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HOW DO YOUR GIFTS SUPPORT NATIVE AMERICAN MINISTRIES?

This Sunday recognizes and supports the contributions of Native Americans to the church and society. Part of the funds collected allow us to collaborate with existing native ministries, create programs and support seminary scholarships for United Methodist Native Americans. Fifty percent of the offering remains in your annual conference to develop local ministries. The conference committee on Native American ministry (CONAM) administers these funds.

HOW TO GIVE:

Write a check to your local church with "NAMS" written in the memo line anytime until May 31.
To give online or set up monthly giving, go to UMC.org/SSGive

Meal Club Dates April

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:

May 12 – Lunch @ 11:30 am
May 26 – Dinner @ 6 pm



Community Block Party

COC is hosting a community block party on Sunday, May 28 from 6pm – 9pm. This is an event that we need help with! If you would like to be part of the setup crew or tear down crew let Tara know. We are also looking for people to help walk the neighborhood and hang door hangers to bring awareness to the neighborhood and invite them to come.

Your help is crucial in making this event a success! For more information on the Block Party see page 6. Be sure and invite your friends and family to enjoy live music and encourage the kids to bring their bikes for the bike rodeo!

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 May 22.

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
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 have no place to
stay this winter.

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,

Today as I write to you I my attention is drawn to the generosity and kindness which are expressed on May Day. I've always loved May Day because of the fun we always had delivering May baskets to our neighbors and friends. We spent a lot of time putting baskets together, choosing candy, and then picking lilacs to put them together to be delivered. This was a way to celebrate the people who were important to us through generosity and surprise. (And of course, trying to do it secretly.)

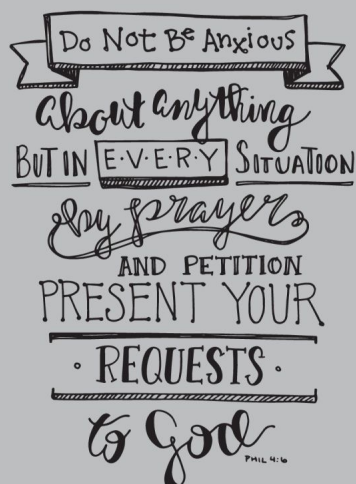
In Robin's message Sunday, she focused on what it means to have friends, a tribe, who you share things in common with. This is a great way to think about what a mountain top experience is like and to consider how we might make it a part of our everyday life. In the midst of thinking of our own tribes and our own experience it is also important for us to remember that not everyone has even one "tribe" or "community." These are the people who Jesus taught us to be in relationship with.

Jesus frequently visited with the outcasts; those who needed emotional, physical, psychological, or spiritually healing. All the people who came to him for healing would have been outcasts because they were considered unclean. Many had few if any friends or relationships beyond the other outcasts, if those. We still have outcasts from the church today, usually those who we consider to have sinned worse than we have. Yet we know the church is made up of sinners, if we weren't we wouldn't need the church or Jesus.

Sunday evening, we had our "Rescuing Your Spirituality" conversation welcoming people who need healing; people who have not been fully welcomed into the church or who left because they were injured by church practices, a church leader, or a member who considered them less than. We discussed what it would look like to create a community where everyone has a voice and is welcome into the full life of the church and special care was given to those in need of healing as well as setting up an accountability process to keep a safe space. Ultimately, we are just beginning to explore this ministry as we continue to follow God's calling for us as a church who reaches beyond the walls to build an inclusive "tribe" where relationships with one another and with God are the number one focus.

We remember Jesus' words, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me." We help people to see this as through our knowing Jesus, we can help people to see even in their woundedness they are living the life of Jesus whether we know him or not. We see God's prevenient grace leading people to Jesus whether they know him or not. When people learn their life values and integrity are the same as Jesus, they come to believe.

+ Love,
Pastor Libby



Summer Internships

We are very excited to not only have one, but two interns this summer to learn about ministry and to assist us with our ministries as they continue to follow God's calling on their lives. Tara will continue in her same capacity as our Neighboring Specialist yet will also learn with other interns throughout the summer about how their gifts align with their ministry. Our new intern, Carly Tallon, will work on some projects Carly and Tara have in common. Including but not limited to helping with the summer food distribution we will be doing in partnership with the YMCA.



Carly will be our Church and Society intern working to assist our church with peace and justice opportunities, especially working with FACT - Saline County Food Action Community Team and CHAT-E - Community Health Action Team for Equity. These are both new coalitions that Tara and Pastor Libby have been involved in to assist with finding identified community needs.

Carly has been approved as a Provisional Deacon and will be commissioned at Annual Conference this year. Carly has been serving a part-time appointment at Roxbury and Solomon UMCs for the past year as she seeks work as a Deacon. Deacons are called to ministries of Word, Service, Compassion, and Justice and elders (Pastor Libby) are called to ministries of Service, Word, Sacrament, and Order.

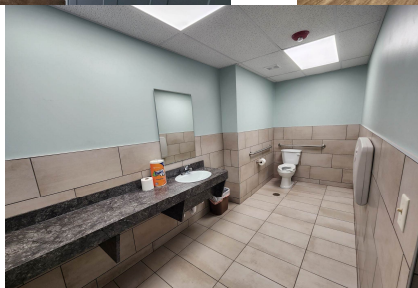
Though sometimes these overlap as elders serve and seek justice and deacons sometimes serve as pastors like Carly has this past year. Deacons find their own appointments and are focused on connecting the world to the church, which will be Carly's focus while serving here.

We are very fortunate to have the support of our conference for these positions as they help to work with our interns to grow in their spiritual leadership capacity.

Laundry and Handicapped Accessible Bathroom

We are so excited and thankful to finally have the handicapped accessible bathroom and the laundry room completed so we can extend our ministry. This space became a reality through various persons who saw the need and brought it to our Leadership Team. Our Leadership found that we were really in need of a handicapped accessible bathroom and when the YMCA Daycare needed a laundry space we were able to put together just what we needed.

Through the work of our Leadership Team and several others in various capacities it has come to fruition. We give special thanks to Pat Mills for her dedicated work to find the funding we needed to make this a reality and of course we give thanks to our church who supports the work of our leaders. If you haven't had a chance to take a look I encourage you to do so as soon as you can.



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.

Community Garden Update

The Community Garden is up and running! Currently eight of the twelve plots have been claimed. Some have already been planted! If you would like a no hassle garden please sign-up for a plot either on our website www.coc-salina.org or at the church. If you don't want to plant but know someone in the community that does please direct them to our website or have them stop by the church.

The church has two plots that are being planted so that we may share our harvest with those who frequent our blessing box. The ability to provide fresh produce is a blessing indeed. Saturday, May 18th at 9am will be a celebration and work day. Even if you don't have a plot come help us celebrate!

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

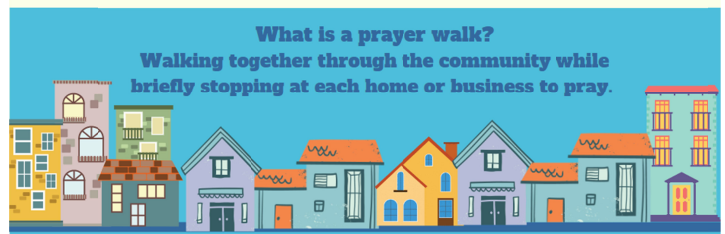
April 16

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

MAY AT COC

Monday, May 1

1:00 PM Prayer Shawl Ministry – Courtyard Room
 3:30 PM Bell Choir Practice
 7:00 PM AA Group 3 – Webster East Classroom

Tuesday, May 2

6:00 PM Scouts Pack 4 – Webster, Gym, East Classroom

Wednesday, May 3

7:00 PM AA Group 3 – Webster East Classroom

Thursday, May 4

10:00 AM TLC – Webster Room
 3:30 PM Bible Buddies – Sunset School

Saturday, May 6

10:00AM Neighboring Meeting

Sunday, May 7

9:30 AM Adult Sunday School – Webster East Classroom
 10:30 AM In-Person and Online Worship

Monday, May 8

1:00 PM Prayer Shawl Ministry – Courtyard Room
 3:30 PM Bell Choir Practice
 7:00 PM AA Group 3 – Webster East Classroom

Tuesday, May 9

1:30 PM United Women in Faith, East Classroom
 6:00 PM Scouts Pack 4 – Webster, Gym, East Classroom

Wednesday, May 10

7:00 PM AA Group 3 – Webster East Classroom

Thursday, May 11

10:00 AM TLC – Webster Room
 3:30 PM Bible Buddies – Sunset School
 6:00 PM YMCA Daycare/Preschool Graduation

Sunday, May 14

Mother's Day

9:30 AM Adult Sunday School – Webster East Classroom
 10:30 AM In-Person and Online Worship

Monday, May 15

1:00 PM Prayer Shawl Ministry – Courtyard Room
 3:30 PM Bell Choir Practice
 7:00 PM AA Group 3 – Webster East Classroom

Tuesday, May 16

6:00 PM Scouts Pack 4 – Webster, Gym, East Classroom

Wednesday, May 17

7:00 PM AA Group 3 – Webster East Classroom

Thursday, May 18

10:00 AM TLC – Webster Room

Saturday, May 20

9:00 AM Garden Workday/Celebration

Sunday, May 21

9:30 AM Adult Sunday School – Webster East Classroom
 10:30 AM In-Person and Online Worship
 2:00 PM Prayer Walk

Monday, May 22

1:00 PM Prayer Shawl Ministry – Courtyard Room
 3:30 PM Bell Choir Practice
 7:00 PM AA Group 3 – Webster East Classroom

Tuesday, May 23

6:00 PM Scouts Pack 4 – Webster, Gym, East Classroom

Wednesday, May 24

7:00 PM AA Group 3 – Webster East Classroom

Thursday, May 25

10:00 AM TLC – Webster Room

Sunday, May 28

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

Monday, May 29

Memorial Day – Church Office Closed

1:00 PM Prayer Shawl Ministry – Courtyard Room
 3:30 PM Bell Choir Practice
 7:00 PM AA Group 3 – Webster East Classroom

Tuesday, May 30

6:00 PM Scouts Pack 4 – Webster, Gym, East Classroom

Wednesday, May 31

7:00 PM AA Group 3 – Webster East Classroom

May Birthdays

5/1 – Kirsty Hartley
 5/22 – Joann Kline
 5/26 – Libby Themis

COMMUNITY

Block Party

LIVE MUSIC - TAYLOR KLINE & MANDY KARY
OUTDOOR GAMES - NEIGHBORS
KIDS BIKE CHECK STATION & BIKE RODEO

COME MEET YOUR NEIGHBORS!

HAMBURGERS & CHIPS PROVIDED (WHILE SUPPLIES LAST)

BRING A SIDE/DESSERT TO SHARE

LIMITED SEATING - BRING YOUR OWN LAWN CHAIR

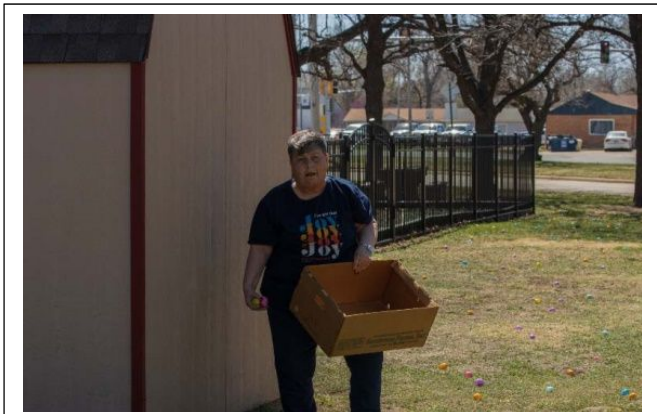
CHURCH OF THE CROSS PARKING LOT
1600 RUSH ST. SALINA, KS 67401

6PM-9PM

SUNDAY MAY 28, 2023

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.





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

Dave Musil, Custodian

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