



CLARION CONNECTION

APRIL 2024

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**

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TIME WITH TIM

Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia! Now what do we do? Our Lenten Journey is over. We traveled to the upper room on Maundy Thursday with Jesus and his disciples. We heard Jesus say those powerful, effective words that are still effective when we hear them on Sunday mornings, "Given and shed for you for the forgiveness of your sins" (Mt 26:28). We traveled through the acts leading to Jesus death on Good Friday, led by our youth at the Stations of the Cross. And we traveled to the empty tomb to hear again about the group of women that traveled there early on the first day of the week to find it empty. We heard once more the words of the angels at the empty tomb, "He isn't here, but has been raised" (Lk 24:6). So, now what do we do?

Well, first, we must remember that Easter is more than just one day. Easter is an "every Sunday" celebration during which we come together to receive the fruit of the cross and resurrection of Jesus—the forgiveness of sins and the certainty of eternal life. Easter is also an "every day" celebration in which we live each day trusting in God through Christ, knowing that Jesus is "the resurrection and the life" (Jn 11:25) for us and knowing we are called to love and serve as he taught us.

And, we follow the example of those first witnesses! After the two angels reminded Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and the other women that Jesus had risen, St. Luke tells us that "they remembered the words, and returning from the tomb they told all these things to the eleven and to all the rest" (Lk 24:8-9). They went from the tomb changed by the resurrection of Jesus. They went from the tomb to bring an "every day" witness of God's power.

And we do as the disciples did. They went back to their lives and took the witness of the resurrection with them. They too lived in the joy of the resurrection of Jesus while carrying out the daily, ordinary labor and responsibilities given to them.

Similar to the women at the empty tomb and the eleven disciples, we are "every day" witnesses and participants in the resurrection of Jesus. We believe and are baptized. We have the hope of eternal life. We have the joy of the resurrection living inside of us. We too have jobs in life that God has given to us as gifts. All of us have one or more of these callings: father, husband, mother, wife, son, daughter, brother, sister, grandparent, employee, retiree, friend, and neighbor. Each of these callings comes with a set of duties and responsibilities. As Christians, by God's grace, we wrap the daily duties and responsibilities of our vocations in the joy, love, peace, and forgiveness of Christ. And, more than likely, others will take notice and God will bless your faithful work by giving you opportunities to "tell all these things to all the rest" (Lk 24:9).

What do we do now, knowing that Jesus has risen? Now we go forth from Easter Sunday and the celebration of the empty tomb, free as God's children in Christ. Now we go forth empowered by the Holy Spirit, living and active within us, to live in the joy of the resurrection as "every day" witnesses. Now we go and we love God, we love our neighbor, and we serve all we can in the Great Bend mission field.

**In Christ,
Pastor Tim**

SHARE in Worship

APRIL WORSHIP SERVICES

Let's together and worship together:

<i>Date</i>	<i>Sermon Title</i>	<i>Scripture</i>
April 7 th	Holy Humor	Philippians 4:1-9
April 14 th	Rising Strong Series Rising from Skepticism	John 20:24-28
April 21 st	Rising from Denial	John 21:15-19
April 28 th	Rising from Hatred	Acts 9:1-22

- * Sunday Service times are 9 a.m. for the Traditional Service and 11 a.m. for the REVIVE! Service,
- * If you can't worship with us in person, the Traditional Service may be found on our YouTube channel, GBFUMC.



Pastor Tim Starts New Sermon Series

April sermons will feature Holy Humor Sunday on April 7th, followed by a new sermon series for the next three Sundays.

Wear your fun shirts/clothes, bring a favorite joke to share, and come prepared to laugh on Holy Humor Sunday.

For centuries in all Christian faith traditions, the week following Easter Sunday was observed by the faithful as “days of joy and laughter” with parties and picnics to celebrate Jesus’ resurrection.

Then on April 14th, Pastor Tim will start a new sermon series: Rising Strong.

According info on the series, “...just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so



we also might walk in newness of life,’ (Romans 6:4b). The Bible is full of stories of redemption, change, and hope. Through four of those stories, we will discover how faith in a Risen Jesus can transform our lives for the better here and now.

“No matter how big or how small we fall, God outstretches God’s hand, ready to raise us up.”

Sundays in April will have the Traditional Service at 9

MARCH Attendance

	9:00	11:00	TTL
MAR 3	52	42	94
MAR 10	67	39	106
MAR 17	-One Service		167
MAR 24	63	78	141
MAR 28	Maundy Thurs		35
MAR 29	Good Friday		61
MAR 31	Sunrise		14
MAR 31	137	85	222

These numbers are for those who attended worship for the Sunday & Special Services in March.

a.m. and the REVIVE Service at 11 a.m.

Pick the service that is best for you and come celebrate the Lord.

If you can't make church in person, follow this link: <https://www.youtube.com/gbfumc>

GROW in Faith

Youth Group Raising Funds for Summer Camp

Let's begin with a recap: In March we spent time as a group learning about how to handle hard times God's way.

We spent our time in 1 Peter, a book known to tackle the topic of tough times. Peter writes a lot about the intersection of suffering, salvation, and hope in the Christian life, so each lesson helps students answer the question, "What do I do when following Jesus isn't easy?"

The hope is that students would absorb the understanding that there is hope and power in hard times, because God is always at work.

I must personally admit that 2024 has been off to a challenging start for myself, and I was reassured by the truths of this month's message.

We also had students personally interact with the real hardships Jesus faced in his last days. Students practiced and facilitated the stations of the cross.

Jesus really serves as our example during difficult times. He himself endured many challenges on our behalf. I pray His sacrificial love was made tangible to students as they participated in this unique worship experience.

Let's not forget the awesome service Pastor Tim did, helping students

through confirmation. I was blessed to see how the students were interacting and growing in their faith.

Those students have come a long way in their faith journey. I'm praying the Lord continues the good work he started in them.

The youth also began their fundraiser for camp! The Envelope Fundraiser will be in place until early May, so be sure to check it out! Members of the youth group will eagerly explain the campaign to you and give you a gift for giving generously.

I know God will use camp powerfully in the lives of students this summer, He always does.

Speaking of ministries God uses, I am always grateful for the generosity of Dilly & Doc for their provision of caring that allows Jady, Bella and myself to be artistic and encouraged to use our creativity. Those who participate are touched by the gifts of these Christ-minded individuals that lead this Bible Journaling ministry.

On a different note, I'm



Members of the youth group will assist you at their fundraiser board each Sunday until May.

excited for students to attend the play "Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat". The play is a musical based on the story of Joseph.

Honestly this is one of my favorite productions. The musical is raw, heart-breaking and redemptive.

I feel privileged to take students to a production that made such an impression on me. It is a rather exciting event!

Speaking of exciting events, students will get to participate in another Nerf & Nachos event on April 21st!

I'm looking forward to how creative and fun this event will be for all the youth within our church.

Thanks to Todd Scheuerman and his team who have put a lot of thought and creativity into making this event one worth attending!



Youth Group
Meet on
Wednesdays
5:30-7:15 p.m.

Say hello
and help us
get to know (YOU)th!



Brittani Frazier
Youth Director

GROW in Faith — Children’s Ministry



Wednesday Schedule

5:30 p.m. — Shared a meal

6:00-7:15 — Class

Vivian Harbaugh
EYG

EYG ON THE MOVE WITH GOD LEADING THE WAY



In EYG finished their lessons on Easter Science and will begin *MOVE*: we need to move when God calls, where he sends us and away from temptation and bad influences.

The kids made Easter Snack bags (top two pictures): pretzels for the cross, raisins for Jesus blood, round crackers for the stone that



was rolled away, goldfish for go be fishers of men, marshmallows for our sins are washed away, and m & m for taste and see that the Lord is good. We also made cross necklaces (at right.)



KIDS KLUB TO TAKE ‘A SUMMER ROAD TRIP’

Kids Klub will be taking a Summer Road Trip on Wednesdays from April 3rd – May 15th at FirstUMC.

Wednesday April 3rd: Drive-Thru – There’s usually nothing very extraordinary about your average drive-thru meal; you’re usually just there to get a simple meal and get back on the road. The Israelites journey out of slavery began with a very simple, but special meal to show us that God has special things in store for us. Exodus 12:1-14, 31-42, Passover

Wednesday April 10th:

Grand Canyon – When you stand on the edge of the canyon, you marvel at the thought of how to the other side. When the Israelites reached the Red Sea, they saw no way across, but God showed them his amazing power to save. Exodus 14:5-29, The Red Sea (Kaitlin Sill will be teaching)

Wednesday April 17th: Campground – Stopping at a campground may not be your ideal vacation destination, but even in the simple settings of a campground we can still find things to be thankful for and see how God takes care

of us: a tent to keep us dry, food to eat around the campfire, beautiful scenery. God showed the Israelites over and over again that he is faithful to take care of us. Exodus 16:1-23, Manna and Quail

Wednesday April 24th: Rest Stop – There are rest stops along the highway for us to stop and take a little break. When the Israelites were tired and out of water, God created a rest stop for them in the desert reminding us that God is always with us and he knows what we need. Exodus 17:1-7, Water From the Rock

Larissa Graham,
Director of
Children’s Ministries

GROW in Faith — Children’s Ministry



Sundays Go from a Solar Eclipse Party to Nerf & Nachos

Sunday April 7th: Sunday School and Children’s Church will both be having a “Total Solar Eclipse Party” We will explore “The Son” and discover how he can lead us out of the darkness and into the light!

Sunday April 14th there will be NO SUNDAY SCHOOL OR CHILDREN’S CHURCH – Larissa is gone

Happy Campers will be found during Children’s Church on Sundays at 11:00

a.m. as our youth also “Spend time with God”.

Sunday April 21st: Catching Some Fish. Nothing passes the time quite like going out and catching fish. Kids will learn that it is up to them to share the gospel with others as they become fishers of men. John 5:1-11, The Calling of the First Disciples.

Sunday April 28th: Putting Up the Tent. We must pay careful attention to pitch our tents just right. Kids will learn that Jesus

deserves our attention. Mark 9:2-13, The Transfiguration.

Nerf and Nachos is set for Sunday afternoon on April 21st. More information will be below or on our website and Facebook.

Sunday April 21st

2:45pm Older Youth Registration
3:20 Event Start
4:45 Younger Kids Registration
5:00 Supper
5:30 Younger Event Start
Youth = 7th grade and up
Younger = 6th grade and younger

Larissa Graham,
Director of
Children’s Ministries



March activities on Wednesday nights included laser-tag, walking on eggs and creating snack bags for the Barton Community College Basketball players going to national playoffs.



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Widow’s Mite

The youth in Children’s Church brought their pennies and other change in to help raise funds for Widow’s Mite.

With a little help from the church, they raised \$249.10 for Widow’s Mite.



GROW in Faith



NOAH'S ARK PRESCHOOL (NAP)



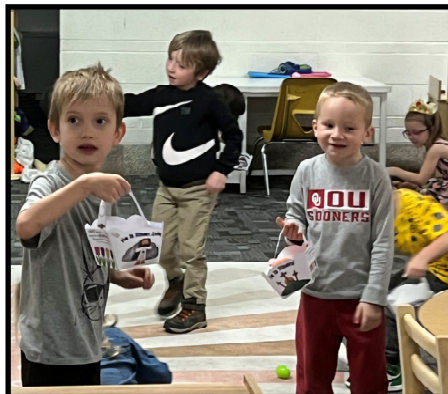
Kaylee Keilman,
NAP Director

ENROLL YOUR 3-5 YR OLDS FOR SUMMER/FALL CLASSES

The end of the spring semester has seen the pre-kindergarten students pushing to ensure their readiness next year.

Enrollment has begun for both the Summer Fun program and the 2024-2025 school year.

The teachers have plenty of fun things planned for this summer. Spaces are filling up, so if you or someone you know would like to enroll your 3-5 year old in



the summer fun program please contact Noah's Ark Preschool. Enrollment in the Kids Summer Fun '24 program ends May 9th.

Fall enrollment is also progressing well. Contact NAP as soon as possible to get an enrollment packet.

The children had fun last month with Easter Activities, as well as their regular school work.

They colored paper Easter baskets and were to collect five eggs each.



Jump Rope Workshop
1:30 p.m. April 24th

LaVonne Gerritzen
UWF President

UWF MAKING JUMP ROPES AND COLLECTING HYGIENE ITEMS

Mark your calendar for April 24th at 1:30 p.m. in Fellowship Hall!! Everyone is invited to come help make t-shirt jump ropes for Noah's Ark Preschool.

We need to make 50 so all the kiddos will have a jump

rope to take home for the summer!! We need as many people as possible — to stretch and braid.

During the month of April UWF (formerly UMW) are collecting personal hygiene

products for the Food Bank. There will be a box at the back of the church to collect items such as shampoo, conditioner, razors, toothbrushes, toothpaste, shaving cream and feminine products.



VOLUNTEERS
Help Fix CORE Meal

CORE COMMUNITY GRADUATION /FUMC TO PREPARE MEAL

CORE will graduate it's 9th Class on May 2nd at 6:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary.

This is the biggest class so far, according to CORE leaders. Many of this class will be continuing on after their graduation into the

second class of the series, which goes deeper into finance management and other areas.

Part of the program is participants are treated to a meal before their Thursday meetings. Groups around

the area volunteer to bring in the meal.

First UMC will be providing the meal on May 30th. Larissa Graham will be spearheading this event, so contact her to volunteer to help.

SERVE Others

OUR DONATION GREATLY APPRECIATED

Dear Members of FUMC - Great Bend,

It's an exciting time of the year. School is now in session, and the kids (and teachers) are all looking forward to what lies ahead.

Thanks to you, there is much reason for hope and optimism! This year has seen the largest school enrollment we have ever witnessed in these mountains.

I find that encouraging as parents continue to demonstrate they understand the importance education plays in providing a better future for this up-and-coming generation.

Within the next week, we will be purchasing and assembling enough school supplies to provide for the needs of nearly 1,000 school children. What an incredible number, and yet, just as when Jesus blessed the fishes and the loaves for the 5,000, God, through you,

has provided for His children's needs.

I can't begin to thank you enough for your radical generosity. It was wonderful to be with all of you, to feel your love, and to bear witness to your compassion extended to a neighbor you will never have the chance to meet in person. In conjunction with the school supplies, our agriculture project has ramped up its production of eggs, meat, and vegetables to help address the need for hot school lunches, especially in those villages with a high incidence of childhood malnutrition. With all that I am, I thank you for your continued support of our ministry. We continue to work with village leaders, parents, and



The number of children that come to school has increased to nearly 1,000 kids, that are fed as well as schooled.

The arrival of the school supplies (left bottom) was greeted with excitement and appreciation.

other volunteers on your behalf to spread Christ's message and to assure all of those who would otherwise be without hope that God is alive and hears their cries. Thank you, thank you, thank you! More pictures and updates soon!

*Yours in Christ,
Lisa*

Calling All Seniors for Graduation Celebration

Graduation Sunday is set for May 5th and we need your help to celebrate our seniors.

We need a list of all the graduating seniors — high school and college, plus any trade school graduations.

Graduates may be from this spring or from last



December. Just please submit the names of anyone in your family who is graduating. It

can be you, your child(ren), your grandchild, your great-grandchild.

We want them all on our graduation list.

We'll be honoring our graduates during church services on the first Sunday of May.



Submit the name(s) of your graduate(s) to

secretary@fgbfumc.org

SHARE In Worship



Dream Center Meal

Dream Center Meal
April 21st

To Volunteer
To help, contact:
Judy Turner
620-617-6082

Volunteers Needed to Provide/Serve Meal

April 21st is the next date for the Dream Center Meal.

Please volunteer to help Judy Turner with this mission project.

First UMC provides and serves a meal at the Dream Center on the third Sunday of the even months of the



year. So if you can't help this month, there's always

June, August, October and December this year.

The meal includes a main dish, side dishes and dessert.

And if you purchase a new church T-shirt (or you have an old one), it's the perfect time to show your church spirit!



Chalk Art Project

CHALK ART PROJECT TO DECORATE FOR FRIDAYS ON FOREST

First UMC young people and those young at heart will be decorating the Forest Street sidewalk from 6:30-7:30 p.m. on Wednesday April 24th.

The sidewalk art project will be in celebration of the start of Fridays on Forest 2024 season on April 26th.

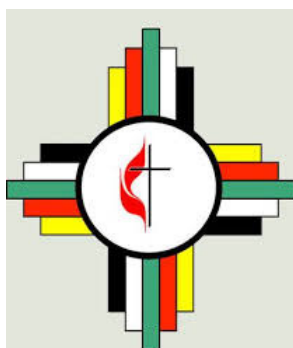
Great Bend Alive, part of Great Bend Economic



Development (GBED), spearheads the event, which takes place on Forest Avenue, from Williams to Main on the last Friday of each month.

The kickoff will feature music from Tim Anthony & the Animals and food vendors from Lumpy's, Los Dos Portillo's, Brand 17 BBQ, and Flatlanders behind Dry Lake.

Come join the fun of working on this art project and wear your church T-shirt if you've got one!



NATIVE AMERICAN MINISTRIES SUNDAY, A U.M. SPECIAL GIVING SUNDAY

The United Methodists celebrate Native American Ministries Sunday on the Third Sunday of Easter.

This year, April 14th is the date to recognize this special giving Sunday.

There will be information cards and contribution envelopes in the church bulletins and on the tables near the church giving boxes for you to learn more




about this giving Sunday and the ministry it serves.

Please put "Special Sunday" or "Native American Ministries" in the memo line of your check and/or put your contribution in the special

Sunday envelopes.

Native American Ministries Sunday serves to remind United Methodists of the gifts and contributions made by Native Americans to our society. The special offering supports Native American outreach within annual conferences and across the United States and provides seminary scholarships for Native Americans.

First United Methodist Church — APRIL 2024

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1 CHURCH OFFICE Closed 7 p.m. Christian Education Committee	2 5:30 pm TOPS 6 pm Girl Scout 7 pm Vintage Wheels 7 pm Train Club	3 9:30 am Bible Study 5 pm Chancel Singers 5:30 Kids Klub/EYG/YG 5:30 pm MOPs	4 5:30 pm CORE Community 7 pm NA 7 pm Praise Band	5 5-9 pm FH Golden Belt Foundation	6 1-5 FH – Birthday Reception for Alice Walter
7 9 am and 11 am – Services in Sanctuary 9 am on YouTube & 11 am on Facebook 10 am Discovery Hour	8 6 pm Girl Scouts	9 5:30 pm TOPS	10 9:30 am Bible Study 5:30 Kids Klub/EYG/YG	11 5:30 pm CORE Community 7 pm NA 7 pm Praise Band	12	13 10-1 FH – Private Party
14 Native American 9 am and 11 am – Services in Sanctuary 9 am on YouTube & 11 am on Facebook 10 am Discovery Hour 12:15 pm Evangelism Team 1 pm YG Play/Trip	15	16 5:30 pm TOPS 6 pm Girl Scout	17 9:30 am Bible Study 1:30 pm UWF Circle 5 pm Chancel Singers 5:30 Kids Klub/EYG/YG 5:30 pm MOPs	18 5:30 pm CORE Community 7 pm NA 7 pm Praise Band	19 9-3 Quilt Guild	20 3 p.m. Rm 25 –Private Party
21 9 am and 11 am – Services in Sanctuary 9 am on YouTube & 11 am on Facebook 10 am Discovery Hour 3:20/5:30 Nerf & 5 Nachos 5 pm Dream Center Meal	22 5:30 pm Finance Cmmtt 6 pm Girl Scouts	23 5:30 pm TOPS	24 9:30 am Bible Study 1:30 pm UWF T-shirt jump rope workshop 5 pm Chancel Singers 5:30 Kids Klub/EYG/YG 6:30- Chalk Art Project	25 5:30 pm CORE Community 7 pm NA 7 pm Praise Band	26	27
28 9 am and 11 am – Services in Sanctuary 9 am on YouTube & 11 am on Facebook 10 am Discovery Hour	29 9-10 am Healthy Families — Rm 25 5:30 pm Staff Parrish	30 5:30 pm TOPS				 Find our Calendar Online:

SHARE in Worship — CELEBRATIONS & PRAYER CONCERNS



April Birthdays

- 1 Lexi Deines
- 2 Kenda Werth
- 3 Finnley Anderson
- 4 Eileen Ingersoll
- 4 Tyler Scheuerman
- 6 Clark Mitchell
- 7 Cory Sager
- 10 Mary Ann June
- 12 Michael Harbaugh
- 12 Rob Graham Jr.
- 14 Eugene Hoelscher
- 15 Dan Hertel
- 15 Lori Schremmer
- 17 Rosemary Luthi



- 19 Madilyn Scheuerman
- 19 Kasen Cory
- 20 Emma Sager
- 22 Sharon Anglemyer
- 22 Bill Evans Jr.

- 23 Ivy Webster
- 23 Tera Zecha
- 23 Everett Stegman
- 24 Shannon Deines
- 24 Ashley Vonada
- 26 Amy Evans
- 27 Wayne Banks
- 29 Elaine Felke
- 29 Denise Anderson
- 30 Linda Carpenter

April Anniversaries

- 7 Chad & Mary Jo Barton
- 17 Tim & Marva Bever
- 19 Stephannie & Vaughn Goerl



WE REMEMBER THESE IN OUR PRAYERS:

The Family of Pat Stonebraker

All Those Who are Involved in Cancer treatment and recovery:

Earl Schmidt, Amnee Brown (April Harbaugh's sister), **Dick Lytle, Linda Essmiller, Leonard Bunselmeyer, Lisa Baum, Kathy Rogers, Dana Cheney, Gary Cheney, Suzie Evans,**

Terry Sauerwein, Carol Bird, Roberta Bartlett

All Those Who Reside in Nursing Homes/Care Facilities or are home-bound: (*Aster Estates*)

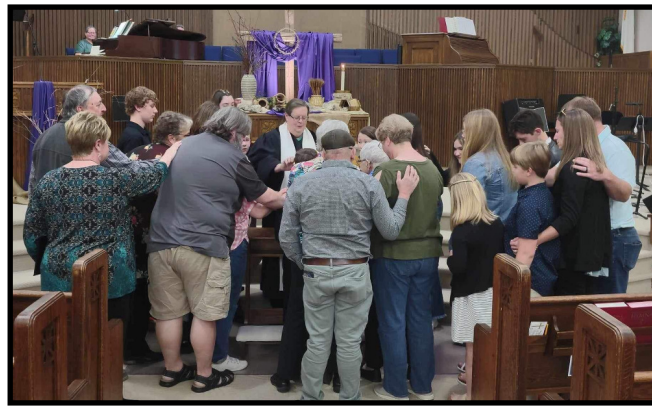
Jackie Curtis, Claire Stephenson, and Ivy Webster: (*Brookdale*) **Leonard French, Eugene Hoelscher, Harriet Herzberg, Eileen Ingersoll, and Mary**

Joiner ; (*River Bend*) Imogene Christenson, Carol Thier, Earl & Janice Schmidt; (*other facilities*) Roberta Bartlett, Larned; and Betty Erickson, Kansas City.

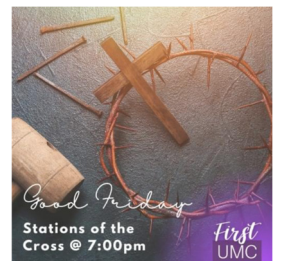
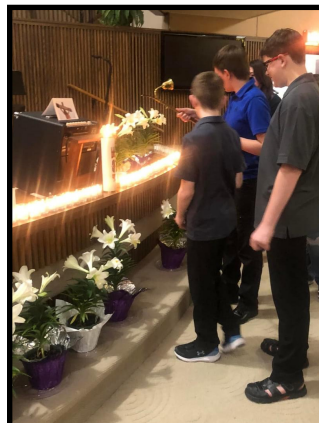
All Those Serving Our Country in the Military:

All our men & women in the armed forces including Bryan Farthing.

GROW in Faith



CONFIRMATION SUNDAY — Weeks of Confirmation Class end with a Sunday of celebration, the graduates providing the message "I Believe"; and the blessing of each of the graduates: Finn Anderson, Kolton Cory, Syndey James, and Tyler Scheurman.



GOOD FRIDAY — The Youth Group presented the stations of the Cross during the Holy Friday celebration.

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.

WORSHIP @ 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

SPECIAL SUNDAYS & 5TH SUNDAYS

- 10:00 a.m. Worship Service

COMMUNITY GROUPS that meet each week, bi-weekly or monthly at FUMC are CORE Community, Girl Scouts, NA, TOPS, The MomCo (MOPS), Central Kansas Thread Benders Quilt Guild, Vintage Wheels of Great Bend, and Golden Belt Model Railroad Club.

Contact us:

Pastor, Tim Bever

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Secretary, Rebecca Peak

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Revive Worship Leader, James Frazier

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Noah's Ark Preschool Director, Kaylee Keilman

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Custodian, Marc Webster

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