

First United Methodist Church
2123 Forest
Great Bend, KS 67530
www.gbfumc.org
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JANUARY 2012

**HAPPY
NEW
YEAR**

From Pastor Tom

WE ARE GREATLY BLESSED!

Our congregation continues to be blessed by so many persons who are serving the Lord. We give thanks for God's leadership and inspiration in the hearts of our people. THANK YOU to all who have served as teachers, officers, ushers, greeters choir members, musicians, speakers at Forest Street, liturgists, communion stewards, acolytes, cooks, dish washers, sound techs, and countless other helpers.

THANK YOU for being a church in mission and service to others, and for all who helped in providing food boxes to 89 families of our community.

THANK YOU to our Choir for all of their great music, and especially for the Christmas Cantata.

THANK YOU to Brad Shirer and Jenny Allford for their inspirational Organ & Piano Concert.

THANK YOU to our Kids Klub and Elementary Youth Group for their regular meetings each week, and for singing Christmas Carols at the care homes.

THANK YOU to all who helped in making and delivering cookies at Christmas to persons of the church

family.

THANK YOU to our great church staff for their faithful service in so many different areas.

THANK YOU to all who helped with the Drive Through at Trinity United Methodist Church. There were actors, cooks, traffic helpers, and others who assisted.

THANK YOU for all of your year-end giving to help the church to carry out its ministries.

THANK YOU to our Tech Team for making DVD's of our services, and for our Delivery Team for taking these out to persons who see them each week. Special thanks for making CD's of Brad & Jenny's Concert.

THANK YOU to all who helped to decorate the church, and especially all who provided poinsettias. The sanctuary is beautiful.

We are grateful for the countless gifts of God throughout 2011. We are filled with hopes as God leads us into the excitement of the New Year. May God continue to lead you with the presence and empowerment of the Holy Spirit throughout 2012.



The Clarion

JANUARY, 2012

**First United Methodist
Church**
2123 Forest Great Bend, KS 67530
Phone (620) 792-2148
Fax—(620)792-9040
E-Mail—marla@gbfumc.org
Website—www.gbfumc.org

IT'S A PARTY!

**December 31st – New Year's Eve
Party– 6:00 PM**

**Bring a snack and your
favorite table game.**

**We welcome all who attend For-
est Street Café and all others.**

**Please RSVP to Elaine Felke
@793-3302**

LISA ARMSTRONG

TO REPORT ON MISSION

We are happy to welcome Lisa Armstrong to Great Bend, and to hear of her continuing mission work in Honduras. She will speak and share pictures of recent work in the mission field on: SATURDAY, January 7, 6:00 PM at Forest Street Café, and

SUNDAY, January 8, in our morning wor-
ship services, at 8:30 and 10:30 AM.

THE McCLELLAN SINGING SISTERS

SATURDAY, JANUARY 21, 6:00 PM

We will have a special musical treat in January. We welcome the McClellan Singing Sisters for a concert at Forest Street Café. The McClellans are an all-sister award winning Southern Gospel Quartet from Adams, Nebraska. They have a unique sound unlike any other group in the Southern Gospel industry. The sisters have been sharing the Gospel message through word and song ever since 1997. The group consists of Tiffany (19), Kimberly (15), Jewel (13) and TaMera (9). They have made CDs that are a joy to hear. We invite you to come and bring your family and friends. A fellowship meal will be shared after the program.

JANUARY SERMON SERIES: OUR AMAZING GOD

On Sundays in January, Pastor Tom Sheldon will share a sermon series entitled, 5 Amazing Things About God. Here are some highlights of January:

Sunday, Jan. 1: Holy Communion and the New Year's Covenant

Our amazing God guides us by the Holy Spirit.

Sunday, Jan. 8: Our amazing God brings us spiritual empowerment.

Lisa Armstrong, missionary to Honduras will also share with us.

Sunday, Jan. 15: Our amazing God persists in loving each of us.

Sunday, Jan. 22: Our amazing God gives us a message to share with others.

Sunday, Jan. 29: Our amazing God brings us the good news of Jesus Christ.

As always we will have the inspirational music that our talented musicians will provide with each of the worship services, on Sundays at 8:30 A.M., 10:30 A.M., and at 6:00 P.M. on Saturdays with Forest Street Café.

Some Happening's at First...

Welcome...

Heather Swafford, who transferred from the Utica United Methodist Church December 18th.

Congratulations....

To Sam Phillips, who received his Eagle Scout award on December 18th. We commend you for your hard work and completion of your project.



Thank You

Dear Church Family,
Thank You for the prayers and good wishes on my behalf. Thanks especially to the choir. It is so gratifying to have friends that care.
Sincerely,
Gordon Jones



We have received numerous thank you's in the office for the food boxes delivered December 10th.. The recipients are very grateful for the efforts made by all involved.

COMMUNION STEWARDS

JANUARY 1ST & FEBRUARY 5TH



8:30 AM	10:30 AM
Deb Ficken	Jackie Curtis
Kathleen Kennedy	Karole Erikson
Nancy Carroll	Suzie Pafford
Carol Cook	Charleen Engleman
	Delores Shaheen
	Ivy Webster


Please save the Communion Stewards insert from this newsletter for your reference throughout the year.
Call Eleanor Bell with any questions or corrections @ 792-4023

OUR STEWARDSHIP

Sunday, Dec. 25 , 2011
Worship Attendance—134 Discovery Hour —19
Year to Date Contributions to Church Budget \$364,424
Bridges to the Future: \$4,116
Offering Last Sunday \$12,414
Special thanks for Year End gifts to help us catch up! We do appreciate your help.

WHAT GOES UP MUST COME DOWN ... INCLUDING CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS

During Advent and Christmastide we have enjoyed the lovely decorations that have graced our Sanctuary and Narthex and have added such beauty to our worship experiences. Now it is time for all the greenery and bows, lights, Nativity scenes, stained glass pieces, trees, Chrismons, and Christmas ornaments to be carefully packed away until Advent arrives next year. This process goes much faster with many helping hands. **Volunteers are invited to gather at 1:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary on Sunday, January 8** to help with this process. In a couple of hours we should have everything put back to rights. Your participation will be very much appreciated. The Worship Committee



**United Methodist Women
Circle Meetings
January 18th, 2012**

9:15 AM -Pitts-Ingersoll
Host: Jeanne Gotsche, Parlor
Co-Host: Connie Sickbert
Program: Ivy Webster "Pledge Service"

1:30 PM- Holl-Hayden
Host: Alice Walter, Parlor
Co-Host: Delores Steadman
Program: Lenore Carpenter "Pledge Service"

6:00 PM Wednesday Night Alive
Host: Dawn Sisson
Co-Host: Maribeth Turner
Program: Jann Sherman "Pledge Service"

EXECUTIVE BOARD WED. JAN 4 @9:15 AM
PRAYER SHAWL 1:00 PM

OUR CHURCH FAMILY

HAPPY BIRTHDAY, HAPPY ANNIVERSARY—JANUARY

JANUARY Birthdays	10-Sandy Monroe	18-Karen Nicholson	27-David Adams	JANUARY Anniversaries
1-Beverly Bobbitt	10-Marvin Whipple	18-Evelyn Mead	27-Ashley Olsen	4-Stanley/Betty Freeman
1-Lisa Whipple	10-Amber Brokar	19-Steven Rouser	27-Jennifer Shattuck	9-Phillip /Kathryn Jackson
2-Patricia Teel	12-Dolores Shaheen	19-Miranda Brown	28-Alice Walter	12-Greg/Alina Hinson
2-Kathryn Patterson	12-Ruth Lowry	19-Heather Ward	28-Greg Hinson	14-Rufus/Phyllis Fimple
5-Dwayne Deckert	12-Barbara McPherson	20-Donna McAllaster	28-John Carroll	16-Don/Nancy Carroll
5-Bill Koelling	12-Larry Menzies	20-Larry Gale	29-Fred Meek	17-Curt/Sherri Wilder
5-AnnaLeesha Baxter	12-Janis Link	20-Leslie Barrett	29-Connor Furrey	18-Douglas/Dee Brown
6-Clarence Johnson	12-Brad Brack	20-Kaycee Smith	30-Donna Knipe	22-Jim/Connie Sickbert
6-April Englehardt	12-Kelli Mitchell	21-Tony Carrasco	30-Darlene Blake	22-Robert/Marilyn Loss
7-Kay Johnson	13-Margaret Murray	22-Pat Baxter	31-Megan Burnham	22-Larry/Laurie Bard
8-Travis Myers	13-Weston Lynch	22-Betty Erikson		25-Bob/Doneida Baker
8-Jessica Ward	14-Don Carroll	22-Gracie Brantley		25-Leonard/Luanne French
8-Faren Whipple	14-Ryan Gregg	23-Janice Schmidt		26-Charles/Shyrlee Auston
8-Daniel DiLoreto	14-Machaela Whelan	23-Samuel Rziha		28-Wendale/Donna McAllaster
9-Kari Carper	16-Rachel Hager	25-Elaine Pugh		29-William/Linda Carpenter
9-Megan Knoche	17-Randy Green	26-Abby Boultinghouse		30-Larry/Kay Johnson
	17-McKinley Phillips	27-Jim Sickbert		



Wednesdays, 5:30-6:45 PM Pre-K-2nd Grades
 Wednesdays, 5:30-6:45 PM 3rd-5th Grades
 Middle & High School Youth Sundays, 6:00 PM

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!



We will assemble *The Clarion* on **THURSDAY, JAN. 26 @ 10:00 AM**

"Hear Our Prayers, O Lord"

CONGRATULATIONS: to all who are celebrating Birthdays and Anniversaries!
WITH DEEPEST SYMPATHY: To Sue Jimison and family in the death of her husband, Larry Jimison.

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 Glynnese 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), 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.



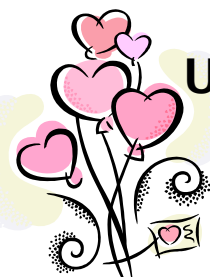
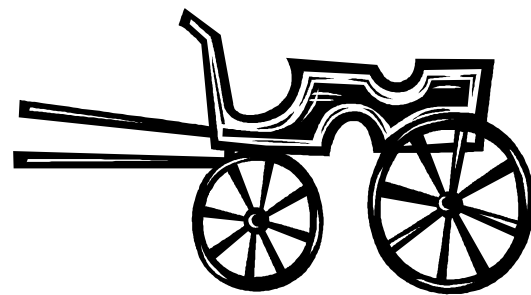
A HERITAGE MOMENT

Eighty-eight years ago, the members of this congregation began a week of "devotion and praise" to dedicate the newly completed church edifice, which was nearly two years in construction. The church was built at a time of financial depression in rural, agrarian America. "Win the War with Wheat" had been the slogan during World War I, with wheat reaching a high of nearly \$6 per bushel in 1919. By mid-1923, wheat price was a mere 35-cents per bushel, and in some areas as low as 23-cents. Originally the new church building was to cost \$82,000, but according to the *Great Bend Tribune* of 12 January 1924, had been "exceeded nearly once over" by the time of completion, costing nearly \$150,000.

Will E. Stoke, former editor of the *Barton County Democrat* wrote the *Tribune* stating "Everybody in Great Bend is—and justly so—proud of this fine church structure, which will stand for all times as a monument to the faith of its builders, and an example of what indomitable courage and untiring effort, when put forth in the right direction, will accomplish." The effort to raise the monies for the new building had begun under the Reverend Clarence H. Woodward's pastorate when the Ladies Aid Society began saving money in 1914 for a new building.

T. C. Cork, grandfather of present Great Bend resident, Jerry Ward, was the general contractor chosen by the building committee to construct the house of worship. The *Tribune* stated that "The house will easily take care of a Sunday School of seven hundred without using the auditorium. The auditorium will seat seven hundred people. The entire seating capacity when folding doors are opened is twelve hundred and fifty." (Remember, the educational wing on the east side of the building was not yet constructed.)

The building was dedicated Sunday, January 13, 1924 by Bishop E. L. Waldorf. Additional details of the building's construction will be included in upcoming issues of the *Clarion*.



Upcoming Fun & Fellowship Activities MARK YOUR CALENDARS !!

February 12th – Valentine's Day Catered Luncheon
Menu– Pork Chops, Scalloped Potatoes, Green Beans \$10.00
Tickets on sale January 15th through February 5th

March 17th – Movie and Game Night
After Forest Street
• Potato Bar - More details later.



2012 MINISTRY & OPERATIONS

Worship \$116,282
Our Pastor and Worship Committee provide for the worship life of our congregation. Preparing sermons, and planning for Sunday morning worship through God's word, music and prayer, is a special dispensation of God's grace. Our pastor extends God's love to those in all manner of situations: illness, counseling, planning weddings and counseling the new couple, conducting funerals, bereavement, life transitions, discerning God's call, Bible studies, and many more.

Christian Education and Training \$ 44,772
Our director and volunteers provide fellowship, teaching and mission involvement opportunities for our youth. Volunteers commit their time to providing weekly Bible study for children and adults. Bible materials are provided to learn God's ways, and how to grow in our faith. Mission activities are provided to help live out these teachings. Stewardship emphasis, teaching and opportunities are provided throughout the year. Our pastor provides oversight and guidance to these areas.

Outreach and Visitation \$ 2,415
Advertising is one way we tell the community who we are, and of opportunities available to them. Outreach includes visitation of those who are first time visitors of our church, getting to know them and their needs, and visiting each other. Forest Street Café reaches out to families with a different type of worship and fellowship.

United Methodist Conference Mission and Ministry \$ 54,177
Helps provide pastors to congregations; supports the administrative work of the Conference; supports world wide evangelism and missionaries; helps feed and clothe the needy; funds the camping ministry; sends Volunteers in Mission throughout the U.S.; provides for seminary scholarships and continuing education; supports thirteen U.M. seminaries; provides funding for Kansas Wesleyan University and Southwestern College, Methodist Youthville and other institutions.

Programs Subtotal (Education, Outreach, & Missions) \$101,364

Administrative Support \$ 54,204
The secretary and business administrator provide direct support for our pastor, youth director, teachers, committees, and members. Copiers, paper, postage and supplies are provided in support of all areas of the church. Bulletins, newsletters, and brochures are designed and printed. The assets of the church are safeguarded, managed, invested and available to the church as needed. Bills are paid accurately and in a timely manner.

Facilities \$ 90,620
Utilities and maintenance help provide a comfortable and beautiful place for worship, fellowship, learning and ministry. Our custodian and Trustees provide excellent care of the facility. Insurance helps provide a safer environment. Equipment such as piano's, organ, kitchen appliances, projectors, etc., are provided for use in teaching, worship and fellowshiping.

Our Total 2012 Ministry Budget \$362,470

This is a narrative of the 2012 budget as approved by the Church Council. It provides a picture of what is included in each ministry area.

Thank you for your support. Finance Committee

2012 LAY LEADERSHIP

Chairperson	Mark Calcara
Vice-Chairperson	Tom Sheldon
Pastor	Larissa Graham
Children's Director	Stephen Cosgrove
Youth Director	Marla Redburn
Secretary	Terry Wiens
Treasurer	Sharon Jones
Lay Leader	Pam Chambers
Associate Lay Leader	Barbara Lear
Lay Member to Conference	Linda Carpenter
Lay Member to Conference	Rosemary Luthi
Alternate Lay Member	Clare Stephenson
UMW President	Terry Turner
UMM President	Lindsay Higgins
Youth Representatives	Veronica Higgins
Young Adult Representatives	Wade Babcock

COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

Trustees	Linda Carpenter
Memorials	Betty Banks
Finance	Lance Hagerman
Staff-Parish Relations	Barbara Lear
Archives & History	Justin Engleman
Preschool Board	Melody Johnston

MINISTRY TEAM CHAIRS

Education	Larissa Graham
Church & Community	Elaine Felke
Missions	Jim Pitts
Worship	Sarah Shirer
Welcome Team	Terry Turner
Calling & Caring	Alice Walter
Stewardship	Dennis Sherman
Creation Care	Troy Schroeder
Tech Team	Carl Anderson
Fun & Fellowship	Lavonne Gerritzen
Members at Large	Kaitlin Adams, Linda Bunselmeyer, Stan Higgins, Anne Higgins, Robert Luthi, Rosemary Luthi

If you would like to serve as a member at large on the Church Council, you are invited to do so! And, there are many opportunities to serve on the ministry teams listed above. As we serve together, we reap the rewards of keeping our church strong, and helping so many people, fulfilling our vision:

First United Methodist Church will be the Body of Christ committed to:

- ✓ growing spiritually
- ✓ giving compassionate love to all people
- ✓ gracing people with radical hospitality
- ✓ guiding people into loving relationships with God and his people

First United Methodist Church-January 2012

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 New Year's Day 8:30 & 10:30 AM Worship Communion 9:00 AM Prayer Group- Wesley 9:30 AM Discovery Hour	2 Office Closed HAPPY NEW YEAR	3 6:00 Forest Street Band Practice 7:30 PM Church Council	4 Pre-School Resumes 9:15 AM UMW Exec Mtg -Cont Room Install Officers 1:00 Prayer Shawl 5:30 Kids Klub 5:30 EYG Youth 7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal	5 9:00 AM-3:00 PM Youthville-Fellows HI 7:00 PM Train Club—FH	6	7 6PM Forest Street Cafe With Lisa Armstrong 14 10:00AM-1:00 PM C. Ellis -Room 25 6 PM Forest Street Cafe
8 Lisa Armstrong at Services today 8:30& 10:30 AM Worship 9:00 AM Prayer Group-Wesley 9:30 AM Discovery Hr 1:00 PM Take down Christmas decorations 6:00 PM Youth Groups 7:00 PM Resurr. Ringers	9	10 6:00 Forest Street Band Practice 7:00 PM Tech Team	11 5:30 Kids Klub 5:30 EYG /Youth 6:00 Pre-School Board 7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal	12 19 6:00-8:00 PM Youthville Room 25 7:00 PM Train Club Fellowship Hall	13 20 6:00-9:30 FH Girl Scout Cookie Kickoff	21 9AM-3 PMUMW Dist. Officer Training 6 PM Forest Street Cafe-McClellan Sis- ters Sing
15 8:30 & 10:30 AM Worship 9:00 AM Prayer Group-Wesley 9:30 AM Discovery Hour 6:00 PM Youth Groups 7:00 PM Resurrection Ringers	16	17 6:00 Forest Street Band Practice 7:00 Education Com.	18 UMW Circles Meet 5:30 Kids Klub 5:30 EYG Youth 7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal	26 10:00 AM Newsletter Assembling 7:00 Trustee Mtg.	27 28 11:30 UMW Soup & Sandwich Luncheon	6 PM Forest Street Cafe
22 8:30 & 10:30 AM Worship 9:00 AM Prayer Group-Wesley 9:30 AM Discovery Hr 6:00 PM Youth Groups 7:00 PM Resurrection Ringers	23	24 6:00 PM Forest Street Band Practice 7:00 Tech Team	25 5:30 Kids Klub 5:30 EYG Youth 6:00 PM Worship Com. Conference Room 7:00 Choir Rehearsal	2	3 4 6 PM Forest Street Cafe	
29 8:30 & 10:30 AM Worship 9:00 AM Prayer Group-Wesley 9:30 AM Discovery Hour 6:00 PM Youth Groups 7:00 PM Resurrection Ringers	30	31 6:00 PM Forest Street Band Practice	1 5:30 Kids Klub 5:30 EYG Youth 7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal			

FUMY

Happy New Year! We hope you had a Merry Christmas and enjoyed spending time with loved ones! This holiday season, our High School girls got together to bake thirty dozen cookies to thank various organizations for their work: including the hospitals, fire department, police station, and more.



Our High School students have been learning all about God's view of love and dating. We started a series called 2x2. Our first week was spent attempting to expose the 'right person myth'. It goes something like this: "When I meet the right person, everything will be all right." This way of thinking creates trouble in our dating lives and sets us up for disillusionment in marriage. Instead, the students learned to focus on a different issue asking: am I the person that the person I'm looking for is looking for?

One of our goals for the New Year is to form a small group for college students or young adults. We started a Bible study at the Cosgrove's place. If you know anyone interested, have them call Stephen and Laurie at 620-282-349.