



# ROSE HILL UMC NEWSLETTER

# 01

## FROM BUD TO BLOSSOM: LESSONS FROM A RUBBER PLANT

There is a rubber plant in my office. And yes, to those who know me well—it is still alive despite my negligence and lack of watering. This rubber plant has been with me for several years now, and in my first months here at RHUMC, it was a metaphor to me for the deep growth I sensed God inviting us into through the coming season. A season full of hope, anticipation, dreams, and opportunities to step into something God was already up to. And today, two and a half years into my time at RHUMC, I noticed something on this beloved rubber plant: A red, budding leaf extending from its stem—despite my inability to remember to water her—she persisted and she grew!

This seems to me a reminder of the growth that God is doing in this place: The new buddings of engagement and connection, the vibrant colors of new ideas and Spirit-led inspirations, the sturdiness of the stem of tradition nestled deeply in a soil rich with history and stories, and the ongoing response to the grace of God—the source of grace—like the sunlight that beckons growth to a meager green and red-budded plant.

I see all of this in you. I see all of this in our church, and I continue to give thanks for the people among us and the ministries that our people make up: The ministries that have come and gone through the years, the ministries which are breathed into -

existence through the thoughtfulness of God today, and the ones which are just beginning to bud or are simply seedlings in the rich soil.

We embrace all of this in the coming New Year. We will venture into a season marked with opportunities to dig deep into the soil of spiritual formation and friendship, opportunities to nurture our neighbors and their budding hearts, and opportunities to gain clarity in the kinds of ministries that God is inviting us into in the coming year.

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## FROM BUD TO BLOSSOM CONTINUED...

Every year, through listening to conversations with folks in the congregation, some formal and some not-so-formal, the Leadership Board and I begin discerning the direction we will venture in the coming year. In our ministry team retreat in the Fall of 2024 for our church, we listened to the areas of growth, energy, and passion as well as the areas lacking energy, focus, and even weariness. Through these conversations and listening for God's Spirit, we have discerned three foci for 2025. For those of you who have read through the Charge Conference Booklet (If you have done this—we owe you a prize of some sort!) then you have seen these foci already

And for the 99.99% of the rest of us—here's a sneak peak for the coming year, inspired by conversations with you, prayer, and discernment of God's work among us who really is growing something phenomenal, vibrant, and new in our midst—most definitely more magnificent than my little rubber plant.

We have three areas of focus for our coming year. Our mission is of course, Connect, Love, and Serve, and each of these focus in on one of these areas as well.

**Connect Through Discipleship:** One of the desires we have heard expressed is the desire for spaces to meet new people and connect spiritually and relationally that is low-pressure and doesn't require a lot of preparation. With busy lives and lots of demands, there is still a desire to connect spiritually and relationally; however, our capacity to do this is often limited. We are seeking to experiment with micro-groups this year to create these spaces. We will seek to have at least two experiments throughout 2025 to learn from you all what you desire and seek to make adjustments as needed. We are seeking people who have gifts in creating welcoming spaces to engage in relationship and spiritual connection to be a part of the folks who will get this up and running. If you are interested in learning more about how to participate in the team to get this going, I would love to hear from you! Email me at [lwheeler@greatplainsumc.org](mailto:lwheeler@greatplainsumc.org)

**Love Through Loving Neighbors:** A continued focus for us will be to support and engage with the ministry happening at Wee Rockets Development Center. We have named intentional ways to love the staff at Wee Rockets through resources, trainings, retreat opportunities, and to nurture a culture within the center to become one of empowerment, ongoing spiritual and educational development, and healthy grace-filled communication. If this strikes a passion in you, I would love to hear from you and get you connected to this opportunity! (Email me at above email address)

**Serve Through Ministry Teams:** I don't know if you know, but we have over 12 ministry teams here that are doing good and beautiful work every single day. What a gift! Because we live in a culture that says we must do "all of the things", we often get stretched beyond our capacities and resources—time and energy being two of them! In 2025 we will be taking a closer look at our ministry teams to see how we are loving God, neighbor, self, and creating disciples of Jesus Christ through each of them. We will seek to align each of these teams to the mission of our church. If you are a strategic thinker, a visionary, or someone who likes to step into the work of God among us, this would be a great fit for you too and I would love to hear from you! (Email me at...you get the idea!)

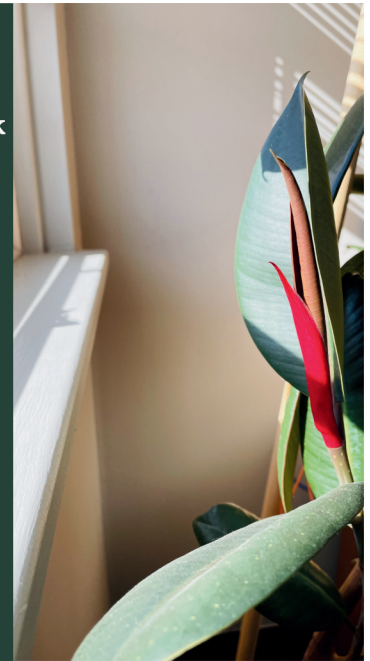
# FROM BUD TO BLOSSOM CONTINUED...

Throughout 2025 we will continue to do the amazing things we do: Care for those who need a little extra food, care, support, worship with enthusiasm and heart, lend a hand up to those who need it, work alongside each other to spread God's love and grace, teach and nurture spiritual growth, among so so many other opportunities we have here to share God's goodness and love to this world.

I feel like this rubber plant was a bit of an inspiration for me, that in the coming months ahead, we will see this growth, we will see a budding, a blossoming, a vibrancy, as we continue to lean in and listen to the Spirit moving among us.

Let's look into 2025 with hearts of expectancy, hope, and wisdom as we are ourselves nurtured by God's grace, and share this with the world.

Go out and Connect, Love, and Serve in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit! Amen.



## # 0 2

As we enter an exciting new year, your Leadership Board is eager to continue serving and worshipping alongside you.

This year, we are pleased to announce that the offering from our Christmas Eve service was donated to Wee Rockets, reflecting our ongoing efforts to strengthen the bond between our church and the daycare. We were able to contribute \$834. Thank you for your generosity!

As the year comes to a close, we celebrate the accomplishments of our ministry teams in 2024. Stay tuned for short video clips showcasing their events, services, and love in action, fulfilling our mission to Connect, Love, and Serve.

We extend our heartfelt thanks to Greg Anderson, Greg Bird, and Judy Nelson for their dedicated service on the board. Greg will continue to serve as our Lay Leader in 2025.

This year, we welcome three new board members: Jessie Poston, DeLaney Redifer, and Diane Reed, who will be commissioned in an upcoming ceremony.

Your 2025 Leadership Board members are:

- Roger Miller (Chair)
- April Grunder
- Doug Mowder
- Cathryn Schulle
- Paul Shackelford
- Rita Paddock
- Diane Reed
- DeLaney Redifer
- Jessie Poston

Jean Epperson serves as Treasurer, and Kimberly Konecny as Secretary.

Our upcoming meetings are scheduled for January 14th and February 11th, both at 7:00 PM.



# MINISTRY MOMENTS



December was a busy month for Hope Connections. We received food and toys from the Rose Hill Police Department, Stuff the Squad Car event at Dollar General. All of the Rose Hill Schools conducted food and hygiene drives so we feel blessed to be stuffed full of food for the winter. With the help of the Youth Group we packed 50 Christmas Dinner bags that were given out and 27 families received gifts provided by local business and families. We have been serving close to 50 families a month with food and hygiene. Thank you all for your continued support.



## United Women in Faith

Our next United Women in Faith Meeting will be February 12 at 6:30PM.

We will have Soup for Mission with Diane Mann and Jessie Poston as our hostesses and Bobby Reed will have our Call to Prayer and Self Denial program.

Rebecca Ruth Circle will be meeting January 23 at 10:00AM in the Parlor.

## JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

January 1st:  
*Floyd Dowell, Delynn Nelson*

January 4th:  
*Rick Nelson*

January 5th:  
*Beverly Grunder*

January 6th:  
*Adyson Shallah, Joyce Webster*

January 9th:  
*Christopher Paddock*

January 12th:  
*Dan Heinz, Tonja McCulloch*

January 15th:  
*Larry Shiblom*

January 16th:  
*Greg Bird*

January 18th:  
*Amber Wyssman*

January 24th:  
*Abigail McCulloch, AJ Reed*

January 27th:  
*Miranda Shackelford*

## JANUARY ANNIVERSARIES

January 2nd:  
*Mr. & Mrs. Marsha Windorski*

January 11th:  
*Greg & Alicia Bird (50th)*

January 20th:  
*Mr. & Mrs. Tonie Rollins*

January 22nd:  
*Jack & DeLaney Redifer*

At this year's Christmas Program, the children and audience dove deep into the season to celebrate God's greatest gift - his Son, Jesus with a SCUBA Christmas! We brought our Bible Buddies from VBS back to help us tell the story of Jesus' birth. The kids did an incredible job and I was so proud of each and every one of them for their willingness to get up in front of a crowd to speak, sing, and dance! Santa surprised us with a visit at the end of the program and each child/youth received their very own Christmas Bell and Golden Ticket that reminds them "Jesus is the Ticket to Heaven!" Seeing the little ones' faces light up when Santa makes his entrance is always a joyful moment! Following the Christmas Program, our families stayed over to participate in our annual Gingerbread Bash! We all look forward to this event every year and it is probably one of the most popular among the kids! I loved watching the kids laugh and giggle as they built their nativity scenes and snuck pieces of candy. Their creativity came out in full force and so many memories were made! It was a long day but an extremely fun and festive one.

Thank you to everyone who helped before, during, and after. It wouldn't have been the success it was without you!

Stacie Fox  
Children's Ministry Director





Meeting

SANTA

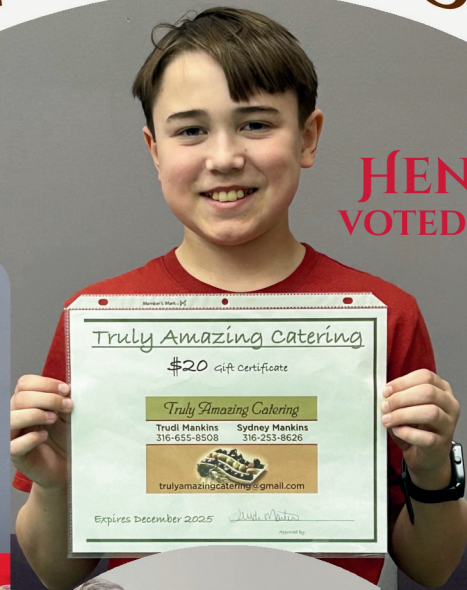


# Gingerbread Bash



# TASTE OF CHRISTMAS

HENRY FOX  
VOTED BEST RECIPE



“Recipes were sampled and shared as holiday music and fellowship was enjoyed by more than 100 people. Organizers Sue Tanner, Virginia Morgan, Becky Arheart, Kendra Tharp and Larry Dutton felt the event went really well. 19 people prepared samples. All recipes were printed in a new cookbook”—Rose Hill Reporter (paraphrased)





# Hope Connections Christmas Distribution

50 Christmas Dinner Bags were served to our community, and 27 families were provided with Christmas Gifts this year! The Youth and Children's ministry even partnered with Scattergood Sunday School Class to adopt a family of their own!





# CHRISTMAS EVE *Candlelight Service*



Happy Holidays from  
Handpan Dan!

Hope your Christmas  
is out of this world!

Scan the QR code and  
enjoy 40 holiday songs  
on handpan!

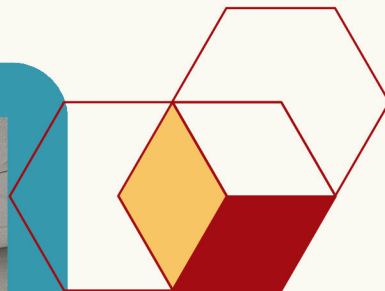
Thanks for supporting  
handpan in community!  
Daniel Baul





# YOUTH LOCK-IN 2024

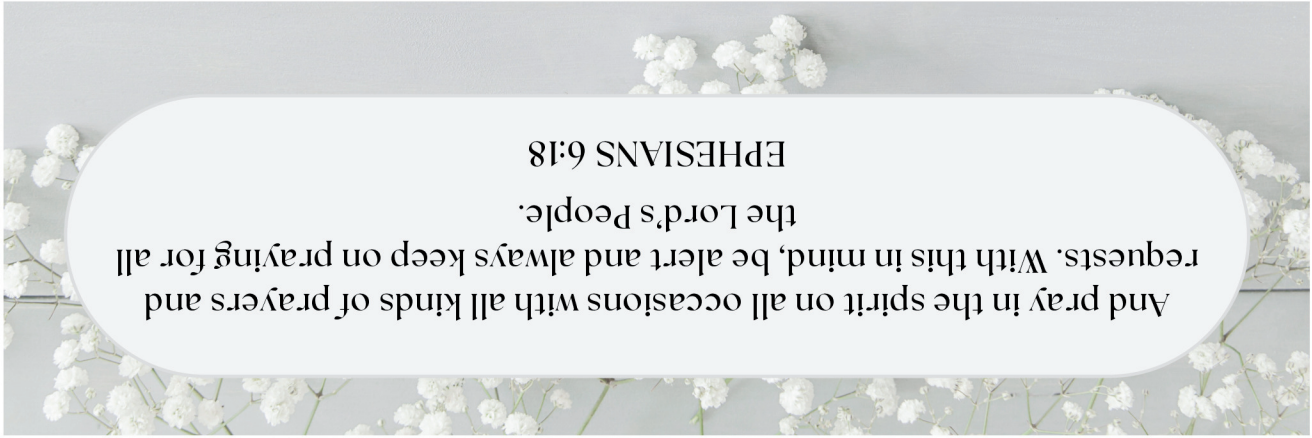
The Youth Group held their annual Lock-In on December 27. In addition to food, games and fellowship, they were able to produce several blankets for Mark Davis' homeless ministry. We had a record number of non-Rose Hill UMC youth attending, both from our community and by partnering with another Methodist church youth group in Wichita. Our Youth Group serves 6th through 12th graders and is always welcoming new young people. If you know someone or would like more information please reach out to Evan Black 316-305-6728.





**ROSE HILL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**  
 PO BOX 189 | 19551 SV BUTLER RD  
 ROSE HILL, KS 67133

## ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



And pray in the spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord's People.  
 EPHESIANS 6:18

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

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; The fires in California; 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); Mike Rollins (rotator cuff surgery); Joy Pearson (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); Melanie Leis (breast cancer); Lev Troll (acute lymphoblastic leukemia); Sharon Meyer (cancer); Kendra Tharp's father Bill (hospice care); Larry Dutton's grandson Marshall Dutton (car accident); Nursing home/rehab residents;