



I wanna be where the people are...

BY PASTOR LACEY WHEELER

One of my favorite movies growing up was *The Little Mermaid*. I would spend hours pretending to be Ariel with long flowing red hair and a fin that would help me gracefully swim around my living room! When I was in the bath, in my mind, I immediately became a mermaid, and when I was in the pool, I was convinced I had a fin to swim!

I wanted to be a mermaid.

Still do if I'm 100% honest.

But, Ariel? She wanted to be human, with legs, because she wanted to be where the people were. It didn't matter to her that she wouldn't know how to walk on legs, how to converse in an air-filled atmosphere, or how to interact with humans on dry land, she wanted to be where those people were.

At age four or five I would belt out the lyrics to one of my favorite songs from this movie, *Part of Your World*, not grasping the evangelical undertones of such a song:

*I wanna be where the people are.
I wanna see, wanna see 'em dancin'.
Walkin' around on those... what d'ya
call 'em? Oh, feet.*

Ultimately for Ariel, she wanted to be "part of that world". Granted, Ariel was swayed by a wide-smiled, dark-haired prince, but nonetheless, she wanted to be part of that world.

I wonder if we have the same desire when it comes to being "where the people are". Do we want to go somewhere we may not know how to navigate, may not know the cultural nuances, or may not know how to function in the atmosphere "where the people are"? And is our hesitancy to want to become "part of that world" hindering our ability, as the Church, to build relationships outside of the mortar and brick, and investing in people right where *they* are, instead of where we are?

Our culture, and our church is not excluded from this, is grappling with how we move from asking people to meet us "where we are" to shifting our mindset of meeting people "where they are". This means, largely, that we will be invited into cultures, circumstances, ways of existing, that we know nothing about.

Continued...

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Continued... I wanna be where the people are...

It feels like we have gone from swimming in the water with fins to walking on land with wobbly human legs in the span of just a few years. Through the last several years we have gone from a fairly static community to one that is highly mobile and nimble. Students are able to engage in classes across the country at their favored schools online, we can worship at several different churches throughout the week and interface with grandparents on Facetime.

In his book *Not Just Sunday*, Jevon Caldwell-Gross discusses the "DIY" culture that we are in. Just this week I called my mom to ask if she knew what something was that I found on a plant, maybe an insect egg or something. Her response was "Did you Google it?"

My mom said this!

We google to see how to replace a drain in our kitchen or unclog a toilet, how to write a letter of reference or what those round egg-like things on our plants are.

People are not going to a class at one synchronous time to explore these things, they are engaging online at their time, in their own way. These tools are meeting people "where the people are". These devices have become "part of that world." In our living rooms, bedrooms, patios.

Caldwell-Gross invites us to be curious around how our faith might also participate in this culture, and how we might be "part of that world" as Ariel might sing it.

"This approach", Caldwell-Gross goes on to say, "has a profound impact on family ministry. It shifts the ministry focus from simply bringing children and youth to church to participate in church activities to equipping parents and caregivers as active and engaged partners in their children's growth and spiritual development."

What would it look like if we began equipping people to participate in these spiritual developmental opportunities right where they are? At home, with their families, or on the go to a game or a choir concert. This can happen "Through conversations at the dinner table or even car rides home from school...faith development for families doesn't just happen at church...but in the rhythm of daily life..."

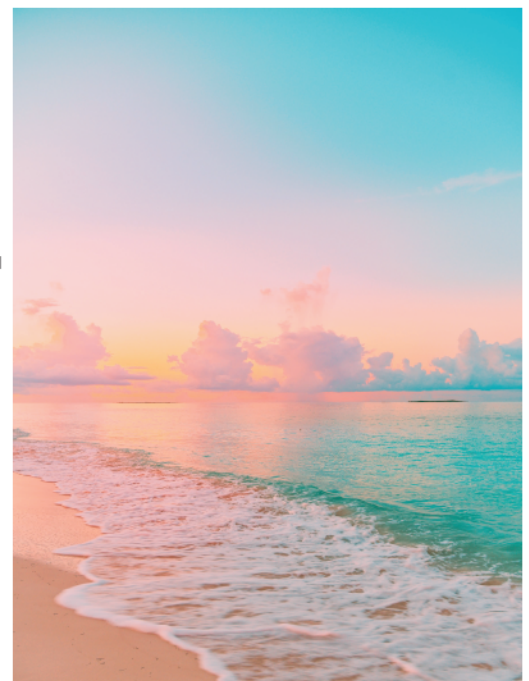
I wonder, are we willing to meet them where they are, to be "part of that world"?

If you are up for the challenge, here's an experiment to have this month:

1. Choose a meal you will be at with someone else, this could be your family, a friend or someone you sit next to at the Senior Center.
2. Through conversation, choose from the following questions to ask:
 - a. I'm curious, where are you finding joy (energy, life, excitement, curiosity, purpose) in your life right now?
 - b. What is that like? How can you do more of that?
 - c. Share with them where you are finding joy and add how that connects to your experience of God.
 - d. If you're feeling brave, you can even ask if there is anything you can be in prayer for that person.
3. Let the conversation flow and if you are feeling resistance, try again with another person or another time. This doesn't have to be difficult and it can really be quite life giving.

May we enter the world seeking ways we can meet them where they are and maybe, along with Ariel, swim in a new culture singing "I don't know when, I don't know how, but I know something's starting right now, watch and you'll see, someday I'll be, part of your world!"

-Pastor Lacey Wheeler



A Note From:



United Women in Faith



Hope Connections of SW Butler County



Hope Connections is going well. A summer program that we help support is called Love In A Lunchbox. Kids in Douglass can get lunch at a local church twice a week and go home with a swim pass for the Douglass pool and sack of snacks. Hope Connections pays for some of the snacks in the bags and the pool passes. They are expecting 100 kids to participate. Thanks for your contributions so we can Connect, Love and Serve.

-Meggin DeMoss

The RHUMC Leadership Board meeting on April 12, 2026, included discussion on advancing the new vision launch by planning a three part sermon series for September, initiating a logo creation project. Administrative agenda items included the approval of the first-quarter financial report, the decision to leave property funds in a CD pending Townhall discussion, and the start of planning for the Fall stewardship campaign. The next board meeting is scheduled for May 12.

-Diane Reed

Four Sisters Lavender Farm

UW Faith invites church attendees to a "You Cut" event at the Four Sisters' Farm.

WHERE: 6566 SW 160th St, Douglass KS

WHEN: June 10th, 6:00-7:30pm

COST: \$15 /person

EVENT INCLUDES: A presentation about the lavender farm, time in the lavender rows to cut bundles, a peek into the lavender drying shed, lavender refreshments, time to shop lavender products, and if you wish you may stay longer to watch the sunset.

MORE INFO: Free parking, may take photos in the lavender, no pets, children are welcome with family but must be accompanied by an adult at all times, and the ground in the fields is uneven in places.

VERY IMPORTANT:

LIMIT OF 40 INDIVIDUALS

Sign up and payment no later than May 31
Payment by cash or check to UWF by May 31

Questions and payment to:

Virginia Morgan

morgan6549@cox.net or 316-776-9663

UW Faith honored two well-deserving women with Special Mission Recognition pins on UW Faith Sunday: Meggin DeMoss and Miranda Shackelford. Meggin, thank you for all you do to support our UW Faith mission for women, children and youth. Miranda, we're excited about your ministry journey and hope you remember that UW Faith is here for you, keeping you in our thoughts and prayers.

Our next general meeting will be a Salad Luncheon on July 15th (this is a date change) at 10:00 am.

-Rita McGinnis

WELCOME OUR NEW STAFF MEMBERS



Becky Arheart Bell Choir Director

Please help us welcome our new Bell Choir Director, Becky Arheart! Becky has been a dedicated member of the Rocket Ringers since the group was founded 13 years ago, and we are excited for her to step back into this leadership role. Outside of church, Becky enjoys kayaking and spending time outdoors. She and her husband, Thane, have been married for 24 years and have two sons: Zander, 22, who will graduate from K-State this May, and Anthen, 20, who will be a junior at K-State in the fall.

Ashley McQuary Nursery/PreK Director

Ashley has been connected to Rose Hill United Methodist Church since she was a child, attending events through the years as the granddaughter of Rose Mary Templin. Ashley and her fiancé, Jason, have been together for five years and have four children: Addy, 12; Flynn, 3; and twins Willow and Mavis, who are 1 year old. In her spare time, Ashley enjoys sewing and spending time with her family.



WELCOME OUR NEW MEMBERS

The Catlin Family

Luke, Carrie & Audrey



Cheryl Fuhrmann



The McKee Family

Riley, Christine & Warren



Spring Bell Concert

On May 3rd, our Rocket Ringers hosted a Spring Bell Concert! There were 73 people in attendance! The concert included the following songs about God:

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- Every Time I Feel The Spirit arr. Patricia Hurlbutt
 - I Want Jesus to Walk with Me arr. Tammy Waldrop
 - El Shaddai arr. Susam E. Geschke
 - Blessed Be Your Name arr. Peggy Bettcher
 - How Great is Our God with How Great Thou Art arr. Peggy Bettcher
 - Agnes Dei arr. Joel Raney
 - Revelation Song with Holy, Holy, Holy arr. Peggy Bettcher
 - God Be With You till We Meet Again arr. Cathy Moglebust
 - Shall We Gather at the River arr. Jason W. Krug
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Bell Choir Members

Jolene Bextel, Amber Koehn,
Kelsey Lewis, Diane Reed,
Delynn Nelson, Pat Beran,
Miranda Shackelford, Louise Leis,
Bricken Lewis, Riley McKee,
Colsen Lewis, Becky Arheart



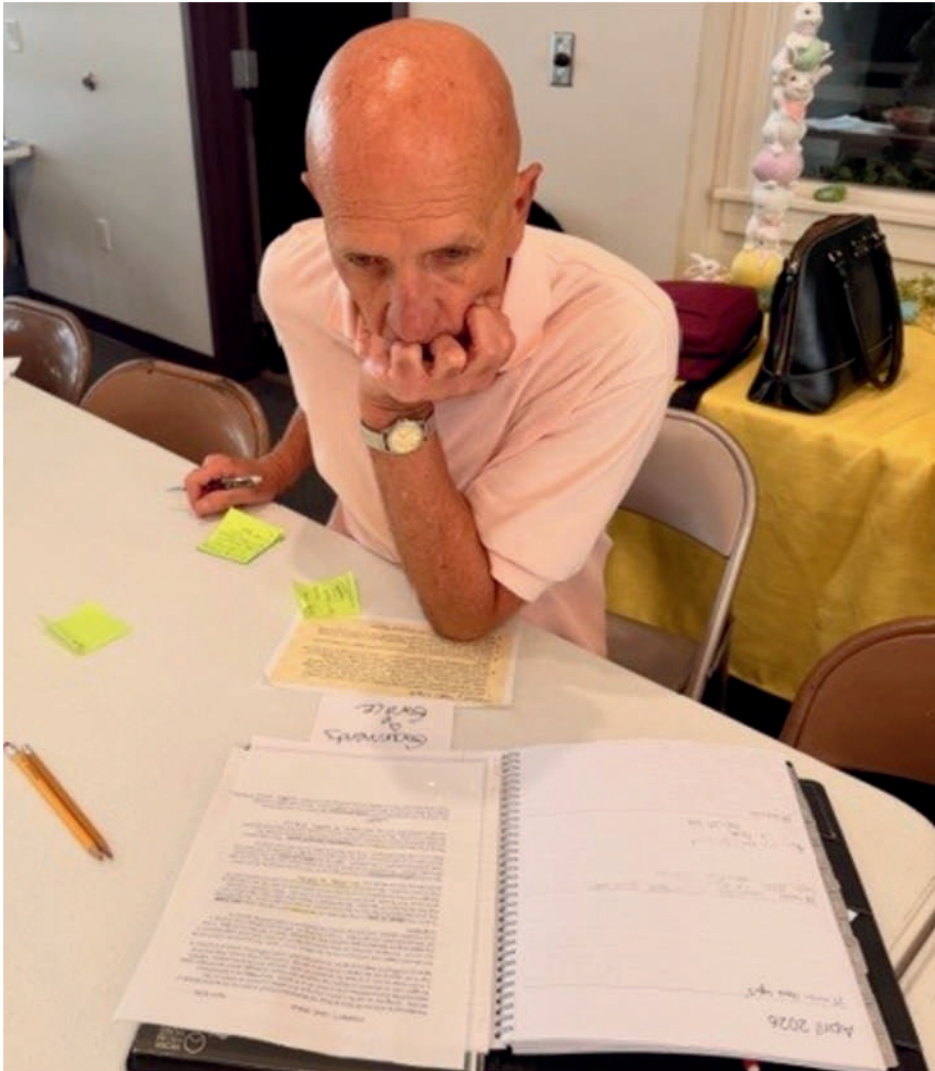
Social Justice Gathering

Guest speaker, Jeff Graber, Associate Pastor from Wichita First
April 15, 2026



Ministry Team Vision Retreat

We asked all of our Ministry Team leads and participants to gather together on April 26th for a visioning retreat. At this retreat, we looked at the incredible efforts, projects, services and programs our ministry teams are currently participating in and ways that we could align with our new vision for the future!





Mark Your Calendars

- MAY
17 | 10:00 am - 11:00 am
Graduation Sunday
Celebrate our Graduates with us during service
- MAY
17-31 | Sunday Mornings
Church Directory Photos
Contact Kendra Tharp for more information
- May
25 | 9:00 am - 3:00 pm
Memorial Day
Office Closed
- JUNE
4-6 | 9:00 am - 6:00 pm
RHUMC Garage Sale
Call the office to set up a donation time
- JUNE
7 | 11:30 am - 12:30 pm
Curiously Connected
explore RHUMC, theologies of the UMC & Membership
- JUNE
10 | 6:00 pm - 7:30 pm
Four Sisters Lavender Farm (UWF)
Cost \$15/person Sign Up by May 31 Limit 40 people
- JUNE
17 | 5:30 pm - 7:30 pm
Youth Gathering
Wyssman's House
- JULY
6-10 | 9:00 am - 12:15 pm
Vacation Bible School
Rainforest Falls - Exploring the Nature of God

Guest Preachers



Samuel O'Banion is a Licensed Local Pastor appointed as the Associate Pastor of East Heights UMC in Wichita. He's been in ministry since 2016 in independent Christian Churches, then joining the United Methodist Church as a member and pastor in July 2024. He is currently attending Perkins School of Theology at Southern Methodist University, pursuing a Master of Divinity for ordination as an Elder in the Great Plains Annual Conference. He's been a resident of Derby since 2014 when he moved to marry his partner, Hayley. They have three children: Emlynn (7), Callan (4), and Adalyn (2), who occupy much of their time with joy, imagination, and laughter. Outside of family, he enjoys watching just about any sport, drinking coffee, reading, writing, cooking, music, and above all, preaching.

In The Know

Starting May 10th, we will be taking Directory photos on Sunday mornings. Questions? Contact Kendra Tharp (620) 229-8120 or the office.



The Great Plains Conference invites our church leaders to join 30,000 congregations and their pastors across the globe in the Miracle Sunday Initiative, a six-week, churchwide emphasis that culminates on May 17, 2026. As part of this emphasis, congregations will also be invited to receive a special offering that will help support 500 students each year as they prepare for pastoral ministry throughout Africa, Europe, and the Philippines. The coordinator of Miracle Sunday in the Great Plains Conference is Rev. Rodgers Chishiba, pastor of Colby UMC.

If you would like to donate online, Please follow the QR code.



UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

PEACE WITH JUSTICE SUNDAY

Raises awareness to promote peaceful and just efforts and sustainable solutions to conflict. Donations on this Sunday support programs that reflect God's call for a faithful, just, disarmed, and secure world.



If you would like to donate online, Please follow the QR code.

CAMP HORIZON SUMMER 2026 SCHEDULE

Main Camp (3rd-8th Grade)
Leaders in Training (9th- 11th Grade)
 June 8-12
 June 22-26
 July 6-10
 July 20-24

\$470

Preview Camp (1 Night)
 June 10-11
 July 8-9

\$125

Mini Camp (Wed-Fri)
 June 24-26
 July 8-10
 July 22-24

\$235

Middle School
 June 15-19

\$490

High School
 July 12-17

\$600

Day Camp (Wednesday)
 June 9
 July 7

\$50




Follow the QR code to register online.
 Use code RoseHill for 25% off your registration.
 Week long camps increased \$25 May 1st!

April Statistics



Finance

4/5 - \$3,289.00
4/12 - \$3,344.00
4/19 - \$4,705.00
4/26 - \$2,856.00



Attendance

Holy Week
 Good Friday - 25
 SonRise - 25
 Easter Cantata - 171

4/12 - 92
4/19 - 134
4/26 - 93



- 1** - Mandy Olson
- 3** - Avery Dewey
- 5** - Barbara Wallace
- 15** - Cathryn Schulle
- 17** - Ashley Mowder
- 20** - Jack Redifer
- 23** - Jadan Heinz
- 24** - Kathy Santo

- 26** - Debbie Rayl
- 27** - Ken Beran
- 28** - Robin Nelson
- 28** - Brooke Shackelford
- 31** - Cash Jensen
- 31** - Coral Jensen
- 31** - Zoey Jensen



- 1** - Ray & Cindy McMann
- 6** - Matthew & Sharon Zoglmann
- 8** - Brad & Kristi McCune
- 9** - Tim & Barb Nelson
- 10** - Rick & Judy Nelson
- 18** - Dakota & Brittany Jensen

- 19** - Doug & Ashley Mowder
- 20** - Larry Dutton & Kendra Tharp
- 21** - Greg & Stacie Fox
- 23** - Riley & Christine McKee
- 27** - CJ & Jolene Bextel