

THE ENLIGHTENER

Clay Center United Methodist Church - Pastor Reuben Langat

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THE ENLIGHTENER

MARCH 2023

A Note From Pastor Reuben

Easter season is here! It is the season that reminds us of Jesus' death on the cross so that we could be forgiven of our sins. Traditionally, some cultures sacrifice their animals for the cleansing of their sins. This was also the practice that was there in the Old Testament times, but the coming of Jesus Christ in the New Testament put that to an end. The blood of Christ that he shed on the cross is enough to cleanse us from all sins (1 John 1:7). I pray that you will take time during this season to ask God to search your heart and if there is anything that you would like him to take care of, please ask him for forgiveness. I tell you so because that is what I do too. None of us is perfect and we do not live in a perfect world either.

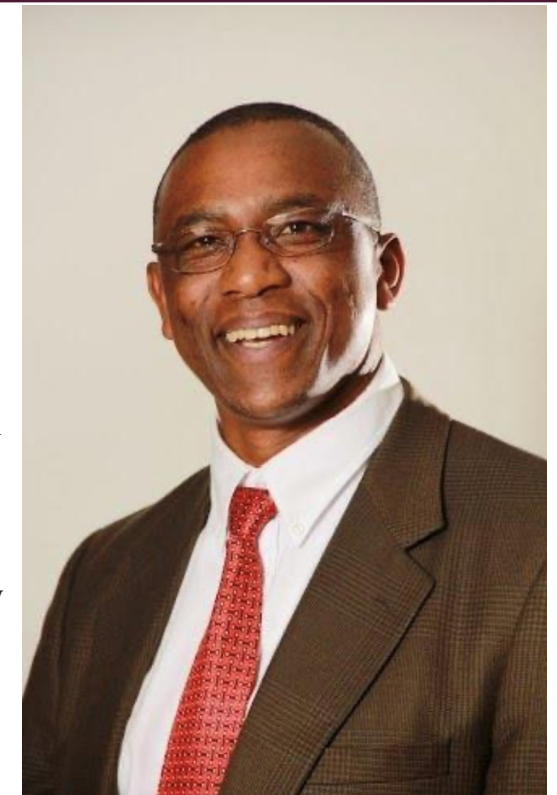
This year we have nine confirmands whom Zac and I meet every Sunday after the first service. I am grateful to God for each one of them, their parents and their mentors. As we sit around the room, I see the interest and passion they have to learn God's word and the history of our church. God has blessed us with children and it is our responsibility to nurture them up in the church. Good foundation is what they need from us and I am happy that we can provide that for them right here.

I am grateful for your commitment to God and the passion you have for God's mission within our church, community and beyond. Every church that is involved and active in God's mission grows and that is exactly what I have seen happen here through you.

Please keep praying and giving towards our 150th anniversary that is coming on October 15th this year. God has done and continues doing great things in this place and several of us have great stories about those doings. I am glad that I get to be part of God's beautiful story in this place!

May the presence of the Lord be with you during this Lenten season!

Rev. Reuben Langat, Ph.D.



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WEDNESDAY NIGHT Suppers

SCRAMBLE

Wednesday evening free-offering meal
5:30 pm—6:30 pm

03/01 Clay Center Wesleyan Church— Taco Salad Bar, Corn & Dessert
03/08 Fundraiser for Lois Nash— Sloppy Joe Meal (5-7 pm)
03/15 American Legion Post #101— Corned Beef & Cabbage or Beef Stew
03/22 Operation Christmas Child (Shoe Boxes)— Brats Dinner
03/29 Garfield Elementary PEP— Walking Tacos

IN OUR Prayers

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 provides support to children, families, and communities who suffer from natural or human-caused disasters— famine, hurricane, war, flood, fire or other events.

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.



When faithfulness is most difficult, that's when it is most necessary.
Let's celebrate God's Faithfulness, October, 15th, 2023

DID YOU KNOW? Washington Marlatt, an ordained elder and graduate of Asbury, was assigned to plant a church in Clay Center, Kansas by the NE-KS conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church. That church is now Clay Center UMC.

Scholarships Attention all High School Seniors: Please apply for the Adams Scholarship and the Ernest Tolin Scholarship. They are both sponsored by the Clay Center United Methodist Church.

New Custodian –
The Staff/Parish Relations Committee is pleased to welcome Austin Burr to the Church Staff as Custodian. He began his duties the end of January and is doing a great job. Austin is a Freshman at CCCHS and is an active member of our church and youth group. Please welcome Austin to our team!



Lenten Service & Luncheon,
March 29th
* 12:05 pm Sanctuary

Palm Sunday, April 2nd
*8:45am The Way
*9:30am JAM
*9:30am Confirmation Class
*10:30am Sanctuary

Maundy Thursday, April 6th
* 7pm in the Sanctuary

Good Friday, April 7th
* 7pm in the Sanctuary

Easter Sunday, April 9th
* 6:30am Sunrise Service
1568
* Breakfast in FLC afterwards
*8:45am The Way Service
*9:30am JAM/ Easter Egg Hunt
*10:30am Sanctuary Service



UWF Rummage Sale Info
Drop off your treasures on **Thursday, March 23rd** from 2-4pm and on **Friday, March 24th** from 8am-5pm. Pick up of items is available if you call the church by Thursday, **March 23rd** at 785-632-3106. Items will be picked up on **Friday, March 24th**. Volunteers are needed for all the times listed above.

BUDGET UPDATE

January Budget
Receipts \$30,791.01
Expenses \$27,019.60
Mission \$498.95

Year to Date (Jan 31)
Receipts \$30,791.01
Expenses \$27,019.60

MARCH BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES
85+ years
50+ years

Iris Rouse 03/01
Joyce Hogan 03/01
Delores D. Case 03/03
Larry & Carol Morgan 03/07/1959
Terry & Dianna Fleming 03/22/1968
Wilbert Killman 03/23
Barbara Booth 03/24
Bruce & Faun Bauer 03/29/1969



Linda & Dallas Cunningham, and Mark & Teresa Spellman and families on the loss of their mother and our beloved member Betty Spellman who passed away on February 19, 2023.

Thank you so much for all of the hospitality extended to our guests from Discipleship Ministries this week. It was such a treat to connect with so many excellent and faithful leaders in Christ's church. Please extend my heartfelt gratitude to all who were present.

Great Plains Congregational Excellence Director
Rev. Jeff Clinger

2023 Easter Flowers Order Form **Cost \$10**

The arrangement will be artificial and will be kept at the church for future use. All sponsored flowers will be listed in the bulletin on Easter Sunday and the May Enlightener. Orders are due by **Sunday, March 26th.**

Name (From): _____
In Memory of: _____
In Honor of: _____
Location: _____ Family Life Center _____ Sanctuary

HARVESTERS COMMUNITY FOOD NETWORK

Clay Center United Methodist Impact Report for CY2022

Thank you to Kathy Beougher & Diane Lykins and their great volunteers that work each month to provide food to our neighbor's in need. In 2022 we served 2,110 households, 4,609 individuals, 118,206 pounds acquired from Harvesters for a total of 98,505 meals distributed from the food acquired from Harvesters. You are truly making a difference here in Clay Center, Kansas.

Discipleship Guests-The Clay Center United Methodist Church was chosen as one of four churches in the Great Plains Conference to host representatives from the Discipleship Leadership Ministry Team including Rev. Dr. Evan D. Young and Elza Helena Soares, Ph.D., along with Rev. Jeff Clinger Director of Congregational Excellence from the Great Plains Conference and our D.S. Karen Rice Ratzlaff. Their visit was brought about by their desire to learn about the Clay Center United Methodist Church. With an increase in weekly worship attendance, new members joining the church, an active youth group, etc., our church is becoming a noticed bright spot in the Conference. Along with our church leadership, it was our pleasure and honor to host this gathering and share all that is going on here. Thank you to each and every person that calls CCUMC "home." You are a part of this movement and we are excited about the lives that are being changed for Christ's Kingdom.



(Pictured left to right - RiceRatzlaff, Young, Soares, Clinger.)



Children Learning About Yahweh

John Wesley prayed for revival, and it came to England, rescuing the country from the horrors of the French Revolution. Jonathan Edwards prayed, and a revival swept the American colonies. The Bible tells us in James 5:16 to confess our sins to one another and pray for one another, that we may be healed. God can heal us from our brokenness when we ask him through prayer. We have read about this truth in scripture and have seen it happen in history and our personal experiences. I, for one, am a living testimony to so many answered prayers. God has healed and answered many prayers in my life.

You may or may not have heard or seen media coverage of what happened last month at Asbury University in Wilmore, Kentucky. On February 8th, several college students attended their usually scheduled Wednesday morning chapel service at Hughes A uditorium. They did not know what God had in store for them. The preacher that morning spoke about what the love of God looks like and the pouring out of that love. At the end of his sermon, a young man stood up and confessed his addictions and sins among those present. The chapel service continued with more people confessing their sins, singing songs, worshipping, giving their lives to Christ, and students at the altar praying. This powerful service awakened college students' hearts at Asbury, spreading to over 20 other places/ campuses in the country. As I write this newsletter article, the chapel service at Asbury has been going on for over 250 hours. Through social media, young people share about this revival and the Good News of Jesus Christ. The TikTok hashtags #AsburyRevival and #Asbury_Revival had over 100 million views. Yes, God can even use TikTok to bring glory to Himself! One of the journalists commented on this revival and said, "Gen Z is on fire for God!" I like that line. Our youth belong to this 'Gen Z' generation, and they are on fire for God.



If we win the spiritual battles across our country but neglect our youth, all our progress will be undone in a generation. Therefore, young people today need our support and earnest prayers. However, our youth do not just need more prayer; they need our united prayer. Our hopes and dreams for this generation may be realized with a greater degree of genuine, unified prayer. I love doing ministry with Gen Z's. I love seeing our young people read scripture, and I love seeing them share their testimonies; I love doing band meetings with them and seeing them participate in our worship services here at CCUMC. I also love seeing how our parents and grandparents support the spiritual nurturing of our young people in different ways here at church. Thank you to all our parents and grandparents for joining hands with the church in discipling our youth. Thank you to all that continue to pray for our young people.

Pray without ceasing!

Zac



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
FLC– Family Life Center FEL– Fellowship Hall (basement) Tuesday @10a– Individual Prayers in Sanctuary and fellowship following in FLC 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		Confirmation Class– Room #203 WBS– Women’s Bible Study– Parlor	1 9:15a FFF 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 9:30a Confirmation Class 10:30a Sanctuary Worship	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 COOL WHIP 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 10:30a Sanctuary Worship 8p AA/ Al-anon	13 	14 10a Tue. @ 10 5p FFF -----	15 9:15a FFF 5:30p Scramble -----	16 5p FFF -----	17 9:15a FFF 	18
19 8:45a The Way Service 9:30a JAM 9:30a Confirmation Class 10:30a Sanctuary Worship	20	21 10a Tue. @ 10 3:30p Adv. 5p FFF	22 6:45a Men’s Morn. 9:15a FFF 10a WBS 5:30p Scramble 6p WBS 6:15p Youth Group	23 3:30p Pwr Pack 5p FFF	24 9:15a FFF Set up for Rummage Sale	25 7a-1p UWF Rummage 
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	29 9:15a FFF 10a WBS 12p Lenten Service & Lunch afterwards 5:30p Scramble 6p WBS	30 3:30p Pwr Pack 5p FFF	31 9:15a 	 March Items Hygiene items, toys, balls

Marabeth's Memo

I got the sweetest Valentine this year. (Thank you, Judy). It came by way of the US Postal Service and arrived perfectly on February 14th. It was a beautiful card with a lovely Valentine message. Also included were some fun sentiments about “Chocolate” and “Coffee” – two things that I love very much! But, what touched me the most was the handwritten note on the inside of the card. She wrote: “... live in such a way that those who know you but don’t know God, will come to know God because they know you...” I love that.

Have you ever met someone and there was just something different about them? You couldn’t quite put a finger on it, but they were a joy to be around, they had a certain glow about them, and they made you feel better about yourself just by being in their presence? I know people like that and it turns out that, almost 100% of the time, it is the love of Jesus in their hearts that is coming out through them. It is uncontainable! I want to be like that. I want Christ to be bursting at all of my seams and for people to have a desire to come to know Jesus because they know me. That is an audacious goal, but certainly something to strive for.

They say great things start from the inside. This I believe. If I am spending quality time with God in prayer, letting Him guide my thoughts and my actions, thinking of others well-being and offering them grace, I will be filled from the inside with God’s goodness. Then, and only then, can his love be evident on the outside. This is my heart’s goal. I have a long way to go to accomplish this, but I am not a quitter! I will forge on!

Thank you to my church family for helping me to know God better because I know you. You are a blessing.

Much Love –

Marabeth

“.....God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in them.” 1 John 4:16

WOMEN’S BIBLE STUDY Wednesdays 10:00 a.m. or 6:00 p.m.

March 22 - April 26



Leader: Marabeth Conner
churchcoor@claycenterumc.org

Cell: 785-447-0357

* Study Guides will be provided at a cost of \$14

Super Sunday -

Super Bowl Sunday was filled with excitement as the Youth Group began the day with their amazing Snack Sale. Proceeds of the sale (\$1,276) will go towards their fund to help send 22 kids to UMC Youth Conference in Florida this coming July. The Way Worship Service was led by the Youth Praise Team, special music, and scripture reader. At both services, Raegann McDonald shared her personal testimony, Zac V. gave the morning message and there was a guest appearance by Chiefs Coach Andy Reid, (BennyWallace). It was a fun-filled morning!



SAVE THE DATE
VBS
May 30th– June 2nd

Confirmation Class -

This year’s Confirmation Class has begun meeting each Sunday morning with Pastor Reuben, Zac Vakadewatabua and their Mentors. The class of 9 Confirmands is studying together the History of John Wesley and Doctrine of the United Methodist Church. We are excited for this group of young people. They affirm to us that our future is bright. Confirmation Sunday will be held on May 7, 2023.



Kansas FCA Athlete of the Year-Mackenzie Weller

Mackenzie Weller was nominated by her FCA (Fellowship of Christian Athletes) sponsor, Mrs. Kiem to be considered for the Athlete of the Year Award. Through all of the nominations in the state, Mackenzie was chosen as a finalist. She was interviewed by the FCA officials, where she shared about her strong faith in God, her athletics and how the two work together. She was later notified that she was selected as the Kansas FCA Female Athlete of the Year. Congratulations! Mackenzie is the daughter of Matt & Nichole Weller and is an active member of our church and youth group.



LENTEN LUNCHEON

Wednesday, March 29th
Clay Center
United Methodist Church

Worship Service
Sanctuary @
12:05 p.m.

Lunch to follow



All are invited

Sponsored by the Clay County Council on Ministries