

Our Mission:

Embracing All In God's Love

Our Core Values:

Sanctuary, Community, Renewal

**MARCH 2024 Newsletter****Worship Times**

10am Traditional

11:15am Contemporary

Trinity Heights United Methodist Church, 1200 Boyd Avenue, Newton, KS 67114

Phone: 316-283-6410 Email: office@trinityheightsumc.org**March 1, 2024****Newsletter****Questions**

I grew up in a home environment where questions were not only okay, on some level, they were expected. "Don't just follow the crowd." "Don't just believe what we believe, find your own way." It remains a guiding principle for me. I remember asking my dad a lot of questions growing up about life and about the faith. Being a preacher's kid, I had a lot of questions about the faith. I do not remember him ever dissuading me in those questions, in fact if anything he actively encouraged them and was not hesitant to say, "I don't know," when he didn't. This was always after a good engaging conversation about possibilities. Dad loved a good "conversation," some would say, including me when I was a teenager, a good debate/argument." In hindsight though, I recognize he was teaching me how to think critically on my own, even though I would often get frustrated in the moment. They could get very passionate... even heated I suppose as he pressed me.

Mom, on the other hand, I think would do the same thing, though in a much gentler way. I remember numerous times, especially when we might engage in a conversation about faith, God, life, etc.... after talking she would simply say, "Kent, I think there are some things we just can't, or aren't supposed to know or understand." I never heard that response as a copout, rather as the gentle firm faith of one who was comfortable in her own skin and was at peace with what she could know and what she could not.

I hope, and I think evidence might bear out, I was able to instill in my own two sons the courage and willingness to question most everything and the ability to be themselves. I hope I can have some small part in teaching and showing my three granddaughters the wonders and possibilities of questioning everything and discovering the wide wonderful world that is before them in the years to come.

I still enjoy questions. I deeply appreciate a good theological discussion and pondering the things of faith and life. When reading, be it a theologian's writing, a text book, a novel, history book, and even in my work, especially the texts of our bible, the questions are always in my mind. Why? Why did the author feel this was a good story to share at the time? Why did she or he think this was worth writing down? What did it mean for their original audience? What does it mean for me/us here and now? Does it have any meaning for us today, or is it no longer relevant and need to be discarded? Who was the original audience? What were the circumstances, what was going on? Well, you get the idea, questions are an important part of my life, my faith, and my journey with God.

There are those in Christendom, as well as other religious and non-religious communities, who believe questions are unnecessary at best and dangerous at worst. There are those who do not want to be questioned nor to have their methods and practices questioned. This kind of behavior is not only unfortunate, it is dangerous and fraught with atrocities across our history. I love questions and the subsequent search for answers to those questions, even if that seeking leads to a final “I can’t know,” at least in that moment. “It’s a mystery,” though, should never be a final answer, rather, it should simply be a comma; a pause in our seeking until we can glean more information, experience, and knowing.

The Lenten Season is such an opportunity to delve into the mysteries of who we are individually and as a community. Lent is an opportunity to ponder the known-ness and unknown-ness of why we do what we do and why we do not do what we do not do. Lent is an opportunity to embrace the obscurities of our existence and seek to discover, consider, and embrace again a better Way of Being as individuals together on this path toward community. I have long appreciated Frederick Buechner’s thoughts on Lent, and especially his lifting up of the questions in its midst. Here is an excerpt of his writings in today’s devotional thoughts, “During Lent, Christians are supposed to ask one way or another what it means to be themselves. If you had to bet everything you have on whether there is a God or whether there isn’t, which side would get your money and why?”

When you look at your face in the mirror, what do you see in it that you most like and what do you see in it that you most deplore?
If you had only one last message to leave to the handful of people who are most important to you, what would it be in twenty-five words or less?
Of all the things you have done in your life, which is the one you would most like to undo?
Which is the one that makes you happiest to remember?
Is there any person in the world or any cause that, if circumstances called for it, you would be willing to die for?
If this were the last day of your life, what would you do with it?

To hear yourself try to answer questions like these is to begin to hear something not only of who you are, but of both what you are becoming and what you are failing to become. It can be a pretty depressing business all in all, but if sackcloth and ashes are at the start of it, something like Easter may be at the end.” ~ Frederick Buechner, *Listening to Your Life*

Questions are a good thing. Don’t ever stop asking them; of one another, of the powers that be, of authority, of the least, ...even of God. It is a life of discovery and wonder.

Until Next Time,
Be a Light.
Love One Another.
Every. Single. Other.
Until there are no others,
Only One Beloved Community of All!

~ Rev. Kent





LAST MEETING Wednesday, March 6

5:30pm Meal Serving

Grilled Hamburgers and Hot Dogs, Baked Beans,
Chips and Salad

6:15pm WOW Kids Class schedule

Easter Activities

WOW Kids meet after the WOW meal on Wednesday evenings from 6:15 - 7:00 p.m. in the children's classroom west of fellowship hall. The group is for children ages 4-12. We will meet for 9 weeks.

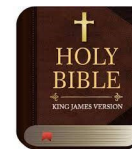
BOOK CLUB



Do you enjoy reading books? Do you enjoy discussing what you've read with a group of friends? If so, you might be interested in the Trinity Heights Book Club. For more than 10 years, a group of women have met monthly in THUMC library to share their thoughts about the book they've read. The Book Club meets at 2 p.m. on the third Monday of each month, January through May. Members take turns choosing a book and leading the discussion. If you're interested, you may contact Marian Stubbs (316-518-8830) for more information.

Scholarship Applications

Applications are available to active members of the church attending institutions for post-secondary education. You may get your application from the church website: trinityheightsumc.org under the contact tab. Scholarship policies are also available to see if you qualify. Applications and service hour logs are **due by April 1**. Those receiving scholarships will be notified in May of the amount of the award. For questions contact Stephanie Anton at 283-6410 or steph.thumc@att.net.



THUMC Bible Study for Women

led by Sue Swender
THUMC Library,
Thursdays, at 12:30pm
Bring your Bible!

Theology Matters Group
Meet at the church on
Wednesdays, at 4:15pm



Welcome adults to **Challengers Sunday School Class**.
Bring your coffee Sunday at 11:15 am
to the classroom near the north entrance.
Current study is *Wrestling with Doubt* by Adam Hamilton.

Movers and Shakers



Want to have some fun, have social time and get healthy at the same time, then join the Movers and Shakers on Monday mornings at 11:00 in Fellowship Hall. The class is open to anyone in the church and the community. We pay by the month and the cost depends on the number of people in the class, so the cost is \$12 to \$18. Tracie Strain from the Newton Recreation Center is our leader and her motto is "challenge by choice!" Bring an empty water bottle and use the new water bottle filler in the east hall.

PIECEMAKERS



Piecemakers Quilt Group Report 2023

We hand quilted 2 quilts for people.
We gave the proceeds from the bazaar to the Chisholm Trails Elementary School
Special Playground Project.

We made 3 baby quilts for THUMC baptisms.
We also gave items such as wall hangings, stuffed animals, pillows, rice bags,
baby hats, and pocket prayer quilts to:

Respite Care, Safe Hope, Newton Medical Center, and Victory in the Valley.

We meet each Tuesday from 9am-2pm.

-Phyllis Schneider

March

Friendly Reminder

3rd Third Sunday of Lent - Holy Communion

6th Last WOW meal & Kids Class

10th Fourth Sunday of Lent
Daylight Saving Time

17th Fifth Sunday of Lent

24th Palm Sunday

28th Maundy Thursday

31st Easter Sunday - 5th Sunday Brunch



**Next
Executive Board Committee
Meeting - Sunday,
March 17, 2024, at 7pm**

**Newsletter Deadline
Wednesday, March 13
for the April
Newsletter**

Coffee with Kent

Thursdays 9:30am to 10:30am-ish

Located at the 1887 Coffeeshop on Bethel Campus in North Newton.

No particular agenda other than strengthening our connection and deepening relationships. Just an informal time of conversation around the table. We will simply visit about whatever comes up or whatever anyone wants to visit about.

Join me for conversation, connection, and a cup of your favorite morning beverage!

I'll be glad you did!



Thank You

Thank you Stephanie Anton, Christian Education Coordinator for the *YOUTH EVENT* on Sunday, February 18, for the 7th-12h graders.

It was fun and good times for the youth together in the church.

Your generosity is very much appreciated to all those who are participating with the *Harvest of Love Food Drive* on Sunday, February 11, at THUMC.

The *Super Bowl Get Together* on February 11 was great fun while we also helped out the food pantry. We had great company and lots of favorite super bowl snacks!
We are already looking forward to next years event!

Thanks so much for your generosity at Christmas time! Your care and thoughtfulness of our Sunset Elementary students and families is so thoughtful and appreciated. I am amazed year after year about your care and support for our school family.
-Sara Friesen Guhr (of behalf of Sunset)

Prayer Requests

Prayers for Celebration

Prayers for Recently Hospitalized

Ken Rickard

Prayers for Healing

Patricia Wheeler

Joanne Kilgore

Barb Stucky

Cindy Gruver

Prayers for Hope

Our Sister Church in Zimbabwe

Prayers for Loss

Prayers for Shut-ins

Lee Cannon

Vere English

Bev Gering

Marge Graham

Phyllis Greene

Bill Kepley

Duane Miles

Ottmar Lang

Shirley Long

Iva Reber

Maria Ward

Chris Wilson



3- Lee Cannon

3 - Ken Rickard

3 - Cynthia Wyss

5 - Janelle Sanneman

8 - Rob Wharton

9 - Jackie Dalke

10 - Ken Stein

11 - Landon Artaz

13 - Kristin Weathersbee

14 - Vere English

16 - Steve Wenger

16 - Melynnie Williams

17 - Angela Thurston

19 - Jerald Franz

19 - McKenzie McCallister

21 - Jonathan Krueger

21 - Donna Tanner

23 - Caileane Thurston

29 - Rex Kaufman

29 - Scout Wedel

30 - Duane Barker

30 - Kelson Graber

31 - Curtis Stubbs

Happy Anniversary

21 - Tim & Melanie Graber

22 - Dan & Lisa Timmons



Trinity Heights

United Methodist Church

1200 Boyd Ave. Newton, KS 67114

Phone: 316-283-6410

office@trinityheightsumc.org

Church office hours Monday - Thursday
9:00-12:00 & 12:30-3:30 pm

Program Staff

Rev. Kent Little, Senior Pastor

Stephanie Anton, Christian Ed. Coord.

Diane Hite, Office Manager

Joan Wulf, Music Coordinator

Nancy Johnson, Choir Director and

Digital Media Coordinator

YouTube livestream

<https://www.youtube.com/@NewtonTrinityHeightsUMC>

Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/newtontrinityheights/>

Website

<https://www.trinityheightsumc.org/>

Giving

<https://secure.myvanco.com/YHMB/home>