



From the Pastor's Desk:

God wants us to pass the test James 1:1-27

James knew that Christians scattered all over the world would face challenges to their faith. If they were to remain faithful, their beliefs needed to be not only intellectual, but also very practical. He urged his readers to put their faith into action. God allows tough situations in our lives in order to refine us and bring us closer to God. We should approach these times with a right attitude and seek wisdom from God.

I wanted to share this story from Max Lucado from the book, *On the Anvil*. When a potter bakes a pot, he checks its solidity by pulling it out of the oven and thumping it. If it "sings" it's ready. If it "thuds," it's placed back in the oven. The character of a person is also checked by thumping. Been thumped lately?

Late-night phone calls. Grouchy teacher. Grumpy moms. Burnt meals. Flat tires. "You've got to be kidding" deadlines. Those are thumps; those irritating inconveniences that trigger the worst in us. They catch us off guard. Flat footed. They aren't big enough to be crises, but if you get enough of them, watch out! Traffic jams. Long lines. Empty mailboxes. Dirty clothes on the floor...Thump, Thump. Thump. How do I respond? Do I sing? Or do I thud? Jesus said that out of the nature of the heart a man speaks (Luke 6:45). There's nothing like a good thump to reveal the matter of the heart. The true character of a person is seen not in a momentary heroic, but in the thump-packed humdrum of day-to-day living.

How do you respond when you are "thumped" from people at the grocery store? Your initial reaction during these times reflects who you are. What responses need to change? Make the changes today.

Sermon Titles

Feb. 07	How Can I Find Forgiveness?	Psalm 32:1-11
Feb. 14	Is There Only One Way to God?	John 14:1-6
Feb. 21	Why Do Christians Have So Many Problems?	Genesis 50:12-5-21 & James 1:2-4
Feb. 28	Why Don't My Prayers Get Answered?	Isaiah 59:1-2 & James 1:6-8
Mar. 07	Is There a Sin God Cannot Forgive?	Mark 3:19b-30 & Acts 26:24-29

Pastor:

Rev. Dennis Carter

Phone: 620-272-7262

E-mail: pastor.umcew@eaglecom.net

Sunday Worship Times:

Sunday School at 9:30am

Worship at 10:45am

TV Ministry—Eagle Cable channel 2
at

10:45am and 12:45pm

TV Ministry email:

Video.umcew@eaglecom.net

Church office:

402 N. Douglas Ave.

Ellsworth, KS 67439

785-472-3870

Email: first.umcew@eaglecom.net

Website: www.umcellsworth.org

Facebook: uumcellsworth

Church Office Hours:

Tuesday through Friday

8:30 a.m.—12:30 p.m.

(Other times available by appointment)

Temp-Return Service Requested
Ellsworth, KS 67439
402 N. Douglas Ave.
First United Methodist Church





Kids of the Kingdom/Kids with a Mission:



"Let us not get tired of doing what is good." Galatians 6:9

As we begin another new year, this verse is especially meaningful.

Some days we really are tired and ready to just give up. Would anyone notice if we just faded away, deciding that 40 years is a great run for Kids, let someone else pick up the slack? Then, Wednesday rolls around again, and the kids gather for snacks, music, crafts, Bible stories, recreation, and giggles, and our spirits are revived again. Yes, it's different with smaller numbers, but there are still nearly 60 children hearing the Word! God is still working in our community, even when we don't feel like anything is working. Our lessons this month have been Moses and David, how God worked in their lives and how He works in our lives today.

Kids with a Mission continues to flourish! During Advent, they toured the Catholic and Lutheran churches with guides explaining their activities and traditions of the season. After Christmas, the Presbyterian, Methodist, and Harvest Bible churches were viewed with excitement and great interest in each house of worship. They are learning similarities and differences, but mostly the importance of working together to spread the Good News of Jesus Christ.

THANK YOU

THANK YOU

The finance team wishes to say thank you to all of the generous donors who contributed to the north building loan. We are excited to announce that the loan has been officially paid in full! Your generosity has been amazing!

"Thanks for all the many prayers; for covid healing; the death of my brother, Gene." The prayers upheld me during many difficult/challenging days.

Lu Adams

Gary & I would like to thank you and the congregation for your extreme kindness, generosity and prayers during our unexpected crisis. The beautifully made ramp has been absolutely instrumental in Gary's rehabilitation. Without it, we would've not been able to get him home and eventually out walking so quickly.

Thank you all from the bottom of our heart. We are truly blessed!

Gary & Michelle Briscoe

Thank you for allowing our students to come out and share what the Lord is doing in our lives. Your love and support is encouraging and greatly appreciated.

Thanks again,

Adult & Teen Challenge of the Greater South



Ash Wednesday Service

Wednesday, February 17

6:00 pm in Ellsworth.

Ash Wednesday begins the season of Lent, a time when many Christians prepare for Easter by observing a period of fasting, repentance, moderation and spiritual discipline.

Ash Wednesday emphasizes two themes: our sinfulness before God and our human mortality. The service focuses on both themes, helping us realize that both have been triumphed through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Ashes are an ancient symbol. In Genesis, we read that God formed human beings out of the dust of the earth (Genesis 2:7). After expulsion from the Garden of Eden, the first human beings are told by God, "you are dust, and to dust you shall return" (Genesis 3:19 NRSV). The Hebrew word translated dust, is occasionally translated ashes elsewhere. Throughout scripture, ashes are part of rituals when people seek forgiveness and mourn their sin (see Numbers 19:9, 17; Hebrews 9:13; Jonah 3:6; Matthew 11:21, and Luke 10:13, among others).

Upcoming Events

Lenten Bible Study—The Seeker's Sunday School Class will be studying "He Chose the Nails" by Max Lucado. The study will begin Sunday, Feb. 21 for 6 weeks.

Every gift from God reveals his love, but no gift reveals his love more than the gifts of the cross. Have we taken time to open these? As we do, we find that Jesus did it all just for us. The "He Chose" Study Guide includes video discussion questions, Bible exploration, personal study and reflection materials.

Encounter Evening—Please mark your calendars for Saturday, March 6th. We will be hosting an evening of worship, song, message, and inspiration. Please RSVP to the church office if you will be attending, so we can plan for proper health precautions and social distancing. Because of health concerns, there will not be a meal this year. More details will be sent soon. Please consider joining us!

Holy Week—Plans are being made for our Holy Week Services. The morning and evening messages will be in a virtual format again this year by Dennis Wallace and his son Aaron Wallace. Dennis is a retired pastor of Asbury United Methodist Church, and Aaron is pastor of Reliance Community Church in Wichita. Dennis is a return speaker from 30+ years ago. We look forward to God's message they will share with us.



Things I've learned while working in the tech booth . . .

It's easy to criticize what we don't understand. So, I'm hoping this information helps some of you relax and be more patient with the tech crew during worship.

We push out an audio/video signal to Eagle television each Sunday morning. That signal is then handed off to Eagle and we have no control what happens to it then. It goes to their tower south of Ellsworth and then is pushed out by amplifiers that are all over town. Those amplifiers can act differently in different parts of town. So, one person may experience sound problems on their home television when a person in a different part of town does not. We have a monitor that allows us to hear what we are sending out to Eagle. We check the audio on that monitor frequently. If an amplifier fails and then starts working again, you may experience low audio and then sudden normal audio. We are not making any changes and cannot fix that problem from our end.

We can plan our audio/visual work for Sunday morning by looking at the bulletin. However, the following can cause a delay in our reaction to sound/video issues:

- A participant walks to a different microphone than anticipated

- A participant refuses to use a microphone

- A participant tries to power on/off the microphone we have already turned on

- A participant has a very high pitched voice which is hard to be amplified without distortion. We can adjust but it may take us 10-15 seconds to find the setting that works the best.

The words on the screen are usually correct. However, if one of these things happen, we will not be able to display the words:

- The scripture reader announces that they are reading out of a different version of the bible other than the pew bible version. The pew bible version (NRSV) is our communication/worship team choice for services.

- If there is an error in the saved hymn text, please let us know and we will correct it.

Why don't we just turn on all the mics and leave them on? If we do this, we get feedback (distorted sounds that are unpleasant).

I've learned that audience expectations are very high and the length of patience for adjustments is approximately 1 to 2 seconds. We may not be able to adjust as quickly as you expect us to.

We want to know when you have problems hearing or seeing the broadcast, either on Facebook or Eagle Channel 2. It is best if you text or call Anita's phone 785-531-0160 while you are experiencing the issue. If there is something we can do, we will do it.

We will be able to push the sanctuary tv ministry feed through Facebook eventually. However, this will take some time to experiment and right now Murray is training me and neither of us has had time to experiment. Right now, we are using the tablet and it only has one camera and one microphone. With me in the tech booth on audio and Mark ushering, we don't have anyone to operate the tablet and so we turn it on and let it be.

The bulletin is, in my words, a "suggested order of service." Sometimes we skip things and sometimes things are added. We are all human and trying our best to give a gift of worship to the Lord. Please try not to get upset when things aren't perfect. We aren't perfect and our worship isn't perfect.

If you would be willing to help with the Facebook feed, please let one of us know. We need someone who can commit to be at the sanctuary on Sunday mornings by 10:15. Or, we need someone to fill in when an usher doesn't show up on Sunday mornings so Mark can operate the tablet or replace him if he needs to be gone.

Our television ministry is 34 years old. It has been a blessing to many. The Facebook Live stream has also been a blessing to many. We appreciate the gifts given to the ministry and look forward to continuing to improve and also trying to keep up with technology changes in the world. One day there may be no cable tv and everything we watch may be through "streaming" on the internet. We will work with what we have as technology allows. We ask for your prayers and suggestions as we serve the Lord and our church body.

Anita Hoffhines



Weekly Activities:

Sundays:

- 9:15 am—Seekers Sunday School (Zoom)
- 9:30 am—Sunday School (in person)
- 10:45 am—Worship in sanctuary
- 8:00 pm—AA/Al-Anon Meeting (North Building)

Tuesdays:

- 1:00 pm—Grief Support Group (Arts Council)
- 6:00 pm—Confirmation Class
- 8:00 pm—AA/Al-Anon Meeting (North Building)

Wednesdays:

- 3:05 pm—Kids of the Kingdom/Kids with a Mission
- 6:15 pm—Jr/Sr High Youth Group

Thursdays:

- 8:00 pm—AA/Al-Anon Meeting (North Building)

February Calendar:

Tues, Feb. 2

- 7:00 pm—Leadership Meeting (Zoom)

Sun, Feb. 7—Communion

- 7:00 pm—Trustees Meeting (Zoom)

Mon, Feb. 8

- 6:30 pm—Finance/Stewardship Meeting (Zoom)

Tues, Feb. 9

- 6:30 pm—Missions/Evangelism Meeting (Pines)

Wed, Feb. 10

- 8:30 am—Ministerial Alliance Meeting (Zoom)

Thurs, Feb. 11

- 2:00 pm—Faith & Hope Circle
- 7:00 pm—Honor & Glory Circle

Sun, Feb. 14—Valentine's Day

- Moment for Missions (Ministerial Alliance)

Tues, Feb. 16

- 7:00 pm—Worship Team Meeting (Zoom)

Wed, Feb. 17

- 6:00 pm—Ash Wednesday Service

Sun, Feb. 21

- 8:00 am—United Methodist Men Breakfast

Mon, Feb. 22

- 6:30 pm—SPPRC Meeting (Zoom)

Thurs, Feb. 25

- 6:30 pm—Education Meeting (Zoom)

Sun, Feb. 28

- 12:00 pm—McGreevy Baby Shower

Recent Prayer Requests:

Lisa Maston's Family

Continued Prayers for:

Robert & Terri Bock, Mary Ann Hoard, LaJune Gustin's Family, Donna Davis, Denise Waymaster's Family, Vera Mae Miller's Family, Frona Lorimer's Family, Jim & Par Schulz, Vernon Davis's Family, Dorothy Thomas, Roger Samuelson, Gavin Webber, Robert Blanchard, Mason May, Charlie Thrush's family, Neva Chastain, Betty Carter, Penny Swift-Kelly, Tom Maze, Rose Doubrava, Alan Falk, Rhonda Hoffhines-Blair, Steve Noren, Judy Gebhardt, Bonnie Stinchcomb, Judy Toman, Karen Kerr

Shut-Ins ~ Nursing Home Residents ~ Youth ~ Mosaic Clients ~ Our Nation's Leaders ~ Unemployed ~ Unspoken Requests ~ Families who have lost loved ones or who are not able to see family members during this difficult time

Continued prayers will be listed for 3 months. Please contact the church office to continue on the list.

February 80+ & Shut-In Birthdays

5th— Ronald Rathbun

1305 Alyward Ave
Ellsworth 67439

9th—Dorothy Thomas

1156 HWY 14, Room 313
Ellsworth 67439



Bulletin Mission Outreach

Good Sam Shut-Ins

Postponed until further notice

(* Deliver Upper Rooms)
(Bulletin Delivery contact: Deb Furgason 472-8956)

Ushers

Ed Hoffhines, Head Usher
David Stonebraker
Monte West & Boys

(Usher contact:
Mason May 472-4261)

Young Disciples

7—Pastor Dennis
14—Cunningham Family
21—Pastor Family
28—Heather West

(Young Disciples contact:
Nancy Stonebraker 472-4208)

Communion

Karen Shriner, Ann Ridinger,
Evelyn Sinnott

Altar Flowers

The Honor & Glory
Fellowship is in charge of
Altar Flowers.

Task Force Co-Chairs

Judy Scritchfield (472-4168)
Linda Davis (472-1151)

Task Force List

Kourtney Maisog, Brenda Koralek,
Norma Nicholas, Heather West, Lesa Houston,
Shelby Cravens, Sharon Marsh, Abby Janssen

Liturgist

7—Karen Shriner
14—Roberta Waymaster
21—Cunningham Family
28—Anita Hoffhines

(Liturgist contact:
church office 472-3870)

Guardian Angels

7—Sharon Marsh
14—Lesla Houston
21—Pat Allen
28—Deb Furgason

(Guardian Angel contact:
Deb Furgason 472-8956)

“As each has
received a
gift, use it to
serve one
another, as
good
stewards of
God’s varied
grace.”

**1 Peter
4: 10**

Websites

Hutchinson District Office:
www.hutchinsondistrictumc.org

Great Plains Conference Office:
www.greatplainsumc.org

United Methodist Website:
www.umc.org

General Board of Disciples:
www.umcdiscipleship.org