

February 2024



FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Revelation

Pastors Peddling's

Throughout my career, I have paid attention to styles, methodologies, approaches, tools, and crafts for how preaching can be done. It's been a bit of a fascination for me.

In my early years in the pulpit, something I remember the most vividly are "Holy Spirit" moments where something in worship, perhaps in a song or a prayer, would grab my soul. Occasionally, I would hear God speaking to me in the process of preaching. Those were always interesting moments to say the least.

When my parents were still living, they would send me sermon tapes of the pastor who served their church in southern California at the time. He would often break up his sermons similarly to how I do, and his intercessory prayer often had "teach us what you need us to know and show us what you need us to see," which I'm sure, by now, are words ya'll have heard me use regularly in my sermon prayer. For me, those words don't connect me with that pastor, but they are words that connect me with my parents.

In seminary, I learned about Eugene Lowry's "Homiletical Plot," which is about creating a plot based on the scripture reading; it is a technique I've found strives for the big "aha" moment, similar to what you might find on a TV drama. Another approach I learned actually came from the title "The Four Pages of the Sermon." I forget who authored that book, but the title alone inspired an approach to preaching quite similar to how I preach today where there's an introduction, prayer, contextual content, and how the reading applies in life.

If you think about it, one of the most important aspects of faith is found in story. It may be stories of scripture and it may be stories from our lives. It could even be the story we tell ourselves, sometimes true and sometimes untrue, and it could be the stories we let others tell us about ourselves, which sometimes have merit and sometimes can be incredibly damaging.

For instance, whenever I prepare for a funeral or a memorial service, there are always two questions that I think sum up an individual's life that often find their way into the message for their celebration of life. First, what funny or humorous thing from their life kinda identifies the person they were? The second question is how did the person imitate Christ?

I share all of this with you for a couple reasons. First, to invite you to identify your story or the story that God intends for you. The story God intends for you is not one you necessarily pick for yourself; it's one that has subtleties that point you to the changes you might need to make to live out your conversion or calling in a way that is healing both for you and others, and that honors God.

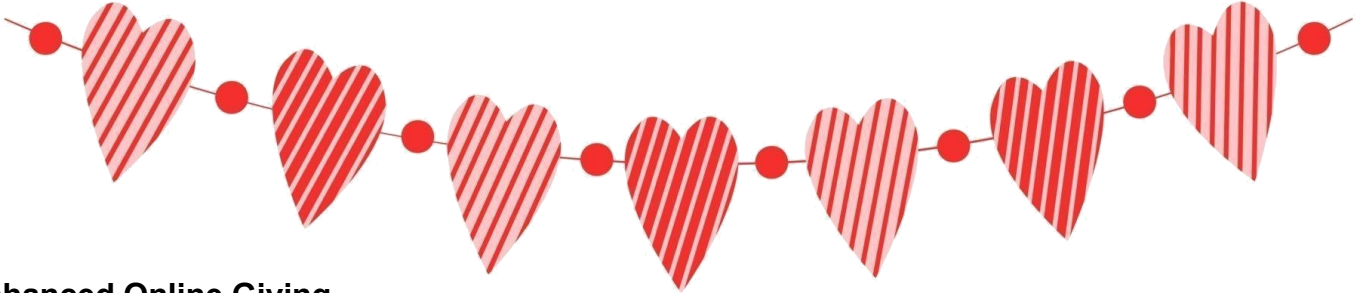
I'll be the first to say that can be challenging, so that's why it is so important to participate to the best of your abilities in church, ministry, Bible/book studies, mission, holy conversations and so forth. All of those activities facilitate healing in people, and if you learn scripture well enough, you learn that God's love is all about healing God's children and creation. It is often within community where the best and most memorable stories are made.

Continued Pg. 2

The second reason is because God is our Divine, Parent and if there are two qualities native to most parents, it is the desire to see their child(ren) grow, and usually for their child to know they're loved. Love is not expressed in letting a child do whatever they want to do/want, and it is not expressed in excessive discipline. Guiding growth requires consistency, compassion, learning, and grace. In other words, God wants us all to grow in faith. I know as I grow in faith, I am starting to see with greater clarity how God wants my life to be. The same may be true for you, I don't know. While I have given sermon series before, the current one on "Going Another Way" and the one I am toying with for Lent are intriguing something in me, and I hope you hear God speaking to you through the "Way" series as well.

So, what stories do you have? I've heard a few in my time with you (something to do with a one-armed mannequin comes to mind). I look forward to hearing more.

Until next time, keep on 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.

Little Free Pantry



Winter is here! Please do not leave items in the pantry that could freeze when the weather is predicted to be extremely cold. In particular, canned goods can freeze and spoil. Thanks to Pam Campbell and Lisa Valcoure for helping to place food from our store in the pantry daily!

During the month of February, bring your favorite non-perishable food items to help us Tackle Hunger! All food items can be left in the food box in the entry of the church and will be placed in our Little Free Pantry food supply or taken to the CCRC for distribution. If you prefer, you can also make a monetary donation to help purchase food for the pantry. This helps us to provide a variety of food on a daily basis.

Commodities Food Distribution

Thank you to the 17 Volunteers who braved the weather to make sure that Commodities were distributed to our community on January! 91 total Boxes distributed, which breaks down to 23 Families, 14 Couples, and 53 Singles. Total Individuals helped, 172.

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 and Tuesday/Thursday from 1:00 – 5:00 pm.**



A Coat Day will be held at the CCRC on February 3rd from 2:00 – 5:00 pm. All participants must sign-in at the front door and bring their most recent tax return; coats will be available only to those who did not participate in the November distribution event and are only available to people living in the recipient's household. Donations of coats are **NOT** needed at this time.

The CCRC will hold a Soup Supper on Thursday, February 15th, from 5:00 – 7:00 pm. Chili (with cornbread and cinnamon rolls) and Chicken Noodle Soup (with mashed potatoes) will be served for \$5.00/bowl. All proceeds will go to launching a homeless food pantry that will operate separately from the food bank.

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

Missions and Outreach

Don't forget to pick up your Lenten Box starting on February 14th! Boxes will be available in a basket outside the sanctuary during Lent. **All money collected in Lenten boxes and from the Missions Buckets on February 18th for Mission Agency Support in the Great Plains Conference.** For a list of missions agencies who receive support through this giving, go to www.greatplainsumc.org/missionagencysupport.



Thanks for your gifts of \$50.15 in January for the Human Relations Day Special Offering. For more information, visit <https://www.umc.org/en/content/human-relations-day-sunday-ministry-article>.

Change the World Sunday

Our 13th annual Change the World event is coming this Spring! If you have a project idea, please let any member of the Missions Team know! Team members include: Pam Campbell, Julie Cory, Cindy Kocher, Bruce Nutter, Marvin Petersen, Branson Wilcox, and Nancy Wentz.



FUMC Safety Team

Did you know a Safety Team was formed last summer? The team has been working to assess security concerns and gather estimates to apply for a grant to improve overall facility security. Security Team members include: David Edwards, Marcy Johnson, Amanda Morgan, Lyle Pounds, Loren Swenson, Monte Wentz, Nancy Wentz, and Pastor Mark Crist.

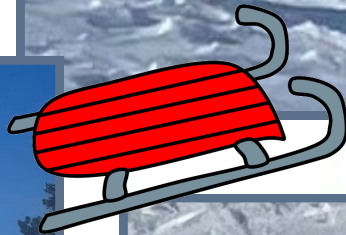
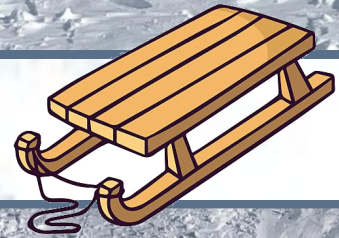
The FUMC Council has approved an Emergency Response Policy that was distributed to the congregation in January. **If you have a security concern or observe threatening activity in any form (in person, in writing, by phone/text, etc.) please immediately report the concern or activity to any member of the Safety Team.**

Watch for additional security updates in the coming months!



Methodist Hills Sledding!

Children and Adults both enjoyed sledding down the hills January 9th down the hills! Marsha Wentz and Pastor Mark invited families in for Hot Cocoa and to warm up!



Christian Education News

Whole Church Activities

Our Adult Bible Study groups came together on Sunday, January 21st to make **Valentine's** for our members and friends in the community, those living at Sunset Home and those that have recently moved away. It was a fun morning of fellowship for a great cause.

February 18th is our next Whole Church event. We will be playing **Bible Pictionary** during the Adult Bible Story hour. No experience necessary!

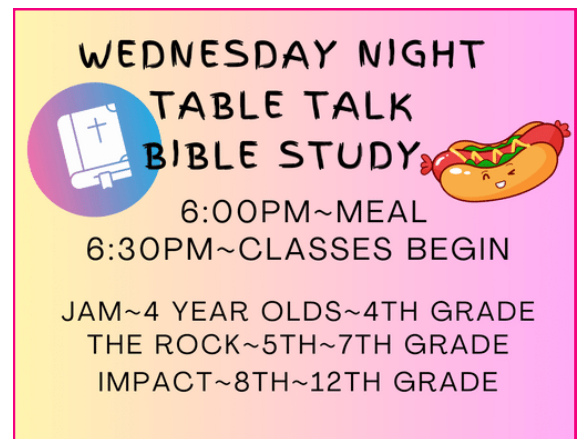
Feel like getting away with your Church Friends? We will be going to the **Strataca Salt Mine** near Hutchinson, KS, Saturday, April 27th for a dinner theater event. This is a 5 hour event from 5-10 pm inside the mine. This fellowship opportunity is for both the men and women of our church. Tables for the event come in groups of 8. If there is enough interest from the congregation, I will purchase more than one table. Tickets will be \$75 per person. Please let Angie know if you are interested. My work email is: con1umchristianed@gmail.com.



Table Talk

JAM completed their lesson on The Story of Esther and made secret messages with special ink like Esther sent secret messages to her uncle Mordecai. They will learn about the Parable of the Mustard Seed and Feeding the 5,000 in upcoming weeks.

The Rock is continuing with Big Bold, then will join up with **IMPACT** for the month prior to Easter for a Fathom study of the Passion.

IMPACT has just started their month-long Fathom study The Wilderness from Exodus to Deuteronomy. Following that they will begin their study of the Passion.



WEDNESDAY NIGHT
TABLE TALK
BIBLE STUDY  

6:00PM~MEAL
6:30PM~CLASSES BEGIN

JAM~4 YEAR OLDS~4TH GRADE
THE ROCK~5TH~7TH GRADE
IMPACT~8TH~12TH GRADE

Upcoming Events:

Youth Sunday will be March 24th, Palm Sunday.

Easter Egg Hunt and Activities on Easter Sunday starting at 9:30.

Valentine's Day Cards

During the All-Church Activity in February, we made Valentine's Day cards! Cards for local delivery are available on a table in the church entry – please select a couple of recipients to deliver to the next time you are at the church! There are extra cards you can take to your friends, neighbors, or family members.



Secret Prayer Sister Reveal

FEBRUARY 10, 2024
10AM
IN THE PARLOR
ALL WOMEN OF THE CHURCH
ARE INVITED TO JOIN.
PICK UP A CARD OFF THE
BULLETIN BOARD OR SEE LISA



Help is needed to deliver Valentine's Day cards to members in our Community. They are located on the table in the front entrance. There are also extra cards that can be used for other people in the community.

Valentines need to be delivered by February 11.

COFFEE SHOP

LADIES Coffee
FEBRUARY 17, 2024
9:00AM
@ JITTERS



MATT RAWLE
Author of The Resurrection of Scripture

THE GRACE OF
Les Misérables

Lenten Study
"The Grace of Les Misérables"
 Movie:
 February 11, 2024 2:00pm
 Lenten Study:
 February 18, 2024 2:00pm
 Crusaders Room
 \$20.00 for the Book

SIGN UP SHEET ON THE BULLETIN BOARD OR
 SIGN UP ON OUR FACEBOOK PAGE:
 CONCORDIA FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



SERMON SERIES: "GOING A DIFFERENT WAY"

- FEBRUARY 4 ~ FOLLOWING YOUR WAY.
- FEBRUARY 11 ~ SEEING GOD GUIDE YOUR WAY.



Emotionally Healthy Spirituality

If you are interested in learning more about Emotionally Healthy Spirituality, please sign up for this class led by Pastor Mark. This 6-8 week class invites participants to see how healthy they are both emotionally and spiritually, using three different books and your Bible, you will develop a better understanding of your thoughts, feelings and behavior. Sign up now so materials can be ordered. You will be notified when the books arrive. Classes will start Sunday February 4, 2024 at 6:30pm. \$40.00 for books



*For everyone who came
Christmas Caroling, sent cards,
said Prayers,
made phone calls and visited me!
Carol Ruud*



The Small Church Advantage

Interested in being on our team to learn about Powerful Worship Practices for Small Churches such as ours? We are looking for at least one more person to be on our Small Church Advantage Team. You would need to be available to attend the workshops on February 19th and April 22nd. The 3rd workshop date has not been determined at this time.



EASTER LILIES

6" ONE STEM \$20.00

Your Name _____

In Memory of _____

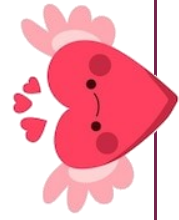
Or you may make a monetary donation in memory of your loved one.

In Memory of _____

Orders due by March 1, 2024



- 1~JACOB POUNDS
- 2~CINDY KOCHER
- 4~CLAY CAMPBELL
- 6~MELISSAE STILES
- 10~KEENAN EDWARDS
- 11~DONNA FARRELL
- 12~AMY GERBER
- 12~KARLA MCMILLAN
- 12~LORETTA BROWN
- 13~WAYNE NEEL
- 13~ALLISON POORE
- 13~DAVE THOMAN
- 15~MALLORY THOMPSON
- 15~KRUE JOHNSON
- 17~NEVAEH VALCOURE
- 18~JACQUELINE RAMSEY
- 19~MADDIE JOHNSON
- 20~SUSAN HAVER
- 20~ERIN REEDY
- 21~DENNIS REEDY
- 22~MARYLISA THOMAN
- 27~CHRISTY HASCH
- 28~GENNA STRAIT
- 28~DENNIS COX
- 29~AIDAN POORE



Sunday Morning Volunteers



February	3	10	17	24	31
Worship Leader					
Sound					
Media					
Greeters					
Nursery Helpers	Patty Mosher	Patty Mosher	Patty Mosher	Patty Mosher	Patty Mosher
Children's Moment					
Scripture Reader					
Ushers	Lyle Pounds	Lyle Pounds	Lyle Pounds	Lyle Pounds	Lyle Pounds
Acolytes					
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!



FEBRUARY 2024



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4 9:30 Crusaders Searchers 10:30 Worship 5:30pm Yoga	5	6	7 5:00 Sitting With Jesus 5:30 Choir Practice 6:00 Table Talk Meal 6:30 Classes Begin	8	9	10 10:00 Secret Prayer Sister Reveal in the Crusaders Room
11 9:00 Choir Practice 9:30 Crusaders Searchers 10:30 Worship 2:00 Lenten Study Soup Bowl Sunday! Bring Canned Goods	12 5:30pm FUMC Council	13	14 5:00 Sitting With Jesus 5:30 Choir Practice 6:00 Table Talk Meal 6:30 Classes Begin	15	16	17 9:00 Ladies Coffee @ Jitters
18 9:30 All Church Sunday School ~ Bible Pictionary 10:30 Worship 2:00pm Lenten Study 5:30pm Yoga	19 5:30 M&M's (Missions & Ministry)	20	21 5:00 Sitting With Jesus 5:30 Choir Practice 6:00 Table Talk Meal 6:30 Classes Begin	22	23	24
25 9:00 Choir Practice 9:30 Crusaders Searchers 10:30 Worship 2:00pm Lenten Study 5:30pm Yoga	26	27	28 5:00 Sitting With Jesus 5:30 Choir Practice 6:00 Table Talk Meal 6:30 Classes Begin	29		



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