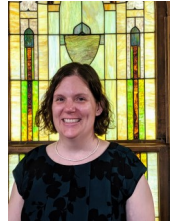


“The church is not a building, the church is not a steeple, the church is not a resting place, the church is a people. I am the church, you are the church, we are the church together! All who follow Jesus, all around the world! Yes, we’re the church together!” (United Methodist Hymnal #558)



During this pandemic, our church has not been closed. Our building may have been closed for purposes of public health and safety, we as the church are still quite active! We are worshipping together every week both online and on Eagle TV, and we have been sharing some mid-week devotions through Facebook. We’ve had multiple gatherings, confirmation classes, youth group, and adult Sunday school classes over Zoom. We have prayed with and for each other. We have provided assistance to church and community members who were in need with groceries, rent, and more. The church is open, alive and well!

As the state of Kansas implements its reopening plans, we too are looking at what it takes to safely reopen our building and to safely have people meet together in our building. Our building serves as more than just a church, it is also a community center where many different groups gather. As your pastor, along with church leadership, we must balance all the needs of our community when planning to reopen the building. We are weighing physical health and safety as well as mental, emotional, and spiritual health needs of no one individual, but the community as a whole.

As United Methodists, we follow the theology of our founder, John Wesley, who said, “Do no harm. Do good. Stay in love with God.” This is my guiding principle when it comes to reopening. I aim to do the least harm possible, knowing that we can’t be everything for everyone all the time. As I write this guidelines keep changing from day to day as we learn more about the coronavirus, and as more information is gathered.

I am as frustrated as anyone about not worshipping together in person right now, but I also must weigh the risks of doing so, and look at how to do so as safely as possible. I also must balance the quality of the worship experience in person vs. online, especially as not all volunteers or staff may be able to return in person for now. This means that we will come back in stages, with different rules and requirements as we both know more, and as risks shift. What works one week may need to change suddenly, depending on new factors and information. While we have the freedom to assemble, we must also be responsible as we as Christians are called to care for the least and the lost. These are things your pastor loses sleep over quite frequently these days.

I appreciate your prayers for me as your pastor, for our church, for our community, for those who are at serious risk from this virus, for those who are lonely and isolated, for those who are sick, for those who care for the sick, and for all our leaders as we learn and adapt quickly to ever changing circumstances. We are still the church, and we are still open. God is open for prayers any time! So let’s keep lifting those prayers wherever we are.

Pastor Andrea

Our Vision

Worship, Witness, Serve

Our Mission

Worship God who loves us.
Share our faith by building relationships.
Bring hope to the world we serve.

June Mission

Lighthouse for Christ

Is a not-for-profit organization that operates through a God-given vision to give temporary and emergency assistance to those in Clay County that are in need. "Serving those in need in the name of Jesus Christ".



The Community Church Camp committee is sadly cancelling all scholarships for this summer's church camps. As of last week virtually all camps, that we normally fund students to, has announced "no summer camps" this year due to safety concerns. This is sad but life. We hope students will maintain their interest and re-apply for our scholarships come next spring. The committee has worked hard for several years to secure funds for every student who applied for a scholarship each year. We will continue to do that. If the number of applicants had been where we expected this year, we would have been over \$10,000 short of being able to fund everyone. So, just maybe, God decided he would allow us some more time for fundraising because he has big plans for our future. I like to think of this step back in that way. Thanks for your past and present support. Think "safety" for yourself AND your fellow man/woman. It's one of our Christian responsibilities. Community Church Camp Committee, PO Box 118, Clay Center, KS 67432



Financial Report from Finance Committee:

General Budget
April
Tithes & Offerings: \$12,524.35
Expenses: \$24,260.40

Year To Date
Jan. 1- April 30
Tithes & Offerings: \$78,747.74
Expenses: \$95,680.44

Virtual Coffee Hour

Sundays @ 11am—11:45 am

Spend some time talking to one another .
Get caught up.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/95510699042>

Meeting ID: 955 1069 9042

Password: ccumc

We are looking for people to sew face masks for adults and children. If you are interested in this please call the church office @ 785-632-3106 or email Marabeth at churchcoor@claycenterumc.org



happy anniversary

- 50 +
- Gale & Lorrie Lloyd 06/06
- Al & Carolyn Kirtley 06/07
- Johnny & Jane Crawshaw 06/09
- Mark & Patti Woodruff 06/14
- George & Neva Jensen 06/24
- Bill & Jane Zacharias 06/28



Dear Neighbors @UMC, It is always such a "treat" to get treats from our neighbors at UMC. Thanks for all your support of the staff at Garfield Elementary School during the year. All of us greatly appreciate your thoughtfulness.—**Ron Koster**

Dear UMC, Thank you for your generous scholarship. I will be using the money to help pay for the meal plan and books at college. I was very happy and appreciative to learn that I was selected as a recipient of your scholarship. Thank you , **Jake Ferguson**

Happy Birthday 85 and UP

- Henry Thomas 5/25
- Delmar Peterson 06/12
- Wilma Thomas 06/25
- Dolores Warner 06/26

Marabeth's Memo

What a beautiful Spring! Everywhere I look I see lush and colorful flowers. I don't remember a time when the iris were so big, the peonies so fragrant, and the ferns so green. The neighborhood yards are so nicely manicured and the local parks are so inviting. It is a sight to behold!

During this time of "staying at home" my daughter and I have gone on many little drives around the countryside. It has been fun to see where many of you live, from one corner of the county to the other. The beauty of the landscape has been breathtaking between the open pastures, the fields of wheat, and the rolling Flint Hills. These trips have been refreshing for the soul. It has been the most beautiful Spring!

My question then becomes – Is this the most beautiful Spring ever? Or, am I taking in all of the beauty of the earth more intentionally this year?

I am beginning to think that the beauty has been right here all along, but in my busyness of life, I took it for granted. With the pace of my life a little slower, I have been more mindful of my surroundings, giving me a deeper appreciation for how awesome our God really is. Sometimes we just need to pause and take it all in. Maybe the Spring of 2020 is more beautiful than any other year in history, or maybe, just maybe, the Spring of 2020 is the year that I paid more attention. Look around and be grateful.

Missing my church family and praying for you daily,

Marabeth

"Let the beauty of nature remind you of the goodness of God."

Church Office opening

As Kansas moves to Phase 2 on its COVID-19 response plan, we will be reopening the church office for limited hours each week, 10 am—2 pm, Monday—Thursday, starting Wednesday, May 27th *, with some new policies and procedures in place.

1. We ask that everyone who enters the building, please wear a mask the entire time you are in the building. We hope to have a few available for those who don't already have one.
 2. We ask that everyone use hand sanitizer as they enter and exit the building. We have dispensers at the main entrance. Exodus 30:21
 3. Please respect the signs and notices around the building, recognizing that some areas may be closed to public use for any number of reasons, including waiting for cleaning/sanitizing. This includes the bathrooms.
 4. Please do not enter any offices unless invited in. As Luke 13:24 says, "then you will stand outside and knock on the door."
 5. The office is still open by phone and email. If your business can be done by phone or email, please do so.
 6. If you are at high-risk, please stay home! We would be happy to help with whatever you need through a phone call.
 7. If you do not feel well or have had a known exposure to someone with COVID-19/coronavirus within the last 14 days, please stay home!
- ◆ If Kansas moves back to Phase 1 or below, we will close the church building again.
 - ◆ If you wish to see the full policy as approved by the church council, contact the church office.

THE ENLIGHTENER

Clay Center United Methodist Church - Pastor Andrea Beyer
921 5th Street - P.O. Box 118 - Clay Center, Kansas 67432-2509

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Insurance Claims, 24 Hour
Towing, Free Estimates

Wall's True Value

Hardware - Television
Major Appliances - Lumber
632-2851
423 Lincoln Clay Center
www.wallscratchndent.com

SCRAMBLE - is cancelled until further notice

There will be no in-person worship for the month of **June**. We will keep you updated on when that will change.

Our Deepest sympathy :

On the loss of our member **Dorothy Beswick** who passed away.

Marilyn Habluetzel on loss her son Danny Habluetzel & to his brother Jerry & Cindy Habluetzel and all other family members.

Keith & Kate Hoffman & family on the loss of his sister Jean Bramwell.

Kenneth & Judy Stitt & family on the loss of his brother Terry Stitt.

Brad & Sonia Cooper & family on the loss of her mother Betty Dyck.

IN OUR PRAYERS: Marilyn Martin, Raymond Bull, Elizabeth Carlson, Marla Forsyth, Jace Raines, Sheila McGrew, Marsha Argo, Jillian Browne, Gary Beck, Dewey Adams, Coye Crane, Jamie Klein, and for those whose names are unmentioned.

Serving in the Military: Brenden Kolsky, Drew Sumner