

CHAPMAN UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

NEWS FROM THE PEWS

April, 2026

Pastor Connie's Corner

I have been privileged to meet with the organizing and planning team for the Central Ks Interfaith Justice Organization. This group is building a coalition of churches and faith communities in central Kansas who can work together to make systemic changes. You will continue to hear more about this in the future. I was also invited to visit the Justice Together sister organization in Sedwick County. This group is working in their 3rd year, and I wanted to tell you about my experience.

The session was held at Wichita First UMC. We had around 400 people in attendance. This meeting was a follow-up after some smaller groups had completed work, research and planning. Those smaller groups included kitchen table conversations in all the participating congregations. These conversations were invitation to tell stories and answer questions like, "What keeps you up at night?" Those conversations revealed some common concerns which were narrowed down to 3 priorities. Homeless concerns, affordable housing, and gun violence. After research and planning they are presenting information to county and city officials seeking the needed changes.

One of the needs of the homeless community is eliminating specific barriers that make it unaffordable and difficult to get an official ID so that they can be eligible for jobs, transportation, and other benefits. In 2025 1500 people were able to obtain official identification.

Three of the commissioners have committed to working with Justice Together toward affordable housing measures by the end of 2026. And there is also some activity toward implementation and funding of a detailed plan pertaining to gun violence.

I was buoyed to see that this organization was doing such a great job connecting lots of people to make their voices heard and bring needed changes into their community. It makes me even more excited to start making changes in Central Kansas.

What are the issues that keep you up at night?

**"He is
risen.**

**He is not
here."**

**-Mark
16:6**





Thank You to...

- All the chili makers and table hosts for another wonderful All Church Birthday Party.
- Ray and Lynn for keeping our community dinners going.
- Joyce for organizing the Ladie's Bible Study and Trudy and Rachel for leading it.
- Ray A. for fixing the upstairs toilet.
- Joyce and others who distribute the Upper Room.
- Jo for taking care of our Fund Balance Report (Audit).
- All who joined in the Rethinking Justice bible study

Bernice Huff Circle Plans Out Year Ahead

The Bernice Huff Circle met on March 10th in Fellowship Hall for the first meeting of 2026. Nine members introduced themselves with their Leprechaun name and played an Irish trivia game while enjoying a St. Patrick's day dessert provided by Jo Osbourn. The remainder of the meeting was spent planning activities for the year.

On Tuesday, April 7th, the group will meet at the church at 11:30 to caravan to Abilene to eat at Susie's Deli, then visit the Dickinson County Historical Society to attend the quilt show, visit the toy museum, and ride the carousel. During May's meeting the group will prepare the meal for the 4:10

Irish Den youth group on May 6th.

Other activities (with more details later) will be attending a play at Great Plains Theater, hearing about the Quilts of Valor program, making meal kits for the Clover Cabinet, taking a field trip to Hildebrand Farm, packing hygiene kits for Operation Christmas Child, putting together purses for Neighbor 2 Neighbor, and enjoying a Christmas party.

An invitation is extended to all the women of the church to join us as we serve others in our community and nurture our relationships with each other.

Remembering Delores Schmidt

Join us in sending our deepest condolences to the family of Delores Schmidt who passed away on February 20, 2026. Delores, as well as her late husband Al, were long time members of the Chapman United Methodist Church. A full obituary can be found online using the link provided. A celebration of life will be held at a later date and announced when that information is available.

[Delores Jean Schmidt | Obituaries | abilene-rc.com](#)

Thank you!

Thank you so much for your loving cards and prayers as I celebrated another year around the sun. The bouquet of flowers you gave me was beautiful and it stayed that way for nearly 3 weeks. You all are great blessings, and I love being your pastor. Connie



Here at CUMC, we are reaching out as we love, grow, and serve through faith

Outreach Report

April Mission of the Month—Helping Hands

Thanks go to all who generously donated to the monthly mission towards the Elsie Brooks Cancer Fund. We were able to give \$645.00 to help support the good works of this organization.

The mission of the month for April is the Helping Hands Fund right here at CUMC.

This fund is designated to help those in our immediate area when they may find themselves unable to take care of their need. Helping with electric bills, rent, or prescriptions are examples of ways this fund is might be used. Supporting this fund gives us the opportunity to help those right here in Chapman. You may make a donation at the missions table in the narthex. Thank you for your continued support.

Community Dinner Serves 77

The Community Meal at CUMC was held on March 25th where 77 meals were served. The meal was a baked potato bar with ice cream for dessert. Thank you to all who provided food and worked making this a great evening. **The next meal will be on April 22nd.** Come and join us.

Are You Spring Cleaning?

Believe it or not, June will soon be here! That means it is time to start looking for items to contribute to the annual CUMC Garage Sale. The profits from this event are used to provide assistance to local agencies, help out disaster victims through UMCOR, and local needs as determined. More information will be given as it becomes available. Start gathering now!

DID YOU KNOW?

There is a big difference between Mercy Ministries and Justice Ministries? We are doing mercy when we tend to the needs of people who are struggling, especially the poor and marginalized. This is good work to which we have been called, and I believe we here at CUMC are very good at this work. Thank you for all you do. Justice ministry is more difficult. This work invites us to ask “why?”. Why do these people hunger and thirst? Why do some fall through the cracks or live in the margins? Why aren’t all treated as valuable when all were created valuable?

When we seek the answer to “why”, we are evaluating our systemic structure. Changing structure is hard work. It is also work we are called to do. It is work we can do.

An organization currently known as Central KS Interfaith Justice Organization, Inc. (CKIJO) is connecting churches and faith communities across central Kansas who will search for the “why” and research possible solutions. Then together as a powerful team, we will invite partners and work together to implement solutions.

You will hear more about this work in the coming days. Pastor Connie has some materials that will help and she is happy to set aside some time to talk with you, hear your story, and answer questions.

Justice Bible Study Held March 22 at CUMC

There was a great turnout for the Justice Bible Study held March 22 at CUMC. The Bible study was led by Pastor Connie. Please watch for additional information and opportunities for you to get involved in the next couple of months. You are also encouraged to find a participant and ask them about it.



During Sunday School on Palm Sunday our youth learned and created a timeline of Holy Week. If you haven't had the opportunity to take a look, youth of all ages are encouraged to do so. You can find the timeline about the missions table in the narthex.



Reminder that Easter Sunday will be the last Sunday for Sunday School until we resume again in September.

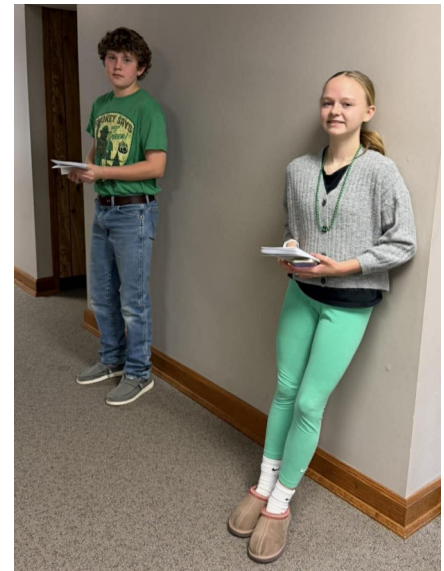
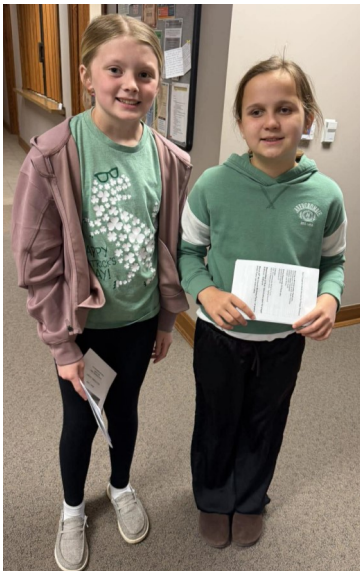
Do you have ideas for next year? Reach out to Pastor Connie or any of the current Sunday School teachers. All ideas are welcome and we are always looking for ways to grow and improve out programs.

A huge Thank you to those who dedicate so much of their time to teaching our youth. You are appreciated!

Youth News



Vacation Bible School will be May 26-29, a joint venture with St Michael's Catholic Parish. Please mark your calendars and prayerfully consider how you will help us minister to and with the children of our community. While Kate has graciously agreed to coordinate this year we will still be looking for helpers who can be present with us during the week. Please let her know if you are available to help!





Church Holds Second Annual All Month Birthday Dinner



March 29, 2026

CHAPMAN UNITED
METHODIST
CHURCH

Fifth & Sheeran Streets
P.O. Box 349
Chapman, KS
67431

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UPCOMING EVENTS:

- Women's Bible Study** 4/2
- Good Friday** 4/3
- Easter Sunday** 4/5
- B. Huff Circle** 4/7
- Women's Bible Study** 4/9
- Women's Bible Study** 4/16
- Community Dinner** 4/22
- Women's Bible Study** 4/23
- Women's Bible Study** 4/30

APRIL

Birthdays & Anniversaries

- 4/1** Paige Espeseth,
Peyton Espeseth
- 4/5** Chip & Janet Edwards,
Bentley Chamberlin
- 4/6** Blair Schmidt, Casey Poell
- 4/7** Lynn Kruse
- 4/8** Kristen Harris Becker,
Debbi Freeman
- 4/12** Delores Schmidt, John
Harris
- 4/13** Jean Gobber
- 4/20** Kinsey Meyer,
Justin Espeseth
- 4/21** Erin Bell, Lindsay Roskens
Hildebrand, Sadie Jo Harris
- 4/23** Marlene Daisy
- 4/30** Lexi Thornton, Brylee
Lovett



Worship Assistants

Liturgists

- April 5:
- April 12: Danielle Klein
- April 19: Trudy Barker
- April 26: Lynn Kruse

Ushers

- April 5: Chester Leach
- April 12:
- April 19:
- April 26:

Greeters

- April 5: YOUTH, Chester &
Joyce Leach
- April 12: Katie Simmons
- April 19:
- April 26: Ray & Lynn Kruse

MARK YOUR CALENDAR



HOW TO WORKSHOP OPPORTUNITY

Walk through how to
download the CUMC app
onto your phone and go
through the basic
functions of utilizing it to
it's full potential

CUMC Fellowship Hall

**APRIL 13
2:00PM**