

**Worship Times**  
10am Traditional  
11:15am Contemporary



**November, 2023**

Trinity Heights United Methodist Church, 1200 Boyd Avenue, Newton, KS 67114  
Phone: 316-283-6410 Email: [office@trinityheightsumc.org](mailto:office@trinityheightsumc.org)

### From the Pastor...

It is no secret in our Great Plains Annual Conference I have long been an advocate of a more inclusive United Methodist Church. As a result, I have followed closely, especially in recent years, the continued conflict in our denomination around trying to bring our church back to a more inclusive posture regarding full inclusion of our LGBTQ siblings, members, and colleagues. I have been ever hopeful each time our General Conference has met over the thirty-two years of my ministry. I even attended the special held 2019 General Conference in St. Louis, and watched broken hearted with tear filled eyes as our beloved United Methodist Church became even more restrictive and punitive toward our LGBTQ clergy and those churches and clergy who wished to be in full ministry with them.

All this being said, it has also been heart wrenching to see so many long time United Methodist Churches and many of my clergy colleagues leave the denomination over the last couple of years in the disaffiliation process. I wish them well and bid them not ill will and hope the best for those who felt they could no longer be in ministry under the same roof, so to speak, with those who held a different view on the ministry to and of our LGBTQ siblings.

I have mentioned here at Trinity Heights more than once, this past Annual Conference for the Great Plains was one of, if not *the most hopeful and hope-filled Annual Conferences I have attended in my now thirty-two years. While we grieve the loss of churches and members and clergy, my prayer is we can not move into a more hopeful future of the United Methodist Church in the coming years. Rev. Adam Hamilton, Senior Pastor, Church of the Resurrection, Leawood, KS described the hope in this way, that "we might move from a conflict driven church to a mission driven church." I do so pray!*

However, Rev. Hamilton and others, indicate of course we have not arrived, so to speak. There is much work to be done and there is still the possibility of some conflict at General Conference in 2024 and there is still much work to be done.

With this in mind and at the request of those in our Theology Discussion Group, I would like to take at least one of our group gatherings to give information, answer questions as best I can, and give an update on the current state of the United Methodist Church and the upcoming General Conference in 2024. The date for this particular Discussion Group gathering will be **Wednesday, November 8, 2023 at 6:15pm** following the WOW Meal. *If you think of it, if you plan to attend, please let me know so I can have some sense about how many we will have in case we need to move to room larger than usual. I hope many of you will attend as we move forward into the future here at Trinity Heights United Methodist Church.*

Embracing All in God's Love,  
Creating Sanctuary, Renewal, and Community

Peace and Light for Our Continued Journey Together,

Rev. Kent



## IT'S TIME FOR WOW

Sept. 20 - Dec 6, 2023  
5:30pm Meal Serving  
6:15pm WOW Kids Class

### Menus for November

**Nov 1:** Girl Troop will serve:

Soup choices: Potato Ham, Broccoli Cheese, Vegetable Beef,  
Desert: Brownies

### WOW Kids

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 this fall, starting Sept. 20 and ending Dec. 6. The curriculum for this fall is Fruit of the Spirit. There will be a short lesson with crafts and games.

### *Wednesday, at 6:15pm Discussion Group* *Theology Matters, Matters of Theology* **Have Questions?**

I want to invite our THUMC Community to a discussion group in conjunction with our WOW gathering on Wednesdays, at 6:15pm. After our meal we will gather, location to be determined, for a time of discussion and conversation around matters of faith, theology, journey, and community. I will always have some topic prepared though, I want this gathering to be open to questions or topics the group might bring with them on any given Wednesday. This invitation to join the group is to anyone of any age, youth through our more seasoned members and friends. If you are interested in being a part of this group you might let me know, just so I can get a sense of how many might show up in regards to space and where we might meet. However, letting me know you might show up is not a prerequisite to joining the group. I look forward to this time of conversation, learning, and continuing to deepen our understanding of our journey with God and one another.

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## **Jr. & Sr. High School Sunday School**

We will meet the following  
**Sunday: Nov. 12.**

The class meets in the  
basement at 11AM  
and is led by Ann Adrian.  
Anyone in grades 7-12  
are welcome to attend.

## Volunteer!

Good Morning Members and Friends,

I am reaching out to put together a list of persons who would be willing to serve as ushers for our 10:00 am service in the Sanctuary here at Trinity Heights. My hope is to create a group of persons who are willing to serve and have enough where we can spread it out some so it wouldn't have to be a weekly commitment. Responsibilities of the ushers are to hand out our order of service before we begin as well as greet people as they enter the sanctuary. In addition to this at offering time the usher passes the offering plates to the persons in the pews and then bring the offering down at the end of the offering time during the doxology. To accomplish this, we need five persons each week. Let me know if this is a way you would like to serve our community of faith, it is an important part of our worship time together as we strive to be good stewards of our gifts and create a welcoming and meaningful Sunday morning experience for all. Thank you for your consideration. You can either call the church office and let Donna Thiesen, Diane or myself know of your interest or drop me an email at [klittle@greatplainsumc.org](mailto:klittle@greatplainsumc.org). I look forward to hearing from many of you soon. If you have already contacted me in regards to helping with ushering, thank you.

Peace and Light for Our Continued  
Journey Together, Rev. Kent

# Christmas BAZAAR

**United Women of Faith will be hosting a Christmas Bazaar  
On Saturday, November 4, 2023, from 8:00-2:00pm  
At Trinity Heights Fellowship Hall.**

Many wonderful vendors have signed up to have booths.  
Homemade Candy and Homemade Cinnamon Rolls and Quilters booth.

**Breakfast-sausage gravy/ biscuits-9:00**

**Lunch beginnings at 11:30-1:00 PM serving sloppy Joes/with chips**

More information to come



Greetings,

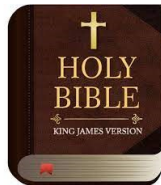
I am wanting to explore the possibility of bringing live music back to our Contemporary Worship and Celebration Service in the Fellowship Hall at 11:15am. I am reaching out to our community of faith here at Trinity Heights to see if there is interest in this and if there are those who might have the gifts of music leadership; keyboard, drums, guitar, or other instrumental gifts as well as vocals to discuss this possibility. Please feel free to drop me an email, stop by the office, or give me a call if this is something you in which you might be interested. Thank each of you for all you do for our church!

Peace and Light for Our Continued Journey Together,  
Rev. Kent



## For your November Calendar

Weekly Adult Discussion Group starts  
Sunday, November 5, 2023, at 11:15am.  
More details on location later.



**THUMC Bible Study for Women  
led by Sue Swender**

**THUMC Library, Thursdays, at  
12:30pm**

We will study the Gospel of Mark  
Bring your Bible! Hope to see you there!



**BOOK CLUB** Do you enjoy reading books? And 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, September through November, and 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.

## **State Health Insurance Counseling for Kansas (SHICK) available October 15 to December 4.**

Harlan Rittgers will be available for sign up for plan C, D, and Supplemental Medicare on Tuesday and Wednesday afternoons. Call the church office to make an appointment with Diane at 316-283-6410. Please bring your Medicare card, Plan C/D card, and/or Supplement Ins. card with you, as well as a list of your medications, dosages, and times per day. Sign up time is NOW!

### *The executive committee met October 22, 2023.*

Pastor Kent led us in an opening prayer.

- Minutes from Sept. 17 were approved.
- Financial report for September was approved.
- Stewardship drive will begin the first of November with all pledge cards due back by December 6.
- Budget Committee was appointed. Allen Wedel will chair.
- A committee was appointed to evaluate our insurance options for renewal. They will meet with Sims and possibly open it to others. Committee consists of Gaylord, Mike Scott, Allen and Kent.
- Weather providing roof work should start this week. Roofing Services and Wray Roofing are each saying it will take each one 5-7 days. Roofing Services will begin first.
- Work is being done to get a remote for opening the front door. Kaye Electric is doing the work.
- Snow removal will be done at the church this winter by Tyler Tucker.
- Decorating the new bathrooms will be arranged by Ann.
- Staff Parish worked on papers needed for Church Conference.
- A 3% raise was given to all staff for next year.
- Musician JD Lee was hired for leading music in the second service. Linda Lyles and Christy Rossiter will assist when possible.
- Stephanie Aton was given a leave of absence. She requested no pay.
- Don Gruver was approved as a lay speaker.

**Church conference will be held on November 12 at 2:00 p.m. at our church. Please attend if possible.** Next meeting: Dec. 17 at 7:00 pm

## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Ann Adrian  
Dan Buchanan  
Mike Farrell  
Deb Hamm  
Jonathan Krueger  
Joe Slechta  
Scott Seirer  
Richard Walker  
Cheryl Williams

### **Harvest of Love Food Drive Sunday, November 5.**

**Please bring non-perishable food items to church.  
This is for Thanksgiving Holiday.**

### **Our 2023 Joint Network Church Conference**

We will host our Joint Network Church Conference here at Trinity Heights United Methodist Church, Newton Sunday, November 12, 2023 in the Fellowship Hall at 2:00pm. This will give us all time to get lunch following worship and return for our Conference and dessert! Speaking of dessert, each church has been asked to bring three pies and a half gallon of ice cream... I believe this is already in process for Trinity Heights. The agenda for the Conference will be our District Superintendent, Rev. Karen Rice-Ratzlaff will provide a devotion and worship time for us, lead us through the business of the Church Conference, and then we will enjoy pie and ice cream and fellowship. Of course, everyone is invited to attend and we especially want our leadership, Executive Board and Lay Ministry Team Leaders if possible. I am looking forward to my first Church Conference with Trinity Heights as well as meeting more of our Network Churches members. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to reach out to me. Rev. Kent

# Thank You

Thank you to all who helped with the Taste of Newton Trash Walkers. Everyone had a great time and an opportunity to stop by the THUMC Respite booth.

Thank you to all who contributed candy, and a trunk for the trunk or treat event. The DJ and photo backdrop was fun.

Thank you Pastor Kent for the Blessing of Animals.

## Prayer Requests

### Prayers for Celebration

### Prayers for Recently Hospitalized

### Prayers for Healing

Patricia Wheeler  
Joanne Kilgore  
Barb Stucky  
Cindy Gruver

### Prayers for Hope

Our Sister Church in Zimbabwe

### Prayers for Loss

Chuck Engel passed away October 25, 2023.  
Pray for Sue Engel and family.

### Prayers for Shut-ins

Lee Cannon	Shirley Long
Leona Clithero	Iva Reber
Vere English	Donna Staggs
Bev Gering	Marie Ward
Marge Graham	Chris Wilson
Bill Kepley	Phyllis Greene
Ottmar Lang	Kaylene Dicken
Duane Miles	

## NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Nicki Van Der Weg	11/01
Gaylord Sanneman	11/04
Shaun Buchanan	11/05
Joel Dunlavy	11/05
Joseph McConnell	11/06
Ashleigh Timmon	11/06
Jill Lachenmayr	11/07
Scott Seirer	11/07
Stuart McConnell	11/08
Max Brenneman	11/09
Jill Gatz	11/10
Michael Pauley	11/11
Judy Rittgers	11/11
Louise Stein	11/15
Don Reinhart	11/17
Betty Melcher	11/18
Adrienne Thompson	11/18
Chris Wilson	11/18
Lauren Anton	11/19
Blake Lujano	11/20
Vernon Bowers	11/21
Jaden Anton	11/22
Erica Mason	11/23
Marge Graham	11/24
Brylen Thurston	11/24
Allen Wedel	11/24
James Wiens	11/24
Jan Hoberecht	11/25
Joan Peterson	11/27
Matthew Seirer	11/27
Brenda Erwin	11/29
Joe Hamm	11/29
Steve Hensiek	11/29
Dennis Lammers	11/29
Michael Tomlinson	11/30

## NOVEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

Edd & Marilyn Wallace	11/01
Jonathan & Taylor Krueger	11/04
Nicole & Christopher Chapman	11/10
Kelson & Kenna Graber	11/16
Ed & Alice Stahl	11/18
Max & Jill Gatz	11/20
Ron & Sue Walker	11/20
Vere & Bev English	11/21
Eugene & Christy Rossiter	11/22



**Bell Practice in the choir room  
Begins Wednesday, Nov. 1  
at 5:45pm  
through Dec. 6.  
No practice Nov. 22**

## November Friendly Reminders

- Nov. 4 THUMC UMF Bazaar
- Nov. 5 All Saints Day & Holy Communion  
Harvest of Love food drive  
Daylight Savings Time ends
- Nov. 7 Election Day
- Nov. 12 2pm Church Charge Conference at  
Trinity Heights United Methodist Church
- Nov. 18 Respite Parents Day Out
- Nov. 25 Thanksgiving



### Newsletter Deadline

Wednesday, Nov. 15  
for the December Newsletter

### Facebook

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

### Website

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

### Giving

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

### How to reach us:

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[office@trinityheightsumc.org](mailto:office@trinityheightsumc.org)