

First United Methodist Church  
2123 Forest  
Great Bend, KS 67530  
www.gbfumc.org  
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Permit #34  
Great Bend, KS 67530

**DECEMBER 2011**



### **From Pastor Tom**

#### **A TIME FOR FAITHFUL STEWARDSHIP**

God has blessed each of us with great abundance. In response, we give back to God our prayers, our presence in worship and study, our gifts, and our service.

I challenge you to tithe! The biblical guideline for giving is found in Genesis 28:22, where Jacob makes his promise to God: "Of all that you give me I will surely give one tenth to you." We all need to prayerfully consider our Christian stewardship, and if possible, move closer each year to being God's people who tithe or give one-tenth of our income to God's work..

As we close out the year for 2011, it is a time for remembering our commitments to the Lord. For some persons this means catching up on what they had intended to do in their giving to the church.

For others persons, this is an opportunity to go above and beyond what we have already done.

We remind you that the church made the decision to begin 2011, projecting a budget deficit of \$16852. It is our hope that with some extra effort we can reduce that amount by the end of the year.

Another way to say this is: we are using up our cushion, our reserve fund by deficit spending. This is not a good stewardship practice, as we will soon be using up that reserve. The reserve fund was made up by people generously giving above and beyond what the church needed to spend. We are grateful today for that faithful stewardship in previous years.

We thank you for all that you can do in helping the church to carry out our ministry. Every gift is important! We are most grateful for your Year End Giving. We appreciate your help!

Tom Sheldon



# The Clarion

DECEMBER, 2011

First United Methodist  
Church  
2123 Forest Great Bend, KS 67530  
Phone (620) 792-2148  
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E-Mail—marla@gbfumc.org  
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### *SPECIAL EVENTS IN DECEMBER IN THE SANCTUARY*

**Dec. 4, 8:30 A.M. "Walk in the Light of the Lord"— Sermon by Pastor Tom**

**10:30 A.M. Children's Christmas Program**

**Dec. 11, 8:30 & 10:30 A.M. Mary & Joseph Visit the Innkeeper, with Tom Sheldon and Steve and Laurie Cosgrove**

**Dec. 18, 8:30 & 10:30 A.M. Chancel Choir Cantata, directed by Vern Fryberger**

**Dec. 18, 4:00 P.M. Piano & Organ Concert by Jenny Allford & Brad Shirer**

**Dec. 24, 7:00P.M. & 11:00 P.M. Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion**

**Dec. 25, 8:30 & 10:30 A.M. Christmas Day Worship Celebrations**

### **ADVENT BEGINS**

November 27 marks the beginning of the Advent season, which includes the four Sundays preceding Christmas. This is a time of preparation for the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ. We think of the coming of the Christ-child as a world-changing event. Christ comes to bring us new hopes for a better world, and hopes for the salvation of all people.

Advent is a time of prayerful preparation. We want to be ready for Jesus to come into our lives anew. This is also a season of penitence as we repent of any sinfulness, and strive to live as God calls us to live. Each Sunday of Advent we light a candle, one for Hope, one for Peace, one for Joy, and one for Love. On Christmas we light the Christ candle, celebrating the savior's birth. It is our prayer that you will experience the hopefulness of the coming of the Christ-child, his peace of heart and mind, the joy of knowing the savior, and the wonder of receiving God's love.



### **Merry Christmas**

*Best wishes to you and your family this Christmas, and throughout the holiday season. May you find anew the joy of the Christ-child.*

*Pastor Tom Sheldon and the Staff members of First United Methodist Church.*

# Some Happening's at First...

Thank you so much for your wonderful hospitality for our singers & ourselves. The dinner was appreciated and delicious!

You made us feel so at home & important to you. I will treasure the memory for some time to come.

Judy Driscoll (grandmother of a Hilltop Singer)  
Russell, Lutheran



Sympathy cards to Dr. Sue Rodgman may be mailed to: 2801 Pine Grove Road  
Seeley's Bay, Ontario  
KOH 2NO Canada



We will assemble  
*The Clarion* on  
**THURSDAY, DEC. 29@**  
**10:00 AM**

## COMMUNION STEWARDS DECEMBER 4



8:30 AM Dec. 4  
Nancy Carroll  
Carol Anderson  
Melanie Calcara  
Linda Maser

10:30 AM Dec. 4  
Jeanne Gotsche  
Rosi Luthi  
Betty Banks  
Dodo White  
Charlene Engleman  
Alina Hinson

We will also have Communion at the Christmas Eve Services:

7:00 PM & 11:00 PM Dec. 24



### United Methodist Women Circle Meetings December 21, 2011

9:15 AM -Pitts-Ingersoll  
Host: Donna Knipe, Parlor  
Co-Host: Betty Banks  
Program: Jeanne Gotsche

1:30 PM- Holl-Fimple  
Host: Lenore Carpenter, Parlor  
Co-Host: Aileen Bryant  
Program: Kathleen Kennedy

6:00 PM Wednesday Night Alive  
Host: Rosi Luthi, 3719 Robin Road  
Program: Susan Young

EXECUTIVE BOARD WED., DEC. 7, 9:15 AM  
PRAYER SHAWL 1:00 PM

### OUR STEWARDSHIP

Sunday, Nov. 20, 2011  
Worship Attendance—264 Forest Street Café—41  
Discovery Hour Attendance—50  
Year to Date Contributions to Church Budget \$320,572  
Bridges to the Future: \$2,982  
Offering Last Sunday \$8,942

The church began the year of 2011 projecting a deficit at year's end of \$16,852. We are trying to reduce that amount by Dec. 31. If we all add a bit extra to our giving each week, we will come closer and closer to ending the year in the black. We estimate that we need \$8,530.00 per Sunday to achieve this goal. Thanks for helping.

Special thanks for Year End gifts to help us catch up! We do appreciate your help.

# OUR CHURCH FAMILY

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY, HAPPY ANNIVERSARY—DECEMBER

### DECEMBER Birthdays

1-Veronica Higgins  
1-Lindsey Higgins  
2-Carol Scheuerman  
2-Faye Schartz  
3-Margaret Shobe  
3-Karole Erikson  
3-Taylor Calcara  
4-Connie Rube  
4-Andrea Compton  
5-Cliff Jordan  
5-Dennis Cook  
6-Lakin Wolfe  
7-Frances Fanshier  
7-Brad Shirer  
7-Michael Yarmer  
7-Sonya Rein  
7-Kerry Marsh  
7-Dylan Ellis  
7-Wade Gregory  
8-Janice Schultz  
8-Nelson Wharton  
8-Ralph Kent

8-Sheryl Peak  
8-Brett Carper  
9-John Williams  
9-Justin Kruse  
9-Sarah Lynch  
10-Dodo White  
10-Hadley Gregg  
11-Jacque Scheideman  
11-Darlene Burkey  
11-Michael Maser  
11-Frank Deines III  
11-Mike Harbaugh  
12-Dolores Shaheen  
12-Myrla Keenan  
12-Ryan Evans  
12-Heather McFann  
13-Thelia Brack  
13-Bill Starbuck  
14-Gordon Jones  
14-Elizabeth Moore  
14-Steve Beaumont  
15-Robert Luthi  
15-Jennifer Fellers

16-Mark Garrett  
16-Travis Peak  
16-Gabriel Marcum  
18-Jeanne Pitts  
18-Jordan Vsetecka  
18-Audrie Harms  
18-Leah Graham  
19-Sтивен Bloyd  
19-Ronald Powers  
19-Dan DiLoreto  
19-Lance Ward  
20-Loyse Clay  
20-Jean Starbuck  
20-Diana Webster  
20-Lindsey Baxter  
21-Sandra Opie  
21-Clarissa Thaden  
21-Heather Ward  
22-Heidi Gill  
22-Tawoka Sanders  
23-Derek Branham  
23-Megan Price  
24-Eleanor Bell  
25-Koltan Cory

26-Stanley Freeman  
26-Marilyn Batman  
26-Connie Bobbitt  
27-Hoyt McFann  
27-Kendra Daniels  
28-Rick Garrett  
28-Konner Ireland  
28-Keely Ireland  
29-Minnie Bisbee  
29-Carey Felke  
30-Maribeth Turner  
30-Linda Herschell  
30-Brent Holland  
31-Elsie Swope  
31-Kathryn Jackson

### DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

6-Rod/Danae Cory  
10-Mike/Barb Swayze  
16-Alan/Janet Schremmer  
17-Angela/Randall Fanshier  
19-Don/Mary Ohlemeier  
22-Leo/Bertie Lou Hayden  
23-Jason/Emily Yarmer  
28-George/Frances Tregallas  
29-Roger/Gayle Fanshier  
29-Harlen/Linda Jerke  
30-Scott/Dawn Sisson  
30-Tyson/Trisha Ryff

**If your Birthday or Anniversary is this month and not listed, we do not have it recorded. Please call the office @792-2148! Thank you!**

### CONGRATULATIONS: to all who are celebrating Birthdays and Anniversaries!

**WITH DEEPEST SYMPATHY:** to the family of Dorothy Brining, her funeral was November 18.

Our sympathy to Jean Rumble in the death of her daughter, Debbie. Her funeral was Nov. 22nd.

Our sympathy to Sue Rodgeman and family in the death of her son Andrew Rodgeman.

Our sympathy to Maribeth Turner in the death of her grandfather.

**RECENTLY IN THE HOSPITAL:** Maxine Krallman, KS Medical Center, Andover; Lorraine Erickson, Brent Rensch

**WE REMEMBER THESE IN OUR PRAYERS:**  
Ruby Phillips, Joel Ficken, Opal McCullough, Darlene Anderson, Judy Anderson, Roberta Bartlett, Thelia Brack, Dee Farminer, Barbara McPherson, Ellie Pearson, Sue Roberts, Jim Rube, Sandy Smith, Dick Thier, Ruth Ward, Gordon Jones, Adabelle Koelling.

Bill Mead (husband of Evelyn Mead), Floyd Clawson (Betty Bank's brother), Aaron Fryberger (great-grandson of Mary Lou Fryberger and great-nephew of Vern Fryberger), Shirley Goddard (Ruth Lowry's niece), Richard Barton (father of Chad Barton), Shonna Manning & Macey Stalino (granddaughters of Wanda Morse), Ann Asher (friend of Donna Knipe), Betty Wilson (Bob Goeller's sister), Tanner Blackwell (Alice Fox's grandson), Brent Jones (son of Glynese Jones), Deanne Ficken (Joel Ficken's sister-in-law), Bob, Sherry, Sierra King (Betty & Gail Erikson's friends), Jeanette Disque (friend of Delora Baldwin), Alvena Spangenberg (friend of Janet Schremmer), Jack Wilson (nephew of Cliff & Jo Jordan), Evagene Harbach (Barb Lear's aunt), Ariana Jo Steadman (great-granddaughter of Hugh & Delores Steadman), Lorraine Eveleigh (friend of Deb Ficken), Carolyn Schutte (daughter-in-law of Pat Schutte), Anne Otte (LaVonne Gerritzen's cousin), Frank Hey (father of Joyce Marcum), Carol Nichols (friend of Nancy Carroll), Diane Wagner, (sister of Phil Bartholomew), Ardy Mueller (son-in-law of Betty Sloan), Kathy Levingston (Ward) wife of Marvin Ward, Vicki Reynolds, (daughter of Wanda Komarek), Shelly Brooks, niece of Aileen Bryant.

All our men & women in the armed forces including Ethan Babcock (Wade Babcock's brother), Carrie Hicks, Andrew Henderson, Kelsey Bryant (Aileen Bryant's grandson), Travis Gregg, Ryan Gregg's brother), Mark Miller (Pat Stonebraker's grandson), Michael Santy (grandson of Bobbi Donner, Columbia, South America), Adam Watkins (nephew of Hugh & Delores Steadman, Fort Benning, Georgia) Aaron Parr (grandson on Art & Sue Jaske), Bryan Farthing (grandson of Alice Walter) Air National Guard, Jason Engleman (grandson of Donna Knipe).

Thank you for keeping us informed of conditions of those on our prayer list. Keeping our list current is greatly appreciated.



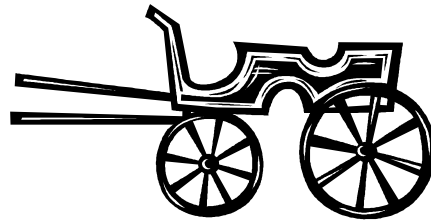
"Hear Our Prayers, O Lord"

## A HERITAGE MOMENT

“Christmas eve was a grand holiday occasion in [Great Bend] and everybody seemed to be happy. The churches were handsomely decorated and the little folks were entertained and made happy by the reception of presents and good tidings.” This was the way the editor at the *Inland Tribune* described Christmas in 1883. Rev. Pleasant P.

Wesley was pastor of the First Methodist Episcopal Church in Great Bend at the time and he told the children that night the story of how Santa Claus came down the chimney, and if they had a chimney he might come that night. “A curtain was drawn and an old fashioned fire place [sic] exposed to view,” according to the editor of the *Great Bend Register*. “He told them to be quiet and listen for his bell or horn and the horn blew.” The *Tribune* editor stated that “Santa Claus made his descent down the chimney and appeared before the audience in all his ancient glory, covered with buffalo robes, and as shaggy a face as any child could wish to see.” He passed out stockings of sweet meats and candy to each of the scholars.

Entertainment for the evening included a concert and numerous recitations, as well as songs sung by individuals and classes. An old fashioned jug-breaking was held. At the end of the evening when the jugs were broken \$19.42 was raised to cover the cost of the entertainment.



## COOKIE CALL

**All bakers from the congregation are invited to participate in providing cookies for two of our church’s Christmas time traditions.**

Once again, our church’s United Methodist Women are planning to assemble and deliver Christmas cookie plates to the **shut-ins** and recently bereaved from our congregation on December 8.

The remaining cookies will be frozen and served to our guests who attend the **Allford/Shirer concert** on December 18.

Please deliver your cookie contributions to the conference room of the church by **noon on Thursday, December 8** and thanks for participating in these meaningful activities.



## Christmas Food Boxes

Thank you for all of your food and monetary donations to the Christmas Food Boxes.

We have only 3 more weeks to gather up the items for the boxes. Your generosity is appreciated greatly!

If you know of someone you would like to have a Christmas food box delivered to, please give the Name, Address, and phone number of the person or family to Marla in the church office. Please have the information to us by the end of November.

Church and Community Food Box Committee

Sunday Dec 4 Food Box Item: Cereal

**Saturday Dec. 10<sup>th</sup> Volunteers are needed for Delivery of boxes**

## Christmas Drive-Thru

6:00—8:00 PM, December 8, 9, and 10

Trinity United Methodist Church, Broadway & Patton

We will be providing chili and chicken noodle soup on Friday, December 9th.

We will also need persons to be actors and other helpers. If you can help, please sign up on the sheet by the west door. Thanks!



## Upcoming Fun & Fellowship Activities MARK YOUR CALENDARS!!



December 31<sup>st</sup> – New Year’s Eve Party– 6:00

Bring a snack and your favorite game.

We welcome all who attend Forest Street Café.

Please RSVP to Elaine Felke @793-3302

February 12<sup>th</sup> – Valentine’s Day Catered Luncheon  
Menu– Pork Chops, Scalloped Potatoes, Green Beans

\$10.00 Tickets on sale starting January 15<sup>th</sup>

March 17<sup>th</sup> – Movie and Game Night After Forest Street

- Potato Bar - More details later.



# First United Methodist Church-December 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
27 8:30 & 10:30 AM Worship 9:00 AM Prayer Group-Wesley 9:30 AM Discovery Hour 11:30 Stewardship Meal 6:00 PM Youth Groups	28	29 6:00 Forest Street Band Practice 7:30 PM Budget Mtg	30 5:30 Kids Klub(3yrs-2nd)/EYG(3rd-5th) Youth (6th-8th) 6:00 PM Worship Com. Conference room 6:00 PM Concert practice 7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal	1 7:00 PM Train Club—Rm 25 7:00 Trustees Conf. Rm 7:00-9:00 Girl Scout Leaders	2	3 9:00 AM Christmas Prog/Practice-Sanctuary 10:00-3:00 Conf Council Youth Minist. Fellow.Hall 6PM Forest Street Cafe
4 8:30& 10:30 AM Worship 10:30-Children's Program 9:00 AM Prayer Group-Wesley 9:30 AM Discovery Hr 6:00 PM Youth Groups 7:00 PM Resurrection Ringers	5	6 6:00 Forest Street Band Practice 7:00 Pre-School Program Sanctuary & Fellowship Hall 7:00 PM Tech Team	7 9:15 UMW Exec Mtg Conf. Room 1:00 PM Prayer Shawl 5:30 Kids Klub(3yrs-2nd)/EYG(3rd-5th) Youth (6th-8th) 6:00 Concert Pract. 7:00 Choir Rehearsal	8 Drive-thru Christmas @ Trinity 6-8:00 PM Cookies to Conf. Rm by noon Assembling cookie plates	9 Drive-thru Christmas @ Trinity 608:00 PM Our night to provide chicken noodle soup and chili	10 Food Boxes to be delivered. Drive-thru Christmas @ Trinity 6- 8:00 PM 6 PM Forest Street
11 8:30 & 10:30 AM Worship-Drama 9:00 AM Prayer Group-Wesley 9:30 AM Discovery Hour 12:00 UMW Food Sale	12	13 6:00 Forest Street Band Practice	14 1:30 PM Memorial Com. Room 25 5:30 Kids Klub(3yrs-2nd)/EYG(3rd-5th) Youth (6th-8th) 6:00 PM Concert prac-	15 7:00 PM Train Club Fellowship Hall	16	17 6 PM Forest Street Cafe
18 8:30 & 10:30 AM Worship-Cantiata 9:00 AM Prayer Group-Wesley 9:30 AM Discovery Hr 4:00 Allford/Shirer Conc 6:00 PM Youth Groups 7:00 PM Resurrection Ringers	19	20	21 UMW Circles Meet	22	23	24 7:00 & 10:00 PM Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion Services
25 Christmas Day 8:30 & 10:30 AM Worship 9:00 AM Prayer Group-Wesley 9:30 AM Discovery Hour 6:00 PM Youth Groups	26	27	28 No Evening Activities at church.	29	30	31 New Year's Party 6:00 PM Bring snack food and a table game. All are welcome!

## FUMY

Just a reminder of the times we meet:

Sunday nights: 6:00-7:30 High School Group 7:30-8:30 Hangout-time

Wednesday nights: 5:30-6:45 Jr. High Group