

Friends,

Early this month the Great Plains Conference had an annual conference which brought together hundreds of pastors and lay leaders. As you might have heard, our own youth Makenzie Weller was given a prestigious evangelism award. We praise God for the great impact that our youth are making in our church and beyond. May this be a motivation to us to nurture and mentor our children and youth in the way of the Lord and as I always say, their tomorrow's leadership begins today and how we want them to lead depends on how we prepare them today. In last month's newsletter I asked you to pray for my workshops. They went well. Thank you for your prayers.



At the annual conference our church was recognized for 150 years of its existence in Clay Center. In those many years, God's Word has gone forth from here to many around this community, within America and even beyond. I say beyond, because who would have known that 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary would take place when you have a youth director from Fiji and a pastor from Kenya? My heart desire and prayer is for this church to continue making an impact in the years to come. God is not done yet, he is our God of yesterday, today and tomorrow.

As a family we have had transitions, with my wife, Dr. Jane moving into a new position and our daughter and her family moving to Kansas. We praise God for these good movements that would enable us to see each other more often, except our son who remains in Kentucky.

The VBS went great with 85 kids and 49 volunteers! I really appreciate families that gave us their children during the week. God's Word teaches us to let the young children come to Christ and I am so glad that we are exactly obeying it.

There are many of us who are involved in a number of ministry teams in our church, I truly thank you all for your service. If God is calling you to serve Him in any of the teams, please let us know. God gave us gifts and graces to use and we better maximize them here on earth before he calls us home to be with him.

Blessings to you all and keep the fire of the Lord burning in 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.**



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
FLC– Family Life Center FEL– Fellowship Hall ( basement) Cong. Care– Congregation Care Team– Library Men’s Morning– FLC/ breakfast and devotion, all men are welcome Youth Group– HS/ High School , MS/Middle School			July/ Operation Christmas Child - collecting the \$10 for each box that needs to be sent.			1
Youth Fireworks Stand 12pm-9pm —->						
2 8:45a The Way Service 9:30a Adult Sunday School 10:30a Sanctuary Worship 8p AA/Al-anon	3	4 church office is closed 	5 6p– Memorial Comm. 6:45p– Trustees	6	7 1p reports due for church council	8
Youth Group Firework Stand– hours 12pm– 9pm -----/						
9 8:45a The Way Service 9:30a Adult Sunday School 10:30a Sanctuary Worship 8p AA/ Al-anon	10	11 9:30a Cong Care 10a Tue @ 10	12 6:45a Men’s Morning 6p Finance Comm. 7p Church Council	13	14	15 9a-12p  Shoebox work day Fellowship Hall
16 8:45a The Way Service 9:30a JAM 9:30a Adult Sunday School 10:30a Sanctuary Worship 8p AA/Al-anon	17	18 NO Tue @10am	19	20 Enlightener articles are due	21	22
23 8:45a The Way Service 9:30a Adult Sunday School 10:30a Sanctuary Worship	24	25 10a Tue @ 10	26 6:45a Men’s Morning	27	28	29
HS Youth Group to Florida Conference -> -> -> -> -> -> -/						
30 8:45a The Way Service 9:30a Adult Sunday School 10:30a Sanctuary Worship 7:15p Pool Party/ Ice Cream Social 8p AA/Al-anon	31	Clay County Fair-----				



# Celebrating God's Faithfulness

For the word of the Lord is right and true; he is faithful in all he does. Psalm 33:4  
Celebrating God's Faithfulness, October, 15th, 2023



## May Budget

Receipts \$16,488.20

Expenses \$28,384.97

Missions \$ 1,148.95

## YTD

Receipts \$128,225.66

Expenses \$140,815.85

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



Meet Joy Polson. She grew up on a farm in Centrailia, Ks and went to school there. She was the first student to ride the school bus. She graduated from KSU and taught Home Economics in middle school for 40 years. Her chocolate chip cookies were a well known favorite. Happy Birthday, Joy.



Meet Herb Mugler. Herb grew up SE of Green the youngest of 4 children, going to Fairview school, class of nine. The family would go to town once a week to trade eggs and cream often stopping at Gambles. On July 13, 1923 his parents came to America from Germany and his whole family will celebrate 100 years of this event this year. Herb retired from Hutch Manufacturing after 25 years and became the Visitation Assistant of our church. Happy birthday, Herb.



Meet Deniece Roth a regular attender at CCUMC. Dee grew up in Ellsworth, Ks one of 9 children and walked 3 miles to school often cutting through a pasture looking over her shoulder to outrun horse that would chase her. Her dad would curl her hair using a curling iron heated on a lamp. She worked as a nurse for 40 years and as a hospice caregiver for 7 years which was very rewarding. Happy birthday, Dee.



Meet Meta Wendleken. Meta was the middle child of three and grew up 7 miles south of Miltonvale, going to school at Mountview. All the school children drank water from the same cup that hung on the pump handle. She worked at the ASCS office for 30 years and raised 6 children. She has 33 grand and great grandchildren and 4 great-great grandchildren. Happy birthday, Meta.



Meet Anne Pfizenmaier. Anne was the oldest of five children. Anne and her two brothers rode to school on a horse. She rode on the tail end and was often pushed off and had to end up walking to school! She became very active in 4-H and was a leader in sewing. When she was 9 months pregnant, she was carrying a pot of beans and slid down some stairs, never spilling a bean and used the same bean pot for 40 years later. Anne enjoyed quilting and was famous for her white fruit salad. Happy birthday, Anne.

member  
**spotlight**



**JULY BIRTHDAYS** 85+ years old  
**& ANNIVERSARIES** 50+ years

Richard & Judy Lloyd  
07/02/1967

Joy Polson  
07/03

Steve & Pat Deutscher  
07/08/1967

Herb Mugler  
07/10

Bill & Grace Oetinger  
07/11/1970

Mark & Judy Johnston  
07/11/1970

Gary & Nola Unruh  
07/14/1961

Dee Roth  
07/23

Meta Wendelken  
07/26

Anne Pfizenmaier  
07/26

Bill & Judy Crymble  
07/31/1965





Thanks, UMW ladies, for the pretty floral arrangement you sent to me in the hospital. I came home yesterday, and several of the flowers are still blooming!

**Nola Unruh**

Dear Church Friends, Mom is feeling much better. She appreciates all the prayers, cards, and phone calls while she was in the hospital. The nurse said the first thing she said when she got back to the Nicol Home was "the Queen is back!" as she grabbed her prom queen crown from the shelf and placed it on her head. Yes, she was voted the Nicol Home prom queen. She loves and misses all her dear church friends.

**Barbie Booth & Jenna**

HOME-MADE ICE CREAM SOCIAL  
&  
**Pool PARTY**

**FREE Swimming  
Ice-Cream & Cookies**

**Sunday July 30  
7:15 - 8:45 p.m.  
Clay Center Aquatic Park**

Sponsored by CCUMC Special Events Team

**Invite your family  
& friends!!**

Sign up to help with  
selling fireworks!

[https://  
www.signupgenius.c  
om/  
go/10c0e4ca8ad23a6f  
9c70-ccumc#/](https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0e4ca8ad23a6f9c70-ccumc#/)

Pool Party Sign-up  
We will have a sign  
up to make home-  
made ice cream and  
to bring cookies and  
treats. What flavor  
of ice cream is your  
favorite?

**FIREWORK  
SALE!**

**10% OFF ALL FIREWORKS**

  
921  
West  
Crawford  
(inside old Long's  
building)

**06/27  
-  
07/05  
12:00 PM  
-  
9:00 PM**

**FOR BENEFIT OF CLAY CENTER  
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
YOUTH GROUP!**



CCUMC UMW Shoebox Saturday Morning Project on June 17th was a success. Many projects were worked on including decorating scarves with colorful beads, threading yarn through plastic canvas to create bracelets, book marks and crosses, cute mini dolls from pipe cleaners, sewing together baby blankets, colorful bags for kids, string beads onto ribbon to create necklaces. The next project time is scheduled for **July 15th** it will be come-and-go from 9am- noon. All ages are welcome. Hope to see you

next month.



# 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](mailto:churchoffice@claycenterumc.org) - Web site: [www.claycenterumc.org](http://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](http://www.wallscratchndent.com)

Community Church Camp Fundraiser

July 3, 2023  
4:00pm - 8:00pm??  
Clay County Fairgrounds  
Food Stand

Serving hamburgers, hot dogs, chips, & water  
for a FREE WILL DONATION.

All proceeds go to pay for camp registrations.

**SCRAMBLE**

We take the month of July off, see you in August!!

**LORD, HEAR OUR PRAYER**

**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 Stephans.

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

**missions**

**Garfield Neighbors-** Our monetary donations help fund the following at Garfield Elementary; birthday treats for those that can't afford them, emergency clothing needs, special rewards such as parties or treats, temporary meal money, supplies for unplanned emergencies or events. The staff at Garfield determines how the money is spent.



# Marabeth's Memo --

We are certainly living in a different world than in years past. It seems that everywhere we turn, someone is talking about "political correctness." We can't do this or we shouldn't do that, because it is not politically correct. People can be unnerved and offended by almost everything. There are times when the writer or speaker does not care about the feelings of others. They are going to get their words out for all to hear, regardless of who might get hurt. On the other hand, sometimes people offend others accidentally, without that being their intention at all.

In this game of life, people will hurt and offend us. People will make us crazy. We have no control over that. But we do have control over how we respond. First of all, we should not be offended by everything that someone says. The chances that any one person is going to think exactly like us on every single issue is virtually impossible. It is possible for us to have differing opinions about certain issues and still love each other, as Christ loves us. It is also possible to get a little bit thicker skin and not let every single thing bother us. Think for just a moment of all abuse and slander that Jesus experienced. We are not to be doormats, but if we want to live a happy life, we cannot allow every single comment or issue to upset us.

When someone says or does something that hurts us, we might want to look beyond their words or actions and try to find their pain because ... Hurt People, Hurt People. Maybe they are not trying to hurt you at all. Maybe, just maybe, they are hurting and have lost all ability to express their pain. Jesus has never once shunned me or quit loving me because of hurtful things that I have said or done. He always loves and always forgives. And so, I too, must try to be like Christ and look beyond the offense.

Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors  
Marabeth Conner

*"I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world."* **John 16:33**



The Tuesdays @ Ten Prayer Group bid farewell to Diane Larson-Floersch as she and her husband make the move to Scandia, Kansas. Diane has been an important part of our prayer group and will be greatly missed. Blessings to you, Diane.



## Donuts with Dudes –

The JAM kids had a fun time with their favorite Dudes on Father's Day! JAM Leaders Amy Burr & Katie Knitter planned some fun games and relays for everyone to enjoy. Following the fun, they were all treated to Donuts and juice. We hope that all dads had a great day!



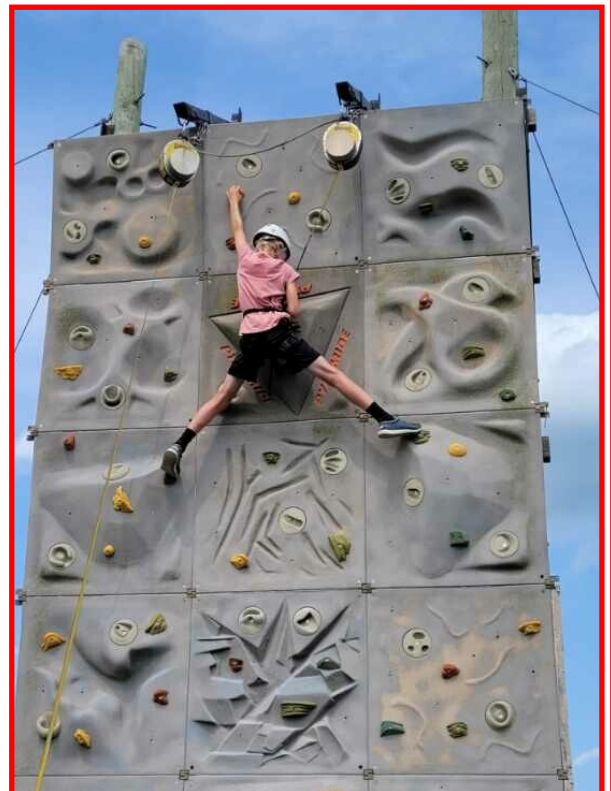


## Youth Fireworks Stand –

The youth (and their parents) have been extra busy getting things ready for their first Fireworks Stand. They are located at 921 W. Crawford Street – the back of the FSA building. They have an extensive variety of entertaining fireworks available and they are offering everything at 10% off!! Please come and support the youth of CCUMC as you make your 4<sup>th</sup> of July purchases! The Youth Group would like to publicly thank Huey, Dawn and Frank McGee for their generosity with this project! All proceeds will go to the CCUMC Youth Group.



## Warrior Adventure Quest—Youth Group





## Children Learning About Yahweh

Are you excited for the Fourth of July? I know many people like to hit up the lake, beach, or mountains for some fun in the sun to celebrate our country's independence. What are your plans? Do you have any family traditions? To me, July 4th is more than just a day of independence. This day has a special meaning in my life. It's the day I received my U.S. visa to come to America in 2013. One year later, on July 4th, 2014, I graduated from Basic Training in Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri. And in 2015, on July 4th, I met the love of my life. July 4th is a truly significant day for me, filled with memories I will always cherish.

Most of you know that my family and I have officially moved to Clay Center. I can't express how thankful we are for all the prayers and support we received during our house-hunting adventure and the actual move from Junction City. It's good to know we have such wonderful people in our lives.

It was such a joy for me to nominate Mackenzie Weller for the Harry Denman Evangelism Award earlier this year! This award program is a big deal in the United Methodist Church, as it honors those exceptional at sharing the good news of Jesus Christ through Word, Sign, and Deed. Mackenzie has done incredible work with our youth group, from recording devotional podcasts to preaching and volunteering in various church capacities. It was a happy moment for us all when Mackenzie was presented with the Harry Denman evangelism award during the Great Plains conference meeting on June 9th in La Vista, NE. Mackenzie couldn't have done it without the support of our entire church families and friends, so thank you for always supporting Mackenzie and our entire youth group.

Speaking of missions and support, our youth group is organizing a fireworks stand fundraiser to help raise funds for their missions and activities throughout the year. We'd love for you to come and show your support at Long's building, which is located at 921 West Crawford Street. By contributing to this cause, you'll be empowering our youth and positively impacting our community. Thank you so much for your support!

Lastly, I wanted to thank you for all of your prayers for our ministry- both in the past and future. Our middle schoolers recently went on an adventure to Fort Riley, and I'm delighted to report that everyone had an absolute blast- no one was injured. Additionally, our high schoolers are getting ready to head out to Daytona Beach for the church's youth conference at the end of this month. This is a quadrennial event so it only happens after every four years. We've been praying and fasting for this event, and I would be so grateful if you could say a prayer for the 30 of us that will be attending. I hope that God's presence will be felt throughout the conference. Thanks again for your help- it means so much to all of us!

Happy Fourth! Zac Vakadewatabua

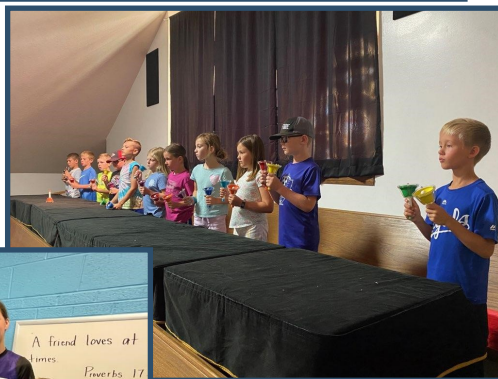


*Pictured above Bishop David Wilson, Pastor Reuben Langat congratulating Mackenzie Weller as the Youth recipient of the Harry Denman Evangelism award.*



# VBS

2023 brought together 85 kids and 49 volunteers for a week of fun, all the while learning how to be a Hero for Jesus. A special thank you to our Directors, Megan Weisenberger, Jenni Davidson & Amanda Roth.







VBS 2023

