

The Parable

April 2025



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Once I was asked to bless someone's new car. The old one was demolished in a terrible accident. I recall asking for a blessing of protection for those who would ride in the new vehicle. Another time I was asked to bless the pork butts for the Hog Roast! It seems that Morita did this when she was pastor, so I was invited to do the same. I was delighted to do it! Recently, we discussed blessing someone's new home, which is something I'd be pleased to do. I remember in the film "It's a Wonderful Life" the main characters were blessing a family's new home. They gave them a loaf of bread and a box of salt and offered a traditional blessing, *"May this house never know hunger, and may life always have flavor."*

Sometimes at meals we'll say, who would like to offer the blessing? So what's up with all this blessing activity? According to the dictionary, to bless means "to pronounce words in a

religious rite, to confer or invoke divine favor upon; ask God to look favorably on."

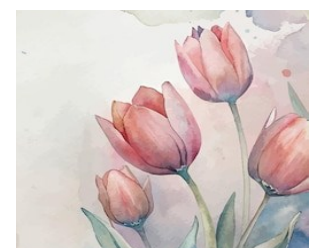
Sometimes the words seem rote or trite, such as when someone says "God bless you" after we sneeze. Why do we do that? In olden days it was believed a sneeze could expel the soul and allow evil spirits to enter the body. Saying "God bless you" was asking for protection for the person. Nowadays it's usually just a polite way to respond and wish someone well.

The word "blessed" in the Beatitudes means "favored by God". In a recent sermon I mentioned that at the end of a card or letter, before signing my name, I'll write the word "blessings". It means I'm seeking God's favor for you. So I'm asking you to consider, how has God blessed you? How has God shown favor in your life? One of my personal blessings is the people that have surrounded me throughout my life. God

placed me in a loving family, I made steadfast friendships, and I've spent time with people of deep faith that helped me grow and mature my own faith. Another blessing is when God's been with me in times of great tribulation. I'd love to hear from you—what blessings can you name?

I enjoy listening to Laura Story sing "Blessings". You might want to look it up—she offers a fresh perspective about blessings. Then there's my favorite blessing, the Irish Blessing *May the road rise up to meet you, may the wind be always at your back, may the sun shine warm upon your face and the rain fall softly on your fields. And until we meet again, may God hold you in the palm of His Hand.*

Blessings,
Pastor Margaret





If you are not able to serve on the date you have signed up for, please try to trade with someone else on the list or contact Bob Unruh.

The food bank is put in a difficult situation when volunteers don't show up!



Those that have been ill, hospitalized or in need of prayer:

Students at Fern Valley UMC, Zimbabwe

Those in nursing homes:

John Darting, Dot Ensz, Elaine Lowry, Merle Knak, & Willie Ensz



MAIN STREET MINISTRIES FOOD PANTRY VOLUNTEERS

April 5 - Margaret Johnson & Lori Yoder

May 3 - Denise Unruh & Debbie Ratzlaff

June 7 - Need Volunteers

Third Sunday Food Offering will be April 20

Cash offering will support Open Door Ministries.

**Thank you to everyone who brings food for the
Main Street Ministries Food Bank
on the third Sunday of each month.**

**We also appreciate those who volunteer their time
on the first Saturday of the month.**

**Please remember to double-check the expiration date on the food
you donate. If it's past the expiration date, it has to be discarded.**

Current needs include: liquid dish soap, laundry detergent, toilet paper, paper towels, shampoo/conditioner, salsa, alfredo sauce, rotel tomatoes, taco shells, pie filling, scalloped potatoes, mandarin oranges, pineapple, jello, pudding cups, pop tarts, hot cocoa mix, popcorn, cereal, oatmeal

Cash donations can also be given to Main Street Food Bank at Dale's Supermarket where they have an account set up to use for purchasing groceries for the food bank. You can also make online donations to the Food Bank at: www.mainstreetministries.net/food-bank

HEALTHY CONGREGATIONS RETREAT

If you want to learn more about approachable, effective ways to connect, partner and engage to improve health in your congregation and community, you'll want to attend this fun, inspirational retreat. And it's FREE! The United Methodist Health Ministry Fund is hosting its annual Healthy Congregations retreat **April 10 - 11** in Salina. This year's theme is "Faithful Living: Connecting & Deepening Relationships for Health." See Pastor Margaret for more information. She's served in several churches that are Healthy Congregations. It can be a tremendous blessing!

SECOND SUNDAY

We kicked off a new church-wide activity on the second Sunday in March with a rousing game of bunco. There were also some yummy snacks! "Second Sunday" activities are for all ages, and you're welcome to

bring a friend, too.

Tentative plans for the "Second Sunday" on **April 13, 5:30 - 6:45 PM** is to make an "Easter Garden" to take home, create a home-made Easter card, and nosh on

more delicious snacks.

We'll have something for those who aren't "crafty" as well.

Anybody have more ideas for our "Second Sunday"? Please share them with the pastor.



Second Sunday



EASTER FLOWERS

Easter flowers have been pre-ordered for the church and may be purchased for **\$12.00** each. There is a choice of lilies or tulips, plus a limited number of daffodils and hyacinths. They may be used to memorialize or honor someone special. Orders with your payment may be placed in the offering plates or delivered to the church office. Flowers may be picked up after worship on Easter Day, **April 20th**.



THANK YOU

Thank you to all those who prepared and served the Lenten Lunch on Ash Wednesday, March 5. We served 62 of our brothers and sisters in Christ who came for the noon-time service and lunch. What a wonderful crew of good cooks!

Also, a big thank you to the Church Fellowship Team (Lindy Wiens, Kathy Koop, Linda Friesen, Shari Sisk, Cheryl Jost, Marie Adams, Susan and Bob Watson) for pulling off the fried chicken/potluck lunch on March 9. We had 119 in worship that day and nearly all of them stayed for lunch!



HOLY WEEK

Palm Sunday, April 13: Come wave the palms as we remember Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem!

Holy Thursday, April 17, 5:30 - 6:30 PM: You'll need to sign up ahead of time in order for us to plan the service. You'll be gathered around a table in the Fellowship Hall, 6 - 8 people at each table. The evening will include a simple meal, Holy Conversation, Holy Handwashing, and Communion.

Good Friday, April 18, 5:30 PM Mediation at the Cross: A solemn remembrance of the ways in which we've turned aside from Christ, sending him to death on a cross. We go through the pain and suffering of Good Friday in order to fully rejoice on Easter morning.

Easter, April 20: 6:30 AM - Sunrise Service at Randy and Lindy Wiens, followed by breakfast
10:30 AM - Worship Service at the church



AFTER EASTER SERMON SERIES

Have you heard people say, or maybe you've said it yourself, "everything happens for a reason." Sometimes that sounds comforting; other times it leads to questions and even hurt. This is what Rev. Adam Hamilton calls "Half Truths." Things we're used to hearing or saying that aren't actually in the Bible. Using Hamilton's study as a primary resource, we'll thoughtfully explore five of these "half-truths" on the Sundays after Easter.

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| April 27 | Everything Happens for a Reason |
| May 4 | God Helps Those Who Help Themselves |
| May 11 | God Won't Give You More Than You Can Handle |
| May 18 | God Said It, I Believe It, That Settles It |
| May 25 | Love the Sinner, Hate the Sin |



United Methodist Women

Thursday, April 10

6:30 PM

Salad Supper in Fellowship Hall

Bring a salad to share!

All church women and their guests are welcome.



FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING

April 16

5:30 PM



Celebrating a birthday in April:

April 2	Lori Borg
April 3	John Darting
April 7	Dillon Boldt
April 19	Sharon Dies
April 24	Sally Andrews
	Judy Troyer
April 28	Jon Hefley
April 29	Scott O'Hare
April 30	Linda Friesen

Coming Soon



Embark on an adventure filled with surprises.

APRIL 30, 2025

For any questions or to make reservations, please call or text Debi at 620-877-0060 by April 25. She will be happy to assist you with any inquiries or booking needs.

Sign Up Sheet

at the back of the Church.

Please consider
**volunteering
to drive.**

We will meet at the church
and car pool. Estimated leave time will be 8:15



Men's Breakfast

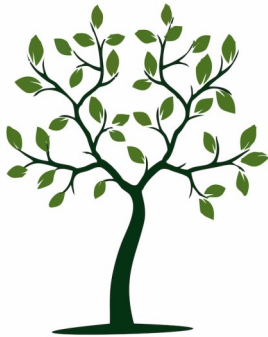
Fellowship Hall



Friday, April 18th

7:00 AM

*All men
are invited.*



NEW ENDOWMENT FOR HILLSBORO UMC

Hillsboro UMC is the grateful recipient of the Mildred E. Granada Kennedy endowment. The endowment is with the Mennonite Brethren Foundation and is designated to support church members to actively engage in spreading the Good News and Love of God. Specific examples, but not limited to, might include supporting Bible and Christian materials translation, supplying Bibles/Christian

literature, supporting mission trips by church members, funds toward a scholarship for a student planning to enter mission work/ministry, supporting special needs in Christian schools, etc. Church members are encouraged to recommend ideas for active mission work.

The Church will decide the distribution of funds with the coordination of the Finance Chair, a Representative of the

Mission Team and the Pastor. This endowment was created by Charlotte Takahashi Kennedy in honor of her mother, Mildred, whose passion was for mission work. She did this ministry both locally and in other countries. She was especially interested in supporting missionaries. We're thankful for Mildred's legacy. We're honored to receive this endowment and will strive to continue to bring the good news to others.



CASSEROLE MINISTRY

Our church keeps casseroles in the freezer that can be delivered to anyone going through a difficult time—recovery from surgery or illness, death of a loved one, etc. We appreciate those who provide these meals by making a casserole, and placing it in the aluminum pans (there are both small and large) that are in the kitchen on the west counter. After preparing the casserole, please write on the lid what the ingredients are, the date prepared, and any instructions for baking or reheating. There is also a blessing card you can take with the casserole when it's delivered.

We currently have several small casseroles but we're in need of a few larger sizes. If you can help with this and have questions, please ask Bob Unruh or the pastor.



NOTE TO OUR PRAYER WARRIORS

We currently have 33 individuals who receive text messages when we have requests for prayer. If you wish to make a prayer request for someone, remember to call, text or email the pastor (her email is megjohnsonwichita@gmail.com). If you email the church, she may not receive it

for several days since that address goes to our part-time office assistant.

If you're not on the texting prayer chain and would like to be, please let the pastor know. The power of prayer is immense!

Adult Sunday School — 9:30 AM

Sunday Worship — 10:30 AM

HUMC worship service on MCTV channel 20
is broadcast on the following times:

Sundays at 4 PM	Wednesdays at 7 AM
Thursdays at 10 AM	Fridays at 1 PM

HILLSBORO UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

905 E D Street

Hillsboro, KS 67063

Phone: 620-947-5643

Email: hillsboroksumc@gmail.com

Margaret Johnson, Pastor

Phone: 316-655-1801

Email: megjohnsonwichita@gmail.com

Office Hours

Monday, Wednesday, & Friday
From 9 AM — 1 PM

Sharon Denholm, Office Assistant

Office Hours

Monday, Wednesday, & Friday mornings

Missi Redger, Custodian



If you have to be away from church on Sunday morning, you can still worship with us. Go to YouTube and type in **Hillsboro KS UMC** and you'll find it live. If you go to YouTube after 11:30 AM, click on Live Video and it will be there. On Mondays, the service is uploaded to our Facebook page, Hillsboro KS UMC.



www.facebook.com/hillsboroksumc

www.hillsboroksumc.org

Subscribe to our
YouTube Channel

www.youtube.com/@hillsboroumc4256

POSITIVE & PRAYER THOUGHTS, by Dot Ens, Prayer Coordinator

- Press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called us heavenward in Christ Jesus.
- Encourage one another.
- Jesus offers each of us the gift of forgiveness.
- God's love will never let us go.
- Our striving together is a miracle of love.
- God's word gives guidance and purpose as we pray.
- Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful & thankful.
- We are invited to be still in God's presence.
- Pray with the faith of a child.
- Strive to be humble like Jesus.
- God's love – pass it on.

Dear God,

We invite you to come into our lives and help us to be the kind of people that you want us to be. We thank you for all you are doing for us. We need you and want you in our lives. Give us the strength and courage to seek you, God, and your wisdom. We pray for all those we come in contact with.

In Jesus' name – AMEN

