This created challenges for our staff and limited what we could do as a congregation. After careful review, we realized it was time

for a system that would be easier to use, more cost-effective, and equipped to keep pace with today's technology. Realm offers all of that and more, streamlining several apps into one, reducing website hosting costs, and providing our staff with advanced, hands-on tools for communication, scheduling, reporting, and ministry support.

Through Realm, members will be able to update their own information, sign up for events, stay connected with groups and ministries, and give securely online with just a few clicks. Volunteers will also benefit from clearer scheduling and communication.



Frequently Asked Questions

Do I need to download the app?

No. You can access Realm online at <https://onrealm.org>. Simply create a password, and you can log in to use all features without needing to download the app.

Does this change how we live-stream Sunday worship?

No. You can still find our live stream on our website or on our Facebook page.

Do I need to use Realm to participate in church activities or volunteer?

No, you don't have to use Realm to attend worship or events. However, using Realm streamlines the ability to sign up for events, volunteering, and connecting with groups.

I didn't get an email, or the email link doesn't work. What should I do?

If you are having problems with the email, please contact Cathlene in the church office at chiggins@fumcmanhattan.com. We may need to check our records to ensure we have the correct email on file. Please note that **Realm links do expire**, so you may need a new one sent to you.

While it may take a little time to get used to this new system, we believe Realm is the right step for our church. It helps us be better stewards of resources, supports our staff with the tools they need, and provides all of us with a simple, user-friendly way to stay connected. We are still early in setting up all the features this system provides, and many of our groups and activities are still being added. We encourage you to set up an account, log in, explore all that it offers, and be patient as we continue to implement the great tools Realm provides that you will soon be able to enjoy.

If you have any questions or run into any issues, I am happy to help. Please feel free to stop by the church office or give me a call anytime. I want to make sure your experience with Realm is easy and enjoyable.

Cathlene Higgins, Connections Coordinator
785-776-8821 or chiggins@fumcmanhattan.com

Student Ministries



CHILDREN'S
MINISTRY FUMC

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

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

Ronald Atkinson, Coordinator of Youth Ministries
youth@fumcmanhattan.com



Rooted Parents

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

SUNDAYS @ 10A CONNECTING LINK

JOIN PASTOR COURTNEY FOR A
TIME OF DISCIPLESHIP AND
FELLOWSHIP EACH SUNDAY EXCEPT
FIRST SUN. OF THE MONTH - WE'LL
GO TO FIRST FAMILIES

3RD GRADE BIBLE SUNDAY

October 12, 2025

We will be presenting Bibles to 3rd Graders at both services. Following the 11 am service we will host a lunch for the 3rd graders and their immediate family as we dive into all that the Deep Blue Kids Bible offers.

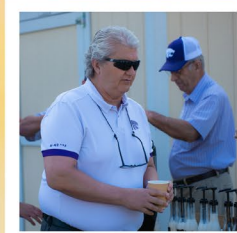
What we need from you:

- Which service your 3rd grader attends.
- How they would like their name to appear on their new Bible.
- How many from your family are able to join us for our deep dive interactive lunch.

Contact Misti at children@fumcmnhattan.com

fall kickoff

SEPTEMBER 2025



fall kickoff

SEPTEMBER 2025



MIDWEEK DINNER, WORSHIP AND DISCIPLESHIP GROUPS FOR ALL AGES RENEWAL

5:30 PM - 6:30 PM - DINNER AND DEVOTIONAL

To kick things off, dinner will be simple and delicious: a sandwich bar with chips and cookies for the first few weeks. At 6 pm, we will have worship in Fellowship Hall.

We're also looking for volunteers to host meals. This involves setting up, serving, and tidying up afterward. It's a great way to serve and connect with others!

6:30 PM - 7:30 PM - SMALL GROUP TIME

We'll offer a variety of small groups for all ages, including children, youth, and adults.

Groups will feature short-term Bible studies, games, book studies, one-time classes, and more. It's a great way to grow in faith and build community. There's something for everyone, whether you're looking to grow, connect, or just have fun.

Have an idea for a group? We'd love to hear it!





YOUR FUMC OFFERINGS AT WORK

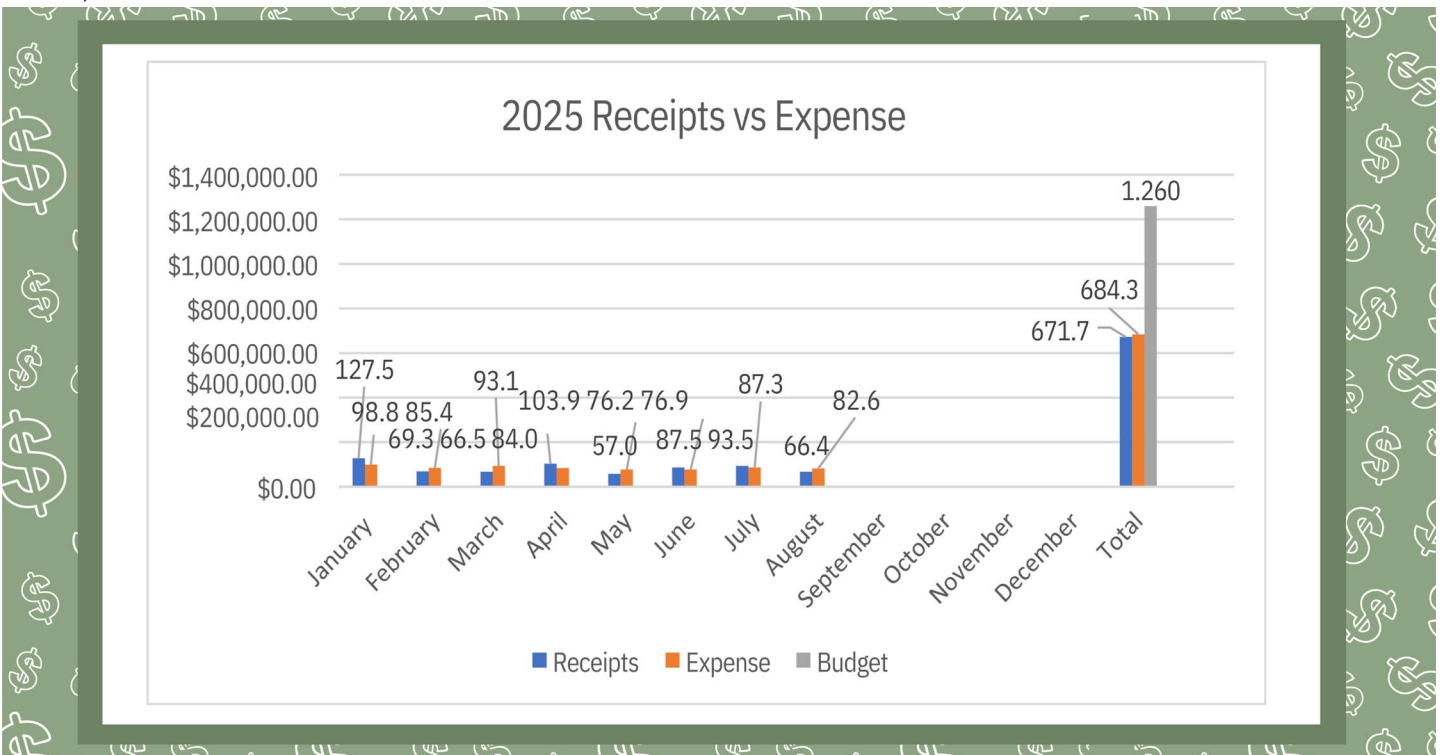
The First United Methodist Church of Manhattan performs God's work by providing and supporting a variety of programs that assist families, individuals, and children in our community as well as internationally. The means by which the Church provides these needed services on your behalf is accomplished in large part by your generous Giving. To that end we want to provide you with timely updates of the Church's financial position.

The graph below, which is updated monthly, provides a snapshot in time that compares actual monthly Giving to actual monthly expenses. You will note that Receipts are slightly lagging Expenses by \$12.6K dollars year-to-date. Applying a simple analysis using eight months of actual Receipts, coupled with four months of projected Receipts based upon a 2024 trend line, Receipts would fall short of projected expenses by an estimated \$37.7K dollars at the end of the fiscal year. The major factor for the shortfall remains the church's apportionment obligation.

Apportionments are funds that local churches make to assist in funding wider ministry activities. To date, the church has paid approximately \$25K toward its obligation of \$108K. This represents a start bolstering faith and commitment that FUMC can and will stand behind its obligation in support of God's ministry. While this is a positive step forward, as noted above, we are still facing a shortfall which needs to be addressed. The reassuring news is that there is still time left in the year to do just that!

Your Finance Committee, along with pastors and all committees within the Church, continue to focus on identifying ways to meet that worthy goal. But it will also need a unified congregation focused on stewardship, prayer, and action.

Gary Beets
Chair, Finance Committee



Thrive! Flint Hills presents

The Toxic Stress of Poverty Training

Have you thought about volunteering with Thrive!? Do you volunteer or work with individuals living in financial poverty? This is the training for you!

Thursday, October 9th
from 5:30 – 8:30 pm
Dinner provided!

Topics to be covered include

- What is Thrive and how does it work?
- Understanding toxic stress
- How do we define poverty
- Mentoring, boundaries, and self-care
- Community resources

Benefits



Build your skills



Connect with the
community



Learn



Registration

RSVP to Jayme Morris-Hardeman at
director.thriveflinthills@gmail.com by October 6

www.thriveflinthills.com

PAD THE PANTRY IN OCTOBER

**RAMEN
NOODLES**



**CHUNKY
SOUP**

PROGRESSIVE, CAMPBELLS ETC.



NEW NUMBER FOR
TEXT TO GIVE



TEXT:
FUMCMHK
to 73256

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

Dates: November 22 thru November 30, 2025

Location: Anapra, Mexico (just across the border from El Paso, TX)

Our 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 25 years ago by Antonio Briones, a former United Methodist pastor. Antonio and his wife Dina operate the school to this day, providing exceptional educational opportunities to students in a poverty-stricken area, while 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 in this Mission Trip?

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 on November 22, cross the border, and settle into mission housing on Sunday the 23rd. The week of November 24-28 we will engage in mission work. We will depart for Kansas on Saturday, November 29 to arrive home the afternoon of November 30.

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 November 1, so please reach out by then if you want to go on this trip.

How can I Support Friends of Anapra?

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!

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

[Can't go, but want to help? Click this button.](#)



GROCERIES FOR GOD DILLONS COMMUNITY REWARDS



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

612 Poyntz Avenue
Manhattan, KS 66502-6041


Pastors: Donna Votau, Courtney Fellers
Editor: Cathlene Higgins

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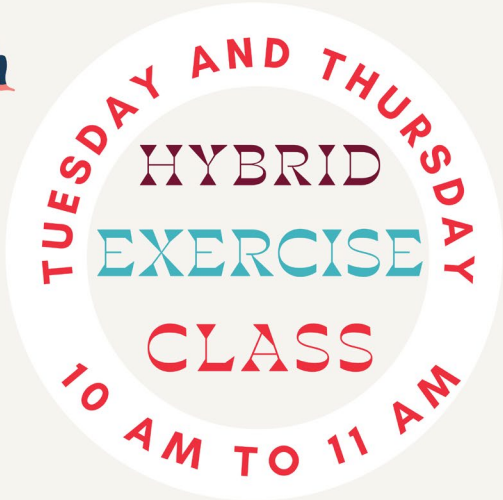
Low-Impact
aerobics,
chair yoga,
and stretching.



Only goal is increasing
strength,
range of motion,
and balance.




New Exercise Class in Fellowship Hall





FREE
OPEN TO EVERYONE
GREAT MUSIC
GREAT
COMPANIONSHIP

No exercise clothes or
equipment needed.



For more information, please call or email
Diana Cunningham (913-530-1336 keithdi@sbcglobal.net).