



# First United Methodist Church

Manhattan, Kansas

CONNECTING to Christ | GROWING in Community | SERVING the World

VOLUME 93 | NO. 9 | SEPTEMBER 2025

If football gets a kickoff, so do we! Join us for a special church Fall-Kickoff on Sunday, September 7, at 9:45 a.m. in the west parking lot. We'll have breakfast burritos and ice cream, along with special guests from the KSU band and Willie the Wildcat himself.

Come celebrate the start of a new season with your church family. We have a place for everyone on our team. No bench warmers here! We want to put your skills and enthusiasm to work to further the kingdom. And yes, we still need cheerleaders to encourage one another in our faith.

Prefer to watch from the sidelines? Your "season tickets" are always renewed, with great seating available. The balcony box and choir suite (complete with a robe) are also great options for those who want to sing with a special group.

We are also kicking off "Midweek Renewal," a new offering starting Wednesday, September 10. We'll start with a light supper at 5:30 p.m., followed by worship at 6:00 p.m. Then, you can join a small group or spend time visiting and playing games. It's a great opportunity to connect with people from your church. September is a great time to kick off your faith journey!

Loving God and Loving Neighbor,



Rev. Donna Voteau  
Cell 816-806-0482  
[dvoteau@greatplainsumc.org](mailto:dvoteau@greatplainsumc.org)



# First United Methodist Church

Manhattan, Kansas

[www.fumcmanhattan.com](http://www.fumcmanhattan.com) | [fumc@fumcmanhattan.com](mailto:fumc@fumcmanhattan.com) | 785-776-8821

## 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, SEPTEMBER, 1  
in observance of Labor 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](mailto: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](mailto:fumc@fumcmanhattan.com).

# FALL KICKOFF



SEPTEMBER, 7TH



JOIN US BETWEEN SERVICES FOR:



**KSU BAND  
WILLIE THE WILDCAT  
KSU CHEERLEADERS  
BREAKFAST  
GAMES  
AND MUCH MORE!**



[www.funmanhattan.com](http://www.funmanhattan.com)

**INVITE YOUR FRIENDS**

785-776-8821

## Meet The Chancel Choir!



**Ari Thomas**  
Chancel Choir Director

**Sunday, September 21**

**12:15 PM**

**Fellowship Hall**

**The Chancel Choir will be hosting a lunch for all who would like to meet the director and choir members, ask questions, and share a meal.**

**No RSVP required.**





## YOUR FUMC OFFERINGS AT WORK

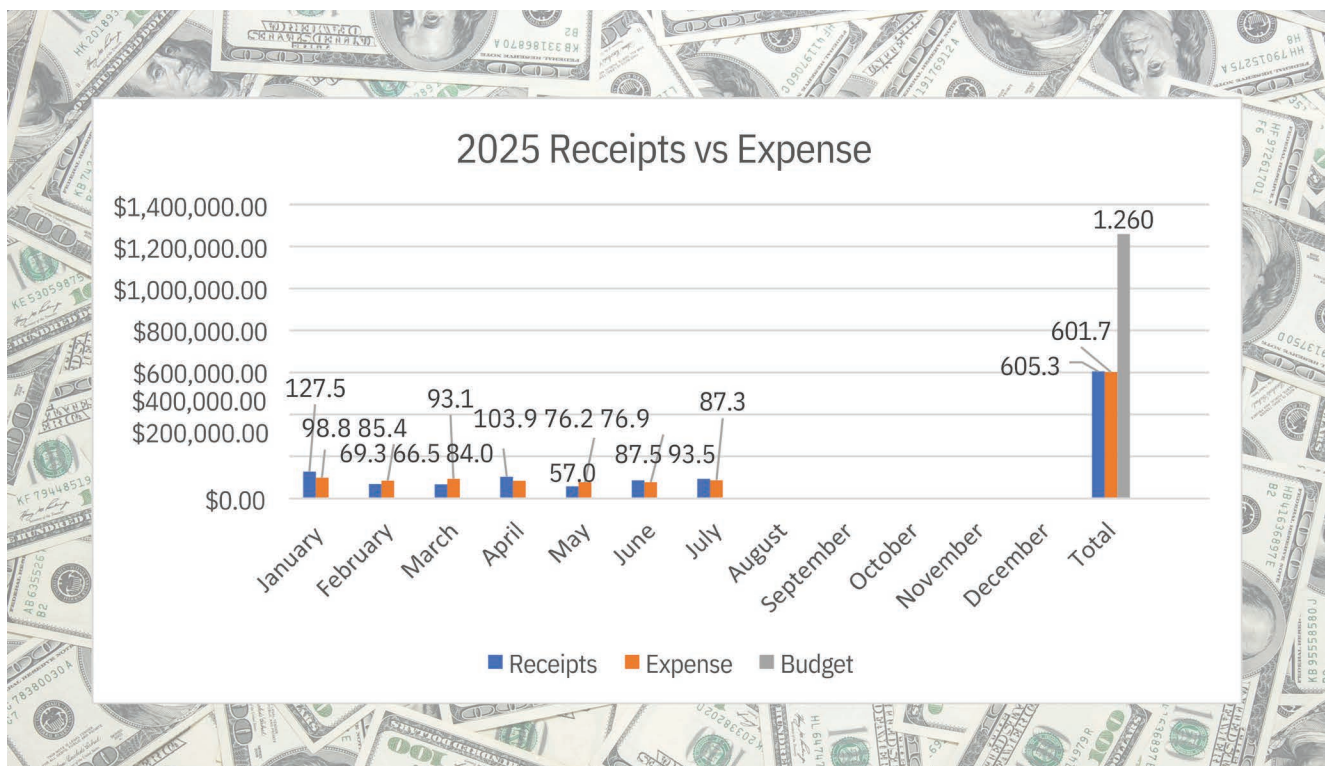
The First United Methodist Church of Manhattan performs God's work by providing and supporting a variety of programs that assist families, individuals, and children in our community as well as internationally. The means by which the Church provides these needed services on your behalf is accomplished 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 have slightly exceeded Expenses by \$3.6K dollars year-to-date. Applying a simple analysis using seven months of actual Receipts, coupled with five months of projected Receipts based upon a 2024 trend line, Receipts would fall short of projected expenses by an estimated \$44.4K dollars at the end of the fiscal year. The major factor for the shortfall is attributed to the apportionment.

You may recall in last month's report that FUMC had not made a payment toward its apportionment obligation of \$108K. Apportionments are funds that local churches make to assist in funding wider ministry activities. I am pleased to report that since that publication \$18K dollars has been pledged toward the apportionment. This represents a good 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



**GALATIANS**  
chapter 6  
VERSE 9

*SCRIPTURE FOCUS FOR SEPTEMBER*

"Let us not become weary in doing good,  
for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up."

September may bring Friday night lights and college kickoffs, but for many in our community, the real season is harvest. While the rest of the world debates quarterbacks and rankings, our farmers are watching the skies, running the combines, and praying over fields. It is long hours, aching backs, and a kind of faith city folks rarely understand.

Paul's reminder in Galatians speaks right into this moment. God sees every seed we plant, every act of kindness, every step of obedience, and every ounce of effort poured into our work, our families, and our faith. Just like the fields, the seeds we plant in our lives will produce a harvest in His timing, not ours. The waiting can be hard, but the promise is sure: if we do not give up, God will bring fruit from our faithfulness.

So as the combines roll and the sun sets earlier each evening, take heart. Your labor, whether in a field, a classroom, an office, or a quiet corner of your home, is not in vain. The same God who designed the rhythm of seed time and harvest is tending to the soil of your life. Keep sowing. Keep believing. And when the time is right, the harvest will come. Not just in grain or success, but in peace, joy, and a deeper trust in the One who never fails.

And maybe that is the bigger lesson of September. Seasons change. Fields empty. Leaves fall. Yet God's faithfulness stays steady through it all. No matter where you are planting, no matter what you are waiting on, you are not forgotten. The Lord of the harvest has already prepared the blessing.

## 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 obligations to join.

**OCTOBER 1 @ 6:30PM**





# MIDWEEK RENEWAL

STARTING SEPTEMBER 10TH AT 5:30 PM

**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!



DINNER, WORSHIP AND DISCIPLESHIP GROUPS FOR ALL AGES



# Student Ministries



**CHILDREN'S**  
MINISTRY **FUMC**

Jeff Cunningham, Director of Student Ministries  
[jcunningham@fumcmanhattan.com](mailto:jcunningham@fumcmanhattan.com)

Misti LeMoine, Coordinator of Children's Ministries  
[children@fumcmanhattan.com](mailto:children@fumcmanhattan.com)

Ronald Atkinson, Coordinator of Youth Ministries  
[youth@fumcmanhattan.com](mailto:youth@fumcmanhattan.com)



## Student Ministry Midweek Schedule Wednesdays



**3:30-5:30 Youth Hangout  
and Devotional Donuts**

Transportation from the Middle Schools Available



**5:00-5:30 Student Ministry Bells  
Sanctuary**



**5:30-6:30 Midweek Renewal  
Worship and meal in Fellowship Hall**



**6:30-7:30 Jesus and Me (JAM)  
3<sup>rd</sup> Floor of the Education Center**



**6:30-7:30 YUM  
3<sup>rd</sup> Floor of the Education Center**



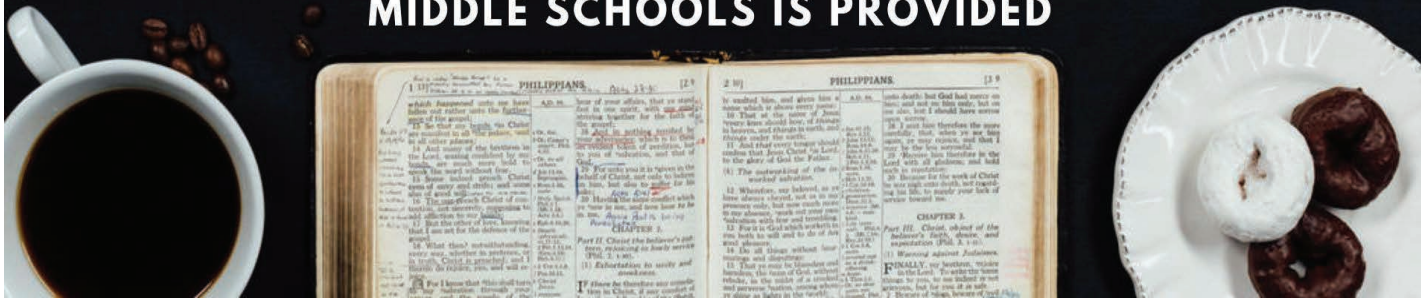
**6:30-7:30 Youth Group  
3<sup>rd</sup> Floor Youth Room**





# YOUTH HANGOUT & DEVOTIONAL DONUTS

3:30 - 5:30PM ON WEDNESDAYS ON THE  
THIRD FLOOR, ED CENTER.  
BUS TRANSPORTATION FROM BOTH  
MIDDLE SCHOOLS IS PROVIDED



STUDENT MINISTRIES

# ACOLYTE

## Ministry

OPEN TO ALL AGES FROM  
KINDERGARTEN TO 12<sup>TH</sup> GRADE

CONTACT RONALD ATKINSON FOR MORE  
INFORMATION: [RONALDATKINSONJR@HOTMAIL.COM](mailto:RONALDATKINSONJR@HOTMAIL.COM)

TRADITION \* SERVICE \* SACRIFICE \* GRACE



Tyler Higgins and Ellie Stout, were married in our sanctuary on July 12. Pastor Donna Voteau officiated the beautiful ceremony, which was attended by a large gathering of family and friends.

Tyler, son of Eric and Cathlene Higgins, has been part of our church family since his baptism in 2002.

After their honeymoon, Tyler and Ellie moved to Dallas, Texas, where they are beginning their new life together. We wish them every blessing in this exciting new chapter!

## CALLING ALL YOUNG PROFESSIONALS!

**Join us for**

**A time  
of conversation**

**A way to connect**

**A time for growth**

**A place to serve**

**Wednesdays at 6:30 PM  
in the Connecting Link**

**Led by  
Pastor Courtney**



**If you need childcare, please email Rachel Hill at [nursery@fumcmnhattan.com](mailto:nursery@fumcmnhattan.com)**





FUMC PRESCHOOL HAS

# OPENINGS FOR 4 & 5 YEAR OLDS

CLASSES MEET MONDAY-THURSDAY  
9:00-1:00

CALL OR EMAIL  
FOR MORE INFORMATION  
785.776.7030  
[PRESCHOOL@FUMCMANHATTAN.COM](mailto:PRESCHOOL@FUMCMANHATTAN.COM)

SAVE THE DATE

# MILITARY BAND



OCTOBER 5 AT 3:00 PM





**TURN HUNGER  
INTO HOPE  
WITH YOUR  
OWN TWO  
HANDS.**

## **PRAISEFEST MOBILEPACK**

**1710 AVERY AVE. (CICO PARK)**  
**SEPTEMBER 13 9 AM - 11 AM**

Join the FUMC team for a Feed My Starving Children MobilePack event to provide life-changing meals where they're needed most. This event is a great opportunity for families to volunteer together, open to children aged five and older.

**Sign-up is required.**

Sign up by contacting Cathlene via email or phone:  
[chiggins@fumcmanhattan.com](mailto:chiggins@fumcmanhattan.com)  
785-776-8821

# **SAVE THE DATE - 14<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL**

*Stay tuned for more information*

**SEPT**



**SEPT**



**SEPT**



# **PRAISEFES 2025**



# **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](https://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.

# UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH (UWF)

TO ALL WOMEN IN THE FUMC COMMUNITY:

United Women in Faith (UWF) is an organization for every woman who believes that the teachings of Jesus Christ are moving her to help others through missional servitude, working beside other women. There is no requirement for membership in FUMC - just a belief in and a heartfelt desire to get involved in serving those in need.

Here at FUMC we have several small groups that we call "Circles." Please see the information sheet below for a description of and information on them. Each Circle sets its own schedule and does its own thing, but we are all members of the local unit of UWF, and as such we often come together to support a common cause, such as collecting back-to-school items, necessities for layette kits, or items for disaster kits, and we support our district UWF through our apportionments. To do this we have one or two fundraising activities during the year, involving the members/attendees of our church.

We think we have the best UWF unit of the entire conference and we're hoping you'll join us to make it even better in the upcoming year! Please don't hesitate to give us a call with any questions or information on meetings of the various Circles.

## You're invited to Join a UWF Circle

- **Koinonia Circle** - 4th Wednesday at 6:30 pm, various locations  
*Contact Lee Meigs, 785-410-6500, slmeigs@cox.net.*
- **Current Issues** - 3rd Tuesday at 9:15 am in the Church Library  
*Contact Linda Beech lbeech@ksu.edu  
or Diana Cunningham keithdi@sbcglobal.net*
- **Naomi Circle** - 2nd Wednesday at 10 am at Meadowlark Hills  
*Contact Shirley Van Der Stelt, 785-539-7220*
- **Simply Circle** - TBD Young Professionals  
*Contact Jill Sherman, 620-786-9360*

**Or contact us at [uwf@fumcmanhattan.com](mailto:uwf@fumcmanhattan.com)**





Thank You

Dear Pastor Donna, Nancy, and members of the 1st UMC Bell program,

On behalf of all of the participants and attendees at Pinnacle 2025, we want to thank you for the loan of bells, chimes, mallets, and foam for the event. Your generosity made it possible for Kansas to host a major national handbell event successfully and participants did not have to bring any of their own equipment.

Thank you, too, to Nancy for taking care of receiving all of the equipment. That is really appreciated.

Blessings on your bell ministry program as you gear up for Fall.

The Pinnacle 2025 Local Liaison Team,  
Janelle Flory Schrock  
Kathy Leonard Amy Knudsen

Thank You

Thank you to the following persons who provided music at this summer's worship services:

FUMC Praise Band: Robbie Phillips, Adam Inman, Stephani Kohls, Charlie Sargent, Ken Reeve, Brett Henry, John Fellers, Scott Schlender, Tom Fish, Gary and Kay Lloyd, Gail Eyestone, Drew Harrison (grandson of Ron and Glenna Harrison), The Maxwell Family (Steve, Susan, Grace, Izzy, and Bob), Keith Wright, Treavor Heeney, Larry Dean, Scott Boisvert, Bryce Schreiber, Evan Wylde, Nancy Monical, Ken Reeve, Caitlin McClatchey, the Chase Family (Chad, Segen, Solveig, and Gantt), and Ari Thomas

Thank you-Dan Myers

SEPTEMBER  
20TH

9AM-  
12PM

PEDALS, PIPES & PIZZA

Everyone of ALL AGES is invited to  
ALL FAITHS CHAPEL on the KSU campus  
to play and explore the Pipe Organs.

FREE - LUNCH INCLUDED

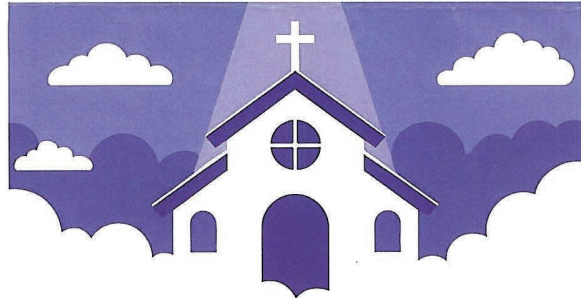
RESERVE A PLACE WITH AN EMAIL TO DAN MYERS  
DANBM041158@GMAIL.COM

SPONSORED BY THE MANHATTAN/KSU CHAPTER OF THE AMERICAN GUILD OF ORGANIST





## THANK YOU TO CHURCH MEMBERS



# 20% OFF

When you mention this flyer

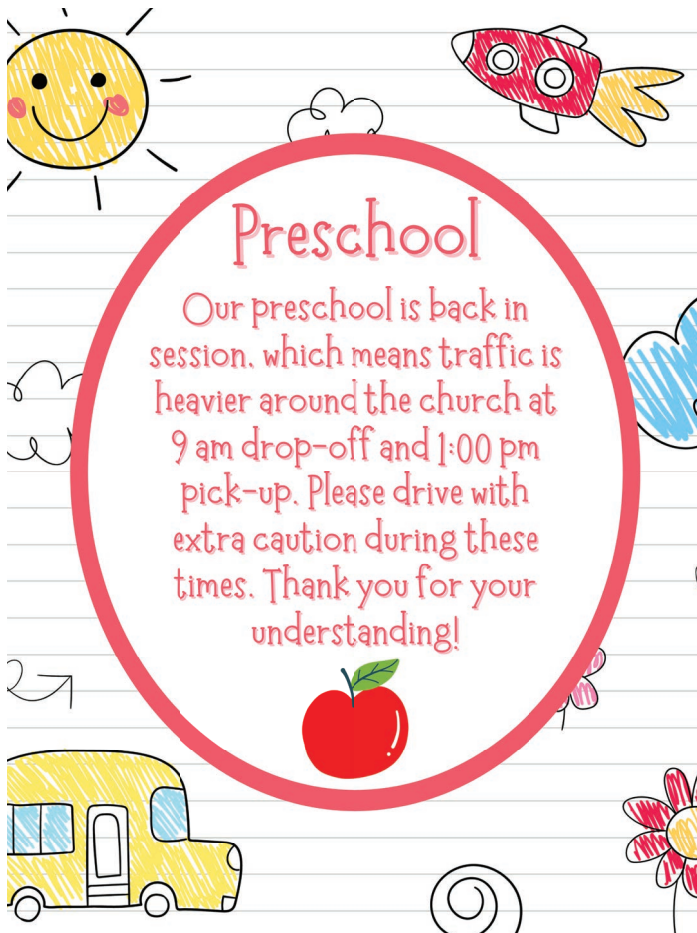
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FOR OUR COMMUNITY

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WHAT KIND  
OF CAR DOES  
JESUS DRIVE?  
A CHRISTLER.

*@manhattanblog*



## BLESSING BOX NEEDS

### NON - Perishable

#### Food Items:

Peanut Butter  
Canned Fruits and  
Canned Vegetables  
Canned Tuna/Meat  
Cereal  
Canned Soup  
Breakfast Bars  
Crackers  
Canned Soup  
Breakfast Bars  
Crackers  
On-the-go  
foods/snacks  
Dried Fruit  
Nuts  
Powdered Milk

### Hygiene Product

Feminine Hygiene  
Shampoo  
Soap  
Body Wash  
Conditioner  
Toothbrush/Toothpaste  
Deodorant

### Other Items:

Plastic Silverware  
Inexpensive Can opener





## *MINISTRY IMPACT MOMENTS*

Our church family generously donated 30 backpacks to the USD 383 FIT Closet, a community-supported program that provides essential items to students in the Manhattan-Ogden school district who are experiencing housing insecurity. These backpacks will directly support children and youth identified as FIT (Families in Transition) students, helping them start the school year with the supplies they need to succeed. Thank you, church family, for making a meaningful difference in the lives of local students through your continued generosity and compassion.



Left: First United Methodist Church (FUMC) hosted a Journey of Generosity retreat in August. Participants had the opportunity to explore the joy of living generously through a biblical lens.



**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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**OFFICE CLOSED FOR LABOR DAY**



**MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 1**