



November 2024

TO KNOW GOD AND LIVE LIKE JESUS.

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What Can We Offer This World?

I wasn't taught how to disagree. I wasn't taught how to be in deep relationship with people who did not think like me, believe like me, pray like me, worship like me. I was taught how to be in the same space, but not how to continue to actively be in relationship with them. This is something that has been learned over time, and if I'm honest, continues to be a place of growth!



Rev. Lacey
Wheeler

Dissenting views for half of my life would end up in one of three categories: Fight, flight, or freeze. If you are like me, so many of us are not taught how to hold one another in deep relationship while also disagreeing on deep issues.

Many of us just choose not to talk about the elephant in the room because we know it won't end well. Others of us enjoy the invitation into a good "argument" to convert another person to believe as we believe. Others of us just go blank and can't think of a thing to say because the stress of conflicting ideas, passions, and views is so stressful our brains literally shut off.

What if I told you that this moment in history in the United Methodist Church is an opportunity for us to learn and model how to not only exist with people who do not agree with us, but to be in deep and meaningful relationship with one another even when we don't agree. What if I told you that we have an opportunity to model to our culture how to love well, even in disagreement?

I have been involved in many churches. I grew up and was extremely involved in an American Baptist church, I worshiped at New Spring in Wichita for a few years in my early 20's, I attended and led worship at an Episcopalian church in my mid-20's.

And then I was invited and welcomed into a United Methodist Church, and knew immediately this was different. Like a warm welcome from a friend, I experienced God's grace which invited me into God's presence. Invited me, not if I changed first or got my life together first, or even believed a specific theology first. First, God welcomed me. I continue to believe that the United Methodist Church is different than other denominations. There are good and wonderful and beautiful gifts in all of them, and together we create a beautiful tapestry of God's incredible work, love, and grace in this world. And, I continue to see how distinct these gifts are. I experienced the heart of studying scripture, the passion of worship, and the power of prayer in my home church. I learned the beauty of liturgy and rituals in the Episcopal church, and I learned the gift of unmerited grace in the Methodist Church in a way I had never experienced before. What I have experienced throughout my time in the United Methodist Church, when we are at our best, is persons who can show up with one another, be in conversation with each other, even when, and especially when, we do not agree. I have seen people with passionate and dissenting views hold one another in love through conversation because Christ's love was bigger than their theology or "correct" beliefs.

So, when I was challenged with a question regarding churches in general; specifically, the United Methodist congregations, I leaned into my history of churches, and into the experience of the United Methodist Churches of which I have grown to love and become a part.

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WHAT CAN WE OFFER THIS WORLD CONTINUED....

I pose this question to all of us today too. A question, for any congregation, is worthy of our attention and worthy of our focus:

If our church did not exist (and if you are a part of Rose Hill UMC, if our specific congregation did not exist), what would the community be missing?

If we consider who our church is, perhaps not even the programs we provide or the worship services we attend, what would be missing in our community if we weren't here?

This specific congregation, Rose Hill United Methodist Church, in Rose Hill Kansas, among the wheat fields and the ever-growing cotton fields which I don't remember seeing in my youth but have somehow overtaken so many fields. I'm not complaining about that, by the way, I love the way the fields look with the cotton looking like freshly laid snow. United Methodist Churches in general provide a unique presence, and this is true of our Rose Hill UMC as well. Rev. Dr. Chali spoke this week at Orders and Fellowship in Kansas City, KS and I knew his comments regarding this question were true of our congregation as well.

Dr. Chali encouraged us, if the United Methodist Church did not exist, there would be one less place where everyone is welcome, and where we can disagree and continue to love one another well. I, like perhaps some of you, have been a part of churches that say "all are welcome", but when it comes down to it, what is insinuated is only the people who believe like us, think like us, worship like us are welcome. RHUMC provides a space in which people of dissenting and differing theological, political, and humanitarian views can and do co-exist, and are intertwined with one another in the work of God together—without agreeing—continuing to love each other fiercely. We hold space for every single person to participate, to congregate, to be in relationship with who desires to do so. We open our doors—even if your theology does not match mine. And this all comes back to grace. This unique nature of the United Methodist Church is in God's grace which extends toward us first: Before belief, faith, understanding, "correct" theology, or even a "yes" to God. Before Baptism, Communion, or church membership. God's prevenient grace extends to us much like a warm welcome from a friend. We do not have to have all the answers, and we do not have to all agree on all the answers either.

How many spaces of worship do you know that would invite anyone and everyone into the life of the church, even if it was someone who had the "wrong" theology? Furthermore, how many congregations do you know that would welcome this person as a valued, loved, and worthy person to be in the fold of active ministry within the church? Throughout my experience of churches, so many of them required a "correct" understanding or proclamation of faith. Rose Hill United Methodist Church holds that God, not we, invites, welcomes, and extends grace. We do not hold the power or the authority to decide whom is invited.

This is what would be missed in our community if we did not exist. A place where all are welcome, all are loved, all are advocated for, all are wrapped up in God's love and grace.

The world desperately needs to know how to disagree and remain united, remain advocates for one another, continue to love each other. The world does not know how to do this. What if we could be that example? What if that is what we have to offer to this world? That Christ's love is bigger than our disagreements, politics, and religion, and we can disagree, remain in conversation, in ways that are healthy and good and holy.

I would deeply miss this presence in the world if we did not exist.

Thanks be to God that we do exist, and thanks be to God that through the grace of God we can continue to be a conduit of God's amazing and expansive grace in this community—especially when we disagree.

Rev- Lacey Wheeler

Look what's happening around the church...



The Leadership Board is pleased to announce that our budget for next year has been approved and our church's paperwork has been finalized and submitted for our charge conference. This year our charge conference will be a new format with the larger district attending altogether, but everyone is still invited to attend. Our charge conference is scheduled for November 16, 2024, at 9:15 AM at Chapel Hill UMC in Wichita. We encourage you to attend!

Our next meeting will be held on November 16 at 7:00 PM. To be more transparent and continue our open communication, we will be publishing our agenda prior to the meeting similarly to our October meeting, so be watching your email. If you have any questions, you can contact Pastor Lacey, or our Lay Leader, Greg Bird.



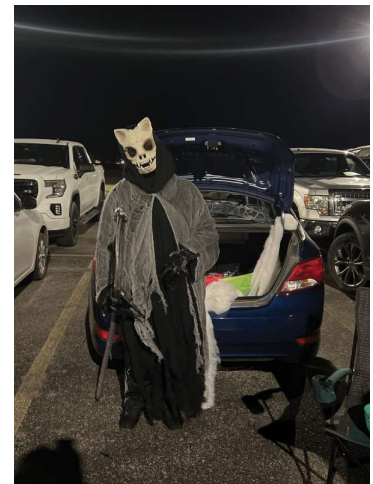
United Women in Faith

The United Women in Faith appreciate everyone who had a part in the Bake Sale and all the support that was received. The Holiday Shop is right around the corner, and we are in need of baked goods, cookies, crafts, and Granny's Attic items. We couldn't do either of these events, if it wasn't for the generous help we receive from the congregation. Thank you for helping us turn faith, hope, and love into action on behalf of women, children, and youth around the world. Holiday Shop is November 9, 2024 from 9:00am-3:00pm. Come spend the day and start with breakfast, then visit the baked good tables. Then, start shopping at the many different gift giving options. There will be vendors booth, Granny's Attic, and other crafts. Before leaving for the day, be sure to have lunch. Future meetings: Rebecca Ruth Circle, November 21st at 10:00am.



Hope Connections is entering a busy time of year. We hope you stopped by and saw us at the Trunk or Treat event. Thanksgiving Bag distribution will be held on November 21st and Christmas Food/gifts on December 19th. If you know of a family in need or want to sponsor a family please let us know. If you can pick up some extra soup for the pantry that would be wonderful.

The following upcoming distribution dates are: 11/4: 5PM-6:30PM; 11/6: 11AM-12:30PM; 11/18: 5PM-6:30PM, 11/20: 11AM-12:30PM. Thanksgiving distribution will be held November 21st from 5PM-6:30PM



Birthdays: NOVEMBER 2: Gwen Ward; November 3: Jonah Zoglmann; November 6: Leo Ehrlich; November 7: Dale McNerny, Blair Beard; November 14: Sydney Koehn; November 18: Rob Alliband, Evan Black; November 20: Cindy Clem; November 22: Sophia Leis; November 26: Louise Leis; November 28: Kay McNerny

Anniversaries: NOVEMBER 13: Ben & Lacey Wheeler; November 21: John & Amber Wyssman; November 24: Larry & Joy Shiblom; November 27: Curt & Judi Williams

HAPPIEST OF DAYS TO YOU, LOVE RHUMC! ❤️



WELCOMING NEW MEMBERS TO RHUMC

Have you met our new congregation members? On October 6, 2024, RHUMC added 3 wonderful people to our church: Jack Redifer, Melodee Redifer, and Diane Reed. If you haven't met them be sure to tell them hello and introduce yourself.



RHUMC AT THE ROSE HILL FALL FESTIVAL

If you were out and about at the Fall Festival on October 12th, we hope you didn't miss out on the annual Pancake Feed and the United Women in Faith Bake Sale. The Pancake Feed raised \$1,654.01 and the Bake Sale raised an estimated \$500.00. We appreciate all those who contributed to these events and supported RHUMC.





On a sunny Saturday October 19th afternoon, a handful of youth and children from our church met at Advena Living to join residents for a pumpkin decorating party. It was a beautiful sight to see the smiles on the faces of participants of all ages as they decided how to decorate. The kids jumped in to help residents decide on paint colors and decorative accents, and passed out delicious treats before settling down to paint their own pumpkins. Residents expressed their appreciation for providing such a fun event and enjoyed watching the children interact. I delighted in seeing the creativity flow as everyone decorated their pumpkins. It is opportunities such as this- taking a moment to find ways to bring joy to others- that make me thankful to be a part of this church family. Not only are we making a positive impact within our community, we are making an impact on the children and youth as well. We are showing them what it means to love like Jesus and how to serve others. A huge thank you to Mark Davis for donating the pumpkins!! I have it on good authority that there were several "perfect pumpkins" to choose from. A huge thank you also to Sue Tanner, Shannon and Chewy Zoglmann, April Grunder, and Brenda Schneeberger for the role they played in making the party happen- whether it was providing delicious treats, setting up, helping during the party, or staying after to clean up - I appreciate you all! And to the kids - thank you for participating and pitching in to help set up, clean up, and make it a wonderful experience for the residents! Together, we are building a legacy of giving and loving as a community.

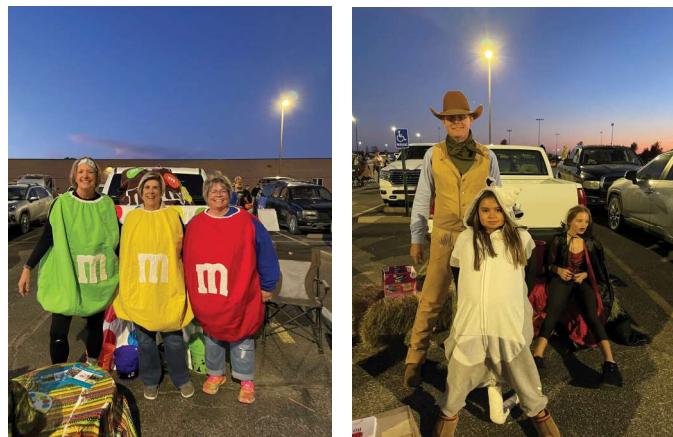


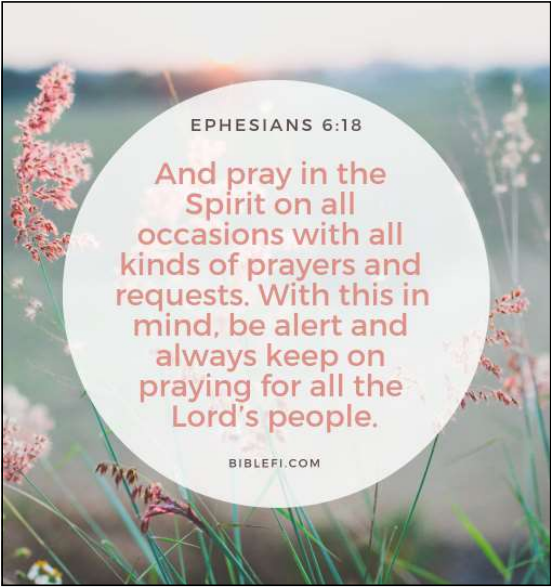
Stacie Fox- Childrens Ministry Director



This year's 2nd Annual Community Trunk or Treat event was a heartwarming celebration of unity and love, brought to life by the collaborative efforts of our local churches. With around 300 children in attendance, the evening was filled with laughter, excitement, and a sense of togetherness that truly reflected the spirit of our community. As families moved from trunk to trunk, each adorned with creative decorations, witnessing the joy on the children's faces and the warmth in their hearts was beautiful. This event served as a powerful reminder of God's love being shared through fellowship and fun, creating cherished memories for families and friends alike. I want to extend my heartfelt thanks to everyone who participated in making this event a success, from those who decorated their trunks to those who donated candy. Your contributions made a significant impact, helping us create a safe and enjoyable environment for our children to celebrate together. It was a privilege to see our community come together in such a meaningful way, and I look forward to continuing to share God's love and joy in future gatherings. Thank you for being an integral part of this beautiful evening!

Stacie Fox- Children's Ministry Director





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); 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); Greg Rinehart (surgery/renal cell carcinoma);

Tom McKee (knee surgery); Gail Futhey (surgery/farming accident); Melanie Leis (breast cancer); Beverly Grunder (hip replacement surgery); Lev Troll (acute lymphoblastic leukemia); Sharon Meyer (cancer); Nursing home/rehab residents. The friends and family in the passing of Siggy Krkosska.

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



ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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