

Notes from Pastor

Our Easter services were great! Thank you for your participation, attendance and also for inviting friends and family to join us. Our youth are awesome, they led the Sunrise service and they did great. These are emerging leaders in our church and they give us assurance that our tomorrow will be fine because of who they are today.

The Trustees have worked hard to prepare the lot next to the north parking for our church Community Garden. It is now time to actualize this vision and we need your help. We have some people who volunteered for this project and we still need some more, please consider joining them for this new ministry in our church. It will be a place where we can meet and build relationships as we plant, weed and harvest the plants. I can't wait to see this become reality!

I praise God for our confirmands who committed themselves to attending Confirmation classes in the last several weeks. We have now come to the end and we look forward to their baptism and confirmation in the next two weeks. Thank you to the parents and the mentors for a good job of encouraging them along this journey. We are here to raise the next generation of leaders and we will be glad we did for such a time as this.

I won't get tired thanking you all for your faithfulness to God and your commitment to serve in and through our church. God has gifted each one of us with gifts to use in his house, so gift your gifts to our church and all of us will be blessed.

Our greater days are still ahead!

Rev. Reuben Langat, Ph.D.



A house, garage, and several trees, including the one pictured above with Pastor Reuben, were all removed to make way for our new Community Garden.

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.**

may

2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
 Collecting for June Games & Puzzles	1 11:30a Harvesters	2 9:30 Cong. Care 10a Tue. @ 10 3:30p Adv. 5p FFF	3 9:15a FFF 5:30p Scramble 6:15p Youth Group 6:45p Trustees	4 3:30p Pwr Pack 5p FFF 	5 9:15a FFF	6
7 Confirmation Sunday 8:45a The Way Service 9:30a JAM 10:30a Sanctuary Worship 8p AA/Al-anon	8	9 10a Tue. @ 10 3:30p Adv.	10 6:45a Men's Morning 5p Scramble 6:15p Youth Group	11 10a Home Spun 3:30p Pwr Pack	12	13
14 Graduation Sunday 8:45a The Way Service 9:30a JAM 10:30a Sanctuary Worship  8p AA/ Al-anon	15	16 10a Tue. @ 10 3:30p Adv.	17 5:30p COOL WHIP & Home Spun joint meeting 5:30p Scramble 6:15p Youth Group	18 Last Day of School 	19	20
21 Compassion Sunday 8:45a The Way Service 9:30a JAM 10:30a Sanctuary Worship 8p AA/Al-anon	22	23 10a Tue. @ 10 Enlightener articles due	24 6:45a Men's Morning 5:30p Scramble	25	26	27
28 Day of Pentecost 8:45a The Way Service 9:30a JAM 10:30a Sanctuary Worship 8p AA/Al-anon	29 Office closed 	30 10a Tue. @ 10 	31 5:30p Scramble	FLC- Family Life Center FEL- Fellowship Hall (basement) FFF- Faithfully Fit Forever - FLC- vol. 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		

VBS WEEK

CCCHS 2023 Seniors



Allison James, daughter of Derek and Karra James plans on attending a 4-year college to major in interior design in the fall of 2023.



Ella Rice, daughter of Mike & Christi Rice plans on attending Pittsburg State majoring in Marketing and Entrepreneurship.



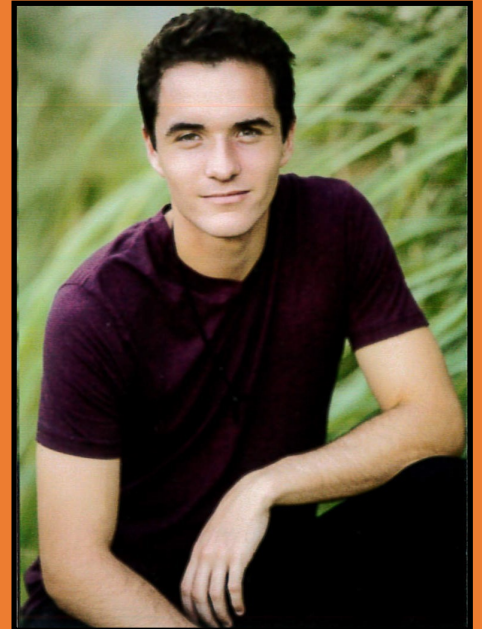
Mackenzie Weller, daughter of Matt & Nichole Weller plans on attending Kansas State majoring in communications with an emphasis in sports media.



Spencer Coffman, son of David and Darla Coffman plans on attending Fort Hays State University to study Medical Diagnostic Imaging.



Mark Hoffman, son of Keith and Kate Hoffman plans on attending Cowley County Comm. College in Arkansas City on a baseball scholarship and majoring in business.



Trenton Watt, son of Tabatha Kurtenbach plans on attending Manhattan Technical College majoring in welding.

Children Learning About Yahweh

For this month, I want to reflect on the impacts of one the ministries that our young people have grown to love more and more. The ministry of Operation Christmas Child.



The worldwide family of Samaritan's Purse volunteers and staff from 112 countries gathered in Orlando last month to celebrate 30 years of God's faithfulness in Operation Christmas Child's ministry. It was a privilege to be part of this global gathering of over 4,000 volunteers and staff and to speak at 4 of the 72 break-out sessions. I was amazed by the fresh testimonies of other receiving countries and to hear the eternal impacts of the shoeboxes we pack here in church. Listening to firsthand witnesses about how the Gospel is going to the very ends of the earth through gift shoeboxes was very encouraging. It made me want to pack more shoeboxes! I also had the honor of meeting with the representatives from Mexico. The shoeboxes that our church family and youth group packed together last season were sent to Mexico and Benin. One of the powerful testimonies I listened to in Orlando was from a pastor in Mexico who was born with polio. Polio did not hinder him from going to an unreached people group in the mountains of Mexico with his scooter. People living in these mountain ranges have never heard of the good news of Jesus Christ and this disabled pastor gave everything he had to reach the lives and hearts of this people group. Last season, after distributing these Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes in this mountain range and conducting the 12-session discipleship program, over 80 children gave their lives to Christ, and 20-plus adults did the same. That is over 100 souls coming to Christ and scripture tells us in Luke 15: 7 that there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents. Imagine 100 to million souls coming to Christ in repentance, what a great joy! I believe that this testimony from this pastor in Mexico is our testimony. Together, we are transforming the lives of others around the globe, and together we are taking the Gospel to the ends of the earth. Thank you to our youth group members, volunteers, and families here in the church that pack and pray for the shoeboxes we pack each year. We are making a difference in God's kingdom! Zac V.



Marabeth's Memo

Were you fortunate enough to attend Vacation Bible School as a child? I was. I attended VBS every year that I was eligible and was still sad when it was my last year.

Vacation Bible School, as it turns out, is one of our biggest outreach ministries of the year. We are able to open wide our doors, turn up the music, eat some snacks, and most importantly, share stories from the Bible with children from all over our community. To some, the lessons are familiar, but to others, this is their first experience hearing all about God's love. What an honor for us to be the ones to share this with them for the very first time.

I attended VBS back in the 70's right here at the Clay Center United Methodist Church. Believe it or not, it ran for **two weeks!!** (Can you even imagine?) My mom, being the seamstress that she was, would make five new outfits each for my sister and me. In her mind, that got us set for clothing for the entire summer. My mom was a teacher, so we always got to the church early, giving us plenty of time to wander around the halls and find all of the secret doors and hiding spots! We were not allowed to do any running in the church, but I sure remember walking really fast!!

Each day began much like Bible School of today with an Opening Time. It was held in the basement Fellowship Hall. Back then, the room wasn't carpeted and we sat on metal folding chairs. They were so cold!! We sang songs, many of which are still in circulation today (i.e. This Little Light of Mine, The B-I-B-L-E, etc.), and others that have run their course. I remember Bible Story time, memorizing scripture verses, and making some of the most amazing crafts that I proudly put on display in my bedroom for the remainder of the summer. And when it came to snacks, I truly thought that those two older women in the kitchen made all of those cookies by themselves! I was amazed!

I have nothing but fond memories of my time as a child at VBS. I felt safe and loved. There was a forever connection with my teachers and when I would see them again at church or even downtown they would talk to me and make me feel special. It was intergenerational ministry at it's best.

VBS is vitally important. If you contribute to Vacation Bible School by giving of your time, by financially supporting the effort, or by your prayers.....Thank You!! You are truly making a difference in the life of a child, an impact that very likely may be planting a seed for an eternal relationship with Jesus. A priceless return on your investment.

May God Bless all involved with Vacation Bible School,

Marabeth

P.S. I would love to hear your stories about your very own VBS experience!



COMPASSION SUNDAY

Compassion is about more than sponsoring a child ... it's about releasing entire families from poverty in Jesus' name!

COMPASSION GRADUATE GUEST SPEAKER



Stop by our table before or after either service!

MAY | 21st | 2023

Check out compassion.com or get with Morgan Cannizzo or Macy Haist for more information!

United Women in Faith cluster Homespun working on Operation Christmas Child Shoe-boxes with Frances Benson leading the program.



Tuesday @ 10 am

They were taking time to celebrate Pastor Reuben's big 60th birthday.



You never know where you might find an egg hiding at the egg hunt.



Breakfast after Sunrise service.
Trumpets playing at the Easter Service.



Easter Sunrise service.

Waiting for the annual Easter Egg Hunt to start.





Celebrating God's Faithfulness

God's faithfulness gives us value. God does not love us because we are valuable, we are valuable because God loves us. Fulton Sheen

Celebrating God's Faithfulness October 15th, 2023



March Budget

Receipts \$18,684.29

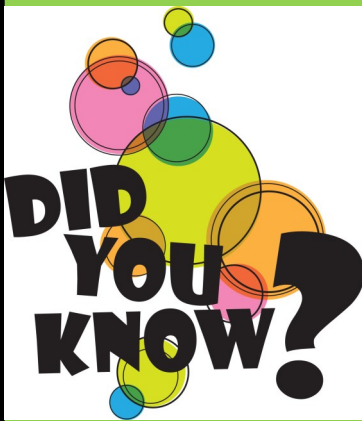
Expenses \$33,793.13

Mission: \$100.00

YTD through March 31

Receipts \$76,635.29

Expenses \$87,240.87



Did You Know?

That there are many images of a cross in the Sanctuary? How

many can you find that are part of the furnishings or on the stained glass windows? Hints: Some of the windows have more than one cross; one

window may be hard to find; Do not count the hymnals. Count the crosses.

Answers can be found on the back page.



Dallas & Linda Cunningham

05/05/1973

Dale Case 05/06

Dorothy Brown 05/16

Ray & Diane Lykins

05/25/1968

Vacation Bible School is right around the corner. Don't forget to invite your friends, grandkids, neighbors and co-worker's children. We will be serving God together on May 30th—June 2nd. See you at VBS !

AGES 4 THRU
CURRENT 5TH
GRADE.

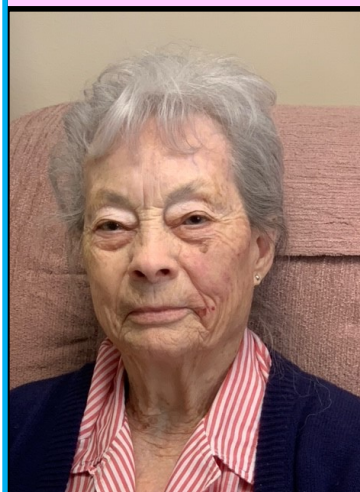


**Registration
deadline:
May 15**



Register
today!

Happy 96th birthday to Dorothy!



Dorothy Brown

Dorothy has lived all her life in Clay Center. Her family of 8 loved to color together and she loves to color to this day. They also made homemade ice cream every Sunday and that is her favorite food. She went to Salina Cosmetology School and was a hair dresser for 42 1/2 years !



The family of our beloved member **Doug Reboul** who passed away on March 31, 2023.

Kevin & Carolyn Knitter and Family on the loss of his mother and our dear member **Reta Knitter** who passed away on April 3, 2023.

The family of our beloved member **Patsy "Pat" Nichols** who passed away on April 18, 2023.

Al & Carolyn Kirtley on the loss of his brother Frank Kirtley who passed away on April 17, 2023 and brother Paul Kirtley who passed away on April 18, 2023.

Elaine Beswick and Dawn Langvardt and families on the loss of her brother and brother-in-law Warren Slingsby who passed away on April 12, 2023.



Congratulations and welcome to Tatum Kay Sterling Booher. She was born on March 10, 2023. Her parents are Ronnie & Rebecca Booher. She has 2 sisters that are welcoming her into the family.

Baptism and New Members -



We would like to welcome the following families: Eddy, Kristen, Joslyn & Ensley Avery, Darlene Bradford, Frank & Barbara McCoy. They joined our church family on April 16th, 2023. All 4 of the Averys were also baptized.



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

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Did you know answers:
Baptismal Font 1, Flag 1,
Clock 1, Banners 4,
Music Stands 2, ceiling 1,
alter 1, windows 14.
Total crosses in sanctuary
is 25. How did you do?

KANSASLAND
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www.wallscratchndent.com

May 4, 2023 the Ministerial Alliance is hosting the National Day of Prayer at 709 Fifth Street. You're invited to join U.S. Bank customer appreciation dinner on the Courthouse Square from 5-7pm. Following the BBQ at 7pm, a prayer for our community and nation in the Common Ground Building.



SCRAMBLE

Wednesday evening free-offering meal

5:30 pm—6:30 pm



May 3rd- C.C. Historical Museum- Breakfast Meal

May 10th- Fundraiser for Baumann Family- Sloppy Joe Meal (5-7pm)

May 17th- Tigersharks Swim Team- TBD

May 24th- CC Wesleyan Church- Taco Bar

May 31st- Church Camp Committee- Baked Potato Bar/ Pizza



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, Julie Schulze, Joel Spence, Wes Radcliffe, Craig Bradford, Cindy Hoverson, Howard & Sharron Sump, and Patty Stephans.

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



Vacation Bible School is the mission of the month for May. This goes towards the purchase of curriculum, art supplies, snacks, decorations and music for 100 plus children of our church and community. This is a wonderful ministry that helps our kids grow in their faith.