

November
2023

Thankful
Grateful
Blessed

First United Methodist Church

Revelation

Pastor Peddling's:

Whenever the annual church conference is over, I feel a significant "WHEW!" It's always been that way for me. I can't explain why; I don't know.

In the past I always started preparing for church conferences in July with nominations work, but this year was a little different with my recent move to Concordia, since I was learning a system that was new to me. Really, I think church conference preparation is in the process of becoming an all-year-round process (as it probably should be), and the longer I serve the church, the more relevant I find that to be.

Still, I want to share a few highlights that came from preparing for this year's church conference. There are four things I find have particular importance; I consider all of them to be goals for 2024 that will need all of us to work on.

The first involves lay member-pastor visits with membership to foster building relationships. So much of what any church does is based upon relationships. The more people connect and get to know one another and learn about the mission of the church, I believe the stronger the ministry of the church is. Likewise, people transferring membership from another United Methodist congregation will be asked if they will participate in a five-part conversation with the pastor, and people who are new to the United Methodist tradition or to Christianity, will have a longer process to membership. With each process, the current membership of the church will be invited to participate, but just as refresher work of what it means to be United Methodist.

The second part will involve greater utilization of the church's Facebook page, website, and possibly YouTube, which will be similar to witnessing through vlogging (video recordings) or blogging (written pieces). The goal is to make video logging (vlogging) a weekly feature that people can watch, where members will be interviewed by me. There may also be some exploration into publishing/emailing devotions written by church members. There may also be weekly video devotions on Facebook, as well. One thing that really helps with all of the Facebook page activity, is to have as many people share what they see posted by the church. Sharing postings is a tool of evangelism, as people in the community hear/read what is going on in the church. So, whenever you see something posted, remember to "like" it, comment on it, and share it.

The third part involves fostering a deeper bond with our brothers and sisters in Christ who attend worship at the Trinity UMC.

Fourth, to explore ways to secure adequate funding to meet budget and mission shares. Like many churches, the Concordia First UMC family finds itself in a time of transition, so being as transparent as possible with how the church finances are is going to be a key to the economic condition of the church, but being intentional in developing future budgets, evaluating who we are and what we do in service to the Cloud County area is also part of the equation, and (of course) doing our part to make disciples for the transformation of the world.

All of this aligns with my motto for newsletter ministry. So, that's why I suggest that together we "just keep pedaling."

Pastor Mark Crist



Enhanced Online Giving

Additional options have been enabled for online giving through our web site. You can access Online Giving or scan the QR code with your phone.

Through online giving, you have the option to give with a credit card or to setup direct deposit from your checking account. These gifts can be setup for a one-time gift or as a recurring gift. There is even an option to increase your gift to cover the cost of credit card processing fees!

We encourage you to create an account using the e-mail address you receive e-mails on from the church so your giving is associated with your account in the ChurchTrac membership system and will appear on your annual giving statement. By creating an

account, you will also have access to all of the giving options mentioned above. If you do not want to create an account, there is an option to give as a guest.



Finance

October Attendance

| | |
|------------|----|
| October 1 | 50 |
| October 8 | 52 |
| October 15 | 60 |
| October 22 | 40 |
| October 29 | 46 |

October Financials

| |
|----------------------------------|
| Monthly Budget Need: \$14,000.00 |
| October Offering: \$8,878.00 |
| October M&M's: \$350.00 |

Community Foundation's Match Month

Concordia First United Methodist Church will be participating in The Community Foundation's Match Month. Please consider a gift to our endowed account in the month of November. Checks made out to the community foundation for Cloud County with Concordia FUMC in the memo line can be mailed or delivered to the community foundation, or left at the church before the end of November.

The Patterson Family Foundation will match donations to eligible funds at the Community Foundation for Cloud County through November. Overall donations, up to \$20,000, will be matched by 100%. If overall donations exceed \$20,000, then donations will be matched proportionally.

Meals on Wheels

The Senior Center is looking for volunteers to deliver Meals on Wheels. To volunteer, contact the Senior Center at 243-1872. Meals on Wheels provides a hot meal and human contact for the homebound.



Layette Set Event Photos

Thanks to all who sewed blankets, donated items, and helped to assemble 75 layette sets for distribution by the Cloud County Health Department in the coming year!



During October we partnered with the Cloud County Health Department to host a Community Baby Shower that had 20 participants (9 new or expectant mothers) and 19 participants from 10 community partners. We were thrilled to hand out layette sets to families in person!



Cloud County Resource Center Needs

The Food Bank is open and accepting donations of cash or food items for distribution on **Monday/Wednesday/Friday from 9:00 am – 5:00 pm**. The Food Bank can be utilized once each month; an appointment must be made 24 hours in advance to pick up food at the Food Bank.

The CCRC is holding monthly **Writing Workshops** for anyone who wants to discuss ideas, brainstorming, editing, collaborations, and getting published. The group meets on the last Tuesday of the month at 7:00 pm at the CCRC.

Holiday Basket applications are now available and must be returned to the CCRC through November 10th. Help will be needed to pack Thanksgiving and Christmas Holiday Baskets – watch the Missions Bulletin Board and e-mail for dates helper. If you need more information about activities or would like to volunteer at the CCRC, please contact Tonya Merrill at 785-243-1065 or ccrc@nckcn.com.

Little Free Pantry



Thanks for your continued support of the Little Free Pantry. Please place your donations directly in the pantry. You may also leave food donations in the food box in the entry of the church for future use. During the holiday season, there will be increased traffic at the pantry and all donations will be greatly appreciated.

If you prefer, you can also make a monetary donation to help purchase food for the pantry. Thanks to Pam Campbell and Lisa Valcove for helping to place food from our store in the pantry daily!



Missions and Outreach

Missions Buckets will be passed on November 19th for the United Methodist Student Day Special Offering. For more information about this offering, visit <https://www.umc.org/en/content/united-methodist-student-day-faq>



Thank you for your generous donations of \$46.96 in the October Missions Buckets to support the World Communion Sunday Special Offering. For more information about this offering, visit <https://www.umc.org/en/content/world-communion-sunday-ministry-article>.

Table Talk

Table Talk is going quite well. We have added a few families which has been once again, great! We would like to welcome you to join us for dinner at 6:00 pm. This would give all of you as well as the youth and children a chance to get to know each other. When the attendees have time between arrival and lessons, we have been playing some card and board games. It would be great to have some more players. Lessons begin at 6:30 pm.

–**JAM**- 4yr olds to 4th grade- Mary Thoman is our leader for that group and Donna Reedy, Patty Mosher and Julie Cory have been helping with that group. JAM has grown to 8 children.

In October, they learned about the Magnificent Magi, and made a Pumpkin Prayer book as Mary carved out a pumpkin with them. They had a great time!

In November, JAM will be having some short lessons from the Bible and will start practicing how to use the bells for their presentation during the Christmas Program.

–**The Rock**- 5th-7th grade- Cindy Kocher leader. This group has grown to 5 when all are in attendance. The Rock has had some great conversations about being a Christian using the Big Bold Curriculum as a guide. On October 25th, they learned how darkness hides, but God helps us find the light. During this lesson, each Rock member carved their own pumpkin to find the light inside. The first couple of lessons in November, the pre-teens will join IMPACT in the Christian based movie “The Blind Side” and discuss what actions in the movie are Christian like. They will start practicing for their parts in the Christmas Program as well as make cookies for Cookie Day in the upcoming weeks..

– **IMPACT**- 8th-12th grade- Jason Johnson leader and Deb Ketterman aide. This group has between 4 and 8 attendees each Wednesday night. They just finished their Fathom series on the Teachings of Jesus from the New Testament books of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. Word is this was an amazing series of lessons! The first couple of lessons in November, they will watch and discuss the Christian based movie “The Blind Side”. Later in the month, they will bake cookies for Cookie Day and begin casting parts and practicing for the Christmas Program. I would like to thank all of those that volunteer on Wednesday nights. We have some wonderful and dedicated meal prep workers, teachers and aides. You make this a great night for our kids!



Dates to Remember

Wednesday, November 29th- All Table Talk classes will be baking or decorating cookies.

Sunday, December 10th:

****Room at the Inn** Christmas Program during Worship at 10:30

****Santa arrives at 11:15ish**

****Lunch served to all**

****Caroling to follow lunch**

So let's strive for the things that bring peace and the things that build each other up. Romans 14:19



Thank you Loren and Joyce Swenson for the Hay Rack Ride!!!



Snow days are coming!



We know that our church has the BEST sledding hill in our area and we want to welcome the families who come to use it this winter.

If you would be willing to help serve coffee and hot cocoa on sledding days, please let Nancy Wentz know so you can be added to the call list!

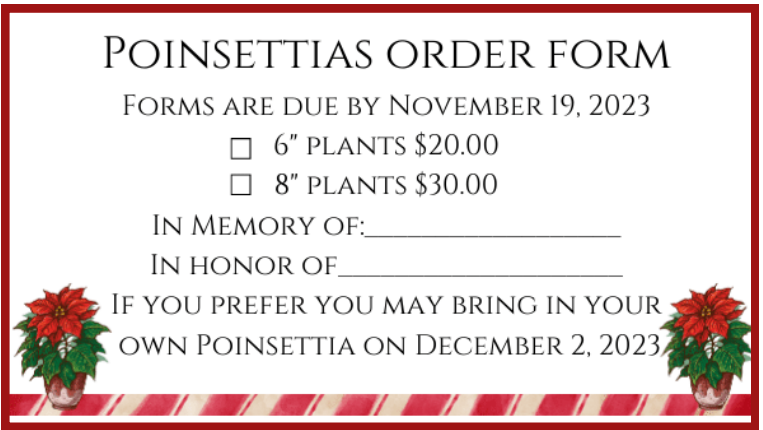
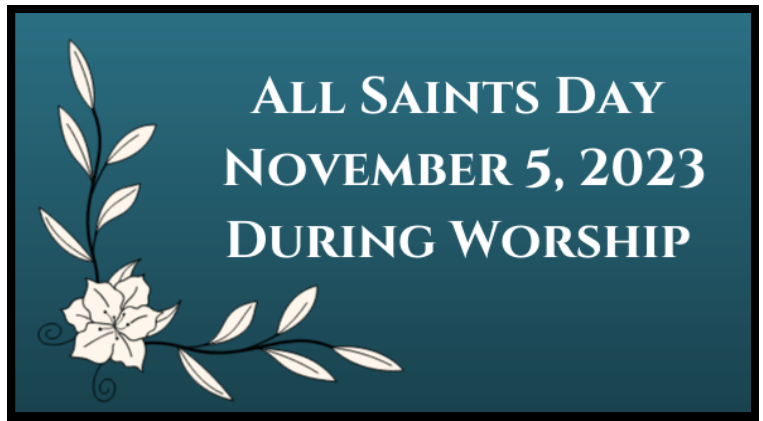
CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PROGRAM
SUNDAY DECEMBER 10, 2023



10:30AM
SOUP LUNCHEON
RIGHT AFTER WORSHIP
CAROLING IN
THE AFTERNOON



SANTA WILL BE
HERE AFTER WORSHIP



Thriving Congregations Survey

Our church has been involved in a program to help us thrive, and this program is part of an initiative from Lilly Endowment called Thriving Congregations. We have been invited to participate in a survey so that Lilly Endowment can learn how the program has been helpful for our church and how it might be more helpful in the future.

Please complete this 15-minute online survey by November 19, 2023. This survey is anonymous, and your participation is voluntary. Thank you for participating!

Survey link: https://samford.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_8i7AIP39t81mELQ



Advent

Pastor Mark will be announcing an "Advent Bible Study" on Facebook and in the Bulletins Soon!



Thanksgiving Dinner

Sunday, November 12th

11:00 am - 12:30 pm

\$15 per meal

Drive-Through Pick-Up or Dine-In

Delivery available - call 243-4560

**Help is needed
November 10th -12th!
Sign-up on the main
bulletin board
or contact the church
office to sign-up
TODAY!**



COOKIE DAY!

DECEMBER 2, 2023

9:00AM
UNTIL COOKIES ARE GONE!

CONCORDIA 1 UMC
740 WEST 11TH ST.
CONCORDIA KANSAS
(ENTER THROUGH BASEMENT DOOR)

COOKIES
\$15.00 A BOX
PROCEEDS GO TO MISSIONS



COOKIE DAY!

DECEMBER 2, 2023

9:00AM
UNTIL COOKIES ARE GONE!

**CALLING ALL FUMC BAKERS:
HOMEMADE CHRISTMAS COOKIES**

DELIVERED TO THE CHURCH BY 5:00PM
THURSDAY NOVEMBER 30.



Attention:
Choir Practice!
Wednesday nights
at 5:30
NEW VOICES WELCOME!

All We need is:

A Cup of



A Few



And a



Full of Jesus!

LADIES COFFEE

JITTERS

9:00AM.

NOVEMBER 4, 2023

ALL LADIES OF THE CHURCH
ARE WELCOME!

History Quiz!

How many hymns and poems did
Charles Wesley write?

A 400 C 4,000

B 900 D 9,000

The answer is hidden somewhere in this
newsletter.



**YOGA CLASSES
FOR ALL AGES!**

In the Choir Room

5:30pm

every Sunday evening

All are Welcome! Contact Angie Gabel McConkey
or Mary Thoman for more details!



How can we help others in Cloud County during the holiday season? Here are some ideas!



Concordia First United Methodist Church

Belong | Believe | Become



Bring these items to the Concordia 1st UMC Missions Tree by December 10th for use in Holiday Baskets prepared by the Cloud County Resource Center (CCRC) and the ABATE Toy Run:

| | |
|--|---------------------|
| Hats, Scarves, and Gloves for men, women, and children | |
| Toys & Gifts for Teens | Stuffing Mix |
| Cranberry Sauce | Macaroni and Cheese |
| Canned Fruit | Ramen Noodles |
| Soup | Cereal |
| Pumpkin Pie Filling | Hygiene Products |
| Evaporated Milk | Pet Supplies |



Food items can also be delivered directly to the CCRC (open 9 am—5 pm, M/W/F) and toys can be dropped off at CloudCorp or Alliance Insurance for the ABATE Toy Run. Specific items for children or seniors can be purchased by visiting the Angel Tree at Walmart.

Give money for CCRC Holiday Baskets!

We will pass the Missions Buckets on **December 3rd and 10th** and all money will be used to help families in need. You can also make a donation or adopt a family directly by contacting Tonya Merrill at the CCRC (243-1065, ccrc@nckcn.com). Each basket costs \$75 to prepare.



Volunteer to help prepare and distribute Holiday Baskets at the CCRC!

The CCRC will need lots of help packing holiday baskets and wrapping Christmas gifts! Watch the Missions Bulletin Board, Facebook, and your e-mail for specific dates and times help is needed. For more details, Contact Tonya Merrill at the CCRC (243-1065, ccrc@nckcn.com).



Volunteer to help ring the Salvation Army Bells at Walmart on Sunday, December 17th from 12:00—6:00 pm!

A sign-up list is on the Missions Bulletin Board. More than 90% of the funds collected stay in Cloud County. In past years, \$800+ was raised during the time Concordia 1st UMC was ringing the bells! If you aren't available to volunteer on December 11th, contact Toby Nosker (785-614-2070, tobynosker@yahoo.com) to volunteer for another time.



Spread a little cheer by joining us for Christmas Caroling on Sunday, December 10th!

Join us after Worship (and the youth Christmas Program) for lunch in the Fellowship Hall with caroling to immediately follow. A list of members will be included in the December Newsletter if you would like to send cards or letters.



Happy Birthday!

| | |
|----------------------|-------------------------|
| 1~Doug Moore | 18~Randy Johnson |
| 4~Braden Johnson | 18~Denise DeRocheforte- |
| 4~David Strait | Reynolds |
| 5~Sarah Holbert | 19~Wyatt Townsdin |
| 6~Brett Baker | 20~Ritchie Farrell |
| 10~Peggi Barrett | 21~Ben Peltier |
| 10~Margaret Thornton | 23~Russell Dethloff |
| 11~Nathan Brown | 23~Brenton Edwards |
| 14~Cynthia Strait | 28~Wendy Holt |
| 14~Marjorie Cruzen | 28~Norman McMilian |
| 15~Ann Lanoue | 28~Richard Peterson |
| 16~Sheila Caspers | 28~Halie Steinle |
| 16~Tracey Holmes | 28~David Brewer |
| 16~Janessa Soward | 30~Lori Halfhide |



November



Sunday Morning Volunteers




| November | 5 | 12 | 19 | 26 |
|-------------------|---------------|----------------------|------------------|----------------|
| Worship Leader | | | | |
| Sound | | | | Monte Wentz |
| Media | | | Janice Swenson | Janice Swenson |
| Greeters | Patty Mosher | Patty Mosher | Ann & Jim Lanoue | |
| Nursery Helpers | Patty Mosher | Patty Mosher | Patty Mosher | Patty Mosher |
| Children's Moment | | Angie Gabel-McConkey | | |
| Scripture Reader | | | | |
| Ushers | Lyle Pounds | Lyle Pounds | Lyle Pounds | Lyle Pounds |
| Acolytes | Gannon Brown | Gannon Brown | | |
| Coffee Bar | Marsha Wentz | Marsha Wentz | Marsha Wentz | Marsha Wentz |
| Alter Flowers | Joyce Swenson | Joyce Swenson | | |

Sunday Morning Volunteers Please gather for prayer with
 Pastor Mark in the Chapel at 10:20am.

Please Contact the Church Office if you can help with any of the Volunteer Opportunities!



NOVEMBER 2023

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|---|---|-----|---|-----|-----|--------------------------------------|
| | | | 1 5:00 Sitting With Jesus 5:30 Choir Practice | 2 | 3 | 4 9:00 Ladies Coffee @ Jitters |
| 5 9:00 Choir Practice 9:30 Crusaders Searchers 10:30 Worship All Saints Recognition 5:30 Yoga | | 7 | 8 5:00 Sitting With Jesus 5:30 Choir Practice 6:00 Table Talk Meal 6:30 Classes Begin | 9 | 10 | 11 |
| 6  | | | | | | |
| 12 10:30 Worship Veteran Recognition 11:00 Thanksgiving Dinner | 13 5:30pm FUMC Council | 14 | 15 10-00 Commodities 5:00 Sitting With Jesus 5:30 Choir Practice 6:00 Table Talk Meal 6:30 Classes Begin | 16 | 17 | 18 |
| 19 9:00 Choir Practice 9:30 Crusaders Searchers 10:30 Worship Poinsettia Orders Due | 20 5:30 M&M's (Missions & Ministry) | 21 | 22 5:00 Sitting With Jesus 5:30 Choir Practice | 23 | 24 | 25 |
| 26 9:00 Choir Practice 9:30 Crusaders Searchers 10:30 Worship After worship Hanging of the Greens | 27 | 28 | 29 5:00 Sitting With Jesus 5:30 Choir Practice 6:00 Table Talk Meal 6:30 Classes Begin | 30 | | |



Concordia First United Methodist Church

Belong | Believe | Become

Pastor: Rev. Mark Crist

Administrative Assistant: Lisa Valcoure

Christian Ed. Director Angie Gabel-McConkey

Choir Director: Renata Knox

Organist: Pam Campbell

Contact Information:

Email: concordia1umc@gmail.com

Website: www.concordiafumc.com

Pastor's Email: rev.mark.crist74@gmail.com

Facebook: Concordia First United Methodist Church

Church Phone: 785-243-4560

Sunday Services:

Crusaders: 9:30am

Searchers: 9:30am

Worship: 10:30am

Wednesday Night Services:

Sittin' with Jesus 5:00pm

Table Talk Activities 6:00pm