



First United Methodist Church

Manhattan, Kansas

CONNECTING to Christ | GROWING in Community | SERVING the World

VOLUME 93 | NO. 8 | AUGUST 2025

It's hard to believe that August is already here—where did the summer go? July was a wonderful time to gather as one church family in a single worship service. Now, as we turn the corner into fall, we return to our regular worship schedule at 8:45 and 11:00 a.m.

Mark your calendars for Kickoff Sunday on September 7, 2025. My prediction is that we'll be celebrating a big wildcat football win over Army the night before! That morning, we'll meet in the parking lot for food, fellowship, and fun as we reconnect and look forward to the year ahead.

Then on Wednesday, September 10, we launch something new. We're beginning a midweek tradition of sharing a meal, worshiping together, and joining small groups. Yes, this means you now have the option of worshiping on Wednesday evening instead of Sunday morning. In today's fast-paced world, we hope this new format gives more people the flexibility to stay connected and grow in faith. Sharing a meal is a great way to deepen relationships—and build new ones. We have much to look forward to as a church.

As I close, I want to leave you with a small moment that made me smile. The other day I bought a loaf of bread, and to my surprise, it had a twist-tie - not the plastic tab, but the kind with the metal wire and colored paper. It reminded me of the ones my grandmother used to save in a mason jar, "just in case." I chuckled when I realized I've started saving them too.

That little bread tie got me thinking. Our church staff is kind of like that twist-tie: flexible, dependable, and always there to hold things together. They wrap themselves around our people and our programming, binding it all together with God's love woven through everything they do. I love that image. Maybe you will too, especially if you save your bread ties.



Loving God and Loving Neighbor,
Rev. Donna Voteau
Cell 816-806-0482

SUNDAY MORNING SCHEDULE

Worship in-person or live on our website. Replays will also be available on our website.

8:45 am - Contemporary Worship
10:00 am - Discipleship Time
11:00 am - Traditional Worship
11:30 am - Radio Broadcast on
KMAN 1350 AM, 93.3, or 93.7 FM

The church office is open Monday through Thursday 9:00 am - 4:00 pm and on Sunday Mornings.

Please use the double doors from the parking lot into the Connecting Link during the week for all meetings and to visit the office. Thank you.

The newsletter is published monthly on the 28th for the following month. The deadline for submissions is the 15th of each month. If you have items for the congregation, please send them to Cathlene Higgins, Connections Coordinator, at fumc@fumcmanhattan.com.

When the newsletter is available you will receive a notification via email with a link to our website. If you prefer to receive a paper copy in the mail, please contact the office at 785-776-8821. If you have items for the bulletin, website, or Sunday morning worship screens, those should also be sent to Cathlene, fumc@fumcmanhattan.com.



First United Methodist Church

Manhattan, Kansas

www.fumcmanhattan.com | fumc@fumcmanhattan.com |
785-776-8821

2 CORINTHIANS

chapter 5

VERSE 15

SCRIPTURE FOCUS FOR AUGUST

“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!”

One of the things I've always loved about living in Manhattan is the energy this season brings. After the slower pace of summer, there's a noticeable shift in the air. You can feel it in the buzz of back-to-school shopping, the return of purple K-State gear around town, and the steady stream of students flowing back into the community. It's as if our sleepy town is waking up again—and with it, so is the rhythm of church life.

While not everyone's life runs on the school calendar, there's something about this time of year that awakens a spirit of new beginnings. For students and teachers, it's back to class. For families, it's the return of routine. And for many others—retirees, professionals, and everyone in between—there's a natural shift as the pace of summer gives way to the rhythm of fall. Meetings resume, Bible studies restart, and church life comes alive again with a sense of shared purpose.

Our “Fall Kickoff” on September 7 is our special opportunity to gather, reconnect, and celebrate the new life we have in Christ. Whether your days are filled with textbooks or quiet mornings, deadlines or grandkids, this season invites us all to embrace the new creation God is making in us every day.

This verse reminds us that in Christ, the old has passed away and something fresh and alive has begun. Fall is the perfect season to step into that promise—to refresh, recommit, and renew our faith as individuals and as a community. The “old” is behind us, and the “new” is ready to unfold.

Let this fall be more than a change in the weather. Let it be a renewal of spirit. The new creation is here—and it is alive today—in you, in me, and in the life of our church.

BELLS, FRIENDS, AND FUN – FIND YOUR RING FUMC

Have you ever watched a bell choir and thought, That looks like fun? Good news—it is! Whether you're a seasoned music reader or just looking to try something new, our bell choirs have a spot for you.

We're looking for people of all ages and experience levels to join the fun this fall. Bell ringing is a great way to connect with others, make joyful music, and be part of something meaningful. No solos, no pressure—just a team working together, one note at a time.

Not sure if it's for you? Come try it out! We'd love to show you the ropes (or the bells!). It's a perfect way to get involved, make friends, and add a little rhythm to your week.

For more information about No Stress or Spirit Ringers contact Kathy Leonard (kantink@gmail.com). For more information on Allegro or Rhapsody Ringers contact Nancy Monical (nmonicalks@gmail.com). Both these ladies will help you find your ring!



You are invited to a

of Journey Generosity

Saturday, August 9; 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM

Fellowship Hall, lunch will be provided.

Most conversations about giving end with an ask for money. This one doesn't. We hope you can make it!

Sign up to attend on the church website or call the office
www.fumcmanhattan.com 785-776-8821

**A retreat with your peers
to discuss God and money.**

Our Church, Their Gathering Place

One of the quiet but powerful ways First United Methodist Church serves our community is by offering our buildings as a welcoming space for a wide range of outside groups. Throughout the week and across the year, our campus becomes more than a place for worship—it's a hub of connection, support, and growth for neighbors throughout Manhattan.

We believe church buildings should serve the community, not sit empty. That's why we gladly open our doors, without charging a fee, to organizations and individuals who need a place to meet, rehearse, reflect, celebrate, or find support.

The Alan Lee Ministry Center buzzes with activity as several Alcoholics Anonymous groups gather for meetings throughout the week. Shepherd's Crossing, which provides financial assistance and guidance to those in need, operates their offices in our facility and meets with the public twice a week. Thrive!, a group that helps individuals and families work toward lasting stability, also uses our space as part of their journey toward positive change.

Elsewhere in our building, music fills the halls. A bluegrass band rehearses weekly, and the Little Apple Barbershop Chorus meets monthly to blend voices and community spirit. Two P.E.O. women's groups gather here throughout the year to support education and friendship. Bible study participants from Theological Reflections gather every two weeks, and outside weddings and funerals are hosted with the same care and hospitality we offer our own members.

All these gatherings reflect a simple but meaningful truth: we are an open church. Not just in belief, but in practice. By sharing our space freely, we create a place where healing, harmony, learning, and laughter can flourish—extending our spirit of hospitality beyond our congregation and into the wider community we are called to serve.

TIME AND TALENT: FIND YOUR PLACE AT FUMC



FUMC's vibrant Children's Ministry is well known for its engaging programs and events—but did you know there are just as many opportunities for adults to get involved? Whether you're looking to deepen your faith, connect with others, or share your skills in meaningful ways, there's a place for you here. From hammers to hand-bells, sewing to singing, Bible study to service, FUMC offers a wide variety of ways to grow, serve, and belong.

Music Ministries

If music is your gift, consider joining one of our ensembles. The Chancel Choir, NextGen/Oasis Band, and Orchestra welcome experienced musicians. We also offer hand-bell choirs for ages 9 through adult, with groups for beginners to advanced ringers.

Women's Ministries

- **United Women in Faith**
Offers fellowship circles, service projects, and special events throughout the year.
- **Sew Sisters**
A creative group of fabric crafters who work on meaningful projects together or independently.
- **Wednesday Bible Study**
An informal gathering for women to explore Scripture and grow in faith.

Men's Ministries

- **United Methodist Men** (and women) come together monthly for breakfast, fellowship, and guest speakers, and raises funds for mission and church projects.
- **The Geezers**
This loyal crew meets Tuesday mornings to tackle maintenance needs across the church campus—and have a little fun along the way.

The Welcome Desk in the Connecting Link

Be a warm and welcoming presence at our Connecting Link desk by volunteering for a two-hour shift to greet guests, answer phones, and support the daily life of the church.

Sunday Morning Help

- **Sunday greeters** to welcome people or **Ushers** to collect the offering at the worship time of your choice.
- **Help set up Fellowship Time** in the Fellowship Hall before the 8:45 am service.

Outreach & Care Ministries

- **Lydia Ministry**
Volunteers offer support and care to those who come to FUMC in need.
- **Congregational Care Team**
Provides compassionate, one-on-one support to those who are grieving or facing hardship.
- **Food Pantry**
Volunteers serve the wider community by distributing groceries during regular weekly hours.
- **Bereavement Meals Team**
Offers hospitality and comfort by preparing and serving meals following funeral services.

Are you interested in getting involved? Stop by the church office or contact us to learn more about how to connect. Your time and talent are not only a gift to the church—they're a blessing to you and to those around you.





YOUR FUMC OFFERINGS AT WORK

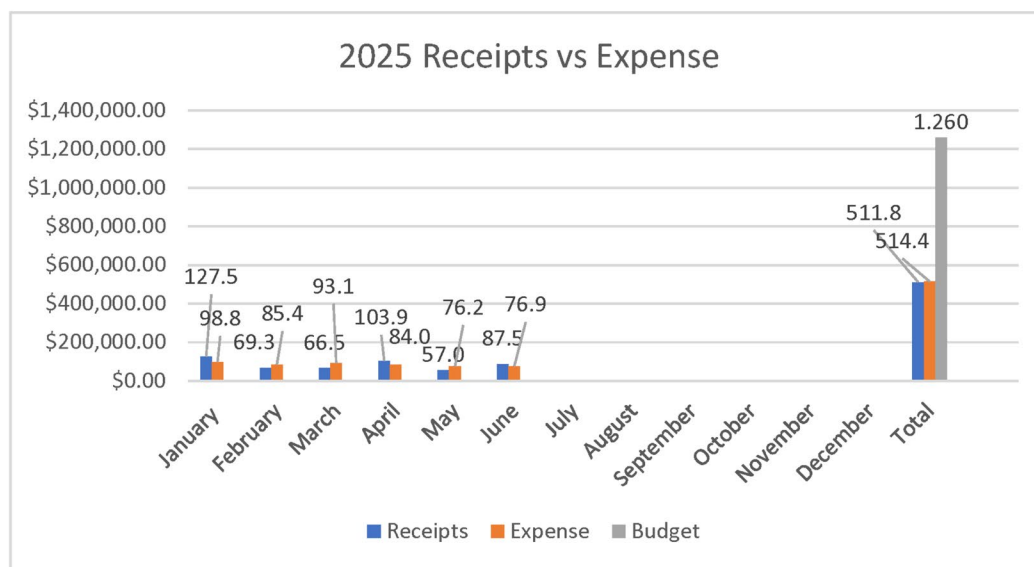
The First United Methodist Church of Manhattan performs God's work by providing and supporting a variety of programs that assist families, individuals, and children in our community as well as internationally. The means by which the Church provides these needed services on your behalf is accomplished in large part by your generous Giving. To that end we want to provide you with timely updates of the Church's financial position.

The attached graph (which will be updated monthly) provides a snapshot in time that compares actual monthly Giving to actual monthly expenses. You will note that Expenses have slightly exceeded Receipts by \$2.6K dollars year-to-date. Most importantly this graph reflects the status of Church-wide year-to-date Receipts to the general operating fund, as compared to the budget goal. Applying a simple analysis using six months of actual Receipts, coupled with six months of projected Receipts based upon a 2024 trend line, Receipts would fall short of the budget goal by an estimated \$256K dollars. When Expenses (Actual + Projected) are compared to Receipts (Actual + Projected), the deficit is approximately \$102K dollars. As you can see, we have a lot of work to do if we are to meet either the budget goal or projected Expenses. Regardless of which measurement is used, the projected shortfall means the Church may not fully fund the missions and activities within the community it serves.

Of important note is that FUMC has not made a payment toward its apportionment obligation to date. This year the District has set the FUMC apportionment at \$108K. Apportionments are funds that local churches make to assist in funding wider ministry activities. Should FUMC fail to fulfill its full obligation it would be the first time in 170 years of its historical legacy.

Your Finance Committee, along with pastors and all committees within the Church, continue to focus on identifying ways to meet that worthy goal. But it will also need a unified congregation focused on stewardship and prayer.

Finance Committee



Student Ministries



Jeff Cunningham, Director of Student Ministries
jcunningham@fumcmanhattan.com

Misti LeMoine, Coordinator of Children's Ministries
children@fumcmanhattan.com

Ronald Atkinson, Coordinator of Youth Ministries
youth@fumcmanhattan.com



We are so excited to announce a new ministry offering and a schedule change starting this fall. Coming September 10th, we will be hosting **Midweek Renewal** on Wednesdays!

What does that mean, you might ask?

Midweek Renewal will be an opportunity for the church to help bless your busy lives. From 5:30-7:30 on Wednesday evenings we will have a chance to come together for dinner, worship, small groups, and games.

Here's what the schedule will look like:

5:30-6:30 Dinner and Worship in the Fellowship Hall

6:30-7:30 Small group time

JAM, YUM, and Youth Group will all meet during the small group time after dinner.

How does this change the schedule we are used to?

There are several changes to what our schedule has been previously.

- JAM will be offered both on Sunday morning and on Wednesday evening. It will be the same lesson each week at both times, so you don't have to worry about missing out.
- YUM will move from right after school to the small group time at 6:30.
- Youth will still have hangout right after school from 3:30-5:30 with Devotional Donuts. Instead of meeting on Sundays we will also have our Youth Group time from 6:30-7:30 on Wednesday evenings.

This Fall, JAM and Youth will be focused on the story of Joseph from the Book of Genesis.

What about parents?

There will be small group offerings for parents as well. There are lots of possibilities, so please let us know what you would like to be part of.

We know that this is a big change, but we are really excited about the possibilities. We can't wait to have you join us on this new adventure.

A NEW BLESSING BOX EXTENDS OUR OUTREACH, ANY TIME OF DAY

A new Blessing Box has been installed on the west lawn of our Sanctuary as part of FUMC's commitment to serving our neighbors. This outreach initiative grew out of a recent Visioning meeting where a small group discussed ways to address food insecurity in our community. While the Food Pantry continues to provide essential support, its limited hours raised an important question: how can we help when the pantry is closed?

That's when the Blessing Box idea was born.

Fred Caldwell, our building supervisor and woodworking craftsman, generously volunteered to design and build the box. Its structure and paint scheme reflect the appearance of our Sanctuary, symbolizing our mission to serve and connect with the community. The box features ventilation to prevent overheating, as well as wooden dowels inside to distribute helpful information. Installation was completed by the Geezers during one of their weekly workdays.

The box has already seen meaningful use. During Vacation Bible Camp, the children donated food each day specifically for the Blessing Box. On Mission Sunday, July 6, FUMC families helped sort and bag those donations. Each bag was carefully packed with a variety of items and set aside to keep the Blessing Box well stocked. Throughout the week, youth group members and staff check the box to replenish supplies. We also encourage individual church members to help restock.

Keeping the Blessing Box full requires ongoing support from our congregation and community. We encourage everyone to consider donating non-perishable food or hygiene items when you visit the church. You might also organize a small group or family to "adopt" the box for a week, checking and restocking it regularly. Donations can be dropped off anytime at the church office or directly placed in the box. Every small gift makes a big difference in providing nourishment and hope to someone in need.

Items most often needed include:

- Non-perishable food such as cereal, canned goods with pull tabs, fruit cups, granola bars, peanut butter, tuna, powdered milk, Ramen in a cup, Spaghetios, and water.
- Personal hygiene products like soap, shampoo, toothbrushes, toothpaste, and toilet paper.

Helpful extras including inexpensive can openers, plastic silverware, and, in colder months, socks, gloves, and stocking caps.

You are also invited to participate in the "Stock the Box Challenge," a local initiative through the Riley County Extension Office and the Nourish Together network. The process is simple: choose a Blessing Box, take a picture of you filling it with needed items, send that picture to the Extension office. You will receive a gift card to stock it again in the future.

This project is a beautiful example of faith in action. Together, we can offer consistent care to our community, one item at a time.



Pad the Pantry



In the Fall, we try to overstock our food pantry shelves to kick off the new semester. We will have paper bags at each of the sanctuary doors during the month of August with a list of items the pantry would like. Please consider picking up a bag and filling it with one item or one of each item listed. We appreciate your support. Please return your filled bag to the sanctuary on Welcome Back Sunday, happening September 7.

Here is a list of items the pantry is requesting:

Mayonnaise, Ketchup, Crackers, Spaghetti/Pasta Sauce,
Bags of White Rice, Flour, Boxed Macaroni and Cheese,
Cake Mix, Sugar, and Canned Tuna or Chicken.



FALL KICKOFF



SEPTEMBER, 7TH



JOIN US BETWEEN SERVICES FOR:



**KSU BAND
WILLIE THE WILDCAT
KSU CHEERLEADERS
BREAKFAST
GAMES
AND MUCH MORE!**



www.fumcmannhattan.com

INVITE YOUR FRIENDS

785-776-8821



1880 TIME CAPSULE OPENED

This is a very historic year for the FUMC campus. Construction on our current sanctuary building was started 100 years ago, in 1925, and completed and dedicated in 1926. The previous church building, constructed in 1880, stood where the courtyard is now and the two churches sat side by side until the 1880 building was demolished in 1939. The large monument in the courtyard contains the cornerstone of that 1880 building (a base and top were added).

When the 1880 building was demolished a time capsule was discovered – a metal box which had been stored untouched until now. Given that this is our centennial year, Pastor Donna decided it was appropriate to open the box. In June, Debbie Madsen, church historian, opened the box in the company of Pastor Donna and Pastor Courtney. The contents were observed but not touched, and arrangements were made for Robbie Phillips to take pictures of the box and its contents in situ.

After the contents had been visually documented, Debbie took the box to the Riley County Historical Museum and met with Melanie Highsmith, Curator of Education & Design, and Dawn Munger, Curator of Collections. Dawn very carefully removed all of the contents one by one while Melanie took pictures of the process and the documents and created a complete list of the contents. It took almost an hour to slowly reveal everything.

After 145 years in a metal box, most likely exposed to outside temperatures assuming it was inside the cornerstone, the paper was badly disintegrated. A small leather-bound Holy Bible was laid carefully on top, and underneath that the 1876 Book of Discipline and a small hymn book that were very fragile. Along the side of the box was the Minutes of the 1879 Kansas Methodist Episcopal Church Annual Conference. Underneath the bound volumes were several newspapers, dated early in 1880, which were badly disintegrated. At the bottom of the box was a pile of tiny paper fragments left as the newspapers and books disintegrated.

The box and its contents, along with a list of what was identifiable, are in the display case on the north wall outside the sanctuary. Take a look!



Above: The exterior of the Time Capsule prior to opening it for the first time in over 100 years.



Right: The first glimpse inside the time capsule.

Praisefest 2025 Mission Event

SEPT



Join our church team
help pack over 100,000
meals to feed children
around the world.

Sign up on the church website or call the office
www.fumcmanhattan.com 785-776-8821

PRAISEFES 2025

SAVE THE DATE - 14TH ANNUAL

Stay tuned for more information

SEPT



SEPT



SEPT



PRAISEFES 2025

GROCERIES FOR GOD DILLONS COMMUNITY REWARDS



Help FUMC earn cash by using your Dillons Plus card. By signing up for Groceries for God, you will still earn your fuel points and rewards and FUMC will earn bonus cash.

As a point of update, the Church Council oversees all money received for Groceries for God. In the past year they have voted to approve the following expenditures:

- Chicken for the KSU Men's basketball dinner
- Generational Speaker Dinner
- Chicken for the KSU Women's volleyball dinner
- Updating the church Automated External Defibrillator (AED)
- Purchase of a new computer for the senior pastor
- Purchases made for the Organ Dedication reception
- Printing of the Christmas Eve bulletins

To participate in Groceries for God:

1. Go to dillons.com/communityrewards.
2. Create an account including your e-mail address - If you do not have an email address see instructions below
3. Enter your shopper card number or alternate ID# and last name
4. On the account summary screen scroll all the way down to Community Rewards - click "enroll"
5. Fill in personal information. Enter "MY114" you will then see First UMC Groceries for God.
6. Click in the circle as this is our Groceries for God program.
7. Click on save and you should get a note at the top of the page indicating that your sign up has been completed.

You will automatically start earning rewards for FUMC right away on qualifying purchases*, made using your Shopper's plus card!

*Things that do not qualify are fuel, postage, alcohol, tobacco, Kroger gift cards, variable load gift cards among other things, but can be found on the website.

If you DO NOT HAVE INTERNET, but use this program, you will need to call 1-800-576-4377 and it will be #3 on the recorded menu. They will walk you through the process. Or walk into one of the two stores in town.



First United Methodist Church

Manhattan, Kansas

612 Poyntz Avenue
Manhattan, KS 66502-6041

Pastors: Donna Votau, Courtney Fellers
Editor: Cathlene Higgins

Return Service Requested

NONPROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
MANHATTAN, KS
PERMIT NO. 46

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

WEDNESDAYS

FAITH, FOOD, FAMILY, FRIENDSHIP

STARTING SEPTEMBER 10TH AT 5:30 PM

DINNER, WORSHIP AND DISCIPLESHIP GROUPS FOR ALL AGES

