



WORSHIP • WITNESS • SERVE
CLAY CENTER
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

THE ENLIGHTENER

FEBRUARY 2023

A Note From Pastor Reuben

I am now two years old in Clay Center and I love it! You all have been amazing people and fun serving God with you. I have seen you come to church even when it is very cold and the love and passion you have for God is evident. As you might know, I am also involved in other organizations outside our church, but I am particularly happy that I am a member of local ones like, Clay County Historical Society, Rotary Club, Clay Center Resource Center and my wife and I have had a privilege of being invited to attend other community events. We love being out to meet and to know people God has given us to serve.

Let me express my appreciation to all the parents who make sure that they bring their kids to church. As you know, I have a great passion for reaching our children with the gospel of Jesus Christ especially while young. Many teenagers quit going to church when they turn into adults, we do not want to see that happen here. So it calls for us to reach and mentor our children and youth. For this to happen we need more volunteers to help. May I request you to pray and if God speaks to you about serving among our young people please do so. It is worth investing in them.

As you have heard, our youth are planning to attend a youth camp in Daytona beach in Florida this summer. Zac and his team as well as the parents have done a great job to make this a success for them. Please keep praying for them and Zac as he is one of the main speakers. I am proud that he was asked to be one of the facilitators.

October 15th is our 150 years celebration of God's work in and through our church. God has and continues doing great things here. Souls have been saved, youth confirmed, marriages and funerals done as well as global impact made through the ministry right here in our church. One thing in relation to this is that a number of years ago, World Gospel Mission (WGM) missionaries came to speak and raise their support here. Did you know that my parents and I became Christians because of World Gospel Mission? One missionary couple that I know came here to speak served in Kenya. My being here is your answered prayers for those missionaries! That is just an example of the many things that God has done through our church and it is worth a celebration. So please pray and give to support this coming celebration.

Thank you for being here and thank you to those who are part of our family and watching online. Through online, we are making an impact outside the walls of our building and outside Clay Center.

May the good Lord keep and bless you!

Rev. Reuben Langat, Ph.D.



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.**



Celebrating God's Faithfulness

Celebrating God's Faithfulness October 15, 2023

Do you know of anyone who would like an invitation to the 150th year celebration of CCUMC other than current members or people on the Enlightener mailing list..., former members, relatives, neighbors or friends? If so, please give their name and address to the church office by mail at P.O. Box 118, by phone @ 785-632-3106 or email to churchoffice@claycenterumc.org. "Save the Date" cards will be going out soon.

God's faithfulness is shown through His love for us. God loves each of us as if there was only one of us. ~ Saint Augustine



Our church services were first held in a log cabin schoolhouse!

It's time to start thinking about Summer Church Camps. The Community Church Camp Committee has their first 2023 fundraiser at CCUMC Family Life Center on **Feb. 1st from 5:30-6:30 pm**. Free will donation, meal of soup and cinnamon rolls. Hope to fund 100+ youth to camps of their choice this year. You can send checks to Church Camp, P.O. Box 118, C.C., KS 67432

Meals on Wheels

Our church was responsible for the delivery of Meals on Wheels for the month of January. We had a total of 20 volunteers that made this happen. This is an important mission of the Clay Center community and a heart-warming ministry of our church. Not only is a warm and nutritious meal delivered, but these folks also receive a greeting of love from compassion filled volunteers from our church. Thank you to this team for being the hands and feet of Jesus.

**WE ARE
grateful
FOR YOU!**

YOUTH GROUP

**SUPER
BOWL
SNACK SALE**

**Selling Before Each
Worship Service**

**SUNDAY
FEB 12**



December Budget

Receipts	\$36,372.19
Expenses	\$31,777.26
Mission	\$1502.96

Year to Date (Dec 31)

Receipts	\$320,533.83
Expenses	\$329,203.77



**FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS 85+
& ANNIVERSARIES 50+ years**

Reta Knitter 02/05
Wendell Eggerman 02/10
LeAnn Killman 02/21
Nola Unruh 02/27

No Anniversaries



CCUMC JAM: JAM helpers
www.signupgenius.com

Volunteers Needed !

If you would like to sign up to help with JAM this spring semester Amy Burr and Katie Knitter would love the help.





Kansas Day Dinner Special Events January 22, 2023



We had some mind
stumping Kansas
trivia along with a
delicious meal.



United Methodist Men Pancake Feed

The men of CCUMC were busy in the kitchen for their Annual All-You-Can-Eat Pancake Feed. As always, it was a hit with the crowd. All donations for the meal will be going towards scholarships for our youth. Thanks, guys!



Children Learning About Yahweh

I love working with our children and youth in the church.

Our ministry has grown in so many ways, and we are grateful for all God is doing. We are so blessed here at CCUMC to have several ministries focusing solely on equipping and teaching the Word to young people. I am proud of all of our children and youth. I love seeing them read scriptures at both services, how they greet people, how they lead worship, and the significant number that shows up on Wednesday nights. Thank you, parents, for prioritizing the spiritual development of our young people on top of your busy family schedules.



What we see today in our children's and youth ministry is the fruit of the labor of those that came before us. Statistics show that churches are closing at a rapid rate in the US. Church historians say as congregations dwindle across the country, the younger generation of Americans abandons Christianity altogether. There is a trend of over 1,500 churches closing yearly, and more than 50% of youth members leave the faith entirely when they move to tertiary education. I bring these statistics to light not to scare anyone but to motivate and encourage all of us in our call to be world changers. The faith that was once delivered to the saints is not for us to keep. This faith is for us to pass on to the next generation. Reversing these statistics can be challenging, but Jesus said, "With man this is impossible, but with God all things are possible." (Matthew 19:26).



Last October, I was at the Billy Graham Library for a speaking engagement with Operation Christmas Child, and I bought a book on the history of revivals in the United States. These accounts of the Holy Spirit's movement across our nation are so powerful to read. I long for a great awakening and the supernatural sweeping of the Holy Spirit in our country once more. One of these revivals happened in Wilmore, Kentucky, at Asbury College. The significant move of the Holy Spirit swept the campus and reached across the nation. While the Asbury revival found its flower in the 1950s, the planting of these seeds can be traced all the way back to the 1900s, when students

prayed, fasted, confessed, and repented during their chapel hour. This is a common trend for all accounts of these revivals: praying, fasting, and repentance.

Our youth group has set Wednesday aside for prayer and fasting from 6 a.m. to noon. We also launched our new CCUMC Youth Group devotional podcast last month to center ourselves spiritually and prepare ourselves for our upcoming youth conference in Daytona Beach, Florida, in the summer. We post new episodes every Wednesday morning, and if you are interested in listening to our podcast, look us up on Spotify and Anchor.FM.

Finally, I ask that you continue to lift our young people's lives for wisdom, knowledge, and their safety. Zac Vakadewatabua.



MARABETH'S MEMO

Our church is awesome!

I wish that everyone could see what I see as I work at the church day in and day out. I think all would be amazed to see the number of hours spent by volunteers each and every week. I get a front row seat to view this phenomenon. I could never cover all of the areas in which people give of their time, but to mention a few, did you know that there are silent volunteers that: wash the kitchen towels, set up for our monthly communion, do the sound, audio and screens during worship, bring cookies to The Way Service, register attendance into the computer, prepare the monthly newsletter for mailing, change the billboard in our front yard, make prayer quilts, keep the library current, not to mention all of the leaders and participants in all of our various ministries?

Our church is awesome!

A church **could not** function without you and your willingness to help where needed. Can you even comprehend what it might be like to walk into worship one Sunday if we had no volunteers for the morning? Let's try to imagine this. We would walk into the church without greeters and/or ushers. (Not very welcoming.) There would be no audio or video support, which I guess would be fine because there would be no music or Praise Team leaders. Our services would not be made available for on-line viewers. No coffee or refreshments would be offered. Communion would not be prepared and there would be no quilts to pray over. I suppose we would rely on Pastor Reuben to be in charge of the Young Christian Lesson, leading the singing, reading the scripture and presenting the sermon. In his spare time, immediately following worship, he would run upstairs and teach all of the kiddos their Bible lessons. At the end of all of this, he would need to be sure to shut down the lights and lock the doors as he leaves.

Our church is awesome!

There are churches that do suffer like the above scenario, but fortunately for us at the CCUMC, we are overflowing with talented people that are unselfish with their gifts and time, willing to give back to God for all that he has given them. That being said, there is always need for additional help. Please don't hesitate to contact me if there is an area that you would like to be of service. No act is too small. Every gift is important. Thank you for loving God and thank you for loving our church.

Our church is awesome!

Marabeth Conner



Ash
Wednesday
Worship

22 February @ 6:30 p.m.

Clay Center United Methodist Church

Hims with Hymns

Thanks to Pastor Reuben Langat, Youth Director Zac Vakadewatabua and Visitation Assistant Herb Mugler for providing the special music for the Sanctuary Worship service.

All three of these men

serve on our ministry staff and share a love for music and especially the "good old hymns." We look forward to more music from these three in the future.



February 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
FLC– Family Life Center Confirmation Class– Room #203 FEL– Fellowship Hall (basement) Tuesday @ 10am – Prayer time in the Sanctuary FFF– Faithfully Fit Forever - FLC– volunteer lead exercise program UWF– United Women in Faith, all women are welcome Home Spun– UWF cluster - Parlor C.O.O.L. W.H.I.P.– UWF cluster– RM 2 Men's Morning – FLC/ breakfast and devotion, all men are welcome Adv. – Adventures 1st-3rd grades/ FEL Pwr Pk – Power Pack 4th-5th grades/ FEL Youth Group – HS/ High School , MS/Middle School			1 9:15a FFF 3:30p Scramble Comm/ Library 5:30p Scramble 6:15p Youth Group	2  3:30p Pwr Pack 5p FFF	3 9:15a FFF	4
5 8:45a The Way Service 9:30a JAM 10:30a Sanctuary Worship 8p AA/Al-anon	6 11:30a Harvesters	7 9:30a Cong. Care 10a Tue @ 10 3:30p Adv 5p FFF	8 6:45a Men's Morn. 9:15a FFF 5:30p Scramble 6:15p Youth Group	9 10a HomeSpun 3:30p Pwr Pack 5p FFF	10 9:15a FFF	11
12 8:45a The Way Service 9:30a JAM 9:30a Confirmation Class 10:30a Sanctuary Worship Youth Group Bake Sale 8p AA/ Al-anon 	13	14  10a Tue @ 10 3:30p Adv 5p FFF	15 9:15a FFF 5:30p Cool Whip 5:30p Scramble 6:15p Youth Group	16 3:30p Pwr Pack 5p FFF	17 9:15a FFF	18
19 8:45a The Way Service 9:30a JAM 9:30a Confirmation Class 10:30a Sanctuary Worship 8p AA/Al-anon	20 Enlightener Articles Due	21 10a Tue @ 10 3:30p Adv 5p FFF 	22 6:45a Men's Morn. 9:15a FFF 5:30p Scramble 6:15p Youth Group 6:30p Ash Wednesday Service	23 3:30p Pwr Pack 5p FFF	24 9:15a FFF	25
26 8:45a The Way Service 9:30a JAM 9:30a Confirmation Class 10:30a Sanctuary Worship 8p AA/Al-anon	27	28 10a Tue @ 10 3:30p Adv 5p FFF	<div>  <div> February items we are collecting Stuffed animals Craft items </div> </div>			



We got a card from the church. Really touched. Thank you all for your comfort and prayers. This is a very precious gift. **Jenny Spence**

I wish to say thanks for the box of Christmas treats sent to my home during the holiday season. Thanks church family. **Dee Warner**

We continue to be blessed and we are so honored to help the individuals and families we serve. We helped nearly 300 families with food and clothing this past year. May God continue to bless you in the New Year! **Abby Sprague—Lighthouse for Christ Director**

Thank you for your support in 2022! We look forward to seeing you more in 2023! We are so blessed to have you. **Tamber Rouse- EmberHope**

Thank you so much for the finals week gift box. I thoroughly enjoyed all the treats that were inside and they helped me to achieve great scores on my finals. Thank you and happy New Year's! **Jake Ferguson**

Thank you for the mints, hot chocolate, and marshmallows. I appreciate you thinking of me during finals week! **Sincerely, Josh Ferguson**



Thank you to everyone who helped with our wonderful Christmas Box. Our delivery was made special with the children singing for us.

Wilbert & LeAnn Killman

Thank you so much for the yummy Christmas snacks. We traveled to Colorado for Christmas and we sure enjoyed the snacks on the trip. Thanks for thinking of us! **Mark & Barb Cunningham**

Thank you for the "goodie box" that the United Women in Faith prepared for us this Christmas.

Donna Karmann

Thank you for the box of treats, I will really enjoy it very much. **Sincerely, Dorothy Brown**

Thank you so very much for the Christmas box of goodies. I have really enjoyed it. **Eleanor J Morlong**



We are so thankful for our church family! The cards and messages mean so much to Tom. Thank you to everyone who thought of him on his special celebration.

Love, Tom Skinner and Family

I received the quilt and it is absolutely beautiful. My sincerest thanks goes out to all of you at the Clay Center UMC. There are not words to express my gratitude for your prayers and thoughtfulness! Thank you so much. **Frank Kirtley**

Thank you to the Tuesday @10 prayer group for the thoughtful donation and prayers. We also would like to thank the youth moms who contributed diapers, formula and wipes for baby Z'ion. We appreciate it.

Zac & Shawna Vakadewatabua

THE ENLIGHTENER

Clay Center United Methodist Church - Pastor Reuben Langat

921 5th Street - P.O. Box 118 - Clay Center, Kansas 67432-2509

Phone 785-632-3106 - Email: churchoffice@claycenterumc.org - Web site: www.claycenterumc.org



RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Nonprofit Org.

U.S. POSTAGE

PAID

Permit No. 108

Clay Center, KS

SCRAMBLE

Wednesday evening free-offering meal

5:30 pm—6:30 pm



February 1st– Community Church Camp Committee-
Soups & Cinnamon Rolls

February 8th– Fundraiser for Mark Cringan-(5-7pm)
Pulled Pork Dinner

February 15th– World Baton Fundraiser for Gurney & Leitzel-
Sloppy Joe Dinner

February 22nd– United Women in Faith– HomeSpun Cluster
Tater Tot Casserole Dinner



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Our Prayer Ministry



IN OUR PRAYERS: Elizabeth Carlson, Jillian Browne, Tom Skinner, Dick Ahlberg, Scott Taddiken, Virginia Modean, Shelly Bottcher, Gerald (Rick) Ricketts, Barb Booth, Reta Knitter, Pat Nichols, Julie Schulze, Joel Spence, Wes Radcliffe, Craig Bradford, Dallas Cunningham, Frank Kirtley, and Patty Stephans.

Serving in the Military: Brenden Kolsky, Drew Sumner, Cooper Coffman, Wyatt Bowles

**A MONTH
OF MISSIONS**

UMCOR– United Methodist Committee on Relief
Providing support to children, families and
communities. UMCOR is able to give 100% of
designated funds to help those in need.