

# THE ENLIGHTENER

Clay Center United Methodist Church - Pastor Reuben Langat

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THE ENLIGHTENER

SEPTEMBER 2023

## Notes from the Pastor

I am thankful to God for each one of you for choosing to worship and serve God's purposes in and through our church. The prayers and support you gave towards our youth as they attended the 2023 youth conference in Florida was amazing. I had the privilege to be there with them and I must say we had a great team from our church.



In less than two months we will celebrate 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of God's faithfulness in Clay Center. Through the faithfulness and commitment of those who came before us, we are here today standing on their shoulders. The future generations represented by our children and youth will rely on our commitment to God so that they can also stand on our shoulders to pass on their faith in to the future. I encourage you all to plan to attend the celebrations scheduled to take place on October 15<sup>th</sup> 2023. Representatives from the Conference as well as former ministers to this church will be here to celebrate with us, so I really encourage you not to miss this special coming event. Be in prayer for different committee members who are doing everything they can to plan for the success of that day.

Unlike several churches that experience low attendance during summer, our attendance stayed up! This proves your love and commitment to our church. We have also noticed several who are watching online from different locations. There have been new people attending our services too and I would like to thank you for your hospitality. People come because they are invited, so keep inviting others to come.

I am grateful that several of you are involved in different missions in and through our church. Research tells us that a mission minded church grows and that is exactly who we are and we will keep doing it going into the future. Ecclesiastes 9:10 says, "Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with all your might, for in the realm of the dead, where you are going, there is neither working nor planning nor knowledge nor wisdom." Let us commit to serve God in our generation like King David.

Friends, I love you and wish you God's blessings as you serve him.

In Him, Rev. Reuben Langat, Ph.D.



**KANSASLAND**  
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**WEDNESDAY NIGHT Suppers**

**SCRAMBLE**

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

Sept. 6th- Hawaiian Luau (5-6:30pm)  
(Proceeds go to Lahaina UMC of Maui)

Sept. 13th- Fundraiser for Jeanie Ghuridge- TBD

Sept. 20th- American Legion Post #101- Grilled Hamburgers

Sept. 27th- Project Lead/ USD #379- TBD

**A MONTH OF MISSIONS**

It's Back!! The hands-on Mission Project, NUMANA is set for Sunday, September 17<sup>th</sup>. 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 22,222 meals for the hungry. We have sign-up sheets around the church for volunteers for that day. We are in need of 120 workers. There are a variety of ways to make monetary donations, including offerings, Kid's Bake Sale and BINGO Night! **Please mark your calendars for the afternoon of Sunday, September 17<sup>th</sup>. Help us make a difference in the world.**

**PRAYER list**

**IN OUR PRAYERS:** Elizabeth Carlson, Jillian Browne, Carol Morgan, Virginia Modean, Shelly Bottcher, Gerald (Rick) Ricketts, Barb Booth, Julie Schulze, Craig Bradford, Cindy Hoverson, Terrie Rush, Howard & Sharron Sump, Marilyn Habluetzel, and Patty Stephens.

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

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

Until God opens the next door meet Him in the hallway!  
Celebrating God's Faithfulness October 15th, 2023

We are taking reservation for the catered dinner for our 150th Celebration on Sunday, October 15. Please reserve your spot by calling the church office 785-632-3106 or email us at [churchoffice@claycenterumc.org](mailto:churchoffice@claycenterumc.org).

**July Budget**

Receipts \$27,868.21  
Expenses \$26,842.09

Mission of the month \$160  
YTD  
Receipts \$177,244.40  
Expenses \$199,246.98

**Blessing of the Backpacks**  
With the beginning of a new school year, all students brought their backpacks to church for a special Young Christian Lesson by Principal Keith Hoffman. Pastor Reuben also prayed for the kids and each one was given a Jesus keychain for their backpacks.



Lorene Peterson -September 11th  
Robert & Frieda Knitter -Sept.30, 1972

Meet Lorene Peterson, who is celebrating her birthday and is a member of our 85+ years old group. Lorene graciously agreed to be interviewed for our member spotlight.



Lorene lived her whole life in the house she was born in until moving to Liberty Place later in life. She always had a big garden and preserved much of the produce. One of the her families favorite dishes she prepared was her apricot tapioca. Lorene sewed many of her clothes and enjoyed quilting. She is a gifted painter using oils and watercolor. A highlight for her was traveling with her husband Delmar to Sweden to visit family. Happy birthday Lorene.



A huge Thank You to Andrea Rohleder for leading our kids in a YOGA Class for our JAM Kick-off. Andrea brought together the story of Noah's Ark and the creativity of Yoga. There were 58 kids that took part in this fun event, along with lots of parents and spectators. This was a perfect way to get everyone excited for the coming year of JAM time. JAM (Jesus And Me) is available to all kids beginning at age two. They meet each Sunday from 9:30 a.m. – 10:25 a.m. If you have any questions about this program, please contact our Superintendents Amy Burr (785.447.9249) or Katie Knitter (785.632.0891).



## KID'S Bake Sale

Sunday, September 10th  
Before & After Each Worship Service

Purchase a "Made with Love" treat with proceeds going to the NUMANA Project.

Many GOODIES made by the kids!

Don't forget to sign up for the Numana when we will package 22,222 meals on Sunday, Sept. 17th. We are looking for 120 volunteers of all ages. Thank you for your support.



**Game Night**  
Fundraiser for NUMANA  
Sunday, September 10, 2023

Fun & Prizes for all ages!

BINGO from 6:00 – 7:00 p.m. / Doors Open @ 5:45 p.m.

For \$10 you receive a BINGO Card, Popcorn & Soda. Purchase extra Cards for \$5 each

The Church Trustees have been hard at work getting things ready for our 150th Anniversary Celebration on October 15th . If you look around you will see the new fencing on the west side of the parking lot,



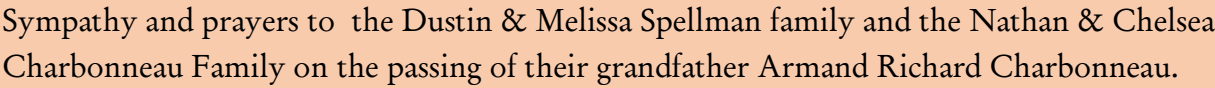
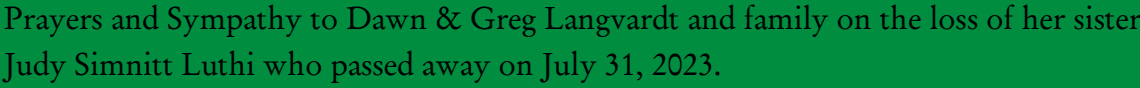
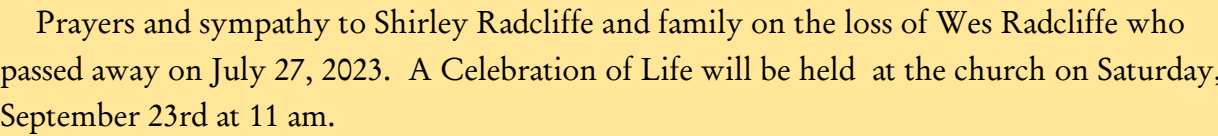
painting in the entry ways, new ceiling, lights, paint and carpet in the Youth Room, new faucets, framing of the camera in the FLC, painting of the handicapped and other parking stalls, polishing of the wood in the Sanctuary, etc. Next up is the power washing of the stone on the church. Thank you to the Trustees and each volunteer that continues to assist in keeping our facility beautiful.



**Dear Church Friends,** Mom is doing well at the Nicol Home in Glasco. She volunteered to help fold towels and discovered the “folding activity” is very similar to her physical therapy. The staff is grateful for her help too. Win, win! She loves and misses you all. Blessing **Barbie Booth and Jenna**

**Garfield Neighbors-** Thank you for thinking of us and support us. **Clay Co Child Care Center, Inc.**

**Dear Church Family-** Thank you all for the prayers, cards and kind words while I was going through my treatment for cancer. I am recovering and getting stronger each day. **Scott Taddiken**



(1st-3rd Grades)

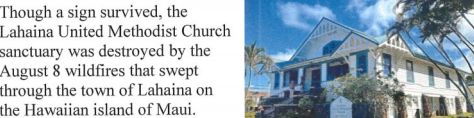
Will be meeting on  
Tuesdays starting  
September 5, 2023  
unless school is  
cancelled.

3:30 pm - 5:00 pm

4th -5th Grades)

Will be meeting on  
Thursdays starting  
September 7, 2023  
unless school is  
cancelled.

3:30 pm – 5:00 pm



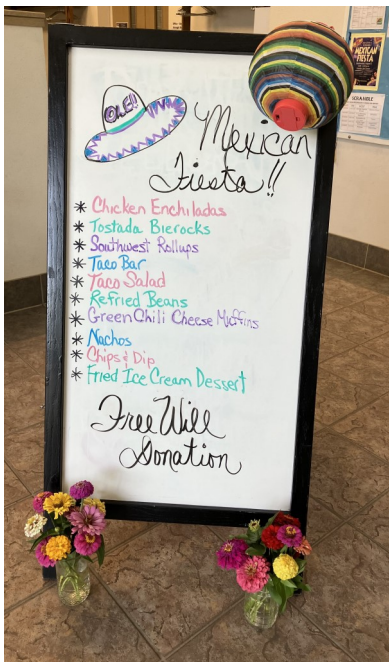
The Lahaina UMC dates back to 1896 when a missionary from Japan arrived to minister to Japanese workers in the sugar cane and fruit plantations. The sanctuary that was lost in the August 8 fire was built in 1922 on Lahaina's Front Street. Along with the sanctuary being destroyed was an area used by a preschool. Their parsonage survived.

The Clay Center United Methodist Special Events team already had plans in the making to serve a Hawaiian Luau. When they heard of the devastation to the Lahaina UMC it was decided that the proceeds would go to help rebuild this small church of a congregation of just 73 members.

This is your chance to support the people of Lahaina UMC by attending the Hawaiian Luau with a menu of Pulled Pork, Hawaiian Meatballs with rice, salads and fruit, Road to Hana Banana Bread, Hawaiian Desserts, Sno Cones and Hawaiian Punch. The first 100 people get a Lei – or wear one you have! Dress festive and bright! If you can't attend the Luau, donations may be left at the Clay Center United Methodist Church.



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>FLC</b> – Family Life Center <b>FEL</b> – Fellowship Hall ( basement) <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>Tue @10</b> – Individual prayer time and fellowship afterwards in the FLC <b>Youth Group</b> – HS/ High School , MS/Middle School					1	2
3 8:45a The Way Service 9:30a JAM/ Adult SS 10:30a Sanctuary Service 8p AA/Al-anon	4 Office Closed 	5 9:30a Cong. Care 10a Tue @ 10 3:30p Adv.	6 9:15a FFF 5:30p Scramble 6:15p Youth 6:45p Trustees	7 3:30p Pwr Pack	8 9:15a FFF	9
10 Kid’s Bake Sale 8:45a The Way Service 9:30a JAM/ Adult SS 10:30a Sanctuary Service 6p Numana Bingo Night 8p AA/ Al-anon	11	12 10a Tue @ 10 3:30p Adv.	13 6:45a Men’s Morn. 9:15a FFF 5:30p Scramble 6:15p Youth	14 10a Homespun 3:30p Pwr Pack	15 9:15a FFF 5:30p Cub Scouts FLC	16 FEL 9a-noon Shoebox work day Come and go 
17 8:45a The Way Service 9:30a JAM/ Adult SS 10:30a Sanctuary Service Numana 1pm 8p AA/Al-anon 	18	19 10a Tue @ 10 3:30p Adv.	20 9:15a FFF 5:30p COOL WHIP Bible Study 5:30p Scramble 6:15p Youth 7p Annual Budget Finance Meeting	21 CCIF Match Day 3:30p Pwr Pack Enlightener articles due	22 9:15a FFF	23
24 8:45a The Way Service 9:30a JAM/ Adult SS 10:30a Sanctuary Service 8p AA/Al-anon	25	26 10a Tue @ 10 3:30p Adv.	27 6:45a Men’s Morn. 9:15a FFF 5:30p Scramble 6:15p Youth	28 3:30p Pwr Pack	29 9:15a FFF	30 Piotique Festival



**Mexican Fiesta-** Special Events kicked off our 23-24 Scramble year with a true Mexican Fiesta. It was a great event with wonderful food. Scramble takes place every Wednesday from 5:30-6:30 pm in the Family Life Center hosted by different organizations and is a free will offering for the meal. Many organizations use it as a fundraiser for their cause. All are welcome to join us for dinner.



On the third Saturday of each month, the Operation Christmas Child team is hosting a come-and-go work day from 9:00 a.m. to Noon to assemble different projects to be used in the shoeboxes. This has become a well-attended mission. It is open to all people and appropriate for all ages. The next work day will be Saturday, September 16 in the Fellowship Hall in the basement. Come & Go!



**POOL PARTY-** Our Annual Swimming Pool Party and Ice Cream Social was held the last Sunday of July. The event was cut short do to a storm coming through, but everyone was still able to swim for a while and enjoy homemade ice cream. And we were able to give thanks for the rain.



**Splish**



**Splash**

**Attention Ladies-** C.O.O.L. W.H.I.P. will be hosting a monthly bible study titled The Wesleyan Way: A Faith That Matters. This will be held monthly starting on **Wednesday, September 20th** for 8 months on the 3rd Wednesday of each month except for the month of December, in the basement Room #2. This study will be a lesson for anyone seeking to be a follower of Christ. Every woman in the church is invited to join us for a lesson and fellowship. For questions call the church office @ 785-632-3106.



**Presentation of Bibles-** Through funds from Memorials, each year our church gifts a New Adventure Bible to our incoming Fourth Graders. Those pictured with Pastor Reuben include Lairyn Pyle, Whitney Baker and Monte Blackwood. Those unable to attend include Michael Beach, Jameson Browne, Kane Gisselbeck and Bradi Hartman. **Congratulations!**



## Marabeth's Memo

I was blessed to be a sponsor on the long awaited Youth Conference trip in July. If I were to sum up my time in Florida in one word, I would say it was “emotional.”

We arrived at our hotel at midnight. Since this would be my first time to see the ocean, I could hardly wait for the morning to arrive to look out my window and see the water! It did not disappoint! I honestly could not believe what I was seeing. Pictures do not do it justice.

*Emotional*



The most meaningful part of this adventure for me was partaking of Holy Communion at sunrise each morning on the beach. There was something so pure about sharing this meal with those from my church family, in this most beautiful place. I was able to put all of my cares aside for a moment, and just give thanks to our amazing God. *Emotional.*



Our kids were great! We made a statement as our group of 30 went everywhere in matching shirts. We wore the name of the Clay Center United Methodist Youth Group well and represented our church in a way that would make you all very proud! I witnessed our kids being kind, generous, patient, and helpful (as a couple of the boys even volunteered to carry my luggage for me!) I saw them be silly, as kids should be and I also saw them be serious when appropriate. *Emotional.*

Finally, as we were making our last trek of the trip, riding from Kansas City to Clay Center, I pulled down the visor in the van to shield the brightness in my eyes. It struck me that the sun that I was watching set on the Kansas plains was the very same sun that I watched rise on the beach in Florida a few hours earlier. Once again, I was overcome by the vastness of God's creation! *Emotional.*

The last week of July 2023 will be one that will forever live in my memory bank for so many reasons but mostly because it expanded my horizons by giving me a greater appreciation for our God and for my fellow travelers.

*Emotional.*

Thank you for your prayers and support,

Marabeth



## Children Learning About Yahweh

YOUTH 2023 in Daytona Beach, Florida is an unforgettable four-day experience for young people seeking to grow in their faith, make lasting connections, and engage in educational sessions, worship services, Bible study, service opportunities, and fellowship. Despite facing a flight cancellation, our group was able to rebook and arrive before conference registration opened. We embraced every opportunity to enjoy the beach, worship, fellowship, and workshops, including two international

missions. It was truly an enriching experience that we will cherish forever.

We all made it to Daytona Beach on Monday July 24th and I have to say that through the thoughtful planning and anticipation of hiccups as such by our planning committee, having a day prior and after the conference as ‘traveling days’ really makes a difference and considering these block days before and after the conference was a huge help to all of us. With that being said I want to thank all of the parents that have poured out their time, energy and resources in planning this conference trip for our young people.



Our group enjoyed the beach, worship, fellowship and most importantly seeing the sun breaking the horizon every morning. To top off this majestic sunrise view, our group used this time to gather at the beach, share a devotion, pray and bind together for holy communion. There were over forty workshops offered that we were able to choose from and we participated in two international missions. Thank you CCUMC for the great lifetime experience that will be with all of our young for the rest of their lives.



Last month I asked for special prayers for the Gurneys traveling to Europe. Here is a snippet of what Addy experienced. Our trip to Liverpool was an amazing experience! We were able to be a part of the inaugural IBTF World Baton Twirling Championships, where we were among 3,000 of the best twirlers in the world. We got to experience what it was like to compete on the International level, which was both terrifying and exhilarating! We were certainly humbled when we stepped onto the floor hearing air horns, chants (of all languages), and seeing 18 different countries flags' flying high! We were honored to have the chance to represent our country and our community, all while getting to do what we love! We are incredibly grateful for all of the support we were given



throughout this whole experience! Addy Gurney and Alexa Leitzel  
~ Zac  
Vakadewatabua

