



First United Methodist Church

Manhattan, Kansas

CONNECTING to Christ | GROWING in Community | SERVING the World



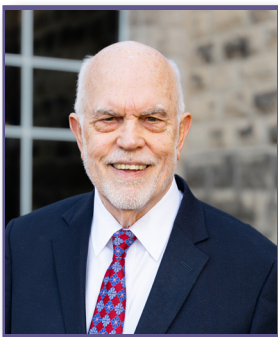
VOLUME 94 | NO. 9 | SEPTEMBER 2026

I was thinking about September as I considered what to share with you this month. If I were making a list of “favorite months” (don’t know if that’s a thing — just the way this old mind is working today), I think September would be in the top two or three.

September gained its name because it was the seventh month of the original Roman calendar. When they later added January and February, September and all the months following were off by two in their numerical naming scheme. There was some attempt to rename months but the Roman authorities found the truth that we all know: People don’t like change!

I love September because it contains the first vestiges of Autumn; weather patterns shift and the days grow shorter in a way that gives us sunset dinners and twilight gatherings on the patio. It marks a return to a more normal pace of life at work, in the community and at church, after the many varied experiences we all have during summer vacation times. I’m told that here in Manhattan it means that football becomes something of “a thing.”

At church it is a time of settling in for newer members of our faith family as they find spaces to connect and begin to build the relationships. It’s time for our annual homecoming celebration and it’s time for the return of the choir (and all the pastors cheered!). It’s a time when we begin to plan for the coming holidays and turn our attention to our yearly charge conference.



All-in-all it is a pretty busy and consequential month in the calendar.

So, what is it that I have to say to all that? Perhaps just, “Buckle up! and Enjoy!”

I know I will.

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, September 7
and
Monday, September 14**

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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785-776-8821

FLINT HILLS PRAISEFEST is Kansas's largest free Christian music festival. The festival theme is "Bold Hope", and it features free admission, community service packing events, and a Saturday night headlining performance by Megan Woods.



- Key Festival Dates: Thursday, September 24 – Sunday, September 27, 2026
- Location: CiCo Park, Manhattan, KS
- Headliner: Megan Woods performs on Saturday, September 26
- Global Impact Event: September 23–26 (Volunteers aim to pack over 105,000 meals)
- Praisefest 5K: Saturday, September 26 at 8:00 AM at CiCo Park

BLESSING OF THE BACKPACKS 2026



We sent our students, teachers, and school staff into a new school year with a special blessing, asking God to guide, protect, and walk alongside them throughout the year.

MUSIC IN WORSHIP – SEPTEMBER 2026

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

Sept 6 - Chancel Choir; Katie O'Brien, clarinet, Patrick O'Brien, trombone.

Sept 13 - Chancel Choir, Rhapsody Ringers.

Sept 20 - Chancel Choir, Allegro Ringers, Jasmine Colle, Alto saxophone, Piano.

Sept 27 - Chancel Choir, Spirit Ringers, KSU Brass Quintet

FUMC at EVERYBODY COUNTS 2026



FUMC was represented at Everybody Counts for the first time this year! This annual community event brings together local organizations and agencies to connect Manhattan residents with resources, services, and support. Four FUMC volunteers joined more than 70 participating organizations at Douglass Park, helping introduce our church and the ways we can serve and connect with our community.

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 to the right. If you have questions or need help, please contact Noni Buster by calling the church office or by email at finance@fumcmanhattan.com



WESLEY HOUSE

And

OASIS WORSHIP

WORSHIP NIGHT SEPTEMBER 1ST

9.1.26. 7PM

Blue Valley United Methodist Church
835 Church Ave, Manhattan
[@wesleywildcats](https://www.instagram.com/wesleywildcats)



FALL Kick-Off

Sunday, September 13 | 9:30–11:00 AM
Between Worship Services
In the West Parking Lot

Kick off the fall with breakfast burritos, games, fun for ALL ages, and a little Wildcat spirit! Bring the whole family and join us for a morning of fun and fellowship.

WANT TO BE PART OF THE FUN? 🎉
 We need some awesome volunteers to bake pastries, pastry walk callers, create a photo backdrop and set up! Pick your favorite way to help by signing up on the church website.

- 🎺 K-State Pep Band
- 🐾 Willie the Wildcat
- 🌯 Breakfast Burritos
- 🎯 Games for Kids of All Ages
- 🌽 The Infamous Pastry Walk

UNITED METHODIST MEN
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 10 AT 6:45 AM
FELLOWSHIP HALL



Join the United Methodist Men for their monthly breakfast in Fellowship Hall featuring Ross Metheny, General Manager of K-State Women's Basketball, as the September guest speaker. Come enjoy breakfast, fellowship, and an inside look at this year's team. Everyone is welcome—men and women alike!

READY TO HIT THE RIGHT NOTE?

The FUMC Chancel Choir would love to have you!

Whether you've sung with us for years or have always thought about joining, new members are welcome anytime. Rehearsal is at 9:00 a.m. each Sunday, followed by singing at the 11:00 a.m. Traditional Service.



You don't need to be a professional singer—just bring a willingness to sing, learn, and enjoy some great fellowship! The choir is a welcoming group of people who love making music together and sharing it as part of worship. If you've been thinking, "Maybe I should join," this is your sign! Whether you read music or are still figuring out which line is yours, there's a place for you in the choir. Come give it a try—you might just discover that Sunday mornings sound better with a little more singing!

Now is a great time to join as we prepare for our fall music and our Christmas Service of Lessons and Carols, presented during worship on December 13.

If you enjoy singing and would like to share your gifts in worship, we'd love to welcome you! Questions? Contact Dr. Mark Lucas at drmarklucas62@gmail.com.



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY FUMC

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

3rd Grade Bible Presentation October 25th @ 8:45 & 11 am Services

Following the 11 am service we
will host a lunch for the 3rd
graders & their immediate family
as we dive into all that their new
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 interactive lunch.

children@fumcmanhattan.com



Student

FIRST FAMILIES

**SEPTEMBER 6, 2026 @ 10 AM
FELLOWSHIP HALL**

Don't Just Float - Follow Jesus!

Join us as we grab a pool noodle and discover how God's Word keeps us floating through life's waves.

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY CALENDAR FALL 2026			
SEPTEMBER	OCTOBER	NOVEMBER	DECEMBER
Sept. 6 @ 10 am First Families Fellowship Hall	Oct. 4 @ 10 am First Families Fellowship Hall	Nov. 1 st @ 10 am First Families Fellowship Hall	Dec. 4 @ 5:30 pm Holiday Parade Watch Party
Sept. 9 @ 3 pm YUM, @4:15 pm Belts	Oct. 18 @ 4 pm Fall Fest Fellers Farm	Nov. 8 @ 10 am Children's Program Practice Starts in JAM	Dec. 5 @ 10 am Children's Program Practice Sanctuary
Sept. 13 @ 10 am Fall Kickoff Sunday	Oct. 25 @ 8:45 & 11 am Services 3 rd Grade Bibles	Nov. 29 @ 5:30 pm Avent Night: Gingerbread Bash Fellowship Hall	Dec. 6 @ 10 am No First Families - Children's Program Practice, Program @ 11 am Service only
	Oct. 30 @ 4-6 pm Trunk or Treat Poyntz Ave.		



Ministries



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

DANIEL

A YOUTH GROUP SERIES

**You don't get to pick the room.
You get to pick who you are in it.**

WEDNESDAY NIGHTS · STARTING SEPT 9

WEEK 1 · SEPT 9

Meet Daniel

DANIEL 1:1-7

WEEK 2 · SEPT 16

**Know Your
People**

DANIEL 1:8-16

WEEK 3 · SEPT 23

**Dream
Sequence**

DANIEL 2

WEEK 4 · SEPT 30

**Even If He
Doesn't**

DANIEL 3

STUDENT MINISTRY WEDNESDAY SCHEDULE

3:00

YOUNG UNITED METHODISTS

3:30

HIGH SCHOOL HANG OUT

3:50

MIDDLE SCHOOL PICK UP

4:15

STUDENT MINISTRY BELLS

4:30

YOUTH LESSON STARTS

5:30

MIDWEEK DINNER

6:00

MIDWEEK DEVOTION

Scripture Focus for September

“And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, but encouraging one another”

Hebrews 10: 24 - 25

Last month, I mentioned FUMC’s mission statement: Connecting to Christ, Growing in Community, and Serving the World. As the Connections Coordinator, I must admit that all three parts have a pretty strong claim on my job description. I get to help people find their way into worship and faith formation, discover places where they belong, and find opportunities to put their faith into action. But if I’m allowed to play favorites for just one month, September’s focus on Growing in Community is an especially good fit for me because I am a very social person. My introvert husband will confirm!

And September seems like the perfect month to talk about community. In a college town like Manhattan, September brings a definite sense of a new beginning. Students return, a new semester gets underway, summer routines give way to fall schedules, and suddenly our calendars seem to fill up overnight. Somehow, “getting back into a routine” always sounds much calmer than it actually is.

But perhaps September is also the perfect time to ask a different question: Where will I find community this fall?

In Hebrews I love the image of “spurring one another on.” Faith was never meant to be a solo activity. We need people who encourage us, challenge us, laugh with us, pray with us, and sometimes simply sit beside us. We grow when we do life together.

Thankfully, growing in community at FUMC doesn’t have to look the same for everyone. There’s no single “right” way to get connected—and no requirement that you join absolutely everything. We have enough activities at FUMC that you could probably make a full-time job out of attending them all, and I’m pretty sure that’s not what God had in mind.

Maybe your way of connecting is through Pathways, where the great outdoors, exercise, and time together come together. Chancel Choir offers fellowship and worship through music. Wednesday Midweek Renewal provides a meal, fellowship, and midweek devotion to help you pause in the middle of a busy week. Young Professionals gives younger adults a chance to connect with others in a similar stage of life, while Geezers offers fellowship, laughter, and hands-on projects—and despite the name, you don’t necessarily have to consider yourself a geezer to join! Our children and youth ministries are another wonderful expression of community, giving our youngest members opportunities to build friendships, discover their faith, and learn what it means to be part of a church family. And these are just a few of the many ways to find community at FUMC.

If you’re not sure where you fit—or you’d simply like to try something new—give me a call. As Connections Coordinator, I’d love to help you find a place to connect. You don’t have to know exactly what you’re looking for. We can figure that out together!

Notice something? Growing in community doesn’t have to mean joining a committee, taking on a leadership position (though we would never say “NO!”) Sometimes it simply means showing up. Trying something new. Sitting at a table with people you don’t know yet. Taking a walk. Singing a song. Sharing a meal. Working on a project. Letting someone get to know you—and taking the time to know them.

Maybe you’re the person who walks into a room and immediately starts talking to everyone. Maybe you’re the person who quietly finds a seat in the back and hopes no one asks you to introduce yourself. There’s room for both of you here. Community doesn’t require us to all be the same. It simply asks us to be willing to take a step toward one another.

So this September, I hope you’ll find a place where you can do just that. Find your people. Make a connection. Encourage someone. Let yourself be encouraged. And grow together.

Cathlene Higgins, Connections Coordinator (chiggins@fumcmanhattan.com)





PATHWAYS

Sunday, September 20 @ 4:30 pm
The Barn at Prairiewood
1484 Wildcat Creek Road

Potluck finger foods
 after hike

Sponsored by



United
 Women
 in Faith

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

CONTACT YOUR CHURCH STAFF

The church office is open Monday–Thursday, 9:00 a.m.–4:00 p.m. Please see the staff directory below and contact the appropriate staff member as needed. Staff can be reached through the main church number, 785-776-8821, or by email using the staff directory on our website, www.fumcmanhattan.com.

Church Office	Cathlene Higgins, Connections Coordinator
	Megan Anderson, Administrative Assistant
Pastor	Mike Chamberlain
Associate Pastor	Courtney Fellers
Director of Finance	Noni Buster
Director of Facilities	Fred Caldwell
Weekday Early Education Director	Lindsay Kinsinger
Children's Director	Misti LeMoine
Youth Director	Jeff Cunningham
Media and Tech Director	Robbie Phillips
Music Director/Organist	Dan Myers
Choir Director	Mark Lucas
Bell Director Beginner/Spirit Ringers	Kathy Leonard
Bell Director Rhapsody Ringers/Allegro Ringers	Nancy Monical



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612 Poyntz Avenue
Manhattan, KS 66502-6041

Pastors: Mike Chamberlain, Courtney Fellers
Editor: Cathlene Higgins

Return Service Requested

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MIDWEEK
Renewal

Dinner • 5:30 PM
Devotion • 6:00 PM

Praying through the Psalms
Exploring the many ways the Psalms teach us to pray.

• — EVERY WEDNESDAY — •