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Holy Week Services

Join us for Holy Week at Church of the Cross. Please note times and locations.

March 21st Palm Sunday

– 9am in the Sanctuary

March 28th Maundy Thursday

– 6pm in the Webster Room

March 29th Good Friday

– 7pm in the Sanctuary

March 31st Easter Sunday

Sunrise Service – 7am, 5215 S. Holmes Rd, Assaria, KS (Meet at the church at 6:40 to carpool) Joint service with Mentor and Roxbury UMC
Easter Service – 9am in the Sanctuary

Meal Club Dates March

Meal Club will be at **Russell's Restaurant**.

Friday, March 8 – 11:30am

Friday, March 22 – 6:00 pm

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



Daylight Saving Time, Sunday March 10



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 April. Please have all articles to the church office by March 25.

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

PRAYER LIST

Joys and Concerns

MEMBERS:

Bobbie Brockway, Sylvia
Rice and Family

FAMILY:

David Budden

FRIENDS:

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 currently in a season on unknowns. Will I need a coat, shorts, an umbrella, or a snow shovel today? Mother Nature seems to be constantly changing her mind. It seems Father Time is on the same changing page as Mother Nature as we again prepare to change our clocks as we spring forward again.



At first it may seem strange that we go through all this change in the spring, but spring is the season for new birth and new things. However, it makes perfect sense because we know that with change comes the opportunity to think creatively about something new.

This is why I am so thankful for all of you who were a part of our conversations last week about how we will need to make some changes going forward to make the best use of our resources. I am also excited for us to gather tomorrow to not only break bread (or pancakes) but to share our ideas as we brainstorm the many opportunities, we must look at how we will do ministry as we move forward. We have spent time in the last few months working creatively together in worship which has prepared us to come together to work together creatively in visioning our future. I see this as a sign of God coming along side us, because when we focused on creativity and being Drawn In, we did not know that we would be having these conversations right now. God prepared us!

Now as our worship has us focusing on what is something good, we can be up to we are invited to be dreaming about what will come next. What does it look like when we are up to something good? To begin with we know it is us being a church family loving one another and loving our community as we come together to make a difference in the name of Jesus Christ. We also know it is us joining in the saving love of God for humanity in whatever forms that may be.

We are the embodiment of Jesus Christ, drawn together reaching our community right here and right now just where we are, just as Jesus reached out to the communities around him. As we allow ourselves to be transformed (changed) by Jesus Christ we see our neighbors with new eyes, hear with new ears, and offer ourselves in new ways as the body of Christ for as time such as this. We are invited to rise up from the challenges before us and to lighten up the world, acting as resurrected people who have faith in the One who gave his all so we would have life without end. We can do far more together than any one of us can do alone as Paul reminds us, "And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching." (Hebrews 10:24-25)

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 5th.



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:

March 4 and 18
April 8 and 22
May 6 and 20



Laity Summit is in the works, so mark your calendars for March 10, 2024, from 1:30-5 p.m. CT and 12:30-4 p.m. MT.

Laity Summit is designed for laity from all churches large and small, rural and urban communities and established and emerging leaders. It is a time to share ideas, learn from others around our conference and beyond, and take away nuggets of knowledge to assist in growing our footprint of God's love in our respective mission fields.

Laity Summit 2024 is being planned to provide an opportunity for laity to gather in small groups and in community. Congregations are invited and encouraged to plan a watch party at your church. Together, you will be able to listen to the content of the messages from people in our Conference. Participants are encouraged to consider and discuss a couple questions within your group. How does what was said mean to us? Is there anything that we can put into action?

If you have ideas or questions, please email them to Jeanie Leeper at jleeper@greatplainsumc.org.

Update your VANCO Information



VANCO makes giving to COC easier than ever!

Visit 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
- Peanut butter and Jelly (family size jars)
- Canned vegetables
- Crackers
- Grab and go snacks (we need a bunch)
- Macaroni and cheese.

Information Sources for credible information about the war in Israel-Palestine



United Methodists for Kairos Response
www.kairosresponse.org

UMKR seeks, through nonviolent means and in partnership with Palestinian Christians, freedom, justice and equality for all Palestinians and Israelis. Webinar with delegation who visited Israel/Palestine over Christmas and much more.

General Board of Church and Society
<http://www.umcjustice.org/>

www.umcjustice.org/search?q=holy+land+resolutions

www.umcjustice.org/who-we-are/proposed-resolutions-for-general-conference-charlotte/a-pathway-for-peace-in-palestine-and-israel-6114



MARCH AT COC

Saturday, March 2

10:00 AM Pancakes and Financial Conversation, Webster Room

Sunday, March 3

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

Monday, March 4

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, March 5

6:00 PM Listening Team
6:30 PM Scouts

Wednesday, March 6

7:00 PM AA Group 3 – Webster East Classroom
7:00 PM Gym Reserved

Thursday, March 7

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

Friday, March 8

11:30 AM Meal Club – Russell's Restaurant
4:00 PM Webster Reserved

Sunday, March 10 – Daylight Savings Time Starts

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

Monday, March 11

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, March 12

1:30 PM UMW
6:30 PM Scouts

Wednesday, March 13

7:00 PM Gym Reserved
7:00 PM AA Group 3 – Webster East Classroom

Thursday, March 14

10:00 AM TLC
1:00 PM Easter Crafts & Bingo - Webster Room
5:30 PM Gym Reserved

Friday, March 15

10:00 AM Easter Crafts & Bingo – Webster Room

Saturday, March 16

6:30 PM Trivia Night – Webster Room

Sunday, March 17 – St. Patrick's Day

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

Monday, March 18

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, March 19

All Day Polling Location - Narthex
6:30 PM Scouts

Wednesday, March 20

7:00 PM Gym Reserved
7:00 PM AA Group 3 – Webster East Classroom

Thursday, March 21

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

Friday, March 22

6:00 PM Meal Club – Russell's Restaurant

Saturday, March 23

4:00 PM Webster Room Reserved

Sunday, March 24 – Palm Sunday

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

Monday, March 25

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, March 26

6:30 PM Scouts

Wednesday, March 27

7:00 PM Gym Reserved
7:00 PM AA Group 3 – Webster East Classroom

Thursday, March 28 – Maundy Thursday

10:00 AM TLC
5:30 PM Gym Reserved
6:00 PM Maundy Thursday – Webster Room

Friday, March 29 – Good Friday

7:00 PM Good Friday Service – Sanctuary

Sunday, March 31 – Easter Sunday

7:00 AM Sunrise Service – Mentor
9:00 AM In-Person and Online Worship
10:00 AM Adult Sunday School – Courtyard Room

March Birthdays

03/03 – Leona Nichols
03/19 – Arik Brockway
03/21 – Dalton Hartley
Maureen Mattison
03/22 – Phyllis Franklin
03/25 – Margaret Swindler
03/28 – Barbara Mallon



Sunset Elementary Bingo Volunteers Needed

Sunset Elementary School is having a BINGO night on March 22 from 5:30pm – 7:30pm. They are looking for volunteers to help. For more information or to sign-up please contact Tara by emailing tara.baxter@coc-salina.org.

Community Garden



Church of the Cross Community Garden applications are now being accepted. Please visit www.coc-salina.org for more information. 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!

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 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.



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.

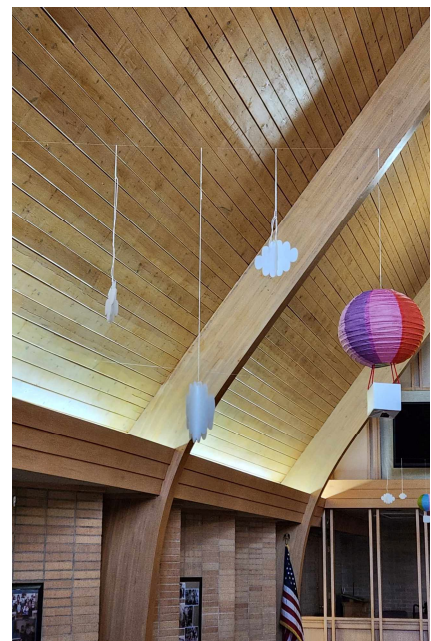


Delilah Baxter Baptism

February 18, 2024 Church of the Cross welcomed Delilah Baxter through baptism. Congratulations to Josh, Tara, and Delilah!

Sanctuary Decorations

A big thank you to those who helped decorate the sanctuary for the new series.





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

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

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