

THE ENLIGHTENER

Clay Center United Methodist Church - Pastor Reuben Langat

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AUGUST 2023

A Note from the Pastor

As I write this, 21 youth and 9 adult volunteers are getting ready to travel to Daytona Beach, Florida for the Youth 2023 Event. It's exciting to have such a good number of attendance for our church. I would like to thank the parents and everyone who has provided to make this possible for them. Our youth are awesome, they have stepped up to participate in a number of areas within our church and community. As some of you know, they sold fireworks to raise funds to support their ministries. We appreciate the support we received from different families towards this success.



October 15th is our 150th anniversary celebration of our church! It is a celebration that God has allowed us to have and participate in our lifetime. God's presence has been here during these years and we know he is not done with us yet. Greater things are still ahead. I encourage you all to plan to attend the services on that day. I thank all the subcommittees planning for the anniversary for their commitment and together we look forward to a successful celebration. Please say a prayer for various leaders and their committees, that God would give them wisdom in all the details they are undertaking. If God leads you to give towards the anniversary, please do so.

The last number of weeks have been somehow busy for me and my family. As you might know, there have been transitions, all have been good and smooth. Thank you for your prayers. Several of you have asked me whether I am taking care of myself, yes I do. Some weeks are busier than others, but I try to intentionally care for myself. I love being in a church where people care enough to ask how I am doing.

I appreciate each one of you reading this newsletter and I pray that God will keep and bless you each day. Those who are watching our services online, we appreciate you and if there is any way we can be of help to you, please let us know.

It's a blessing serving God together with you and I fully know that our greater days are still ahead. May God continue blessing his mission through us and I thank you for joining him in his mission.

In Him,

Rev. Reuben Langat, Ph.D.

KANSASLAND
TIRE AND SERVICE

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WEDNESDAY NIGHT Suppers

SCRAMBLE

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

August 2nd- Special Events- Mexican Fiesta (5pm-6:30pm)
August 9th- TBD
August 16th- TBD
August 23rd- CCCHS Tiger Football- Pulled Pork Dinner
August 30th- Numana- Baked Ham Dinner

PRAYER list

IN OUR PRAYERS: Elizabeth Carlson, Jillian Browne, 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

A MONTH OF MISSIONS It's Back!! The hands-on Mission Project, NUMANA is set for Sunday, September 17th. This worthwhile mission continues to be such a successful project that we chose to bring it back for the sixth year. We have increased our goal to \$8,000 which gives us the opportunity to package over 24,000 meals for the hungry. We will have sign-up sheets around the church for volunteers for that day. We are in need of 90-110 workers. There will also be a variety of ways to make monetary donations throughout the next two months, including offerings, Kid's Bake Sale and BINGO Night!

Please mark your calendars for the afternoon of Sunday, September 17th. Help us make a difference in the world.

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

II Thessalonians 3:3 But the Lord is faithful. He will establish you and guard against the evil one.

Celebration of God's Faithfulness October, 15, 2023



June 30, 2023

Receipts. \$17,895.33

Expenses. \$25,658.34

Missions. \$223.95

YTD

Receipts. \$146,121.19

Expenses \$166,474.19



AUGUST BIRTHDAYS 85+ yrs.
& ANNIVERSARIES 50+ yrs.

Dwight & Doris Ferguson
08/01/1970

Donna Karmann 08/04

Jerry & Carolyn Rothfuss
08/04/1968

Calvin & Barbara Wohler
08/06/1966

Dwight & Carol Benninga
08/09/1964

Gary Unruh 08/10

Larry & Laurene Parsley
08/11/1970

Roy & Linda Henry
08/15/1970

LaVerne Carpenter
08/17

Larry & Rosalee
Wilcoxson

08/23/1964

Marc & Dee Gerardy
08/23/1969

Alan & Ruth Johnson
08/25/1968

Rolland Reed 08/26

Lee & Alice Ohlde
08/30/1963

2023 Great Plains Annual Conference Report by Marcy Schooley

Over 1,100 clergy and lay members participated in the 2023 Great Plains Annual Conference in La Vista, NE.

During the May 31st online session immediately preceding the in-person conference, matters related to general rules, disaffiliations, church closures, salary increases, and health insurance were addressed. A minimum salary increase of 3% for pastors in 2024 was approved. The health insurance allowance will remain unchanged for 2024 at \$15,850 (\$1321 per month).

During our days together in La Vista, NE, I sensed renewed passion for missions and increased positive energy to move beyond our past conflicts. The GP Conference approved a plan to increase the racial-ethnic diversity within conference leadership roles on committees, teams, and boards. Also approved was a resolution that pledged continued support and guidance for refugees entering the country. The 2024 conference budget of \$15.1 million was approved. This is a decrease of about 4% from the 2023 budget.

Clay Center UMC was one of the churches honored for 150 years of service. Photos of our church (earlier and current) were featured in the video presentation. We were also given a certificate in honor of our years of faithful service.

Mackenzie Weller received the Harry Denman Evangelism Award in the youth category. This award is given annually to one youth in the GP conference in recognition for their discipleship outreach and evangelistic work.

The 2024 GP Annual Conference will be June 6-9 in Kearney, Nebraska.

If you have any questions or would like more details about the 2023 Great Plains Annual Conference, please contact Marcy Schooley (marcyschooley@gmail.com) or Pastor Reuben.



Gary Unruh grew up on a farm in Marion County near Durham. He drove a little Ford tractor to school. His dad made a box that fit on the tractor where his sister would ride along with 4 neighbor kids that he would pick up along the way. He taught school for 43 years and was inducted into the CCCHS Hall of Fame. Gary loves to read Bible History and Archeology. He enjoyed the "Sunshine Cake" his mother made for his birthday. Happy birthday, Gary.



LaVerne Carpenter grew up on a farm south of Clay Center. She went to Mount Vernon school and high school in Clay Center. She worked at Weimers Drug Store after graduation. She was a devoted farm wife and drove harvest trucks to elevators. Her favorite food was the chicken and noodles her mother made. LaVerne and Arlan enjoyed traveling and square dancing and made all of her dresses for dancing. Happy birthday, LaVerne.



Donna Karman grew up on a farm north of Agenda and walked 1 1/2 miles to school. As an only child she helped her mother in the yard. She worked for C&W Electric out of high school and attended KSU. Donna taught school for 30 years, 24 of those years at Riley County. She travelled to all the states and Europe three times and took her entrepreneurial students to Chicago three times. Happy birthday, Donna.



Please be in prayer for Neva Anderson and families of our beloved member Tom Skinner who passed away on July 7, 2023. Funeral services are scheduled for August 5, 2023 at 10:30 at CCUMC.



Please be in prayer for Ron and Kami Smith and family on the loss of his father Lee Alvin Smith who passed away on July 23, 2023.



Thank You!



From the Lighthouse for our \$150 gift to their ministry.

The Lighthouse

The prayer quilt is beautiful! Sorry this card is so late in coming. Our Phil has gone home to his Savior. This was not at the time the home I was praying for.

The Lord knows best and Phil is at peace. When visitors saw the beautiful quilt all had wonderful comments. Phil loved it on his bed. Today as I grieve his loss and each day I touch it and a knot and feel God's love. Thank you Penny (Goldsmith) and worship service.

Phil Wertenberger Family



Don't forget to mark your calendar for our next ministry outreach.

Monday, August 7th at 11:30am

Marabeth’s Memo

How do you feel the most loved? Is it by words of affirmation, quality time, physical touch, gifts, or acts of service? Meaning, what is your Love Language? My husband’s Love Language is “acts of service.” When I do things for him, he feels the most loved by me.

For me, I am a “words of affirmation” person, meaning that words can make me feel more loved than anything else. But, the reverse is also true. I can be hurt by words faster and harder than anything else, as well. Since this is my love language, I try to be extra sensitive to the words that I speak and the way in which I use them. I don’t want to hurt anyone with my words, but I know that I fail in this over and over again. I am a work in progress, that is for sure!

About a month ago I read an interesting quote that caught my attention. I immediately wrote it down because this was one that I did not want to forget. **“Speak only when your words are more beautiful than the silence.”** Wow! That has made a huge impact on my way of thinking. Sometimes I find myself struggling to find the right words to say, in a variety of situations. This quote reminds me that words aren’t always necessary. Sometimes, a listening ear is exactly what is needed. Maybe in other situations, it is a comforting hug. Other times, a simple smile will suffice.

From time to time, we all find ourselves in a place where we feel that we don’t know what words to say. Let’s remember that there can be beauty in silence. Just as with Job in the Bible. The scriptures tell us that Job’s friends came to him in his time of great turmoil to offer their support. What did they do in this critical time? They came to his home and they just sat with him. For seven days and seven nights they sat, said nothing and mourned with him. Their silence was more beautiful than any words they could have ever spoken. I picture in my mind, that even though the friends did not say a word, Job may have done a lot of sharing. I can visualize many tears, hugs and nods of affirmation. I imagine that those men learned a lot about their friend in that week, in their seven days of silence.

With God’s help, I will continue to work on being a better listener and trying to do no harm with my words.

Blessings to you, Marabeth

May the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in Your sight, O Lord, my rock and my redeemer. (Ps. 19:14) Amen.



A special **Thank You** to our Trustees for organizing several projects in the church and around our property the past couple of months. We appreciate all that give of their time and talents to keep our facility beautiful, welcoming and safe.



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, Adv. - Adventures 1st-3rd grades/ FEL Pwr Pk- Power Pack 4th-5th grades/ FEL Youth Group- HS/ High School , MS/Middle School		1 9:30a Cong Care 10a Tue @ 10	2 5-6:30 p Scramble Mexican Dinner 6p SPRC	3	4	5
6 8:45a The Way Service 9:30a Sunday School 10:30a Sanctuary Worship 8p AA/Al-anon	7 11:30a Harvesters 	8 10a Tue @ 10	9 5:30p Scramble	10	11	12
13 8:45a The Way Service 9:30a Sunday School 10:30a Sanctuary Worship Blessing of the Backpacks 8p AA/ Al-anon	14	15 10a Tue @ 10	16  5:30p Scramble	17 5:30p Numana Meeting- Library	18	19 9-12pm Operation Shoebox work day Fellowship Hall
20 8:45a The Way Service 9:30a JAM 10:30a Sanctuary Worship Promotion Sunday 8p AA/Al-anon	21	22 10a Tue @ 10 3:30p Adv.	23 5:30p Scramble 6-8p Youth Group @ Dexter Park	24 3:30p Pwr Pack	25	26
27 8:45a The Way Service 9:30a JAM 10:30a Sanctuary Worship 8p AA/Al-anon	28	29 10a Tue @ 10 3:30p Adv.	30 5:30p Scramble 6:15p Youth Group	31 3:30p Pwr Pack		



Aly Schooley is a member of our Congregation Care Team. Their mission is to visit and contact members of our church family on a regular basis to build relationships and keep a strong personal connection with the church.



Pictured is Aly's son, Kyson, and longtime member, Wilma Thomas.



And they are off to Florida!

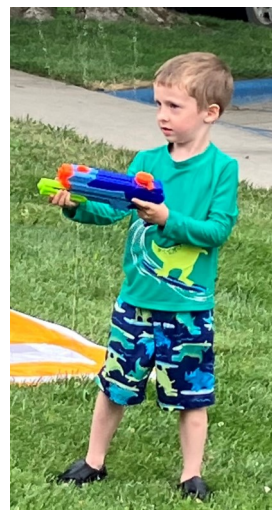
Operation Christmas Child Shoebox Work Day was held on July 15th. Their next gathering will be on Saturday, August 19th from 9am— noon. Come and go as needed. All are welcome.



“Let’s Get Soaked “Party



Jam Kids Had a Great Time!



Children Learning About Yahweh

Just over a year ago, I had the pleasure of meeting with the parents of our youth group to discuss an exciting opportunity to attend the BOLD conference or Youth 2023. We were exploring the possibility of attending a youth conference that only takes place every four years, and I was eager to gauge interest and start planning. Everyone was supportive of the idea to send our high schoolers to Daytona Beach. We appointed a dedicated committee during our Sunday morning meeting to handle the fundraising and logistics of the conference, and I was amazed at how quickly things started to come together. I believe our youth group was among the very first that signed up and registered for the youth conference. It took a lot of hard work and dedication from parents, friends, and family, and we were able to raise the necessary funds and plan for this youth conference. Now, as I prepare to embark on this incredible journey with Pastor Reuben, 21 high school students, and seven adult sponsors, I can't help but feel grateful for everyone who has been involved in our youth missions and activities throughout the year. This conference has been a long time in the making, and I am thrilled that our vision has finally come to fruition. With God as our main focus, everything falls into place at the right time, thanks be to God.



In June and July, our youth parents organized a first ever fireworks stand for our youth group, and the whole community came together to support us. The parents put in a lot of effort, and I am thankful for their unwavering support. I have the best youth parents any youth director could ask for. In August, one of our youth group members will be representing the United States in the International Twirling Championship in Liverpool, England. Please keep Addy and the Gurney family in your prayers as they embark on this journey. We are rooting for you, Addy!

Looking ahead, we have many exciting plans for our youth group this coming semester. If you know any young people between 6th and 12th grade who are looking for a place to connect during the week, please direct them our way. Our youth group is set to kickoff on August 23rd at Dexter Park from 6 to 8pm. We can't wait to welcome new members and continue to build a strong and supportive community for our young people.

Again thank you to all of our youth parents, in the words of Paul; Every time I think of you, I give thanks to my God. When ever I pray, I make my requests for all of you with joy, for you have been my partners in spreading the Good News about Christ from the time you first heard it until now. And I am certain that God, who began the good work within you, will continue his work until it is finally finished on the day when Christ Jesus returns. (Philippians 1:3-6)

Zac Vakadewatabua

