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## Hanging of the Greens

On November 19<sup>th</sup>, we will be having the "Hanging of the Greens" to decorate for the upcoming advent and Christmas season. This cherished tradition will take place at 4 pm. We invite you to sign up to bring soup or crackers or a dessert for us to share a meal as we finish our parts of the decorating. Please join us for this festive occasion, as we come together to adorn our surrounding with beautiful decorations. Your help in decorating will make the task much easier and enjoyable for everyone involved!



## Meal Club Date November

Join us for a delightful gathering at Perkins on Friday, November 10<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm. We invite you to be a part of our Meal club, where friends and church members come together for an evening of engaging conversation and fellowship. All are welcome to join us! Please note that each individual will be responsible for their own meal expenses. We look forward to sharing a memorable evening with you!



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

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

## 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



# Holiday

## CRAFT DAY

*Come make some Thanksgiving and Christmas crafts to celebrate the Holiday season!*

Saturday **18** November

10AM - 12PM

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

## PRAYER LIST

### Joys and Concerns

#### **MEMBERS:**

Sylvia Rice, Roberta Blakeley, Family of Steve Cooksey, Bobbie Brockway, Chris Davis, Family of Larry Merriman, Family of Claudine Ashcraft, Sylvia Rice and Family

#### **FAMILY:**

#### **FRIENDS:**

Unnamed Prayer  
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,

Today as I sit here thinking about what a change the weather has taken over the last few weeks; I wonder if we ourselves are prepared for such a transformation as we move through new seasons of faith. Are we aware of the ways God is gifting us in a direction of growth in faith or do we remain comfortable in the place we have been. I think this is important as we enter the seasons of giving thanks and sharing gifts.

What has God offered us that we can truly be thankful for? Is it a loving spouse, family, children? Is it a comfortable home and food to eat? Is it something much more substantial like working a dream job where we can use the gifts that give us great joy? What would it be like to name one a day or even to make it part of your family gatherings to share what gifts you have received from God. This is an essential part of fully engaging our current worship series "Gifts of Love" that will continue until Advent which we will start on November 26.

As we move into Advent, we will begin a new worship series called "The Gift of Being Present" as we consider the many ways, we have been gifted by one another. How is God calling us to gift our communities with presence to build up the kin-dom of God? Kin-dom has a different understanding yet direct link to kingdom. Kin-dom, for some, means the reality of God's power moving in and through us, bringing liberation and opening spaces where love invites us into deep kinship with one another. The focus here is on growing deeply in interpersonal relationships in our community to strengthened the body of Christ. What better time for us to build up the kin-dom than when we gather around the Thanksgiving Table with family and friends or as we gather throughout the Christmas season to bake, shop, decorate, and gather for meals or just time together. What if we were intentional about noticing God's presence in all these things we do and then sharing what we notice with those who we are with? It is a wonderful opportunity to naturally witness to our faith and to share the gift of Jesus Christ with others as we strengthen our bonds with the love of God. When we focus on the Kin-dom we remove the focus on one over, to the shared ministry of Emmanuel, God with us.

Paul talks about this kin-dom work in 2 Corinthians 2:14-17, "In the Messiah, in Christ, God leads us from place to place in one perpetual victory parade. Through us, he brings knowledge of Christ. Everywhere we go, people breathe in the exquisite fragrance. Because of Christ, we give off a sweet scent rising to God, which is recognized by those on the way of salvation—an aroma redolent with life. But those on the way to destruction treat us more like the stench from a rotting corpse.

This is a terrific responsibility. Is anyone competent to take it on? No—but at least we don't take God's Word, water it down, and then take it to the streets to sell it cheap. We stand in Christ's presence when we speak; God looks us in the face. We get what we say straight from God and say it as honestly as we can." (The Message)

I am excited about the opportunities we have to share the gift of God through the presence of Jesus Christ, as we deepen our connections with one another and our communities. We are drawing near to a new season that will find its ending in the beginning of a new year.

+Love,  
Pastor Libby

## Trunk or Treat & Chicken and Noodles

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to all those who generously contributed funds towards the candy for Trunk or Treat. About \$200 was raised for the candy. Despite the weather forcing us to move the event indoors, it was truly heartwarming to witness the joy and excitement on the faces of all the children who attended. Additionally, the Chicken and Noodle dinner was an absolute hit, with over \$1,000 in donations received. We would like to express our sincerest appreciation to everyone who assisted in making this event a resounding success. Your support and dedication are truly invaluable. We look forward to organizing this event again next year, and we are excited to continue spreading joy and creating memorable experiences for our community. See the God Sightings page for photos!

*Thank You!*



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](mailto:jleeper@greatplainsumc.org).

## November Worship Series

**Gifts of Love** – a series on stewardship

*Intentional giving is intentional discipleship.*

This month you will have the opportunity to hear and learn more about biblical teachings on giving as you plan for your financial giving for 2024 year and beyond.

On Sunday, November 4, we are privileged to host the Rev. Dustin Petz, President of the Kansas United Methodist Foundation. In his presentation, "Giving Generously & Leaving a Legacy," Rev. Dr. Dustin Petz will focus on giving now and estate planning. Petz will share ways to maximize your giving during life, and provide general information about estate planning and considerations for charitable giving through an estate to support the church and ministry.

Our Leadership Team has been very creative in finding ways to fund much of our ministry, yet we still need faithful givers who are committed to giving to maintain and grow our ministries as we live into our calling in this place.

We encourage all our members to tithe (give 10%) if it is possible. If not, we encourage you to give what you can and to consider increasing your pledge, especially if your financial situation has improved.

## Reverse Advent Calendar

Instead of the normal Advent Calendar this gives you a great guide to collect and give to the Food Bank. Set out a box in your house and each day or each week put in the items for that day or week. Then at the end of the season take your box to the Food Bank to help out!

- Dec 1: Peanut butter
- Dec 2: Canned fruit
- Dec 3: Instant potatoes
- Dec 4: Oatmeal packets
- Dec 5: Stovetop stuffing
- Dec 6: Toothbrushes
- Dec 7: Toothpaste
- Dec 8: Feminine hygiene
- Dec 9: Box of pasta
- Dec 10: Canned veggies
- Dec 11: Canned tuna or chicken
- Dec 12: Box of rice
- Dec 13: Spaghetti sauce
- Dec 14: Hearty canned soup
- Dec 15: Peanut butter crackers
- Dec 16: Cake mix/boxed dessert
- Dec 17: Canned veggies
- Dec 18: Macaroni & cheese
- Dec 19: Deodorant
- Dec 20: Pancake mix
- Dec 21: Cereal
- Dec 22: Canned fruit
- Dec 23: Box of Pasta
- Dec 24: Cookies/something fun!

## 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:

- Canned or bag tuna
- Vienna sausages
- Canned fruit
- Peanut butter
- 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.



## Church of the Cross Inclusivity Statement

*As we grow in our understanding of what it means to be made in the image of God, we invite you to come be who you are. This means welcoming and affirming people of every gender identity/expression, sexual orientation, age, race, ethnicity, physical and mental ability, level of education, family structure; economic, immigration, marital and social status and so much more. This welcome includes those who struggle with our commitment to offering full participation to all those who have been hurt when we've failed and calls each of us to graciously live together in the community of Christ regardless of our differences. As followers of Jesus, we commit ourselves to the pursuit of justice while standing in solidarity with all who are marginalized and oppressed.*

**Leadership Team approved on  
September 13, 2023.**

# NOVEMBER AT COC

## Wednesday, November 1

7:00 PM AA Group 3 – Webster East Classroom

## Thursday, November 2

10:00 AM TLC – Webster Room

## Sunday, November 5

### Time Change – Set clocks back one hour

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

## Monday, November 6

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, November 7

### Election Day in the Narthex

6:30 PM Scouts

## Wednesday, November 8

7:00 PM AA Group 3 – Webster East Classroom

## Thursday, November 9

10:00 AM TLC – Webster Room

## Friday, November 10

11:30 AM Meal Club - Perkins

## Saturday, November 11

Webster Room Reserved All Day

## Sunday, November 12

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

## Monday, November 13

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, November 14

1:30 PM UMW  
6:30 PM Scouts

## Wednesday, November 15

7:00 PM AA Group 3 – Webster East Classroom

## Thursday, November 16

10:00 AM TLC

## Saturday, November 18

10:00 AM Holiday Craft Day

## Sunday, November 19

9:00 AM In-Person and Online Worship  
10:00 AM Adult Sunday School – Courtyard Room  
4:00 PM Hanging of the Greens

## Monday, November 20

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, November 21

6:30 PM Scouts

## Wednesday, November 22

7:00 PM AA Group 3 – Webster East Classroom

## Thursday, November 23

Happy Thanksgiving – Office closed

## Friday, November 24

Office Closed

## Sunday, November 26

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

## Monday, November 27

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, November 28

6:30 PM Scouts

## Wednesday, November 29

7:00 PM AA Group 3 – Webster East Classroom

## Thursday, November 30

10:00 AM TLC – Webster Room

## November Birthdays

11/01 – Chris Davis  
Greg Franklin  
11/03 – Phil Smith-Hanes  
Virginia Bennett  
11/05 – Ermalea Mason  
11/08 – Caroline Burros  
11/09 – Margaret Westall  
11/21 – Mick Franklin  
11/26 – Carolyn Wright  
Sandi Wilcox  
11/30 – Camisha Stevenson

## All Saints Day Remembrance

On Sunday, October 26<sup>th</sup> we remember those who have passed. During the Sunday service names were read and a bell was rung with each name. Here are the Saints we remembered this year.

Claudine  
Ashcraft



Steve  
Cooksey



Elaine  
Fast



Larry  
Merriman



Jerry  
Norris



Donald  
Worley



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

Email Tara Baxter at [tara.baxter@coc-salina.org](mailto: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](http://www.coc-salina.org/discover-u)

Deadline for March racial justice encounter registration is Nov. 20



## Oklahoma Racial Justice Encounter

March 7-11, 2024

The Great Plains Conference Mercy & Justice Team is offering an Oklahoma Racial Justice Encounter March 7-11, 2024. Oklahoma's land is home to the stories of Native American and African American displacement and massacre, and resilience and celebration. On this Justice Encounter, we will explore the intersections of white supremacy's impact on the people and experiences of Indigenous and African American people not just in Oklahoma, but in America as a whole.

Join Rev. Lora Andrews, Denise Estes, Rev. Daekyung Kim, and Rev. Sarah Marsh for our third Great Plains Justice Encounter. This trip is open to individuals 16 years of age and older with a passion for social justice. We will be intentional about building a team of racially diverse individuals, while prioritizing participation of those 35 and under. If you are over 35 and believe this experience is something God may be calling you to... we need your application too!

[Please complete this form](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScD4DboIJAdJ1Fpaze4HSq2Ha-NPYJnTQ2UNhQdCrwxAsl2WA/viewform)

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScD4DboIJAdJ1Fpaze4HSq2Ha-NPYJnTQ2UNhQdCrwxAsl2WA/viewform>

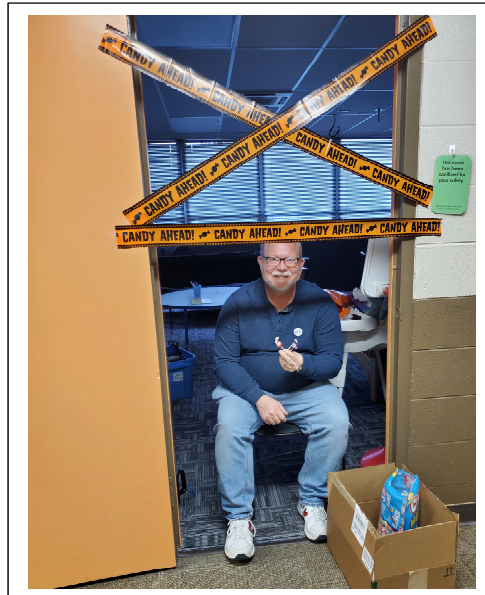
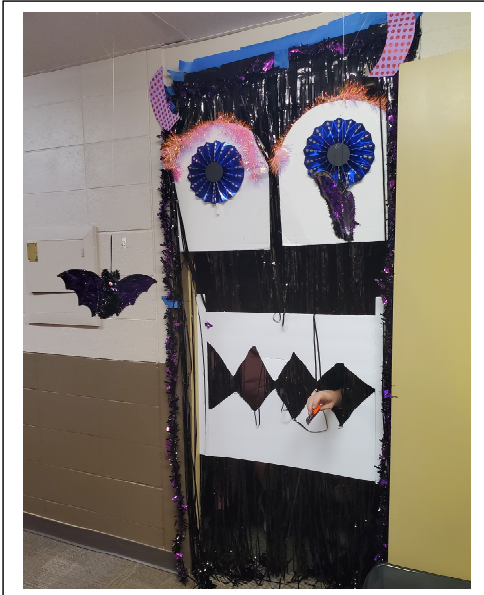
by Nov. 20 to apply for a spot on the Oklahoma Racial Justice Encounter. Applicants will then be placed on a waiting list to fill any available cancellations.

Cost per participant is \$350. Partial scholarships will be available as needed.

For more information, contact Lora Andrews at [landrews@greatplainsumc.org](mailto:landrews@greatplainsumc.org).

# 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).





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

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