

I am grateful for the community I live and serve. It is now more than two years since I came here and I love it. Activities such as Gather for Good, Piotique, just to name a few are exciting activities that make this community special. The support given last week through Gather for the Good to a number of organizations including our youth receiving \$8,327.08 is amazing, and actually tells a lot about Clay Center and its people. Keep up the good work! This coming Saturday 09/30/2023 is Piotique and our church has a float in it and our youth are ready to lead us.

Our long awaited church anniversary is soon coming! I can't wait! God's presence and his faithfulness has been here for the last 150 years and through all that time, lives have been transformed in many ways. It is time to celebrate God's doing in the past, but also to trust him for the future. As he led the children of Israel through the wilderness with all the challenges into the promised land, he promises to lead us too through this earthly life till he gets us home-heaven. Please come, celebrate God's faithfulness with us. If you can't make it please pray for us. Several people have worked so hard to make this anniversary a reality and I would like to thank them for their commitment and faithfulness.

I praise God for all the mission projects he has given us to do in, through and beyond our church building. NUMANA is one of them. Just a week ago we helped pack 22,500 meals to go to Tanzania. You all gave the money for all these meals and you turned up to pack them, it was amazing! Can you imagine a hungry person in Tanzania enjoying and thanking God for the meal you packed right here? Thank you!

So far we have over 500 shoe boxes for Operation Christmas Child that will go out towards the end of the year. I know we will go beyond 1,000 boxes. These will help give hope to the children of the world who really need to know that Jesus loves them. Again, thank you for being generous!

I am glad and proud of each one of you. May the good Lord keep and bless you each day as you go out and as you come in.

In Him,

Rev. Reuben  
Langat, Ph.D.



### Our Vision

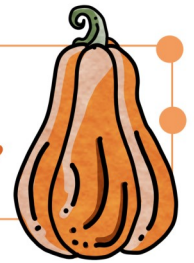
**Worship, Witness, Serve**



### Our Mission

**Worship God who loves us.  
Share our faith by building relationships.  
Bring hope to the world we serve.**



# HELLO october



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>1</b> 8:45a The Way Service 9:30a JAM/ Sunday School 10:30a Sanctuary Worship  8p AA/Al-anon	<b>2</b> 11:30a Harvesters	<b>3</b> 9:30a Cong. Care 10a Tue @ 10  3:30p Adv 5p FFF	<b>4</b> 9:15a FFF 5-7p Scramble 5p Nominate Comm. 6p Choir Practice 6p Memorial Comm. 6:15p Youth Group	<b>5</b> 3:30p Pwr Pack 5p FFF	<b>6</b> 9:15a FFF	<b>7</b>
<b>8</b> 8:45a The Way Service 9:30a JAM/ Sunday School 10:30a Sanctuary Worship  8p AA/Al-anon	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b> 10a Tue @ 10  3:30p Adv 5p FFF	<b>11</b> 6:45a Men's Morn  5:30p Scramble 6p Choir Practice 6p Finance Comm. 6:15p Youth Group	<b>12</b> 10a Homespun  3:30p Pwr Pack 5p FFF	<b>13</b> 9:15a FFF	<b>14</b>
<b>15</b>  8:45a The Way Service 9:30a Reception 9:40a Bell Dedication 10:30a Sanctuary Worship 11:30a Dinner  8p AA/ Al-anon	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> 10a Tue @ 10  3:30p Adv 5p FFF	<b>18</b> 9:15a FFF 5-7p Scramble 5:30 COOL WHIP/ BIBLE STUDY 6:15p Youth Group	<b>19</b> <b>Enlightener</b> <b>Articles due</b>  5p FFF 6:30p CCCOM @ CCUMC	<b>20</b> 9:15a FFF	<b>21</b>
<b>22</b> 8:45a The Way Service 9:30a JAM/ Sunday School 10:30a Sanctuary Worship  8p AA/Al-anon	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> 10a Tue @ 10  3:30p Adv 5p FFF	<b>25</b> 6:45a Men's Morn  5-7p Scramble 6:15p Youth Group	<b>26</b> 3:30p Pwr Pack 5p FFF	<b>27</b> 9:15a FFF	<b>28</b>
<b>29</b> 8:45a The Way Service 9:30a JAM/ Sunday School 10:30a Sanctuary Worship  8p AA/Al-anon	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b> 10a Tue @ 10  3:30p Adv Halloween Howl Downtown see our booth  5p FFF 	FLC– Family Life Center FEL– Fellowship Hall ( basement) <b>Tuesday @ 10</b> – Sanctuary and then the FLC <b>FFF</b> – Faithfully Fit Forever - FLC– volunteer lead exercise program <b>UWF</b> – United Women in Faith, all women are welcome <b>Home Spun</b> – UWF cluster - Parlor <b>C.O.O.L. W.H.I.P.</b> – UWF cluster– RM 2 <b>Men's Morning</b> – FLC/ breakfast and devotion, all men are welcome <b>Adv.</b> – Adventures 1st-3rd grades/ FEL <b>Pwr Pk</b> – Power Pack 4th-5th grades/ FEL <b>Youth Group</b> – HS/ High School , MS/Middle School			

## Pastor Appreciation Month

We know we are blessed beyond measure to have Pastor Reuben as our leader at CCUMC. We keep him in our thoughts and prayers throughout the year. The month of October is set aside as Pastor Appreciation Month. If you would like to extend your gratitude to Pastor Reuben in a special way this month, you are invited to do so. Cards can be mailed to his home, 2314 8th St., Clay Center, KS 67432, or dropped off at the church office anytime. If you are looking for a place to give a donation in his honor, his and Jane's organization "Heart of Africa" might interest you. Money given will be used to purchase cows for widows. This is a life changing gift for these women. Let's show our **love** to Reuben, especially this month!

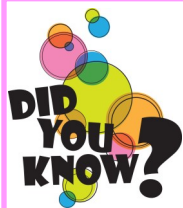


**The Special Events Committee** would like to thank every one in our Church Family and in the Community that came to our Hawaiian Luau and or helped support the Lahaina UMC that burned down in the Maui Wildfires in August. A huge Thank You to Frieda for picking up on the need for donations to that church before our plans were finalized. The meal and decorations would not have been possible without the extra help the week of the Luau from numerous ladies putting in A LOT of time. We served 280 people and were able to send \$4058 to the Lahaina UMC. We appreciate everyone that helped with every aspect of the event.

**Special Events Committee**– Thank you for the work on the Scramble dinner and food. It was decorated so nice and all the food was great. I know many hands prepared it and I pray you raised a lot. **Barbara Anderson**

**Dearest friends in Christ**– I wanted to thank you all so very much for your prayers as I have gone through my treatments & surgery and for the beautiful quilt to comfort and remind me of God's unending presence with me. It means the world! Thank you & God Bless! **Brianna Johnson**

**Church Members** - Thank you all that supported our programs at Clay Center Gather for Good Match Day.



In preparation of the 150th Celebration, the Youth Group gave back to their church by cleaning all of the chairs in the Family Life Center. A task such as this goes very quickly when there are 45+ young people helping

out! Thanks so much to all that helped out!







# Celebrating God's Faithfulness

Your steadfast love, O Lord, extends to the heavens, your faithfulness to the clouds. Psalm 36:5  
Celebrating God's Faithfulness October 15, 2023



August  
Budget

Receipts \$24,726.12

Expenses \$27,967.33

Mission: \$1369.99

YTD

Receipts \$201,970.52

Expenses \$227,214.31

Trustees in action sprucing up the building for our 150th celebration and just general maintenance. Workers were Rick Chaffee,



Chuck Dunn and Nick Fickes. Thank you for all that hard work to keep our church beautiful. Also many thanks to Faun Baur and her crew who have worked behind the scenes.



Sympathy and Prayers to David & Shellee Frederick and family on the passing of his father on August 30, 2023.



Sympathy and Prayers to Brad & Marabeth Conner and family on the loss of his father LV Conner.



Sympathy and Prayers to Jerry & Cindy Habluetzel and family and also to sister-in-law Walleeta & Dana Bergsten and Family on the loss of our beloved member Marilyn Habluetzel who passed away on September 24, 2023. Funeral services will be here at the church on Thursday, October 5, 2023 @ 10:30 am.



Herb & L'Jeane Mugler

10/10/1958

Dick Parker 10/16



Meet Richard (Dick) Wayne Parker a regular attender at CCUMC who is 85+ years old. Dick was born in Greenville, Michigan. He joined the Air Force from 1951-1981, then worked for Coastguard until 1999. He then drove a school activity bus. In 2001 he married Sherry and moved to Clay Center to downsize and be closer to Fort Riley. He has 3 daughters, 6 grandchildren and 13 great grandchildren. He enjoys reading, watching western movies, and traveling. Happy Birthday Dick .





Our monthly work day had eleven smiling, enthusiastic crafters: 3 (Jenny Lu Spence, Jane Crawshaw & Marilyn Sherbert) counted notebook paper and placed the sheets in folders; 2 (Darlene Bradford & Susan Beck) measured, cut and strung ribbon through colorful carrying bags; 1 (Austin Burr) was very creative making bead people; 2 (Rose Marie Nichols & Rosalee Wilcoxson) cut out colorful animal shapes; 2 (Gail Fox Edmiston & Linda Cunningham)



did not always follow Frances's directions while making beaded animals, but they were not fired (not yet); and our leader Frances Benson of Operation Christmas Child Shoe Box Saturday kept us all going, bringing more supplies and answering our many questions! Thank you Frances!!



**Bingo Night-** The Numana Team sponsored the 2nd Annual BINGO Night as a fundraiser. Phil Kasper entertained the crowd as the Caller for the evening. There were lots of winners of the table of prizes. A total of \$574 was raised for Numana.



### Kid's Bake Sale-

Our kids had a very successful Bake Sale with proceeds going to Numana. Many of the treats were made with the help of the kids, which makes them even more tasty and special. They raised \$555. Great job!



Our Annual Church Conference is scheduled for Sunday, November 19th at 2pm.



**Halloween Howl** will be taking place on Tuesday, October 31st. We will be collecting candy to pass out this day. If you can help and donate candy we will be collecting it in the church office by October 26th.

Youth packed 500 shoeboxes for Smartian Purse's Operation Christmas Child during one Wednesday night during Youth Group. Zac & Frances getting ready for them.





## Marabeth's Memo

Six months and one day after the death of Brad's mother, we got the dreaded phone call that his father had passed away. This news was not a surprise, as our whole family had just spent the previous weekend with him at his Nursing Home residence. It was evident that he would not be with us much longer. I have to say, he was more ready to go than we were to watch him leave.

His name was LV. He went by the nickname of Cook – but to us, he was Papa. He stood out in a crowd. He was big in stature and had a head full of beautiful white hair. When he gave hugs, they were all consuming and you knew you were loved. He spoke quietly, but was always cracking a joke. Through the years, I heard some of his stories many times over, but I didn't mind because it was so fun to hear his laughter. His entire face would light up and his eyes would twinkle. So many of these same traits live on through his son.

Two weeks ago, when we left his bedside, we knew this was our final good-bye. We each took our turn to visit with him privately. What do you say to a man that has been so special to you for so long? He knew we loved him and that we would miss him dearly, but he was ready to spend the rest of eternity with his love, Momo. For our family, this was the true definition of bitter/sweet.

Papa was the best Father-in-Law I could have ever asked for and he was an amazing Grandfather for our girls. For Brad, he was not only his dad, but his very best friend. He was a true gem – one of the good ones.

There is comfort in knowing that Papa is in heaven, and is now the picture of health. Through Jesus, we have assurance that we will see him again. Until that time comes, I promise to grant him his final request of me. After the "I love you," he said, "Take care of my son." I will, Papa.

Thank you God, for this wonderful man,  
Marabeth (& Family)

The Special Events team hosted a Scramble to benefit the Lahaina United Methodist Church.

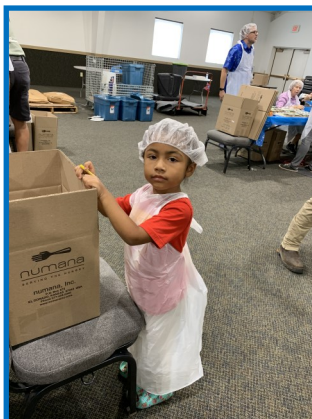


# HAWAIIAN LUAU



# NUMANA 2023- Thank you CCUMC

Family for your support in meeting the goal of raising \$8,000 for Numana. Through this generosity, we were able to pack 22,500 meals for those in need in Tanzania. We had over 130 volunteers, of all ages, come and join in this fun and meaningful mission. A special thank you to our Numana Team of Amy Burr, Doris Ferguson, Karla Fickes, Shelly Franson, Kathy Wilder &, Kendra Worthen.



  
**numana**  
SERVING THE HUNGRY



## KidzMatter Article – Zac Vakadewatabua

My name is Sakiusa Rokovasa Vakadewatabua, Jr. But I go by Zac. I grew up in a country that greets the first sunrise of every day. Fiji consists of over three hundred islands in the middle of the Pacific Ocean. The International Date Line cuts straight through my country, meaning that Fiji is the first to see every new morning and the first to usher in each new year. We are literally at the very end of the earth.

Childhood in this island country was different than what you might expect. Yes, Fiji is rich in clear blue waters and constant warm temperatures, but my four siblings and I grew up playing with sticks and stones. Often the kids in our neighborhood would play rugby, the national sport of Fiji. Except no one could afford a rugby ball. Instead we would play with empty soda bottles, kicking the plastic bottle around even after someone inevitably got hit in the face. We had to be inventive with our fun.

My father does a lot of carpentry work when he is not preaching, for though his trade is as a shipwright, his calling is to be a pastor. I come from a long line of ministers, from my great-grandpa to my grandpa to my father to me. We lived right next to the church where we served, both buildings positioned near the river which instigated a constant battle with flooding during rainy season. Routinely my father and the men of our congregation had to trek down river to fetch pieces of the church's structure that swept away in the downpour.

I admire my parents for remaining so faithful throughout every hardship, always relying on God for our every need. When my siblings and I needed to go to school, my parents should never have been able to afford it. But through their steadfast prayers and our faithful God, He always provided what we needed to continue our education.

I was really young when I decided to place my trust in Jesus Christ. A revival camp meeting was held in my grandmother's village when I was five years old. Praise the Lord for such faithful children's ministry! There are people all around the world who have never been exposed to the Gospel, yet I am so blessed that God ordained to meet me through children's ministry at such a young age and continues to remind me of His faithfulness throughout my life.

One profound reminder of His love was through Operation Christmas Child.

My mom organized a weekly prayer group for the children at our church. This specific Monday afternoon when I was nine-years-old, she was overseeing a special outreach event to present the Gospel to the children in our community. She had already told me that there would be a surprise at the end, but as her son, my name would be the last one called just in case they ran out. All day at school, I prayed earnestly, "Please let my name be called! Please let my name be called!" Even at the event, I anxiously waited as my mom started declaring names, first calling forward the kids invited from the community, then the names of those who regularly attended our Sunday School. But soon the spirit of celebration in the room drowned out all of my worry. Infectious joy burst from my friends and in my own heart as they received their shoebox gifts.

Finally, with the last shoebox gift in hand, my mom called my name.

Excitement shot me forward to retrieve my very own shoebox gift. I don't know how to describe how it felt to open that shoebox. Pulling out toys, school supplies, all of these colorful gifts that kept coming out of my shoebox – I didn't have these things! They were all new to me.

*-Continued on the other side-*



*-continues from the other side*

I still remember that fresh smell of new coloring books. To this day, when I go to bookstores, just smelling the new books takes me right back to that outreach event in Fiji. Colored pencils made the black and white pictures of Bible stories come alive. For the first time in my life, I had real toys like a jump rope and small cars, which I would diligently recreate racetracks for in the mud around my house after the rain washed them smooth again.

But the jaw-dropping item which most reminds me of God's love was a bright yellow yo-yo. I'd only ever seen this kind of toy in stores before, and I always had to leave them behind because such things were financially out of reach. Now here it was in my shoebox gift, a special gift just for me. That yo-yo meant more to me than simple plastic and string. It was a tangible gift from someone around the world, given in faith, to remind me of God's love.

Going through my shoebox gift, one scripture God brought to my mind was from Romans 5:8, "While we were yet sinners, Christ died for us." I was a Christian before, but I know how impactful this moment was for me. We are all undeserving of God's grace. But someone was filled with that holy grace and spent their time, their money, their resources just to pack this beautiful gift for a child at the ends of the earth. Somebody around the world thought of me.

After God opened doors for me to move to the United States years later, He called me specifically into youth and children's ministry at my local church in Kansas. Soon after I started my position, I rediscovered Operation Christmas Child. Our youth group participated every year, and now the task of leading the project fell to me. Ecstatic, I drove our church van to the store to buy shoebox supplies. I told my church about how I received one of these Operation Christmas Child shoebox gifts, and the news caught fire! For the kids in my youth group, this put a real face to the mission they were doing and gave them a renewed drive to serve the Lord. Watching these kids pack over a hundred shoebox gifts as an outpouring of God's love to others around the world, I was so overwhelmed that I cried with joy.

To demonstrate God's love tangibly through those gifts, what a simple way to share the Good News of the Gospel. As a recipient, I know firsthand the eternal impact. Can you imagine a young child receiving a gift for the first time? That faithful act carries the weight of their joy. Can you imagine the prayers that bring that shoebox gift to the ends of the earth? I remember one child in my youth group praying over the shoebox gifts, "Thank you for what I've been blessed with that I may bless other kids." That's when it hit me that these kids, young as they might be, have a profound understanding of what it means to show God's love.

Before long, our entire church was on fire for the ministry. One family came to me with a box filled with yellow yo-yos, ready to start the discipleship journey for other children just like me. Children have that effect on families and communities on both sides of the shoebox. Items as simple as coloring books and yo-yos can open children's hearts, and if those children continue going to the church that made them feel loved by God, then that opens the door for entire families to hear the Gospel. This is what sets me on fire for the ministry of Operation Christmas Child. We are bringing God's love and Gospel to even the ends of the earth.

Being a part of someone else's discipleship journey is incredibly humbling. Whether through pouring into the children I serve here in Kansas or through packing a shoebox gift for someone around the world – I know that God blesses such faithful ministry because of my own testimony. Packing a shoebox gift may look like a little thing, but the impact is profound. It's the fingerprint of God. My shoebox gift shaped me and continues to shape millions of lives all around the world. What a way to receive the Gospel message!

I want to encourage you, because a new morning is coming. The ends of the earth are waiting for the lifechanging message of the Gospel. Together, the very children we serve can launch another child's discipleship journey and transform communities around the world. Let us bring them the Good News.

# 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

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Clay Center, KS

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## SCRAMBLE

Wednesday evening free-offering meal

5:30 pm—6:30 pm

October 4th- CCARE- Breakfast for Dinner (5-6:30 pm)

October 11th- Community Church Camp- Ham Dinner

October 18th- Fundraiser (5-7pm)

October 25th- Garfield PEP- Walking Tacos (5-7pm)



## A MONTH OF MISSIONS

K-State Wesley is a campus ministry of the United Methodist Church on the K-State campus open to young adults in the Manhattan area, not just KSU students. Their purpose is to reach out to young people through friendship and hospitality and become a community based on Jesus Christ. Funds we collect will go towards supporting this ministry.



## PRAYER list

IN OUR PRAYERS: Elizabeth Carlson, Jillian Browne, Virginia Modean, Shelly Bottcher, Madde Lucenti, Barb Booth, Julie Schulze, Craig Bradford, Cindy Hoverson, Terrie Rush, Howard & Sharron Sump, Patty Stephans, and Gerald (Rick ) Rickett.  
Serving in the Military: Brenden Kolsky, Drew Sumner, Cooper Coffman, Wyatt Bowles