

August 2024

## TO KNOW GOD AND LIVE LIKE JESUS.

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### A Call to Unity In A Polarized World

As I look toward the beginning of another school year, I am filled with hope, excitement, and eagerness toward what is to come. The shift of the season



Rev. Lacey Wheeler

(okay, maybe just a shift to more heat indexes!) lets me know that we are moving into the season of the school year.

With our Back to School Bash happening August 11th, promotion Sunday, and blessing of the Backpacks, there is plenty to be geared up and ready for this Fall!

And yet, there remains space for intentional alignment within not only our faith community, but our neighborhoods, community members, family members, and even strangers we rub shoulders with throughout the day.

This August and September we are seeking unity in a polarized world. I continue to believe that it is much more counter-cultural to be unified, to agree to disagree and continue to love one another, than it is to polarize ourselves, our views, and our stances. Whether these views are religious, ethical, or otherwise, can we seek to love one another and choose unity in a polarized world? And can our differences actually create depth and understanding?

This kind of work requires courage, humility, and listening. In the coming months we will have opportunities to circle around tables literally and figuratively as we seek to discover again what unites us together. Through worship, game nights, and Holy Communion, we will lean into the “tie that

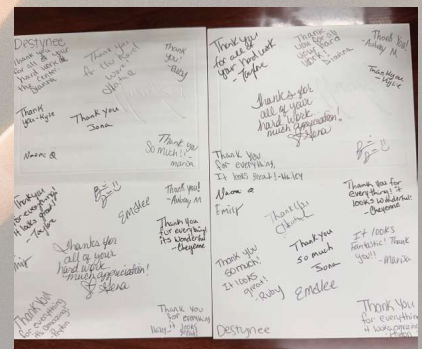
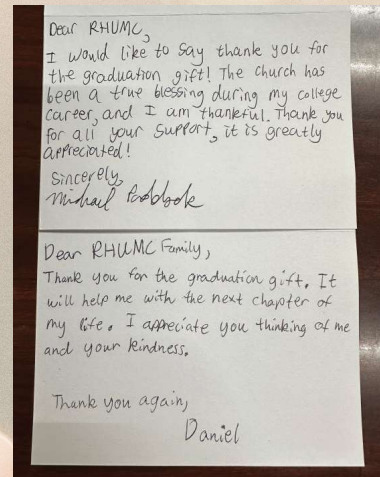
binds our hearts in Christian love”, as the beautiful hymn reminds us.

Will you come with me on this journey? Will we choose, not to be right, but to choose love, to choose understanding, to choose humility and a listening ear. Will we put above our convictions, our understandings of scripture and world-scenarios, will we put above this the two greatest commands to love God and love neighbor? Will we choose unity in a polarized world?

My guess is this gets messy. My guess is that we don’t do this perfectly, and may not even know how to do this. My guess is also that God has decided to be with us and alongside us as we seek to live as Jesus lived: A life of sacrificial love. God will empower us, encourage us, and give us the stamina, wisdom, and patience required to do this hard and beautiful work. God will remain faithful to us, and as we choose love, and choose to see our differences as opportunities to reflect beautiful color, understanding, and growth into our hearts, may we embrace that which makes us different, and may we all be held within the grasp of a love that is beyond our understanding and capacity.

Will you venture with me on this journey to unity in a polarized world? My heart tells me, we are ready.

-Rev. Lacey Wheeler



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# Look what's happening around the church...



The Leadership Board would like to thank everyone who helped with the Wee Rockets Workday on June 29th. It was a successful day, but there is still more to be done! They would also to thank those who attended the Town Hall meeting held on July 9th. Updates from the Great Plains Annual Conference were shared, along with updates on our church goals. You can find a printed copy in the church foyer with the Annual Conference updates in case you were unable to attend. The next scheduled board meeting will be held Tuesday, August 13th, 2024 at 7:00PM. If you have any questions, please contact Pastor Lacey, or our Lay Leader Greg Bird.



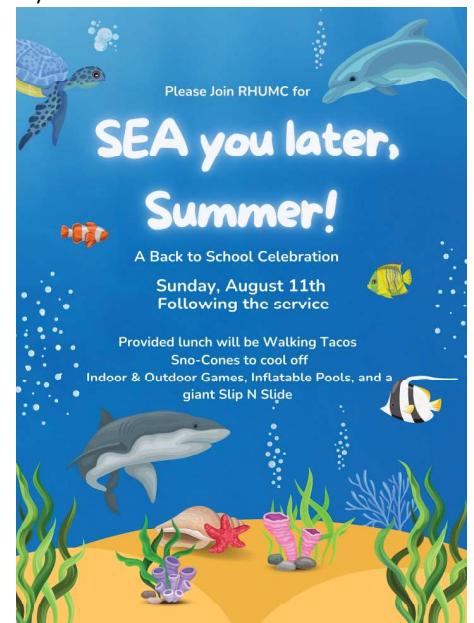
United Women in Faith

The United Women in Faith invites you to attend the annual Mother Daughter Banquet ( Fill Your Jar With Happiness), August 7th at 6:00PM. The itinerary will include; punch/pictures at 6-6:30PM, dinner/program at 6:30PM. Cost: full portion \$8.50, half \$6.00, 4 years & under free. Please purchase tickets by August 4, before/after 10AM service or call the church office. UWF is planning on having the Fall Festival Bake Sale and the Holiday Shop. They will need help with both of those events. They ask that you start your crafts and finding those treasures to donate to Granny's Attic. The next general meeting will be held on September 11th, at 6:30PM and the Rebecca Ruth Circle will meet September 26th, at 10:00AM. UWF thanks all those who help them to turn faith, hope, and love into action on behalf of women, children, and youth around the world.



Hope Connections has served 54 families in the month of July with food and 5 with financial assistance for bills. The shelves are pretty empty. Though they will get a truck load of groceries from the Kansas Food Bank at the end of the month, they will still run short. We are in need of: peanut butter, cereal, canned soups, peas, beans, mixed vegetables, any canned pastas, spaghetti and sauce. Cash donations are always excepted. Thank you for your support.

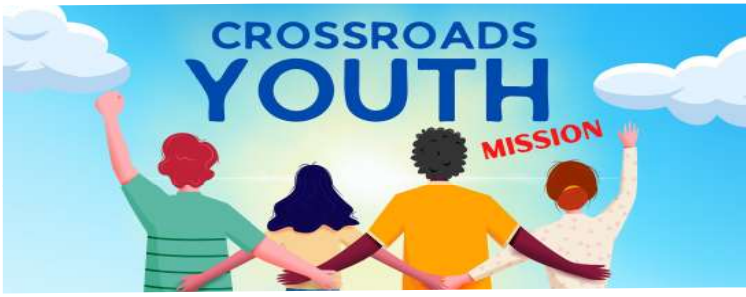
The following upcoming distribution dates are: 8/5: 5PM-6:30PM; 8/7: 11AM-12:30PM; 8/19: 5PM-6:30PM, 8/21: 11AM-12:30PM.



**Birthdays:** **AUGUST 1:** Emily Black; Sue Tanner; **August 4:** Dakota Jensen; **August 5:** Jan Lindner; **August 6:** Tonie Rollins; **August 9:** Marion Futhey, Diane Reed; **August 11:** Andrew Reed; **August 12:** Cindy Nickel, Kevin Webster; **August 16:** Stacie Fox, Kathy Miller; **August 17:** Billye Weihe; **August 18:** Jeanne Erikson; **August 19:** Samantha Hall; **August 20:** Paul Shackelford; **August 22:** Rachel Fountain, Patricia Shaver; **August 24:** Daylin Jantzen; **August 25:** Greg Fox; **August 27:** Rachel Anderson, Tanya Dockers, Lesley Riddell-Koch; **August 28:** Ben Wheeler; **August 29:** Michael Nelson

**Anniversaries:** **AUGUST 2:** Dale & Kay McNerny; **August 4:** Joel & Amber Koehn; **August 9:** Allen & Beverly Grunder; **August 16:** Terry & Rita Paddock; **August 26:** Curtis & Cindy Nickel; **August 28:** Kirk & Jean Epperson  
**HAPPIEST OF DAYS TO YOU, LOVE RHUMC! ♥**





The RHUMC youth group travelled to Kansas City June 23-26 for a mission trip that highlighted the need to help with food insecurity. The work sites included serving meals to homeless populations in Kansas City, serving a “recovery meal” for people that were coming from situations such as addiction and incarceration, and working in a “Giving Garden” that raised fresh produce for local distribution. From our church Amber Wyssman attended to help chaperone plus we had Kailenn Wyssman, Ethan Nelson, Sutton Nash, and Annabeth Bextel. We also took a group from University United Methodist Church and their youth director. It was a very educational and eye-opening experience for everyone involved and illustrated some ways we can help share Christ’s love in our local community moving forward. We were able to schedule some time at a pool and attend a Royals game, so youth had some time for themselves too. Thank you to everyone for their support and prayers to make this an awesome experience.

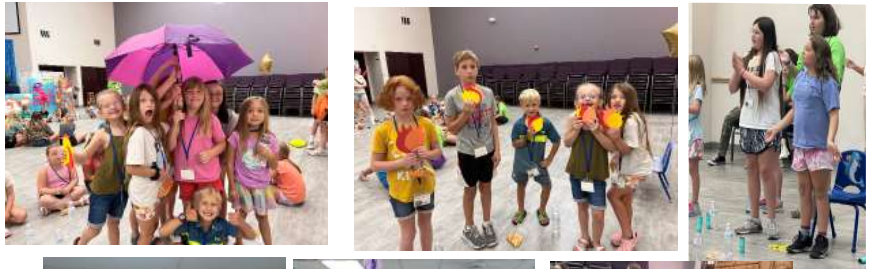
-Evan Black, Youth Ministry Director





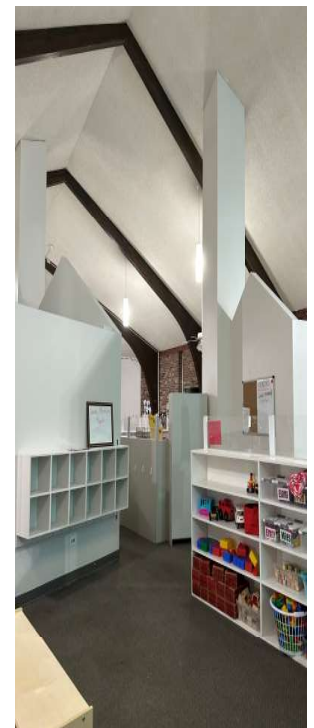
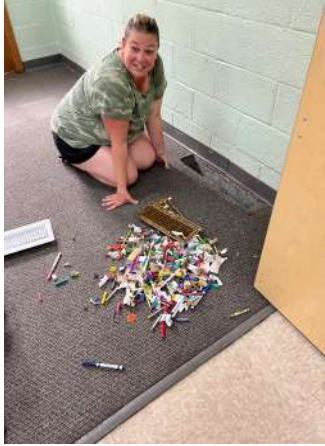
The week of July 8th-12th was full of laughter and good times as 82+ children filled the church, diving deep into friendship with God with our volunteers for VBS. It was an amazing sight to not only watch kids laugh and play, but also to see them getting their hands on bibles and learning how to find scripture. Our station leaders did a fantastic job of acting out bible stories, teaching scripture through videos and science experiments, and playing water games outside. Let's not forget our little participants! The preK and Kindergarten group kept busy playing games, doing crafts, going for walks, and enjoying outdoor activities. At the beginning and end of each day, everyone gathered together for singing songs and a lesson together. I am so thankful for every single person who reached out and was willing to volunteer their time and energy to making it such a successful week. Whether it was putting in hours upon hours making the decorations beforehand (many of us never want to hear the words seaweed and tablecloth in the same sentence again, am I right?!) or being there during the week to help manage the kids and youth, none of this could have happened without each of you. Thank you does not seem adequate! Our church was able to provide an amazing opportunity for the children of our community. We were able to help many kids realize His love for them and encourage meaningful thinking and questions about it. Just to give you an idea of the impact we had - one little girl asked me how church was invented and what children learned on Sundays. After I explained it all, she replied with "I want to come to church with you every Sunday!" My heart was overflowing with joy in that moment. That is why we do what we do each and every year! So keep it up RHUMC, we are doing God's work!

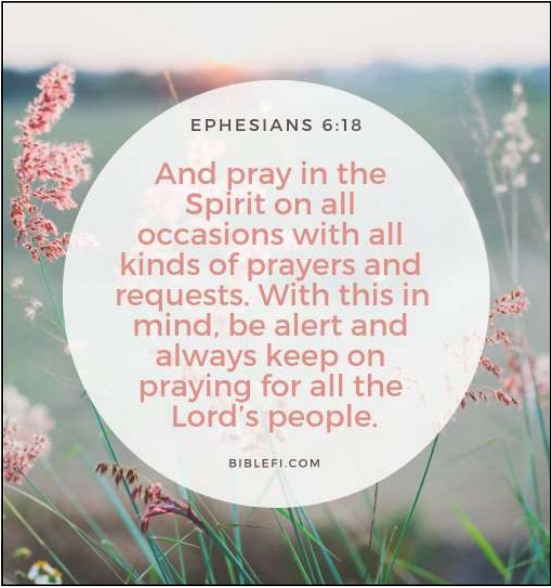
-Stacie Fox, Children's Ministry Director





Wee Rockets Work Day went off with a bang! We had landscapers, painters, a deep cleaning crew, electrical maintenance, repairs, encouragers, and even some daycare helpers for those who brought little helpers. If it needed done we had a team that came in and worked endless hours to get only a smidge of what we plan to accomplish. Boy does it look so much better! Thank you to all of our volunteers who missioned with us to build something great!






Please keep these in your prayers: Our church; our country; our troops; people of the world; our government leaders; law enforcement officers (safety); our community; students; teachers; Americans overseas; those suffering with mental illness; Teresa Conduff (health concerns); Kathy Conley (health); Cassie Conley (health concerns); Joy Shiblom (health concerns); Greg Cox (multiple myeloma); Linda McBride (health); Lyn-Nell Clark's daughter, Teresa Schmidt (metastatic bone cancer in vertebrae); Shannon Zoglmann's father (lung cancer) mother (heart disease/failure); Ashley Mowder's father, Alex Hall (health); Joyce Webster (health); Tonie Rollins' sister, Cindy Hunter (pancreatic cancer, Returned); Mike Rollins (rotator cuff surgery, radiation); Joy Pearson (health); Sigrid Krkosska (health); Dave Brown (Returned Cancer), Christine McKee's father, Harry Conway (health); Chad Flower (health); Bob (Dementia); Kathy Rusconi (ALS); Audrey Rowles (health); Jeff Diehl (stroke); Evelyn Diehl (health); Mandy Olson's mom Julie (health); CJ Bextel's father, David Bextel (triple bypass); CJ Bextel's grandmother, Loretta Burgess (health); Crystal Carron (lung cancer/ surgery); Alex Kruger (health); Richard Mann (knee surgery);

Greg Rinehart (surgery/renal cell carcinoma); Leanne McKee (knee surgery); Gail Futhey (surgery/farming accident); Nursing home/rehab residents. The family and friends in the passing of Howard Reed. The family and friends in the passing of Carol Nelson.

***Please notify the church office when your request can be taken off the list. Thank you!***



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