

## In this Issue...

A word from Pastor Libby....	2
Prayer Requests.....	2
Match Madness.....	3
Sacking Hunger .....	3
Dillons.....	4
Mental Health.....	4
Calendar.....	5
Discover U.....	6
UMC Next.....	6
God Sightings.....	7

## Ash Wednesday Potluck and Service

Ash Wednesday is February 14. Please join us for a potluck meal at 5:30pm and our Ash Wednesday service at 7pm. Please bring a dish or side to share.



## Meal Club Dates February

Meal Club is changing it up in February! The two meals this month will be at **Russell's Restaurant**.

**Friday, February 9 – 11:30am**

**Friday, February 23 – 6:00 pm**

Come enjoy a meal and fellowship. You are responsible for your own meal. The conversation and fun are free for all!!



## L.E.A.F.

(Legislative Event for Advocacy in Faith) is an ecumenical event for people of all faiths. It is sponsored by the Great Plains Conference United Women in Faith and Church Women United.

The 2024 LEAF team have planned an exciting event for February 18-19. This year we will present an in-person Legislative Event that will be free. The host church is Topeka First UMC.

The theme for 2024, based on Hebrews 20:24-25: "Kansas Health Issues: Mental, Spiritual, Physical, Emotional."

Register at: <https://gp-reg.brapp.com/2024LEAF>

## How can we pray for you?

Send your prayer requests the following ways:

- Call or text Pastor Libby at 785-564-1977
- Email Pastor Libby at [pastorlibbyoberdorf@gmail.com](mailto:pastorlibbyoberdorf@gmail.com)
- Email the church office at [mollie.purcell@coc-salina.org](mailto:mollie.purcell@coc-salina.org)
- Call the church office at 785-825-5170

The next issue of The Message will be out in March. Please have all articles to the church office by February 23.

Would you like to receive The Message by email? Email Mollie at [mollie.purcell@coc-salina.org](mailto:mollie.purcell@coc-salina.org)

## PRAYER LIST

### Joys and Concerns

#### **MEMBERS:**

Roberta Blakeley, Bobbie Brockway, Chris Davis, Sylvia Rice and Family

#### **FAMILY:**

#### **FRIENDS:**

David Budden  
Lucas Nutter  
Sharon (Judy Beck's mom)

#### **ARMED FORCES:**

We pray for those who are serving in the armed forces and for their families.

#### **LOCAL COMMUNITY:**

We pray for those who are homeless due to circumstances beyond their control. Interracial understanding.

#### **OUR WORLD COMMUNITY:**

We pray for those who are incarcerated and their families, for peace of God to rule in the hearts of our local and national leaders.

*\*Names are included on the prayer list for one month. If the prayer request needs to be on the list for multiple months, please contact the church office. To submit a prayer request please fill out a form in the pew at church or call the church office.*

## A Word from Pastor Libby

Friends,

We are coming near the end of our series on being Drawn In, focusing on the creative spirit we which leads us on unknown and unexpected paths of discipleship. We have talked about Dreaming, Hovering, Risking, and Listening as we engage with our Triune God. We have yet to focus on Re-integration and Resting as we draw all our learning together toward a vision of God's call on our lives to discipleship. Just today I was reading a post by a spiritual mentor of mine, Rev. Steven Charleston, who creates a beautiful picture of the impact of our discipleship. He writes, "You have given more than you know, not only in ways that are clear to see, but in ways that are woven into your life like a thread of light -- small ways, kind ways, ways unique to you. Like wildflowers growing in an open field, your spontaneous spirituality has impacted the lives of more people than you will ever imagine. You are a source of hope for many -- an example of love for many more." He creatively helps us to see the impact of discipleship on the world we share with our creator.

I have enjoyed the creative sharing in worship where we each get to share a bit of ourselves as we complete a vision of what it means to share our whole hearts with each other and with all those we encounter. It is a blessing just to see each of you dreaming, hovering, risking, and listening to your hearts as you express your discipleship within the community.

This series has been a great foundation for our Lenten Series "What r u up 2? This Lenten season, rather than focusing on what to "give up" we will take a closer look at what Jesus is "up to" and all he asks us to be up to in his name. We will focus on the small things we can do right now to follow Jesus and pursue spiritual growth as we focus on being "up to something good."

This series begins with our Ash Wednesday service at 7pm, February 14, at Salina Church of the Cross. Since this is also Valentines Day, we invite you to come early for a potluck at 5:30pm to share our communal love and the love of Christ. Please bring a side dish.

During Lent we will have a devotional booklet available for everyone who would like one to help you spend time each day considering what Jesus is up to. Our Sunday scriptures and focus will be as follows.

Ash Wednesday	Store Up	Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21
Week One	Come Up	Mark 1:9-15
Week Two	Take Up	Mark 8:31-38
Week Three	Raise Up	John 2:13-22
Week Four	Light Up	John 3:14-21
Week Five	Lift Up	John 12:20-33
Week six, Palm Sunday	Sit Up	John 12:12-16

As we move toward Easter and the resurrection of Jesus Christ, may we be aware of and remember the ways we are and have been resurrected in this life as we are drawn in to discipleship.

Grace and Peace,  
Pastor Libby





Three acts with multiple hits on the Christian music charts among them are coming to perform a benefit show in Salina. The Unreal Tour is making a stop in Salina, and proceeds from the concert will benefit the Salvation Army. Acts including Unspoken, Sanctus Real, and JJ Weeks will hit the stage at the Tony's Pizza Events Center on Friday, April 5<sup>th</sup>.



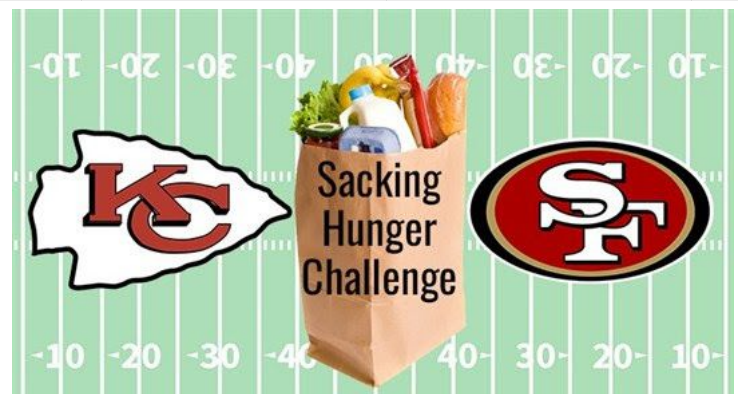
Save the date for Match Madness 2024! On Thursday, March 21, your dollar – and your impact – will stretch even further when you donate to our fund at the Greater Salina Community Foundation. Come be a champion for Church of the Cross.  
#MatchMadness2024

### Intergenerational Ministry



Let's gather with others of all ages and stages of life to learn from each other and grow beginning Monday, January 8 from 6pm - 7:30pm. Explore calling, work through life situations, build lasting relationships, and learn about God all while sharing a meal together! (meal freely provided) Ages 0-110. Sign up via Facebook events or email Tara so we can get a headcount for food to be provided. This is an ongoing event with the following dates:

February 5 and 19  
March 4 and 18  
April 8 and 22  
May 6 and 20



Bishop David Wilson is again inviting churches in Kansas and Nebraska to help score a victory against hunger by collecting food in the ramp-up toward the Super Bowl.

Bishop Wilson and Bishop Bob Farr of Missouri are teaming up again and have invited their colleagues in the California-Nevada, California-Pacific and Oregon-Idaho conferences to a friendly competition to see who can collect more food through Feb. 15, the Thursday after the big game.

We will have boxes available for each team so you can contribute for your favorite team. We expect one box will be a lot fuller than the other.

Help as score big on the fight against hunger!



## Update your VANCO Information



### VANCO makes giving to COC easier than ever!

Visit [www.coc-salina.org](http://www.coc-salina.org) and click on "Give your offering to Church of the Cross by clicking here." This will allow you to either give through a recurring payment or a one-time payment.

If you are currently signed up for a recurring payment you are able to edit your information by going to that same link and clicking login in the upper right corner. Then click on Payment Methods on the left side. You are also able to see the history of payments you have made to Church of the Cross through the VANCO system.

Stop by the church office between 9:30am and 1pm Monday-Friday to find out more information or ask any questions you may have.

If you have questions or need help, call the church (785-825-5170) and talk to either Mollie or Pat.

## Blessing Box

The blessing box located in the shelter house south of the church is very frequently used. In the back of the narthex is a white cabinet for donations for the blessing box. When out shopping if each family picked up one or two items to go into the box it would help make sure people in our community do not go hungry. Donations can be left on the welcome center or put in the cabinet.



Suggestions of items for the blessing box are:

- Canned or bag tuna
- Vienna sausages
- Canned fruit (no individual sizes needed right now)
- Peanut butter and Jelly (family size jars)
- Canned vegetables
- Crackers
- Grab and go snacks
- Macaroni and cheese.

## Shopping at Dillons?

We recently received a generous check of \$235 from Dillons! If you shop at Dillons you can contribute simply by doing your grocery shopping. By participating in Dillons' Community Rewards program, you can help us make a difference in our community. To get started, visit [www.dillons.com](http://www.dillons.com) and navigate to the community rewards section. Our organization number is X1722, it is the key to ensuring your purchases benefit COC. As you prepare for your holiday grocery shopping, we kindly encourage you to set up Dillons giving and support our organization. Your support will greatly contribute to our efforts. If you need any help with this please talk to Mollie in the church office.



## Mental Health Training Opportunities

**NAMI, the National Alliance on Mental Illness**, is the nation's largest grassroots mental health organization dedicated to building better lives for the millions of Americans affected by mental illness.

NAMI is a non-profit organization that provides **free** education, support and advocacy for those persons and their families who are impacted by a mental health disorder.

All NAMI trained family program leaders are family members with a loved one living with mental illness; i.e., depression, anxiety, bipolar, schizophrenia, borderline personality disorder, OCD, PTSD.

To register for classes go to the following link

<https://namikansas.org/calendar/> choose the course you would like and after clicking on the course it will have a link to register.

# FEBRUARY AT COC

## Thursday, February 1

10:00 AM TLC – Webster Room  
5:30 PM Gym Reserved

## Saturday, February 3

10:00 AM Leadership Team Retreat – Webster Room

## Sunday, February 4

9:00 AM In-Person and Online Worship  
10:00 AM Adult Sunday School – Courtyard Room  
3:30 PM Gym Reserved  
6:00 PM Gym Reserved

## Monday, February 5

1:00 PM Prayer Shawl – Courtyard Room  
3:00 PM Bell Choir Practice – Webster Room  
6:00 PM Intergenerational Ministry – Webster Room  
7:00 PM AA Group 3 – Webster East Classroom

## Tuesday, February 6

6:30 PM Scouts

## Wednesday, February 7

7:00 PM AA Group 3 – Webster East Classroom

## Thursday, February 8

10:00 AM TLC – Webster Room  
5:30 PM Gym Reserved

## Friday, February 9

11:30 AM Meal Club – Russell's Restaurant  
6:00 PM Scouts – Webster Room

## Saturday, February 10

9:00 AM Scouts – Webster Room  
9:00 AM Garden Discussion – Courtyard Room

## Sunday, February 11

9:00 AM In-Person and Online Worship  
10:00 AM Adult Sunday School – Courtyard Room  
3:30 PM Gym Reserved  
6:00 PM Gym Reserved

## Monday, February 12

1:00 PM Prayer Shawl – Courtyard Room  
3:00 PM Bell Choir Practice – Webster Room  
7:00 PM AA Group 3 – Webster East Classroom

## Tuesday, February 13

1:30 PM UMW  
6:30 PM Scouts

## Wednesday, February 14

5:30 PM Ash Wednesday/Valentine's Potluck – Webster Room  
7:00 PM Ash Wednesday Service - Sanctuary  
7:00 PM AA Group 3 – Webster East Classroom

## Thursday, February 15

10:00 AM TLC  
5:30 PM Gym Reserved

## Saturday, February 17

10:00 AM Basic Sewing – Webster Room

## Sunday, February 18

9:00 AM In-Person and Online Worship  
10:00 AM Adult Sunday School – Courtyard Room  
3:30 PM Gym Reserved  
6:00 PM Gym Reserved

## Monday, February 19

1:00 PM Prayer Shawl – Courtyard Room  
3:00 PM Bell Choir – Webster Room  
6:00 PM Interrogational Ministry – Webster Room  
7:00 PM AA Group 3 – Webster East Classroom

## Tuesday, February 20

6:30 PM Scouts

## Wednesday, February 21

7:00 PM AA Group 3 – Webster East Classroom

## Thursday, February 22

10:00 AM TLC – Webster Room  
5:30 PM Gym Reserved

## Friday, February 23

6:00 PM Meal Club – Russell's Restaurant

## Sunday, February 25

9:00 AM In-Person and Online Worship  
10:00 AM Adult Sunday School – Webster East Classroom  
3:30 PM Gym Reserved  
6:00 PM Gym Reserved

## Monday, February 26

1:00 PM Prayer Shawl - Courtyard Room  
3:00 PM Bell Choir Practice – Webster Room  
7:00 PM AA Group 3 – Webster East Classroom

## Tuesday, February 27

6:30 PM Scouts

## Wednesday, February 28

7:00 PM AA Group 3 – Webster East Classroom

## Thursday, February 29

10:00 AM TLC  
5:30 PM Gym Reserved

## February Birthdays

02/01 – Mike Franklin

02/08 – Chuck Northup

02/09 – Bert Kerns

02/11 – Jim Cates

02/15 – Gary Harding  
Roberta Blakeley  
Ron Geist

02/23 – Sandy Norris



Church of the Cross Community Garden  
Join our Facebook gardening group!  
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/709784087603810>

This is a great place to support other garden growers with resources, information, tips and tricks, and more. Let's get growing!



UMCNext and Mainstream UMC, both unofficial centrist United Methodist advocacy groups, are joining together to hold four online roundtables ahead of General Conference. The first session, titled "The Church We Dream Of," is scheduled for 6 p.m. CT Thursday, Feb. 1. Find on Youtube and Facebook at "UMCNext."





# Where have you seen God?

Share your photos of where you have seen God. To submit your photos please email them to Mollie at [Mollie.purcell@coc-salina.org](mailto:Mollie.purcell@coc-salina.org).



## All Church Birthday Party

For our all church birthday party we celebrated January – June with July – December sitting with the half birthdays. It was a great time with a great turn-out! We can't wait to do it again in July!



United Methodist  
Church of the Cross  
1600 Rush St.  
Salina, KS 67401

Church office hours:  
Monday – Friday 9:30 AM – 1:00 PM

### **Church of the Cross**

In-Person and Online Sunday Worship – 9 AM

### **Church Staff**

Pastor Libby Themis  
[pastorlibbyoberdorf@gmail.com](mailto:pastorlibbyoberdorf@gmail.com) 785-564-1977

Mollie Purcell, Administrative Assistant  
[Mollie.purcell@coc-salina.org](mailto:Mollie.purcell@coc-salina.org) 785-825-5170

Pat Mills, Accountant  
[accountant@coc-salina.org](mailto:accountant@coc-salina.org) 785-833-6618

Tara Baxter, Neighboring Specialist  
[tara.baxter@coc-salina.org](mailto:tara.baxter@coc-salina.org) 785-342-5968

Dave Musil, Custodian