

DECEMBER  
2023



First United Methodist Church

# Revelation

Pastor Peddling's:

I remember the first time I visited with folks who came for a commodity distribution. It was in the pre-Covid days, and people were lined up outdoors around the front of the building where the commodities were distributed.

I'd been helping getting commodities set up on tables inside the former car dealership showroom, so toward the end of setting up, I didn't have anything to do, so I went out to where folks were lining up. I took an old journalist's notebook I still had and a couple pens outside with me, and I started asking people how I could pray for them.

It's remarkable when you ask people how you can pray for them. What's remarkable about it is that some of them will pray for urgent personal matters – such as a major, life-saving ministry they have scheduled – but more often than not, people ask for prayers for others – loved ones, family members and friends who are struggling with everything from health to finances to grief. In the process of listening to the prayer requests, you get to hear some fantastic stories about people's lives.

When you ask people how you can pray for them, something about the relationship changes. Maybe it's because someone would take the time to go out and do something they'd never been asked before and the question sends a very important message about how they not only matter to you, but they matter to God. In those moments of conversation, maybe God connects you with people who haven't had the same privileges or people who have learned the importance of a grateful smile in spite of hardship. Maybe simply asking the question – “how may I pray for you” – sends a distinct message that the Christ in me wants to connect with the Christ in them to become the Christ among us.

I can't really say.

I still remember the first time I asked someone “how may I pray for you” because I was in Haiti, so I asked the question in a version of Creole and French, by asking people “mwen ka priya pou ou?” which is “how may I pray for you” in Creole.

I went to Haiti for my seminary immersion. The trip was a joint effort between Saint Paul School of Theology and the University of Missouri-Kansas City school of medicine. As seminary students, we helped by taking blood pressures, and checking people's weight and fevers before they went in to see the medical students and doctors.

Prior to the first clinic, we were told to only do the weights, pressures, and temperatures; nothing else, and if Haitian patients wanted someone to pray with them, they'd be sent out to see us after seeing the doctors. Out of around 200 people that day, we only prayed with three of them after they'd seen the doctors. That practice only lasted for that day until the other seminary students and I decided to heck with that instruction; we're serving the people and prayer is a service to these folks as we take their vitals.

So, from that day on, we prayed with the Haitian patients before they saw the medical students and doctors, and the medical students and doctors were shocked by how much calmer their patients were from that day forward.

That's because prayer changes things, as one of my first prayer group leaders once emphatically emphasized to me.

As my prayer life has developed through the years from once a day for maybe 15 minutes to now four times a day, each time for a minimum of 30 minutes and early for about two hours, my life has changed. God has made it possible for me to see things more clearly, love more dearly, pray more readily and I cherish the stories that come forth when prayer is at the center of life.

As Advent begins and we approach a new year, I would invite you to pray more and see where God takes you when you do because I believe there's a good chance God will introduce you to things about yourself and the world we share that you never even considered, and what God introduces to you will bring you some of the greatest experiences of your life. I know that's been the case for me.

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.

## 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.



## 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 we appreciate all of your donations!

## Commodities Food Distribution

This was a very busy month. 120 boxes were dispersed this month to 30 families, 27 couples, and 63 singles, thus serving 258 people in our community. Two cars that went through mentioned they were homeless, looking for a job and a place to live. Pastor Mark visited with each car regarding any concerns they might have. Please keep these people in your prayers.



## Cloud County Resource Center Needs

Thanks to those who helped with the Coat Distribution event in November! A total of 77 items were distributed to 38 families during the event.



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 CCRC needs help preparing Christmas Holiday Baskets on the following days:

### **Basket Packing**

December 6th, 1-5 pm  
December 7th 2-5 pm  
December 8th, 1-5 pm

### **Angel Tree Wrapping**

December 11th, 2-6 pm  
December 12th, 2-6 pm  
December 13th, 1-7 pm

### **Basket Pickup/Distribution**

December 14th, 1-7 pm  
December 15th, 1-6 pm  
December 18th, 1-8 pm

Additional help may be needed on December 19th and 20th.

If you would like to volunteer at the CCRC, please contact Tonya Merrill at 785-243-1065 or [ccrc@nckcn.com](mailto:ccrc@nckcn.com).

## Missions and Outreach

Thank you for your gifts of \$27.00 for the United Methodist Student Day special offering in November!

Missions Buckets will be passed on Sunday, December 3<sup>rd</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> for the CCRC Holiday Baskets program. Our goal is to give \$500 to this program again this year.



## Good Neighbor Experiment Sledding Events



It is December and you know what that means – 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!

### **Did You Know?**

**The Church is behind \$29,000.00 in our giving. Please consider an end of the year donation to help eliminate this deficit.**



## Trustee Updates:

In the Spring of 2021, the church was hit by a hail storm. It took until the fall of 2022 to reach a settlement with the insurance company, and now the repairs have been finished. Over the past year, we have replaced the roof on the church including the flat roof on the front porch, and replaced the guttering. Inside, water damage was repaired and the surfaces repainted in areas that included, the chapel walls and ceiling, the ceiling in the entry, the walls and ceilings in three of the restrooms, the walls and ceilings in the Fellowship Hall, and in the Sanctuary, the cove, ceiling in the stairway to the balcony, and the upper portions of the walls on the East, West, and South sides. The sound absorption panels on the walls of the Fellowship Hall were all removed and cleaned of their water stains. The ceiling tiles on the main floor were also all replaced.

In addition to the repairs funded by the insurance claim, the following other projects were completed. Replaced some rotten fascia and wrapping the fascia behind the guttering with aluminum. The lights in the Fellowship Hall were rewired to remove the fluorescent ballast and install new LED lights in the fixtures. This should reduce the operational cost of the lights and limit the need to replace bulbs in the future. The roller shades on the Fellowship Hall windows were cleaned and repaired. Also in the Fellowship Hall, glass was replaced in one broken window and in the two entry lights. The exterior of the brick tower below the steeple was waterproofed to help prevent future water damage in the chapel.

In the Spring of 2022 one of the two boilers that heat the building quit working. The heat exchanger in it started leaking. The parts were ordered and every two weeks last winter we were calling the distributor in an effort to get the parts. The parts came in this fall and the boiler is now operational. This gives us the back up that was designed into the system, and the capacity to handle the occasional extreme lows. This repair was covered under the original warranty.





## Christmas Card Mailing List

Are you making your Christmas card list? Consider adding some of our members and friends!

### Sunset Home

620 2nd Ave  
Stanley McMillan  
Dolores St. Pierre

### Concordia Residents

Marge Cruzen  
809 1<sup>st</sup> Ave

Amy Gerber  
1416 Highland Dr

Steve Lawson  
1017 W 11<sup>th</sup> St

Joan Lawton  
1828 Crestview Dr

Jan Novlan  
1515 State St

Marvin & Eudora Petersen  
545 W 18th St

Richard & Joyce Peterson  
1305 N 145<sup>th</sup> Rd

Carol Ruud  
314 W 7th St

Jean Shankle  
1405 Crescent Ln

Branson Wilcox  
729 E 8<sup>th</sup> St

Beth Whisler  
529 W 5<sup>th</sup> St

### Out-of-Town Residents

Anita Chartier  
2701 Cabrillo Dr  
Winfield, KS 67156

Sue Collins  
114 S High St  
Clyde, KS 66938

Wendy Holt  
920 S 4<sup>th</sup> St  
Lakeview, OR 97630

Judy Kircher  
1007 Wilson St  
Great Bend, KS 67530

Kay Peters  
1008 Kay Valley Park Cir, Apt 404  
Wamego, KS 66547

Liz Steinle  
2150 S Sagamont, #104  
Springfield, MO 65807

Margaret Thornton  
6117 W 119th St  
Overland Park, KS 66209

Wayne and Alberta Neel  
808 Shell Rd  
Jamestown, Ks 66948

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



## 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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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.







Thanksgiving Dinner was amazing as always! Thank you to Marsha Wentz and all of her Helpers!





# Hanging of the Greens

Thanks to the more than 20 people who helped decorate the church for Christmas!







**CHRISTMAS VESPERS**  
 SUNDAY, DECEMBER 3, 2023  
 BROWN GRAND THEATRE  
 6:00PM



**COOKIE DAY!**

DECEMBER 2, 2023

9:00AM

UNTIL COOKIES ARE GONE!

CONCORDIA FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
 740 WEST 11TH

**EACH BOX OF  
 HOMEMADE COOKIES  
 ARE \$15.00**



All We need is:

A Cup of



A Few



And a



Full of Jesus!

LADIES COFFEE

JITTERS

9:00AM.

DECEMBER 16, 2023

ALL LADIES OF THE CHURCH

ARE WELCOME!

First United Methodist Church  
 Christmas Eve Services

December 24, 2023

5:30pm

A PLACE FOR YOU THIS CHRISTMAS



# Christian Education Newsletter

Angie Gabel-McConkey, Christian Education Director

## Table Talk

**-JAM- 4 year olds to 4th grade.** JAM will be learning about Jesus's birth through stories and short movies in the upcoming weeks. They will also be making Christmas decorations to take home and some will be decorating our church. On November 29th, they will be frosting cookies in the shape of the Nativity scene characters to be taken home to share with their families. The younger children have been practicing their Bells Christmas song each Wednesday night so they will be ready for their performance for the Christmas Program. It's more challenging than you may think to learn to ring the bells!

**-The Rock- 5th-7th grade-** The Rock will be decorating cookies and choosing parts for the Christmas program on November 29th. They will also take some time to find scripture messages about the birth of Jesus to find out the meaning of Candy Canes.

**- IMPACT- 8th-12th grade-** On November 29th, Impact will be baking cookies for Cookie Day and choosing parts for the program. The following week, December 6th, they will be practicing for the Christmas program as well as the morning of December 10th prior to worship.

## Dates to Remember

Saturday, December 2nd: **Cookie Day**

Wednesday, December 6th: **Practice for program for all ages of children**

Sunday, December 10th:

**\*\* 9:30 Practice for Program for all children and youth**

**\*\* 10:30 Christmas program "Room at the Inn" during worship service**

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

**\*\* Soup lunch served to all**

**\*\*Caroling following lunch**

Wednesday, December 13th: **Last Table Talk of 2023 "Snacks & Game Night"**

Wednesday, January 10th: **Table Talk resumes**

**"For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, which is Christ the Lord. Luke 2:11**

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





Thank you to Impact, The Rock and Jam for baking Cookies for Cookie Day! You have helped to make this a great Day!!!



**COOKIE DAY!**  
DECEMBER 2, 2023  
9:00AM  
UNTIL COOKIES ARE GONE!  
CONCORDIA FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
740 WEST 11TH

**EACH BOX OF  
HOMEMADE COOKIES  
ARE \$15.00**

The poster features a red background with white text and is decorated with string lights at the top and gingerbread man illustrations at the bottom. A central image shows a table with various cookies, a rolling pin, and cookie bags.



## FUMC Women's Trip to Branson

Our women's trip to Branson was a huge success! The trip included our church girls Mary, Cindy, Donna, her daughter Erin, Karla, Amanda, Christy, Patty, her sister Leann, and Angie. Our weekend consisted of shows, shopping, lots of laughter and very special memories. Here are a few of our highlights.

- Silver Dollar City
- The musical "The Christmas Carol"
- The lighting of the huge Christmas tree on the square as well as the beautiful lights throughout the park.
- The train ride to hear "grandpa" tell the story of the True Story of Christmas
- Gospel singer Nadia Yates
- Branson Belle Showboat
  - Amazing meal, dancing and singing
  - Beautiful view from the deck of the showboat
  - The telling of the Birth of Jesus from the bible
  - Supporting our talented Mary on stage in the song 12 Days of Christmas. She was the 'calling birds' and 'Lords a leaping'. What fun to watch our friend on stage!
- Musical "Queen Esther" at the Sight and Sound Theatre
  - Thanks to Pam and Cindy, many of us read the Book of Esther so we had a better understanding prior to the show.
  - It is a spectacular show and a great opportunity to learn about this time in history as found in the bible.
  - "Temple of Doom" Escape Room- Patty, Leann, and Angie went on this escapade. Our group actually made it out in the allotted time! But, we did have a lot of help from the coordinator...
  - Shopping at Tanger Mall- The packages did make it a challenge to get all of our items back in the car.
  - Early morning worship at Branson United Methodist Church
  - The best part was the Fellowship of being together!

As your Christian education director, my goal was for our group of women to bond over a Christian-based get away. I believe I succeeded!

Angie







2~Donna Nelson  
5~Erin Schaffer  
7~Joe Fakler  
7~Lisa Moore  
8~Anita Chartier  
9~Lori Ade  
10~Alison Waterman  
10~Addie Townsdin  
11~Brian Ruud  
12~Nickie Mildfeldt  
13~ Marvin Petersen  
13~Kaelynn Ade  
14~Tyler Kocher  
14~Patrick Martin  
14~Teresa Benson  
18~Alex Johnson  
19~Marlene Parker  
19~Karter Steinle  
19~Charity Brown  
24~Marylu Fellows  
24~ Eudora Petersen  
24~Carol Ruud  
24~Deanna Conn  
28~Katie Thompson  
29~Jessica Blochlinger  
30~Stacy Johnson



# Sunday Morning Volunteers



December	3	10	17	24	31
Worship Leader		Cindy		Angie 5:30pm	
Sound			Monte Wentz		
Media			Nancy Wentz		
Greeters	Patty				
Nursery Helpers	Patty Mosher	Patty Mosher	Patty Mosher	Patty Mosher	Patty Mosher
Children's Moment	Mary Thoman	Angie	Cindy	Angie or Pastor	
Advent Reader	Nevaeh				
Ushers	Lyle Pounds	Lyle Pounds	Lyle Pounds	Lyle Pounds	Lyle Pounds
Acolytes	Gannon	Gannon	Gannon		
Coffee Bar	Marsha Wentz	Marsha Wentz	Marsha Wentz	Marsha Wentz	Marsha Wentz
Alter Flowers					

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!





# DECEMBER 2023



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2 9:00am <b>COOKIE DAY</b>
3 9:30 Crusaders Searchers 10:30 Worship 5:30 Yoga 6:00pm Vespers	4	5	6 5:00 Sitting With Jesus 5:30 Choir Practice 6:00 Table Talk Meal 6:30 Classes Begin	7	8	9
10 9:00 Choir Practice 9:30 Crusaders Searchers 10:30 Children's Christmas Program Lunch to follow Caroling	11 5:30pm FUMC Council	12	13 10-00 Commodities 5:00 Sitting With Jesus 5:30 Choir Practice 6:00 Table Talk Meal 6:30 Classes Begin	14	15	16 9:00 Ladies Coffee @ Jitters
17 9:30 Crusaders Searchers 10:30 Worship 5:30pm Advent Bible Study 5:30 Yoga	18 5:30 M&M's (Missions & Ministry)	19	20	21	22	23
24 9:30 Crusaders Searchers 10:30 Worship 5:30pm Christmas Eve Service	25 	26	27 5:00 Sitting With Jesus 5:30 Choir Practice	28	29	30
31 9:30 Crusaders Searchers 10:30 Worship 						



# 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](mailto:concordia1umc@gmail.com)

Website: [www.concordiafumc.com](http://www.concordiafumc.com)

Pastor's Email: [rev.mark.crist74@gmail.com](mailto: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