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Mid-Year All Church Birthday Party

July 9th after church join us for a mid-year All Church Birthday Party. We will have six tables for July – December. Sit at your table or where your half birthday falls. Sign-up to decorate and bring a dessert for a certain month at the welcome center or contact the church office.



Meal Club Dates July

Meal Club is a chance to get together and share a meal with others. Enjoy a meal out at Perkins (at your own expense) and the conversation of your friends from Church of the Cross. The meals are currently planned for:

July 14 – 11:30am @ Perkins
July 28 – 6pm @ Perkins



Young Adult Group

Are you a young adult or know someone who is? This group is perfect for any young adult who is looking to make friends, learn new things, and have fun together! The July 11th meeting will be in the Youth Room at COC.



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
- Email the church office at mollie.purcell@coc-salina.org
- Call the church office at 785-825-5170

The next issue of The Message will be out in August. Please have all articles to the church office by July 25.

Would you like to receive The Message by email? Email Mollie at mollie.purcell@coc-salina.org

PRAYER LIST

Joys and Concerns

MEMBERS:

Unnamed Prayer, Roberta Blakeley,
Steve Cooksey, Bobbie Brockway

FAMILY:

FRIENDS:

Unnamed Prayer
Hunter Burns
Lucas Nutter
Don and Sharon (Judy Beck's parents)

ARMED FORCES:

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

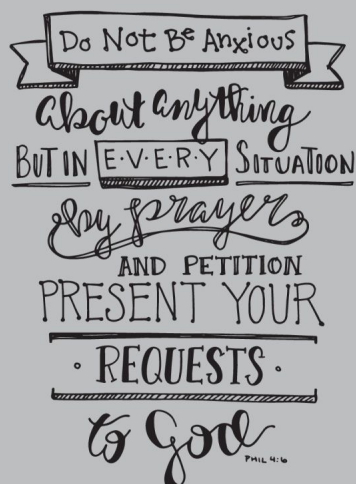
LOCAL COMMUNITY:

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

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,

I recently took a trip to Colorado with a friend to take her for her first visit to Garden of the Gods, Royal Gorge, and to the tunnel trail. We also got a trip in to Seven Falls when our balloon ride was cancelled because of the weather. As we visited different places, we saw several signs like "224 feet to the top of Seven Falls" or "Watch for Falling Rocks." But the sign that stuck with me (pun intended) the most was "Use caution near cactus because they are dangerous."

The cactus sign really caught my attention because for people new to cactus the sign could be a deterrent from being able to see them for what they really are. (See picture below) They are incredibly beautiful when they are in bloom, especially in the wild. I don't think I've ever seen one blooming in the wild before.

I found myself thinking about how often we might avoid something or some person because someone has told us it or they are dangerous. We get so focused on the danger that we fail to see the inherent beauty. Sometimes we are given a version of a person that is much like that of the cactus that they are dangerous because they are not soft and smooth like a lamb's ear but rather prickly like a cactus, or we assume they are prickly because of where they live, their race or ethnicity, where they work or even how much money they have.

As I spent time with these thoughts, I found myself wondering about my own response to other people who are different from me. Am I as welcoming as I can be? Am I a good model of God's care and love? Where can I do better to connect with people who are in a different situation than me? I was reminded that to really understand where I miss the mark, I need to learn more about the people I share community with and to walk in their shoes.

Two things I have chosen to do to get a better perspective of my neighbors and community are to work with Grab-n-Go and to now apply to be a chaplain with the Salina Fire Department. I know I still have a long way to go, and I'm looking forward to our work with Rev. Kathy Williams, Director of Clergy Excellence, Great Plains Conference, who is guiding our Leadership Team to better understand diversity, equity, and inclusivity. Our Leadership Team will be completing the diversity instrument that helps us to understand our strengths and areas for growth and understanding individually and as a Leadership Team. I pray you will pray for us as we look past the "danger signs" and to see what is blooming in the people around us who we have yet to really get to know.

Jesus said, "I was hungry, and you gave me food, I was thirsty, and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me." (Matthew 25: 31-40) He said this to help people understand that all are welcome in his kingdom. Our calling as disciples of Jesus is to fully live the life, he has called us to, even when it is difficult, or we think it is dangerous. May we find strength and hope in faithfully living out our calling to see and know there is beauty and love even in places that are sometimes deemed dangerous.

+ Love,
Pastor Libby



Bishop David Wilson leads his first Annual Conference session

Bishop Wilson's first sermon of the conference, with the theme of "Clay in the Hands of the Creator," included pottery artist Wanda Jackson making creations at the front of the hall. Continuing the theme of pottery he chose for his sermon during his installation ceremony in February, the bishop showed a picture of a bowl made by a friend he considered a brother. The piece was not signed, which meant it is to be used and not just displayed.

"The unsigned piece is like our credible witness as Christians," he said. "It is not about what people hear from us, but rather it is from the usefulness of our lives."

He also previewed a proposal for a year-long study to see whether the conference should redraw its districts, in place since the beginning of the Great Plains in 2014.

The bishop said that even though the conference has lost 155 churches to disaffiliation, the Great Plains still boasts 750 churches, the most in the South-Central Jurisdiction.

The bishop showed a beaded staff, adorned with eagle feathers, which was given to him by Bishop Bruce Blake. It was Bishop Blake's while he was leading the Oklahoma Conference, and was given to Bishop Wilson on the night before his installation ceremony in February. Bishop Blake told Rev. Dr. Thomas Roughface, Bishop Wilson's predecessor in the Oklahoma Indian Missionary Conference, that it should be presented to the first Native American to be elected as bishop -- which ended up being Bishop Wilson in November.

With a bang of his beaded gavel, Bishop David Wilson adjourned the 2023 Great Plains Annual Conference on Saturday morning. "I've been on a high cloud, and it'll be hard to come down," the bishop said shortly before adjournment.

Other Annual Conference Action

May 31 – A 3% increase in clergy salaries was approved. One hundred and fifty-six churches were approved for disaffiliation.

Day 1 – Our memorial service recognized clergy, clergy spouses, and children of clergy who died in the past year. Laity session hosted conference leaders.

Day 2 – Celebration of Retirees. Laity address, by Lisa Maupin, "Lay the foundation with your work to grow something that you may never witness the fruits of that labor, the impact of your words and presence, or meet the people and generations who come behind you that benefit from the efforts you did today," she said.

Day 3 - This year's commissioning and ordination class was the largest in GP history included 50 ordained elders and deacons, as well as provisional elders and deacons. The passed resolutions that supported the creation of a regional conference of the United States; another to prohibit membership on boards, councils, and committees when immediate family members are accountable to these. Eleven Kansas and Ten Nebraska churches celebrated 150 years.

Day 4 - The conference approved increasing the racial-ethnic diversity on conference committees, teams, and boards. Also approved was a resolution titled "Building Bridges, Not Walls," that pledged continued support and guidance for refugees entering the country.

Baby Shower for Tara Baxter

You are invited to a baby shower to honor mom to be Tara Baxter on July 29th at 2pm. Hope to see you there!



VANCO Giving Online

VANCO makes giving to the church easy! Through your support and contributions, we can share the message of our faith to not only our congregation and the community, but to help support and create ministry that shares our love with everyone.

There are two ways to use VANCO for e-giving:

- Download the mobile app: Download Vanco Mobile either through the Apple Store or Google Play. Search Church of the Cross and find the one that is in Salina, KS and give.
- Visit www.coc-salina.org and easily enter your donation through our website.

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
- Peanut butter
- Canned vegetables
- Crackers
- Grab and go snacks
- Macaroni and cheese.

Thank you – COC Bell Ringers and Extended Warranty Concert

Thank you to everyone who came out to the COC Bell Ringers and Extended Warranty Concert on June 17. This concert raised \$1,000 for the Salina Area Emergency Aid Foodbank as well as non-perishable goods were donated.

Thank you Bill Burrows for organizing this event! We hope to hear more from Extended Warranty and the COC Bell Ringers soon!

PRAYER WALK

Third Sunday of the Month at 2pm
(Weather permitting)

Beginning at Church of the Cross
1600 Rush St. Salina, KS 67401

Updates available on Facebook -
United Methodist Church of the Cross

April 16

May 21

June 18

July 16

August 20



Give by simply shopping at Dillons

Do you buy groceries at Dillons? Do you shop on Amazon? If you answered yes to one of those questions you can give simply by shopping! Dillons: Visit www.dillons.com and go to community rewards. COC's organization number is: X1722

JULY AT COC

Sunday, July 2

9:00 AM In-Person and Online Worship
10:00 AM Adult Sunday School – Webster East Classroom

Monday, July 3 – Church Office Closed

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

Tuesday, July 4 – Church Office Closed

Happy 4th of July

Wednesday, July 5

7:00 PM AA Group 3 – Webster East Classroom

Thursday, July 6

10:00 AM TLC – Webster Room
10:00 AM Outreach Meeting – Courtyard Room

Friday, July 7

2:00 PM Grab N Go – North Lot

Saturday, July 8

10:00 AM Craft Together and Stamp Carving – Webster Room

Sunday, July 9

9:00 AM In-Person and Online Worship
10:00 AM Mid-Year All Church Birthday Party – Webster Room

Monday, July 10

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

Tuesday, July 11

1:30 PM United Women in Faith – Webster East Classroom
6:00 PM Young Adult Hangout – Youth Room

Wednesday, July 12

7:00 PM AA Group 3 – Webster East Classroom

Thursday, July 13

10:00 AM TLC – Webster Room

Friday, July 14

11:30 AM Meal Club Lunch - Perkins
2:00 PM Grab N Go – North Lot

Sunday, July 16

9:00 AM In-Person and Online Worship
10:00 AM Adult Sunday School – Webster East Classroom
2:00 PM Prayer Walk –Parking Log

Monday, July 17

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

Wednesday, July 19

7:00 PM AA Group 3 – Webster East Classroom

Thursday, July 20

10:00 AM TLC – Webster Room

Friday, July 21

2:00 PM Grab N Go – North Lot

Sunday, July 23

9:00 AM In-Person and Online Worship
10:00 AM Adult Sunday School – Webster East Classroom

Monday, July 24

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

Tuesday, July 25

6:00 PM Young Adult Game Night – Ad Astra

Wednesday, July 26

7:00 PM AA Group 3 – Webster East Classroom

Thursday, July 27

10:00 AM TLC – Webster Room

Friday, July 28

2:00 PM Grab N Go – North Lot
6:00 PM Meal Club Dinner - Perkins

Saturday, July 29

10:00 AM Backpack Giveaway – Gym
2:00 PM Tara Baxter Baby Shower – Webster Room

Sunday, July 30

9:00 AM In-Person and Online Worship
10:00 AM Adult Sunday School – Webster East Classroom

Monday, July 31

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

July Birthdays

7/10 – Gage Roberts
7/19 – Johnny Reyes
7/20 – Shirley Patrick
7/22 – Mollie Purcell

General Fund Update as of May 2023

	Revenue	Expenses	Net Profit/Loss
Current Month	\$15,209	\$15,888	(\$679)
YTD2023 Actual	\$78,602	\$97,901	(\$19,299)
YTD2023 Budget	\$76,500	\$99,025	(\$22,525)
YTD2022 Actual	\$68,266	\$87,079	(\$18,813)



Stay Comfortable in the Sanctuary!

Thank you to Prayer Shawl Ministries for sharing some of their shawls with the sanctuary! Summer is here and sometimes it isn't easy to get the temperature exactly right in such a big space. If you find yourself chilly during church please feel free to use a prayer shawl to warm up. We ask that you leave them in the sanctuary to be used week after week so everyone can be comfortable during worship! Thank you Prayer Shawl Ministries for being so thoughtful!



Discover U

Discover U has amazing events coming up!



STAMP CARVING & CRAFT TOGETHER



Date:
July 8, 2023 10AM

Location:
Webster Room

Cost: Free

Try your hand at stamp carving and make your own cards! All supplies will be available. Stamp carving and card making not your thing? Bring your own craft to work on and be in community with other makers!



Date:
July 29, 2023 10AM

Location:
Gym

Cost: Free

Gear up for the 2023-2024 school year with a new backpack and school supplies! No age limit or eligibility necessary. Come while supplies last.

Coming in August:

Adult Intro to Guitar – More information to come!
Fire Safety with Salina Fire Department – August 12

Coming in September:

OCCK Travel Training – September 16

Coming in October:

Annual Trunk or Treat and
Chicken Noodle Dinner – October 29

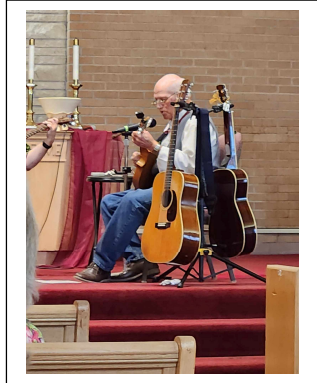
Do you have a talent or passion you want to share with the community?

Email Tara Baxter at tara.baxter@coc-salina.org to get signed up to teach a class!

Stay up to date by visiting:
www.coc-salina.org/discover-u

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.



Thank you to Bill Burrows, COC Bell Ringers, and Extended Warranty for a great night of music!

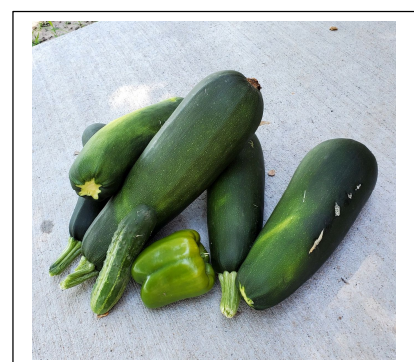


Rain can't stop Grab N Go! Thank you to all the volunteers that make this project possible!

Kathy Williams, director of clergy excellence, came and spoke with the Leadership Team about the Intercultural Development Inventory program.



The first harvest from the Community Garden went into the blessing box on June 26th. We are looking forward to many more.





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

Church of the Cross

In-Person and Online Sunday Worship – 10:30 AM

Church Staff

Pastor Libby Themis

pastorlibbyoberdorf@gmail.com 785-564-1977

Mollie Purcell, Administrative Assistant

Mollie.purcell@coc-salina.org 785-825-5170

Pat Mills, Accountant

accountant@coc-salina.org 785-833-6618

Tara Baxter, Neighboring Expert

tara.baxter@coc-salina.org 785-342-5968

Carly Tallon, Church & Society Intern

carly.tallon@coc-salina.org 817.988.8276

Dave Musil, Custodian

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