



CLARION CONNECTION

JANUARY 2023

GROW IN FAITH | SHARE IN WORSHIP | SERVE OTHERS

2123 Forest Ave.
Great Bend, KS 67530

P: (620) 792-2148

Rev. Tim Bever
(316) 841-1647

SUNDAY WORSHIP

9:00, 11:00 a.m.

Live-stream worship:

*** 9 a.m. on YouTube
Channel GBFUMC**

*** 11 a.m. via
FaceBook
GBFirstUMC**

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

<i>January Worship</i>	2
<i>Youth Group</i>	3
<i>UMF / Angel Tree</i>	4
<i>150th Anniversary, Food Boxes</i>	5
<i>Mission Projects</i>	6
<i>Parade / Chili Cookoff</i>	7
<i>Noah's Ark / EYG</i>	8
<i>Calendar</i>	9
<i>Celebrations & Prayer Concerns</i>	10
<i>Scholarships</i>	11

Time With Tim

Happy New Year! I for one am glad the calendar was created and we get to have a new year start now. Not just for the seasons we know will come and change, but because we once again get this time to think about starting over, or getting a fresh start. I mean, yes, we can do that anytime. And being Christians, we KNOW we can do that anytime because anytime we ask for God's forgiveness and ask for another chance, we get it.

Who doesn't want a fresh start, a clean slate, a new beginning? That is exactly what Jesus offers us; he gives us the chance to begin anew every single day. But this is no ordinary fresh start. When we say yes to God's new beginning in our lives, we are saying yes to an adventure that will require courage, perseverance, and boldness. This is not for the weak of heart. We are saying yes to having our world turned upside down and inside out. We are saying yes to being stirred up and to stirring things up. And one thing is for sure: this fresh start is so worth it.

Our messages through January will be about this Fresh Start and making this year count. We'll talk about the courage, focus and practice that it takes to "take up our crosses" to be disciples of Jesus Christ. We'll talk about the steadfast purpose and accepting God's embrace. We'll talk about living in awe and gratitude of God's gifts. And we will talk about being open to Jesus' invitation both to us AND to those who are not valued in our community – the outcasts and the marginalized. We will make covenants and vows and be reminded that if we are Christians, we are to be different than everyone else in the world. That we are to be noticeably shining with the light and love of Christ.

And it won't stop there. See, we can do all these things and we can live even more Christ-centered lives, and rather than answering all our questions, this can raise even more questions! So during lent and up through Easter, we are going to be asking questions of God. Like who is God? Is the Bible trustworthy? Why should we go to church? And even tougher questions.

So I hope that you will take advantage of this new beginning Jesus offers, even if you have been doing this for a year. Because let's face it, the last couple of years have been kind of rough on most of us in one way or another. So let's make 2023 count in new and exciting ways.

*Peace and Grace,
Pastor Tim*

SHARE in Worship

JANUARY WORSHIP SERVICES

Please come worship with us during December this year: .

- * Jan. 1 Epiphany Sunday Mark 8:27-38 FRESH START Are you sure you're up for this?
- * Jan. 8 Baptism of the Lord Luke 13:31-35 FRESH START Hens and Chicks
- * Jan. 15 Luke 17:11-19 FRESH START Ten lepers, how many miracles?
- * Jan. 22 Luke 19:1-10 FRESH START Salvation in the House!
- * Jan. 29 5th Sunday! Micah 6:1-8 FRESH START Ok, What Next?
- * First UMC has communion on the first Sunday of the month for the Traditional Service and every Sunday during the Revive Service.
- * If you can't worship with us in person, the Traditional Service may be found on our YouTube channel, **GBFUMC**, and the Revive service is available via FaceBook/**GBFirstUMC**.
- * **Fifth Sundays** — Like January 29th — will have ONE service, at 10 a.m., in Fellowship Hall. The service will include worship, fellowship and brunch.



The State of the UMC Meetings

State of the UMC Meetings

10 a.m. Jan. 15th
&
6 p.m. Jan. 16th

Tim Bever,
First UMC Pastor

Some of you, maybe even most, have heard or read things about happenings involving churches leaving the United Methodist Church. Most people know this as the “homosexuality issue” although it is much more involved than just that. And from all I have seen as I have watched this unfold over the last 10 years, the biggest problem I feel the UMC faces is misinformation. Imagine that! In a world where misinformation comes from all sides on all topics, the church is no different.

As for my position, I stated from my very first meeting in this church, and I

continue to say, there is no reason for us to worry about this at GBFirstUMC. We have people who hold beliefs from one end of the spectrum to the other on this issue and yet we continue to feed and serve people in the Great Bend mission field as God calls us to do. That should be our Christian response. That said, some of you do have very valid concerns and questions you would like answered.

So, the church council and I have decided that perhaps it would be helpful for some of you if I hold small group meetings (it will be no more than 12 people per meeting) and I can answer any

questions you might have.

I know a lot of you don't have questions or concerns about this and that's fine. There is no reason for you to attend these meetings unless you have some burning questions or concerns about what is going on in the denomination.

I will schedule two of these meetings, January 15th at 10 a.m. and January 16th at 6 p.m. There are signup sheets in the back of the sanctuary for both dates.

If you would prefer to talk to me individually about this issue, feel free to call or email and we'll setup a time we can visit in person.

GROW in Faith — SHARING

NEW YEAR, NEW LOOK

It's hard to believe that it is already a new year and that 2022 is over. I know 2022 was a year of hardship for many people, myself included.

However, I cannot help but feel grateful for it. I personally experienced many blessings among the chaos. 2022 was a year of new beginnings for me and I could not be more grateful.

As I think about what this new year will bring. I recognize that I have a lot to be grateful for last year. For example, I got one year of hands-on youth ministry experience under my belt. I grew in relationship with my students. I have five core students who come faithfully. I was able to gift all the students their own bibles. Our group successfully gave personalized Christmas ornaments to the residents of the local girls' home. Even our youth room is becoming



such an inviting space! I am ending 2022 with many highlights.

On the other hand, I am looking forward to this New Year with anticipation. I'm excited to see God's plans unfold this year! Join with me in prayer as I seek the

Lord's guidance for my ministry this year. Let's dive into this next year with eager anticipation of what God will do in and through our young people!

Please continue to pray for our students, the ministry, and myself.



Youth Group includes those in grades 7 & 8

Come and bring a friend!

Brittani Converse,
Youth Director

'Griswold' Car Finished Its Movement Around Great Bend On a High Note

After many cold nights and days of moving their "Griswold Car" around the city of Great Bend during the Christmas season, Mike and Tana Newkirk are ready to turn their proceeds over to the church.

First UMC will donate the

funds to the Barton County Food Bank.

Tana said people were very generous this year, sometimes giving twice as



much as the required donation and many others donated to find out who had "Griswolded" them.

Although all funds haven't been collected yet, Tana figures the project netted about \$2,000 this year.



2022 Griswold project nets \$600 more than in 2021.

GROW in Faith



UWF SHARE COOKIES/CHRISTMAS CHEER



The United Women of Faith prepared 40 cookie bags for our shut-ins and those who lost someone this past year. Plus they prepared 30 bags to take to the Dream Center to give to participants in the community meal.

There were even enough cookies to share with a couple of groups meeting in the church.

The UWF would like to thank everyone who helped with this mission project. Thank you for all the Christmas cookies made, for all the helpers who assembled the cookies and for the helpers who delivered the cookies. The United Women of Faith appreciated all the help!



Dear First United Methodist Church Women,

Thank you so much for the delicious gift of cookies. A NOTE OF



When one is fighting breast cancer it's easy to feel isolated, especially in times of Covid, Flu and RSV!

Your gift reminded me I receive much prayers, support and kindness from my community.

With Thanks,
Marla Davidson



ANGLE TREE A SUCCESSFUL MISSION

Thanks to everyone who helped with the 2022 Angel Tree mission project.



First UMC answered the wishes 63 area foster children with toys, clothes, books, and even two bicycles. Our Youth Group also prepared some specialized Christmas ornaments for the Girls' Home residents.

It took three carloads of presents to get the packages delivered to the Barton County Youth Care and St. Francis Community Services facilities, where Marc and Rebecca received many thanks for the deliveries.



GROW in Faith — MISSION

Registry Reflects a Time When Calls Needed Four Digits

This June 3, 1990, church bulletin shows the sanctuary before its current remodel. At the time, they were also welcoming Pastors Conway and Hasty and their families to the church.

It's noted in the bulletin that the church is "A GROWTH PLUS CONGREGATION, A STEPHEN MINISTRY CONGREGATION, and A DICIPLE BIBLE STUDY CONGREGATION."

If you have some interesting publications or other

historical memorabilia that you would like to share, please bring it to the church secretary.

Plans are on-going for the 150th Anniversary Celebration on June 25th, 2023. If you would like to help with the celebration, contact the church office.



Share your memories &/or memorabilia of the history of our church!



Dear Members of the First United Methodist Church,

Thank you so much for the wonderful gift box of food you gave me for Christmas!



I will be 90 in February and have help making meals, but to have all the ingredients I need for many meals is so helpful.

I appreciate your thoughtfulness more than you could ever know!

Sincerely,
Beatina Weber



First UMC was able to help 53 families with "food boxes" containing a variety of canned, boxed, and cold foods. Lots of volunteers helped to package and deliver these bags of groceries.



SERVE Others



Dream Center Meal:

February 19th
5:00 p.m.

Volunteer to help
by calling Judy
Turner

Christmas Wish List Includes Chili, Cornbread, Pies

My Christmas wishes came true, thanks to many busy Methodist elves!

We appreciate so much all who took time at this busy season to serve others.

Checking off the **chili** list: Kathy Riggs, Kaitlin Sill, Mary Barton and Stephanie Goerl, who also added condiments for the soup.

Cornbread: Karen Garrett, Mary Barton and Susan Young.

Relishes: Anna Faye Hensley, Vivian Evers and Linda Bunselmeyer.

Pies: Larissa Graham, Pat Hinson, Rhonda Phillips, Susan Young.

Dear First United Methodist Church,

I want to thank you for blessing everyone who came to the Sunday evening community meal on the 18th. The chili was delicious. I've had feedback on how good the desserts were too! Everyone was truly blessed with the Christmas carolers who came and led everyone in singing popular carols. Your continued faithfulness to be a part of the community meals ministry truly is a blessing to us and everyone who comes for a meal on Sunday evenings.



Sincerely,

Janet Stones, CKDC

AND, UWF packed 36 bags of Christmas cookies which all magically disappeared!

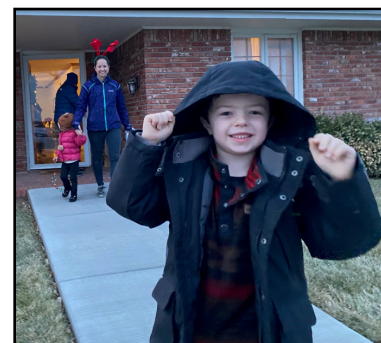
Speaking of magical, a group of carolers from our church made a stop which

delighted diners and servers (Janis Link, Linda Bunselmeyer, Terry and Judy Turner) alike.

Judy Turner



CAROLERS ENJOY SINGING TO LOCAL RESIDENTS



GROW in Faith



First UMC Float won first in the Church Category in the City's Christmas Parade, with a float that featured many of our Holiday Mission Traditions, including our Angel Tree, Christmas Cookie Boxes, Christmas Food Boxes, and Christmas Child shoeboxes.



And the Golden Ladles go to: Chili champions, The James Family; and Soup (Stew) Champions, The Bauer Boys.

There were 10 entries this year, which provided a scrumptious dinner for all who attended.

GROW in FAITH — CHILDREN



Kaylee Bitter,
NAP Director



DOORS OPEN JANUARY 3RD TO WELCOME STUDENTS BACK

Students in Noah's Ark Preschool will be welcomed back from Christmas break on January 3rd. The school held it's Christmas Program on December 14th and was closed for the long holiday break.

A huge "Thank you!" to everyone who supplied cookies for the Christmas party and program. They were delicious!

We need some volunteers to

ABOVE: Christmas program. RIGHT: Do you want to Build a Snow-man" activity.

donate various snacks to the preschool. We are starting to run low, although we have plenty of goldfish and animal crackers. We appreciate your help so much.

The students' Bible Verse



this month is: Obey your mom & dad.



Vivian Harbaugh,
EYG Teacher

EYG READY FOR 2023

Elementary Youth Group (EYG) will start meeting again at 5:30 p.m. January 4th to eat and 6-7 p.m. for youth group.

They will continue working on the Ten Commandments and learning more about how to use their Bibles.



EYG finished 2022 by spending their bible bucks.

First United Methodist Church — January 2023

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1 9 am and 11 am – Services in Sanctuary 9 am on YouTube & 11 am on Facebook 10 am Discovery Hour	2 Church Office Closed No Preschool	3 5:30 pm TOPS 7 pm Train Club 7 pm Vintage Wheels	4 5:30 pm Kids Club/EYG 5:30 pm Youth Group 5:30 pm MOPS 6:30 pm Chancel Singers 7:15 pm Praise Band	5 5:30 pm CORE Community 7 pm NA	6	7 2-4 Fellowship Hall in use
8 9 am and 11 am – Services in Sanctuary 9 am on YouTube & 11 am on Facebook 10 am Discovery Hour 4 pm Bell Choir	9 6:15 pm Worship Team 6 pm Girl Scouts 6:30 pm NA	10 5:30 pm TOPS	11 5:30 pm Kids Club/EYG 5:30 pm Youth Group 6:30 pm Chancel Singers 7:15 pm Praise Band	12 4:30 Trustees Annual Mtg 5:30 pm CORE Community 7 pm NA	13	14
15 9 am and 11 am – Services in Sanctuary 9 am on YouTube & 11 am on Facebook 10 am Discovery Hour 10 a.m. State of UMC 4 pm Bell Choir	16 No Preschool 6 pm State of UMC 6:30 pm NA	17 5:15 pm Finance Cmmitt 5:30 pm TOPS	18 5:30 pm Kids Klub/EYG 5:30 pm Youth Group 5:30 MOPS 6:30 pm Chancel Singers 7:15 pm Praise Band	19 4:30 Trustees Meeting 5:30 pm CORE Community 7 pm NA	20 9-3 Quilt Guild	21
22 9 am and 11 am – Services in Sanctuary 9 am on YouTube & 11 am on Facebook 10 am Discovery Hour 4 pm Bell Choir	23 6:30 pm NA	24 5:30 pm TOPS	25 5:30 pm Kids Club/EYG 5:30 pm Youth Group 6:30 pm Chancel Singers 7:15 pm Praise Band	26 5:30 pm CORE Community	27	28
29 5th Sunday 10:00 a.m. Service in Sanctuary & on YouTube	30 6:30 pm NA	31 5:30 pm TOPS				

SHARE in Worship — CELEBRATIONS & PRAYER CONCERNS



January Birthdays

2 Easton Stalcup	12 Janis Link	23 Janice Schmidt
5 Bill Koelling	12 Brad Brack	28 Merle Evers
6 Jack Yarmer	15 Jack June	28 Greg Hinson
10 Rylee Yarmer	20 Larry Gale	28 Alice Walter
	20 Kaycee Smith	29 Connor Furrey
	22 Betty Erikson	30 Donna Knipe
	22 Doug Fuhr	31 Megan Burnham



January Anniversaries

15 Jason & Kristen Yarmer	27 Leonard & Luanne French
	29 William & Linda Carpenter



WE REMEMBER THESE IN OUR PRAYERS:

All Those Who are Involved in Cancer treatment and recovery:

Leonard Bunselmeyer, Lisa Baum, Kathy Rogers, Dana Cheney, Gary Cheney, Suzie Evans, Shannon King, Marla Davidson.

All Those Who Reside in

Nursing Homes/Care Facilities or are home-bound:

(River Bend) Carol Thier; (Brookdale) Eugene Hoelscher, Harriet Herzberg, Eileen Ingersoll, Mary Joiner, and Ivy Webster; (Aster Estates) Pat Stonebraker

and Claire Stephenson; (other facilities) Roberta Bartlett, Larned; Frances Pearson, Wichita; Myrla Keenan, Hoisington, and Chuck Parmer, Larned.

All Those Serving Our Country in the Military:

All our men & women in the armed forces including

DECEMBER Attendance

	9:00	11:00	TTL
4 —	72	47	136
11 —	one service		96
18 —	66	46	112
25 —	one service		65

Also:

21 —	7	7
24 —	117	65 182

These numbers are for who attended in the church building on the four Sundays in December as well as on Blue Christmas (Dec. 21) and Christmas Eve (Dec. 24).

SERVE Others

APPLICATIONS SOUGHT FOR SCHOLARSHIPS PROVIDED BY OUR CHURCH DEADLINE IS MARCH 15



It's time for high school seniors and college students to apply for the scholarships offered or administered by GBFUMC. Applications for all scholarships are due by **March 15th**.

The **Charley C. Byers and Wayne and Betty Banks scholarships**, are available only for active members of First United Methodist Church of Great Bend. Criteria are financial need, a desire for further education and a firm Christian belief. Both scholarships are renewable. Forms are available in the church office.

The church also administers nine other scholarships available for graduating high seniors. The criteria sheet and application forms are available on the Great Bend High School web site. www.usd428.net - guidance office

Anol W. Beahm scholarship Criteria: Barton- or Rush-county residence, medical major, firm Christian belief, 3.0

grade point average.

Richard C. Brining scholarship Criteria: Education major at a Kansas college, exhibit financial need, strong character.

Henry and Jennie Fanshier scholarship

Criteria: Full time at accredited college, financial need, desire for further education.

Clifford and Pauline Getz scholarship

Criteria: Medical field, financial need in order to attend college, shows intellectual ability.

John and Charlotte Henry scholarship

Criteria: Financial need to attend college, genuine desire for further education. *Also available for graduate students.*

HH and Jennie Kopke scholarship

Criteria: Barton- or Comanche-county residence, financial need to attend college, genuine desire for further education. Student must be attending a Kansas

college.

George and Doris Penner scholarship

Criteria: Any accredited college, trade or technical school, financial need to attend college, genuine desire for further education.

Stone-Reinhardt scholarship Criteria: Students of Great Bend, Ness City or Ransom high schools, must demonstrate a desire for further education, and to make future contribution to their community. *Not renewable, for freshman year only.*

Dan and Jean Swartz scholarship Criteria: Based on desire for further education, and show good citizenship and character, and good to above average grades.

If you need further information, or forms, please contact the church office.

The criteria sheet and application forms are available on the Great Bend High School web site:

www.GreatBendSchools.net

The school district website is

www.GreatBendSchools.net

The direct link to the guidance office is

<https://sites.google.com/usd428.net/guidance>
[department](https://sites.google.com/usd428.net/guidance)

First United Methodist Church

2123 Forest

Great Bend, KS 67530



P: (620) 792-2148

www.GBFUMC.org

[FaceBook.com/GBFirstUMC](https://www.facebook.com/GBFirstUMC)

Contact the office to receive this newsletter by email or find it on the website, www.GBFUMC.org.

WEEKLY EVENTS @ FUMC!

SUNDAY

- 9:00 a.m. Worship Service
- 10:00 a.m. Discovery Hour
- 11:00 a.m. REVIVE

Virtual Worship Services:

- 9:00 a.m. on YouTube channel GBFUMC
- 11:00 a.m. on FaceBook/GBFirstUMC

Small groups that meet during the week are CORE Community, Girl Scouts, NA, TOPS and the Train Club.

Contact us:

Pastor, Tim Bever

tim@gbfumc.org

Youth Director, Brittani Converse

youth@gbfumc.org

Children's Director, Larissa Graham

grahaml@bartonccc.edu

Treasurer, Sarah Schwartz

finance@gbfumc.org

Secretary, Rebecca Peak

secretary@gbfumc.org

Coordinator of Worship Arts, Marc Webster

kmsband@yahoo.com

Revive Worship Leader, James Frazier

revive@gbfumc.org

Noah's Ark Preschool Director, Kaylee Bitter

NAPdirector@gbfumc.org

Custodian, Marc Webster

custodian@gbfumc.org