

FEBRUARY 2025

GROW IN FAITH | SHARE IN WORSHIP | SERVE OTHERS

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SUNDAY WORSHIP

9:00 & 11:00 a.m.

Live-stream worship:

**YouTube Channel
GBFUMC**

**Special Sundays
Worship
10 a.m.**

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

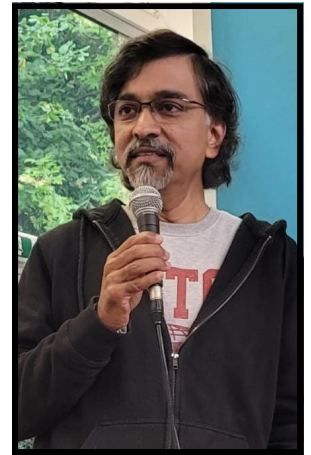
February Worship/ Second Sundays	2
EYG	3
Noah's Ark	4
Children's Ministry	5
Church News	6
Calendar	7
Celebrations & Prayer List	8
Scholarship Info	9

Make the Most of Every Opportunity!

Dear members and friends of Great Bend First UMC,

Greetings in the name of our eternal Lord and Saviour,
Jesus Christ!

As we journey through the new year 2025, I want to take a moment to remind you that time is flying by quickly. It's hard to believe that we're already a few weeks into the year. As Christians, we are to be more aware that we live in the present, but we live for the future. We are called to make every day count and every opportunity precious, so that our tomorrows are fruitful and fulfilling for us and others.



In Psalm 90:12, Moses prays, *"Teach us to number our days, that we may gain a heart of wisdom."* This scripture reminds us to make the most of the time we have, to prioritize our lives, and to seek wisdom from God. In Colossians 4:5, Paul writes, *"Be wise in the way you act toward outsiders; make the most of every opportunity."* This verse encourages us to be intentional about how we live our lives, to make the most of every opportunity, and to be wise in our interactions with others. In 1 Peter 4:2, Peter reminds us, *"Live for the rest of your earthly life no longer by human desires but by the will of God."* This scripture challenges us to live our lives according to God's will, to seek His purposes, and to prioritize His desires above our own.

As John Calvin once wrote, *"Our wisdom consists in living not for ourselves, but for God."* May we keep this wisdom at the forefront of our minds as we navigate the ups and downs of life. John Wesley also reminded us, *"Do not quench the Spirit. Do not be anxious to be always doing something. Wait on the Lord, and be ready to do what He bids you. 'Redeem the time,' but do not hurry."* This can also be taken as a caution to those who think that being busy (always) equals to being productive. It's a fallacy or even a fantasy to believe always doing something or being in a rush could be helpful, as oftentimes this busy-ness can be terribly or regrettably a form of distraction to things that truly matters over things that are secondary in importance.

As I reflect on the rapid passage of time, I am reminded of a story about a man who was given a small bag of gold coins. Each day, he was instructed to take one coin out of the bag and use it to make a positive impact on someone's life. At the end of each day, he was to reflect on how he had used the coin. As the days went by, the man realized that the coins were dwindling, and he began to make every

SHARE in Worship

COME & WORSHIP TOGETHER

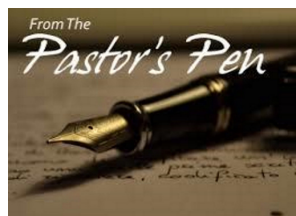
	Verses	Sermon Title
February 2 nd	1 Corinthians 13:1-13	“The Greatest Gift: Unpacking the Power of Love”
February 9 th	Psalms 138	“The Power of Gratitude: How Psalm 138 Can Transform Our Lives”
February 16 th :	Jeremiah 17:5-10	“The Dangers of a Self-Sufficient Heart: Reflections on Jeremiah 17”
February 23 rd :	Luke 6:27-38	“The Upside-Down Kingdom: How Jesus’ Teachings Challenge Our Assumptions”

- * Service worship times are **9 a.m. — Traditional Service** and **11 a.m. — REVIVE! Service**.
- * If you can’t worship with us in person, the services may be found on our YouTube channel, **GBFUMC**.



Stand & Be Recognized on Second Sundays

A new monthly observance will take place during both services on the second Sunday of each month. People who are celebrating their birthdays and couples celebrating wedding anniversaries during that month will be recognized. Pastor Robert will ask all in the congregation who have birthdays and anniversaries during the month to stand and the congregation will join in a special prayer for the celebrants. So Happy Birthday and Happy Anniversary to all who are celebrating this month! You’ll be recognized February 9th!



Appreciate Each Day

— Continued from Page 1

coin count. He learned to appreciate the value of each day and to make the most of every opportunity. Likewise, may we too, learn to appreciate the value of each day and to make the most of every opportunity and make every day count. And may God bless us and guide us as we journey through this new year.

His Servant,
Rev. Robert Selvakumar
 Pastor, Great Bend First UMC

January Attendance			
	9:00	11:00	TTL
5 —	Closed: Snow/Ice		
12 —	50	52	102
19 —	56	49	105
26 —	58	46	104

These numbers are for those who attended worship for the Sunday Services in January.

GROW in Faith

EYG Starts 2025 With Mission Project

During their first meeting of the new year, EYG helped Jann Sherman, Missions Chair, fill 10 buckets of cleaning supplies for UMCOR (United Methodist Committee on Relief).

With recent disasters, UMCOR used all their buckets of supplies and had sent our an urgent request for people/churches to help replenish these supplies.

Buckets are filled with bottles of liquid laundry detergent, household cleaner, and liquid dish soap; air freshener; insect repellent; scrub brush; cleaning wipes; scouring pads; clothespins and clothesline; trash bags; respirator dust masks; and kitchen gloves.

UMCOR Supply Kits help to care for people during times of crisis. By donating kit supplies or financial gifts to purchase the supplies, you make a direct, tangible difference in sustaining people's lives.

February

EYG will be putting Valentine bags together in February.

During lesson time, they will continue their Bible mysteries series. The series includes: the Case of the Longest Day, the Case of



the Mysterious Fleece, and The Case of the Unbearable Sacrifice.

Coming Soon

The class is looking forward to Nerf and Nachos night in March.



EYG
Meets on
Wednesdays
5:30-7:15 p.m.

All youth 3rd-6th
grades are invited
to come join
the fun and
Fellowship.

Vivian Harbaugh
EYG

GROW in Faith



NOAH'S ARK PRESCHOOL (NAP)



NAP Starts All-Day Program Option; Celebrate 'God's Love'

Noah's Ark Preschool is transitioning into a full-time pre-school.

The change of licensing was approved at the end of January and the switch to having children full time will start this month.

Half-day preschool classes are still an option; however, children may stay after the morning class for lunch, naptime and activities.

NAP will be also be open all year, instead of just through the school year.

Director Kaylee Keilman is excited about the changes, which she says will better meet the needs of her students and their families.

NAP will now be open from 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. If you are interested in the new program options, contact Kaylee.

NAP students' studies in February will focus on their Bible lesson "Sharing God's love."

A Great Bend Public Library representative will visit the preschool February 6th and read to the children.

The students will be celebrating Valentine's Day with parties on February 13th. Children will share Valentines, have treats, and play games.

Parent-Teacher conferences are scheduled for February 17th and 18th, when Kindergarten readiness will be the main topic of discussion.

There will be no p.m. classes on Thursday, February 20th and no school on Friday, February 21st.



Kaylee Keilman,
NAP Director



Volunteers Needed to Help with Valentine Dream Center Meal

Our next Dream Center Meal is set for February 16th.

We'll be serving two types of soup, PBJ sandwiches, and dessert.

If you would like to help with food or with serving, contact Dort Hertel at 316-650-7143.

A sign-up sheet will be in the back of the sanctuary in

early February.

The next Dream Center Meal is set for April 20th, when Dort is planning to serve Texas Tacos.

GROW in Faith — Children's Ministry

God Has a Plan for Our Lives

Kids Klub Wednesday Nights

God Loves Me!

Wednesday Feb 5th: Baby Mine

God has a plan for our lives. He knew us before we were even born, and he has protected us all our lives.

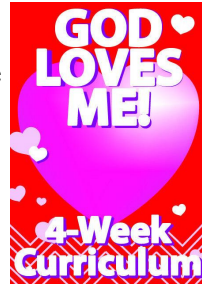
Wednesday Feb 12th: Just the Way You Are

We go to a lot of trouble to pretend we're something that we're not, but God loves the people we are on

inside. God looks at the heart, and he loves us just the way we are.

Wednesday Feb 19th: Check Yes or No

God loves us so much, he even sent his son to die for us. But God's love demands a response. God wants us to love him back, by answering his call and



obeying his Word so that his plans for our lives can be fulfilled.

Wednesday Feb 26th: Anything for Love

David had no guarantees he would survive against Goliath, but he had faith and he obeyed God. God protected him. God wants us to go forward and do his will, wherever that takes us, trusting that he will watch over us and protect us.



Larissa Graham,

Director of
Children's Ministries

Children's Church Learns About God's Love

Feb 2nd: God Loves Me!

When you see and experience everything that God has created in the world, you can be reminded that God loves us - you and me - more than anything else that he created. He loves us so much that he left heaven to die on the cross for our sins.

Feb 9th: Super Bowl: Touchdown! Win For

God! You can't make the game-winning touchdown if you're sitting on the sidelines. Kids will learn that God wants us to get into the game and win for him.

Sunday Feb 16th: Valentine's Sunday

Valentine's Day is a day that uses the word "love" a lot. Jesus also used that word a lot, but he also showed us what it looks like

to truly love others by his actions. This Valentine's Day, when kids are excited about heart shaped chocolate, challenge them to think about what Jesus said it should really look like when we love one another.

Sunday Feb. 23rd: Love Your Enemies. God wants us to love everyone, even those who don't get along with us.



Larissa Graham,

Director of
Children's Ministries

Youth-Meal Preparers and Nerf & Nachos

Volunteers are needed to make meals for our youth groups on Wednesday night. Dates open are February 12th and 16th, plus dates through May 14th. See sign-up sheet at back of sanctuary.

Coming Soon!!! Nerf and Nachos Sunday will be from 4:30 p.m. – 7 p.m. on March 9th. More information will be out in the coming weeks.



SERVE Others



FOOD, MYSTERY & SHENANIGANS

The Church Council is planning some fun for all our committee members and our amazing church staff from 4-8 p.m. on February 23rd.

The plan is to get together so we can have some food and fun and will include something for spouses and children as well.

Join the fun at Youth Group

For youth 7th Grade & older

Come and bring a friend! Wednesday nights at 5:30 p.m.

Contact Todd Scheuerman for more information.

MEET & GREETS

The Transition Team (the group in charge of welcoming our Pastor and his family) is hosting small group gatherings for Pastor and family to meet members of the congregation and have a chance to connect one-on-one.

The first of several Meet & Greet Gatherings was successfully held January 26th at Janis Link's home.

Janis had 16 guests who got to meet Pastor Robert Selvakumar, his wife, Elaine, and daughter, Shannon, in a relaxed format to chat and dine.

Over the next several months, other such gatherings will be held in the homes of Larry & Nancy Gale, Dennis & Jann Sherman, Vaughn & Stephannie Goerl, Shane and Jill Boultinghouse, and others.

MEMORIAL TREE

A 12-foot Balsam Hill Fraser Fir Tree has been selected to be purchased with the John Schreiber Memorial Funds.



Reta Schreiber Catalog Photo and her daughters decided that the new Christmas tree would be a good purchase for the

UNITY CLASS

The adult Sunday school class met on New Year's



Eve to play Mexican train dominoes for a fun time to welcome in the new year.



church, filling a void left when our old tree became electrically unsafe.

Our Altar Guild is already deciding on how to best display the tree during Advent 2025.

Along with the tree, there will be materials purchased to make new "Chrismon" ornaments (*ie. ornaments with symbols of Christianity on them*) to go on the tree.

The church has a set of Chrismon ornaments with a Styrofoam base that are disintegrating due to their age.

If anyone would like to help make the new Chrismon ornaments, contact the church office. A time and date for making the ornaments has not been set yet.

NEW DIRECTORY

A new church directory is planned for this summer, with new pictures of our congregation members and an updated listing of contact information. *Portrait's by Shane* will be doing the pictures for us again this

year. We'll be working with Shane and Jill Boultinghouse to organize and proceed with the project.

However, if anyone would like to chair the project, please contact the office for more information.

DID YOU KNOW?


The colored candle holders used to decorate the middle isle during the Christmas season are part of a set that includes nativity figures, a globe-like star and several hanging stars.



Mrs. Loyd (Jean) Phillips, who owned "a successful stained glass business," made the items for the church. Jean and her husband, Loyd, were members of our church from 1954-1986, when they retired to Florida.

Just a bit of trivia so you know more about our church.

First United Methodist Church — February 2025

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	ERI	SAT
						1
2 9 am and 11 am – Services in Sanctuary 9 am on YouTube & 11 am on Facebook 10 am Discovery Hour 12:15 Worship Committee	3 7 pm Christian Education	4 5:30 pm TOPS 6 pm Girl Scout 7 pm Vintage Wheels 7 pm Praise Band	5 9:30 am Bible Study 5 pm Chancel Singers 5:30 Kids Klub/EYG/YG 5:30 pm MOMCo	6 5:30 pm CORE Community 7 pm NA	7	8
9 9 am and 11 am – Services in Sanctuary 9 am on YouTube & 11 am on Facebook 10 am Discovery Hour	10 6 pm Girl Scouts	11 4:30-8 pm Healthy Families 5:30 pm TOPS 7 pm Praise Band	12 9:30 am Bible Study 5 pm Chancel Singers 5:30 Kids Klub/EYG/YG	13 5:30 pm CORE Community 7 pm NA	14 Valentine's Day	15
16 9 am and 11 am – Services in Sanctuary 9 am on YouTube & 11 am on Facebook 10 am Discovery Hour 5 pm Dream Center Meal	17 President's Day Church Office closed	18 5:30 pm TOPS 6-9 Childcare Aware 6 pm Girl Scout 7 pm Praise Band	19 9:30 am Bible Study 1:30 pm MW Circle 5 pm Chancel Singers 5:30 Kids Klub/EYG/YG 5:30 pm MOMCo	20 NAP — No pm Classes 5:30 pm CORE Community 7 pm NA	21 No NAP Classes 9-3 Quilt Guild Beaumont-Scott Wedding Rehearsal 5-7 pm	22 Beaumont-Scott Wedding 3 pm
23 9 am and 11 am – Services in Sanctuary 9 am on YouTube & 11 am on Facebook 10 am Discovery Hour 4 pm Church Council Team Building Activity	24 Homebound Visitation 6 pm Girl Scouts	25 5:30 pm TOPS 7 pm Praise Band	26 9:30 am Bible Study 5 pm Chancel Singers 5:30 Kids Klub/EYG/YG	27 5:30 pm CORE Community 7 pm NA	28	

SHARE in Worship — CELEBRATIONS & PRAYER CONCERNS



February Birthdays

- 1 Ashlyn Harbaugh
- 6 Barbara Unrein
- 7 Roger Fanshier
- 7 Ashlea Noonan
- 7 Andrea Bauer

- 8 Sidney Harbaugh
- 8 Kenny Miller
- 9 Zowie Harbaugh
- 11 Harlen Jerke
- 13 Christie Snyder
- 14 Jackie Curtis
- 17 Imogene Christiansen
- 18 Maddy Smith
- 21 Kaylee Keilman
- 24 Ellie Bretz

February Anniversaries



- 14 J.D. & Sonya Rein
- 19 Joe & Elaine Felke
- 29 Rob & Larissa Graham

- 25 Brant Harms
- 26 Mahra Johnston



WE REMEMBER THESE IN OUR PRAYERS:

The Families of Imogene Christiansen, Linda Essmiller, Eugene Hoelscher, and Janice Schmidt.

All Those Who are Involved in Cancer treatment and recovery: Roberta Bartlett, Lisa Baum, Carol Bird, Amnee Brown (April Harbaugh's sister), Leonard

Bunselmeyer, Dana Cheney, Suzie Evans, Bill Koelling, Dick Lytle, Valerie Peak, Kathy Rogers

All Those Who Reside in Nursing Homes/Care Facilities or are home-bound: (Aster Estates) Jackie Curtis, Claire Stephenson, and Ivy Webster; (Azria) Mary Ann Boyle and Cindy Phillips; (Brookdale)

Harriet Herzberg and Eileen Ingersoll; (Medicalodges) Mary Carpenter; (River Bend) Carol Thier; (other facilities) Roberta Bartlett, Larned; Barbara Lear, Colorado
All Those Serving Our Country in the Military:
All our men & women in the armed forces including Bryan Farthing



Visit the Homebound with Pastor Robert

Would you like to be part of a new ministry?
 Pastor Robert has started a ministry of visiting all our shut-ins and nursing-home-bound members to offer them communion and

prayer on the last Monday of each month.
 Pastor would like members of the congregation to join him as he visits with our shut-ins. You may go with him to visit everyone or

select the places/people you would like to visit.
 Please contact Pastor Robert if you'd like more information about this ministry or have someone to add to the visitation list.

GROW in Faith

CHALLENGE HELPS FEED THE HUNGRY

Sacking Hunger Challenge – Join First UMC Great Bend!

While we cheer on the Chiefs in their third-straight Super Bowl, let's also tackle hunger in our community!

We're joining the Great Plains Conference in a friendly food drive competition against Eagles fans.



Since 2023, our conference has collected 273,620 pounds of food — let's beat that total!

In 2024, GB First UMC collected 368 pounds of food last year.

Join the Team!

Bring nonperishable food to church by February 16th.

We'll weigh the donations, submit our total, and send the food to the Barton County Food Bank or use the donations for our Girl Scout Blessing Box.



Can we collect more than 368 pounds of food this year?

SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS DUE MARCH 15TH

The time for high school seniors and college students to apply for the scholarships is now as the March 15th date is coming soon.

First UMC offers two scholarships and administers several others.

This year, First UMC has updated their website to include the application forms for our scholarships.

Forms are also available in the church office.

Applications for all scholarships must be turned into the church office by **March 15th**.

The **Charley C. Byers** and **Wayne and Betty Banks scholarships**, are available only for active members of First United Methodist Church of Great Bend. Criteria are financial need, a desire for further education and a firm Christian belief. Both scholarships are renewable.

Forms are available in the church office.

The church administers eight other scholarships available for graduating high school seniors. The criteria sheet and application forms are available in the church office and on the church web site.

Please have all paperwork (for new scholarship and/or for renewals) turned into our Finance Office by close of business on March 15th.



If you need further information, or forms, please contact the church office or visit our website.

Direct link:

<https://www.gbsumc.org/studentscholarships>

SNOW REMOVAL TEAM

— We're trying to put together a list of people who would be willing to help with Snow Removal around the church. Please sign-up on the form at back

of sanctuary and include cell phone number.

LITURGISTS— SCRIPTURE READERS

— First service needs liturgists and second service needs scripture

readers. If you'd like to help, please sign-up at the back of the sanctuary.

MUSCIANS — If you'd like to join the REVIVE Band, contact Andrea Bauer or Jack June.



First United Methodist Church

2123 Forest

Great Bend, KS 67530



P: (620) 792-2148

www.GBFUMC.org

[FaceBook.com/GBFirstUMC](https://www.facebook.com/GBFirstUMC)

Contact the office to receive this newsletter by email or find it on the website, www.GBFUMC.org.

WORSHIP @ FUMC!

SUNDAY

9:00 a.m. Worship Service

10:00 a.m. Discovery Hour

11:00 a.m. REVIVE

Virtual Worship Services:

Both Services on YouTube channel GBFUMC

SPECIAL SUNDAYS & 5TH SUNDAYS

10:00 a.m. Worship Service (see church calendar)

COMMUNITY GROUPS that meet each week, bi-weekly or monthly at FUMC are CORE Community, Girl Scouts, NA, TOPS, The MomCo (MOPS), Central Kansas Thread Benders Quilt Guild, and Vintage Wheels of Great Bend.

Contact us:

Rev. Robert Selvakumar

pastor@gbfumc.org

Children's Director, Larissa Graham

grahaml@bartonccc.edu

Secretary, Rebecca Peak

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Treasurer, Sarah Schwartz

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Coordinator of Worship Arts, Marc Webster

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Noah's Ark Preschool Director, Kaylee Keilman

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Custodian, Marc Webster

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