



WORSHIP • WITNESS • SERVE
CLAY CENTER
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

THE ENLIGHTENER

JUNE 2023

Notes from Pastor

Summer is here and we have a lot to thank God for. I love to see the place green and beautiful. As you know, it was not this way a few weeks ago. We all asked God to give us rain and he did. As some of you know, our basement got somehow flooded, but thank God we were home to put sandbags at the door to keep more water from coming in. Few days after that, the Trustees came and cleaned the mess around the house. With that we say a big thank you to them!

Our Confirmation Sunday went great with all the confirmands attending and participating. Each one of them intentionally attended the classes and were active in the discussions. We congratulate them for their commitment and we continue praying for them. The mentors did great, they passionately mentored them throughout all the weeks of classes. Our prayer is that both the confirmands and their mentors developed relationships that will go into the future. Mentoring our young people is something that we should all do. Tomorrow is going to be better if we commit to doing so.

Graduation Sunday came and it was wonderful to see each of the graduates serve during the services. Makenzie Weller preached and she did great! Given an opportunity with good mentoring, our young people can do wonders. It is worth encouraging and investing in them. Now we need to pray for them as they transition into colleges and other careers that God is leading them to. Whenever I see them come to church and actively serving, they put a smile on my face and it reminds me of those who never gave up praying and mentoring me when I was young. It pays friends, so let us do it!

As you might have heard, my wife, Dr. Jane Langat has been appointed to a new position beginning on July 1st. Her new job will cover the entire Conference, but she will work mainly from home. Please pray for her as she transitions into this new role. The coming weeks are going to be busy for my family with all the transitions, but we praise God for everything good he does in and through us.

As I write this I am preparing to teach a lesson to a team of pastors who are transitioning into ministry and their mentors early next month in Omaha. I thank God that I can use my expertise in anthropology as I share with them some anthropological insights for ministry in our different contexts we are called to serve.

God has done great things in and among us and he is not done yet. I continue trusting him for what he can do going forward.

I love you all and I thank God for each one of you. You matter to God and he is counting on you to use your gifts and graces to build his church and remember you are the church.

In Him,
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.**

Senior Sunday



Zac, Trenton Watt, Spencer Coffman, Allison James, Ella Rice, Mackenzie Weller, Mark Hoffman

May 14th was a great day of celebration at CCUMC. We were blessed to have a total of six Graduates that took part in our two services. In addition to the Youth Praise Team leading The Way Worship service, Trenton Watt served as Lay leader, Allison James read the Scripture lesson, Spencer Coffman played the special music on his trumpet, Mark Hoffman did the Young Christian Lesson, Ella Rice served Communion and Mackenzie Weller gave the morning message. A special video presentation, made by Zac V. was shown during the Worship Service. We are so proud of these young people for the contributions that they have made to their church over the past years. As our gift to them, each graduate was given a Wesley Study Bible, made possible by donations made through Memorials.



Prayers and Squares

Nola Unruh was grateful to receive this prayer quilt that was dedicated on Sunday, May 21st the congregation was invited to saying a prayer while tying their knot. This is the 360th quilt of this ministry.



Shoebox Saturday Workday

There will be a craft workday on Saturday, June 17th from 9am—noon in Fellowship Hall. All materials are being provided. It is a come and go work when you can that day. If you have questions please call Frances Benson 785-447-2279.

Baptisms –

We celebrated the baptisms of Christian Charbonneau, son of Nathan and Chelsea Charbonneau; Kian Ramey, son of Jessie and Amanda Alderson; and Kade Young, son of Jake and Stephanie Young on Sunday, May 7. These young men were baptized prior to joining the church with the Confirmation Class.



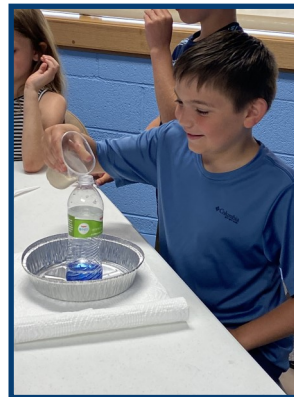
Summer JAM Announcement

Due to everyone's busy summer schedules, we have made the decision to **NOT** have regular Kid's JAM during the summer months. Instead, we will be doing a Special Event on the 3rd Sunday of each month.

Please mark your calendars for June 18, July 16 & August 20 @ 9:30 a.m. More details will come out closer to each date. Enjoy your summer and remember that JESUS loves you!! -- Amy Burr & Katie Knitter

COOL !

JAM kids participating in the long awaited Elephant Toothpaste lesson!!



JAM
Jesus and Me

Sundays @ 9:30



It is our pleasure to announce the 2023 scholarship winners.

The Glenn and Elizabeth Adams Scholarship Committee has awarded a scholarship to each of the following high school seniors: **Mackenzie Weller, Allison James, Trenton Watts**, Rylee Dunn, Levi Musselman, Afton Sterling, Wyatt Varner, and Juliann Begnoche.

The Ernest Tolin Memorial Scholarship has been awarded to each of the following high school seniors: **Mark Hoffman, Spencer Coffman**.

*Thank
You!*



To Glenn & Elizabeth Adams Scholarship Committee- Thank you notes were received from the following students and their individual notes are located on the thank you bulletin board near the church office. **Afton Sterling, Wyatt Varner, Juliann Begnoche, Rylee Dunn.**

Thank you for the opportunity to be awarded the Glenn & Elizabeth Adams Scholarship. I plan to use it for many college expenses. I am very excited to be starting the next chapter of my life at K-State. **Sincerely, Allison James**

Thank you so much for your generous award in the form of the Ernest Tolin Memorial Scholarship. This award will help greatly in paying for tuition and other fees as I attend Fort Hays State University. **Spencer Coffman**

Thank you for awarding me the Ernest Tolin Memorial Scholarship. I will put it towards my housing expense next year at Cowley County Community College. **Mark Hoffman**

Thank you so much for the generous Glenn & Elizabeth Adams scholarship. I will use this money to pay for tuition next fall at Kansas State University. I am super excited to start this next chapter of my life and really appreciate your support in doing so. **Mackenzie Weller**

Thank you so much for the Glenn and Elizabeth Adams Memorial Scholarship. I am very grateful for this opportunity you have given me. I feel like this is a blessing from the Lord and I will take full advantage of it. **Trenton Watt**

Thank you to everyone for the wonderful cards and the continued prayers. **Barb Booth**

Thankful for all of the prayers and thoughts, and very excited to graduate. **Jaden Wilcoxson**

My husband and I are foster parents in El Dorado and we are licensed through Emberhope. The 13 year old currently living with us received a lovely Christmas gift that I believe you may have contributed to. To watch her open her gifts- - some items she had specifically put on her wish list - - was pretty neat. We feel very strongly that it is because of people like you, walking alongside us and prayerfully supporting us, we can do a better job of lovingly providing care for the kids in our home. Thank you for blessing our foster family. **Kelly Carlson Family**

Children Learning About Yahweh

As we wrap up the school year, it's clear that we've made some incredible memories. It's hard to believe that we kicked off the 2022–23 school year just a few months ago with bouncy houses and foot-long hotdogs. Our youth outdid themselves this past year with their fundraisers and doing ministry with our church at large. We made many cherished



memories throughout the academic year. In this month's newsletter, I'll highlight some of the outstanding achievements we accomplished through our children's and youth ministry.

Thank you to all the parents who support our Children & Youth Ministry. You are the backbone of our youth programs. Special thanks to Katie Knitter and Heather Tremblay for their commitment to our middle schoolers every Wednesday night. I cannot thank all of our parents enough.

I want to express my appreciation for the leadership council of our youth group, including Trenton, Raegann, Jace, and Brody, who have demonstrated impressive planning and execution skills. Our group has created a devotional podcast that will continue to be available every Wednesday on both Spotify and AnchorFM. I would like to thank Mark Hoffman, Brody Hayes, Mackenzie Weller, Raegann McDonald, and Addy Gurney for recording devotionals for our podcast. Our youth group podcasts have reached over 12 different states across the country. This past year, we participated in two significant missions: Operation Christmas Child and Adopt A Platoon. In November, our youth group and church sent over 400 Gospel



Opportunities shoeboxes to both Benin in West Africa and Mexico. In December, during the Christmas season, our youth group adopted a maintenance platoon that was deployed to Europe. Along with these global missions, our youth group is also involved in local tasks such as assisting with Harvesters, Numana, reading scriptures, and singing in the praise and worship team. I am grateful to our youth praise and worship team; Jace, Mackenzie, Addy, Walker, Jackson, and Brody for using their gifts to give glory to God. (Continued on next page...)

Marabeth's Memo

We are curious people. We are full of questions and we like to be well informed. I think God made us that way. It is "human nature" to want to know details. We might feel like we can be of greater help in situations if we know exactly what is going on. In many cases that may be true, but other times, maybe not. I am specifically thinking about when we offer up prayers for others.

I believe that sincerely praying for someone is the most precious and heartfelt gift that can be given. When a prayer request is shared and details are given, lifting up those particular items to God are important. It can bring purpose and a bit of satisfaction, even to us, knowing that we are relaying intimate details that have been shared. God hears us. God knows.

But, what about the times when someone does not necessarily want to share about personal trials or concerns, or if their prayer request is very vague? Does going to God on behalf of that situation make it any less important? Of course not. God hears and desires all of our prayers. Even if we are not sure about the details of the situation, you can rest assured that the creator of the universe is sure. These requests are just as real and genuine. He hears you and understands the intensions of your heart. God knows.

Sometimes I have to remind myself that when I am drawn to pray for someone, it is not a requirement that I know anything more than what has been shared with me. I do not need to ask questions. All I need to do is to be faithful to that tug in my heart, pray and rely on God to take care of the specifics. God knows.

Let's continue to pray for one another, knowing that everyone is facing some kind of struggle that we know nothing about. But God knows.

May you have beautiful summer, Marabeth



College Ministry Team

The College Ministry Team assembled Care Packages to our students as they prepared for their final exams. A special Thank You to Rose Marie Nichols, Jane Crawshaw and Nichole Weller for taking part in this special mission project. We, as a church family, were able to pray over these packets in worship before they were sent.



(Continued ...) We recently wrapped up our youth group for the year and wanted to show appreciation for those who went above and beyond by inviting their friends. Thanks to their efforts, our numbers have increased from last year. We were thrilled to see that 15 of our members attended every session for more than 34 weeks. We want to thank the parents who made youth group a priority and the seniors for their dedication to ministry. Lastly, congratulations to our six graduates - Allison, Ella, Spencer, Trenton, and our Co-Valedictorians; Mackenzie & Mark.

Thank you CCUMC Youth Group! Happy Summer, Zac



2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
FLC – Family Life Center FEL – Fellowship Hall (basement) 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 VBS 	2 VBS	3
4 8:45a The Way Service 9:30a Adult Sunday School 10:30a Sanctuary Worship 8p AA/Al-anon	5 11:30a Harvesters	6 9:30a Cong Care 10a Tue @ 10 Great Plains UMC Annual Conference	7 5:30p Scramble	8	9	10
11 8:45a The Way Service 9:30a Adult Sunday School 10:30a Sanctuary Worship 8p AA/ Al-anon	12	13 10a Tue @ 10	14 6:45a Men’s Morn  5:30p Scramble	15	16	17  9am—12p Craft Work Day FEL
18  8:45a The Way Service 9:30a JAM/ Adult Sunday School 10:30a Sanctuary Worship 8p AA/Al-anon	19	20 10a Tue @ 10	21 5:30p Scramble	22	23	24
25 8:45a The Way Service 9:30a Adult Sunday School 10:30a Sanctuary Worship 8p AA/Al-anon	26	27 10a Tue @ 10	28 6:45a Men’s Morn 5:30p Scramble	29	30	 Letters and photos are requested



Celebrating God's Faithfulness

We learn throughout the years that God is faithful. He never has disappointed us. We learn that He is good. We learn that God can be trusted. *Randy Smith*



April budget

Receipts \$35,102.17

Expenses \$25,190.01

Missions \$123.95

Year to Date - April

Receipts \$111,737.46

Expenses \$112,430.88

If interested in direct deposit for your regular offering, contact the church office or Jolie Kasper.



Did you know?

The cornerstone for the original Methodist Church was laid in September 1883 and construction was in progress until March 1885. The dimensions of the building were 90' x 110' with the bell tower rising 106' above the sidewalk. The dedication ceremony was held on March 8, 1885.



The Methodist Church,
Clay Center, Kansas.



Dean & Gayle Link

06/03/1972

Gail & Susan Thomas

06/06/1971

Gale & Lorrie Lloyd

06/06/1970

Al & Carolyn Kirtley

06/07/1968

Mark & Patti

Woodruff

06/14/1969

George & Neva Jensen

06/24/1964

Wilma Thomas 06/25

Dolores Warner 06/26

Sam & Maribeth

Brown

06/26/1971



Meet Wilma Thomas

Wilma was one of nine children— second in line and grew up in Callaway, Nebraska. She started working as a bookkeeper for the county right out of high school. Her husband worked for the railroad. His job was to fill in for depot workers when they went on vacation, so they moved every two weeks to different depots. Wilma has a total of 27 grand-children and great grandchildren. She enjoyed crocheting and now loves to read books on history. Happy Birthday



Meet Dolores Warner

Dee as friends call her, grew up on a farm north of Belleville. She went to a one room school. There were 18 in the school but by time she graduated there were only 3 left as families moved away because of the Depression.

Her first movie she saw in a theatre was " Wizard of OZ".

A special treat was sharing an ice cream cone with her sister. One food she enjoyed was sauerkraut that her father made which took him all day. She loves to read mysteries. Her beautiful crewel work hangs on her living room wall in frames made by her husband. Happy Birthday





Congratulations to Rev. Dr. Jane Langat, pastor at Longford and Mizpah United Methodist Churches and the wife of our pastor, Rev. Dr. Reuben Langat, as she begins serving in a new role as the International Development Coordinator for the Great Plains Conference. She will be based out of her home in Clay Center. We are so proud of Jane as she begins this journey, using her unique experiences and special gifts to serve God in this new way.

Compassion Sunday

On May 21, our church hosted Compassion Sunday. Morgan Cannizzo and Macy Haist organized this special event. Guest Anthony Wanjiru of Denver, Colorado, spoke to our congregations about Compassion International and what it means to have been a recipient as a child growing up in the slums of Africa. Through the efforts of this event and because of the love of our church family, at least 17 children were adopted into sponsorship. If you have any questions about Compassion International, please contact Morgan at 785.630.0431.



Pastor Reuben, Morgan Cannizzo, Macy Haist, Compassion International Representative Anthony Wanjiru

Confirmation Sunday

Confirmation Sunday was held on May 7. We were blessed to confirm eight students after they completed their study on the history of the United Methodist Church and what it means to be a member of the church. Each Confirmand chose an adult to go alongside with them, helping them with their lessons and serving as a Mentor. The students took on leadership roles in worship and the families enjoyed a morning brunch between the two services. Welcome to our newest members!



Those being confirmed into full membership included: Christian Charbonneau (Steve Gurney), Jett Hayes (Rick Chaffee), Izzy Matheney (Chelsea Charbonneau), Jayli Liby (Katie Knitter), Ronnail Beougher (Jim Schulze), Kian Ramey (Austin Burr), Kade Young (Brad Conner), and Rylan Gurney (Tom Siebold). Also included in the picture are Youth Director Zac Vakadewatabua and Pastor Reuben Langat.

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

KANSASLAND
TIRE AND SERVICE

Benny & Marty Wallace
410 Court Street
Clay Center KS 67432
785-632-2135 800-794-1800

United
Bank & Trust

Main Bank- 5th & Lincoln Ave.
Motor Bank- 726 W. Crawford
FDIC Insured
632-3171

WILDER AUTO BODY

Owner Kyle Wilder
138 Crawford 632-3484
Complete Auto Body Repair,
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

WEDNESDAY NIGHT Suppers

SCRAMBLE

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

June 7th- Fundraiser for Vicki Clemons- Sloppy Joe Dinner
June 14th- Leonardville Amer. Legion Family- Spaghetti Dinner
June 21st- Scramble Committee- Potluck meal with the meat provided
June 28th- C.C. American Legion- Hamburger Cookout

Prayers FOR HEALING

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, Terrie Rush, Howard & Sharron Sump, and Patty Stephens.

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

mission

Lighthouse for Christ- monetary donations

Lighthouse for Christ is a food or agriculture program in Clay Center, KS whose mission is: provide financial assistance for utilities, rent and other daily living expenses that was formed in 1988 to help Clay County residents.

Deep Heartfelt Sympathy and Prayers to Kathy Wilder and her children Karla & Nick Fickes, Kyle & Crystina Wilder and grandchildren on the loss of her mother Donna Girton who passed away on May 18, 2023.