

# THE ENLIGHTENER

Clay Center United Methodist Church - Pastor Reuben Langat

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## The Enlightener

### July 2025

### Ordination of Rev. Dr. Jane Langat –

D.S. Karen Rice Ratzlaff & Jane

Several members from our church were in attendance at the ceremony at Annual Conference to witness Pastor Reuben's wife, Rev. Dr. Jane Langat, become



The Langat Family

ordained in the United Methodist Church. It was a beautiful worship service and celebration. We are so proud of her. Below is a copy of her post on Facebook as she shared about this accomplishment.



I am deeply humbled and filled with joy to share that I have been ordained as an Elder in Full Connection. This sacred calling marks not just a personal milestone, but a journey made possible through the love, prayers, and unwavering support of my family,

friends, mentors, and church community.

To each of you who has walked alongside me — encouraging me, challenging me, praying for me — thank you. Your belief in me has helped carry me through moments of doubt and lifted me higher in moments of celebration.

This achievement is not mine alone; it belongs to all who have poured into my life. I carry your love and your faith into every step of this calling. I can't wait to see what God has in store for me. To God be the glory!  
– Jane W. Langat



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### SCRAMBLE

Wednesday evening free-offering meal

5:30 pm—6:30 pm

We will see you in August!

No Scramble for the month of July



IN OUR PRAYERS: Alan Johnson, Penny Goldsmith, Steven Fisher, Sherri Ahlberg,, Bob Carlson, Pat Deighton, Barb Booth, Cindy Hoverson, Elizabeth Carlson, Jillian Browne, Bob Walker, Josh Freeborn, Virginia Modean, and Patty Stephans

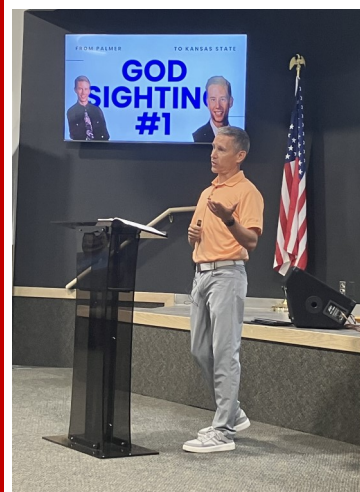
Serving in the Military: Brenden Kolsky, Cooper Coffman



Congratulation to Hughstin & Bailey Pachta on the birth of their son Jack Emmett Pachta on June 3, 2025. Grandparents are Jeff & Darcy Blackwood.



Sympathy to LeAnn & Wilbert Killman and Jean Bergstrom on the loss of their sister Darlyne Porter who passed away June 16, 2025.



Matt Weller

### Guest Speakers -

Matt Weller & Junior Obregon

Pastor Reuben took a couple of weeks of vacation this month. In his absence, the pulpit was filled by two of our own. Matt Weller spoke on his personal story and testimony of healing with the emphasis on God Sightings. The following week, our Children & Youth Director, Junior Obregon spoke to the congregation on the importance of prayer. We are grateful to Matt and Junior for sharing with us. God is good, all the time.



Junior Obregon

### Our Vision

Worship, Witness, Serve

### Our Mission

Worship God who loves us.  
Share our faith by building relationships.  
Bring hope to the world we serve.



**Monthly Mission-K-State Wesley** is a campus ministry of the United Methodist Church on the K-State campus open to young adults in the Manhattan area, not just KSU students. Their purpose is to reach out to young people through friendship and hospitality and become a community based on Jesus Christ. Funds we collect will go towards supporting this ministry.



**New Member – Jack Wallace –**

We welcomed Jack Wallace to our church family on Sunday, June 8th . He transferred his membership from the Mizpah United Methodist Church in rural Clay County.



**VBS Sunday –**  
The kids shared their favorite song from Vacation Bible School week with The Way Service. A special video was played and it was announced that \$1,011.01 was given by the children for their mission to adopt a church in Eldoret, Kenya to help them purchase supplies to host their very own Vacation Bible School. Our kids are mission minded and are so generous. They are sharing the love of Jesus around the world.



**June JAM Event –**

Due to the busy schedules of everyone, JAM does not meet on a weekly basis during the summer. Instead, there is a special event held once a month to keep the kids connected



with each other and with their church family. June 22 was a time filled with outside fun. Chilly Hill-billy was on hand for Sno-Cones for everyone. Tom Nelson was the Conductor of the Common Ground Train and gave treks around the block to many anxious riders. There were also yard games, lots of fellowship and smiles all around. A special Thank You to our JAM Directors, Amy Burr and Leah Knitter for putting this fun event together. Join us on July 27 for another JAM event called “Let’s Get Soaked!”



**BUDGET REPORT**

Finances  
May Rceipts\$19,192.06  
Expenes\$29,918.40  
YTD  
Receipts\$127,736.41  
Expenses\$145,017.35



Rich & Judy Lloyd  
07/02/1967  
Joy Polson  
07/03  
Steve & Pat Deutscher  
07/08/1967  
Herb Mugler  
07/10  
Mark & Judy Johnston  
07/11/1970  
Bill & Grace Oetinger  
07/11/1970  
Dee Roth  
07/23  
Bill & Judy Crymble  
07/31/1965

**Marabeth’s Memo -**

John Wesley – he was really on to something.

When we greet someone on the street, we will typically say something like, “Hi. How are you?” If we receive a response other than, “Fine. How are you?” it almost stops us in our tracks. These are very common and expected salutations.

John Wesley, the founder of Methodism, led many small groups. He was known for opening his classes with a very different question. He would ask, “How is it with your soul?” This is a much bigger question. It includes your heart and mind, relationships, and your walk with Christ. It is impossible to answer with just one word.

Over the past couple of years, I have asked my Girl’s Bible Study this question. The first time, I got a lot of “good” and “fine” answers until I pushed them a bit out of their comfort zone. I explained that I wasn’t sure that they understood the real question. “How is it with your **soul**?” This time their answers were much different. For many of them, their souls were struggling. It brought comfort to open up about it.

When I asked the same question last week, the floodgates opened and a lot was shared. This simple question, when asked sincerely, really addresses our innermost feelings. To answer it honestly requires going beyond just our feelings. It embraces looking at the core of our being and ultimately our relationship with God.

Not all conversations are meant for this type of reveal, but if you are with trusted friends, truly want to expand your accountability and deepen your relationships, I encourage you to discuss this question or some version of it. “How **is it** with your soul?” You might be surprised how much is shared. John Wesley really **was** on to something.

I pray your soul is nourished, full of the goodness of God and ready to spread the love of Jesus. And, if you are going through a time of hardship, I pray you lean on Christ, find a small group of trusted friends and share about your soul. Like all things, the condition of our souls will ebb and flow, but God is always a constant. He loves you deeply.

So I ask ... How is it with **your** soul?  
Marabeth Conner

*“Yes, my soul, find rest in God; my hope comes from him.” Psalm 62:5*



The new Open Windows group met on Thursday, June 19th for a inspirational meeting to talk about life as it deals with being a widow for anyone facing that new chapter in their life. They prepare Sunshine gifts to give out to other widows in the community. Jane Crawshaw delivered one to Carol Adams as she has made the transformation from living on the family farm to moving into the town of Clay Center. This mission that the new window’s group does is an invitation to help all new and old widows in the changes that take place in one’s life as they deal with life as a single again. They meet monthly on the 3rd Thursday of each month at noon with each brining their own sack lunch. Questions call Donna Griggs @ 630-1083.



The Harvest Is Ready

Every time I drive from Manhattan to Clay Center, looking at the fields, I'm reminded of the incredible dedication of our local farmers. The fields are turning gold, and harvest season has begun—some have already brought in their wheat. Watching those wheat fields sway in the wind, like waves across the land, always stirs something in me. It brings to my mind a powerful passage in Matthew 9:35–38.

“Jesus went through all the towns and villages, teaching in their synagogues, proclaiming the good news of the kingdom, and healing every disease and sickness. When he saw the crowds, he had compassion on them because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. Then he said to his disciples, ‘The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field.’”

Jesus didn't just talk about compassion—He lived it. He met people where they were, whether in busy cities or quiet villages. He taught, healed, and gave hope to the hurting. And then He turned to His disciples and called them to action. To go and reach the world. That same call still echoes today.

Here in Clay County, according to 2020 data from the Association of Religion Data Archives, only about 39.5% of the population are affiliated with a religious group. That means over 60% of our neighbors might not have a church family—or even know the love of Christ. There is someone that needs to hear and see the love of Jesus. The harvest is still plentiful.

There's so much more we can do to reach out to those around us: our neighbors, coworkers, classmates, teammates, and even our own families. Many people are longing for hope, for peace, for purpose. And we have the greatest gift to share—Jesus.

That's why Jesus told us to pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest—to ask Him to send more laborers into His field. And it starts with us. We are Jesus ambassadors everywhere we go.

This summer, during our annual Vacation Bible School, we welcomed over 100 children. In the Discovery Room, they learned about missions in Thailand and Philadelphia. More importantly, they heard the Good News. We gave every child a chance to say “Yes” to Jesus, to pray for forgiveness, and to invite Him into their hearts. What a joy it was to witness seeds of faith being planted! This is the best investment we can make: raising up the next generation to know God's Word, to grow in their faith, and to serve others.

Our youth are continuing this mission. They're preparing for their annual Fireworks Sale to raise funds for ministry activities, including our upcoming Fun and Mission Trip to Colorado in August. They'll also be serving in our community—visiting long-term care facilities, partnering with The Lighthouse Ministry, packing Operation Christmas Child boxes, and more.

Please come out to support our youth. Every purchase, every donation, every prayer makes a difference. Together, we're answering Jesus' call—one act of love at a time.

The harvest is ready. Let's go.

Junior Obregon, Children & Youth Director



To the Clay Center United Methodist Church– The Methodist Church was an important part of our family life. We appreciate your facilitating the graveside service for Larry Friesen.

Laura Rothstein and Leslie Friesen

United Methodist Women– We want to tank you sincerely for the generous \$500 gift to the Lighthouse for Christ from your church rummage sale proceeds. It is so kind of you to support our ministry to the community this way. May God bless you!

A Lighthouse Volunteer

Church Friends, Mom continues to stay in good health at the Nicol Home. It is fun to see her picture on their Facebook page when they have fun activities. Tomorrow they will all wear the tie dye shirts they made. She sends her love.

Barbie Booth & Jenna Carver

2025 Great Plains Annual Conference (GPAC) Report

The voting members of GPAC considered and passed six resolutions. The resolutions included supporting Medicaid expansion, addressing Christian nationalism, establishing a conference fund to allow parental leave to extend from the current eight weeks to 13 weeks, creating a nonpaid staff position for caretaker of God's creation, a task force to help churches transition to clean energy, and a resolution to call for an end to the genocide in Palestine. Voting members also approved the closure of 11 churches, seven of which were in Kansas.

All 2025 UMC annual conferences were required to vote on whether to ratify four sets of constitutional amendments that were approved by the delegates to the 2024 General Conference. Ballot 1 covered the amendments related to regionalization. Ballot 2 would add “gender” and “ability” to the list of categories that cannot be used to exclude persons from membership. Ballot 3 would place the denomination's commitment to the eradication of the sin of racism into the constitution. Ballot 4 pertains to several changes aimed at establishing a uniform basis for clergy to vote for clergy delegates to the General Conference, jurisdictional conferences, and central conferences. Unlike other ballots taken at annual conferences, the results of these ballots were not announced at the time of the vote. Instead, each annual conference will send its voting results to the Council of Bishops. The Council will tally and announce the results at their fall meeting. Each ballot item will be ratified if at least 2/3 of the votes cast worldwide approve its ratification.

Great Plains Conference clergy and their spouses who passed away during the past year were remembered. Among those memorialized were Rev. Calvin Hartman, who served CCUMC from 1971 to 1979.

Rev. Dr. Jane Langat was among the elders ordained in full connection. She will continue her responsibilities as the intercultural development coordinator and also begin serving as the pastor of the Washington and Haddam United Methodist Churches. Rev. Dr. Reuben Langat will continue to be our pastor at CCUMC.

Due to decreased mission shares, churches contributed approximately \$10.4 million of the nearly \$12.28 million anticipated 2024 spending plan. Reserve funds covered the \$775,000 deficit. While the conference should be grateful for the resources to cover the deficit, the budget should not be supplemented in this manner regularly. The conference unanimously approved a budget of \$14,421,442 for 2026. The 2026 budget represents a decrease of nearly 5% from the 2025 budget.

More than 625 clergy and laity attended optional workshops. Workshops were conducted on immigration advocacy, evangelism, church hospitality, and the clergy retirement plan. Paige Taddiken was the instructor for the church hospitality workshop. She will be repeating this presentation in Lincoln, NE, on August 16<sup>th</sup>, in Scott City on September 13<sup>th</sup>, and in Wichita on October 4<sup>th</sup>.

The 2026 annual conference will take place from May 27 to 30 at the Younes Center North in Kearney, Nebraska. This is a week earlier than GPAC has been in the past few years.

Marcy Schooley, CCUMC's Lay Member to Annual Conference







# JULY

2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
FLC– Family Life Center FEL– Fellowship Hall ( basement) Tue @ 10- Prayer & fellowship UMW– United Methodist Women Men’s Morning– FLC/ breakfast and devotion Pairs & Spares– New young adult class Adv. – Adventures 1st-3rd grades/ FEL Pwr Pk– Power Pack 4th-5th grades/ FEL Youth Group– HS/ High School, MS/Middle School		1 9:30a Cong Care  10a Tue @ 10	2   6p Memorial	3  Closed for The holiday 	4	5
Youth Selling Fireworks– Please support them						
6  8:45a The Way Service 9:30a Adult S.S. 10:30a Sanctuary Service  8p AA/AI-Anon	7  12p Harvesters	8 10a Tue @ 10	9 6:45a Men’s Morn  6p Trustees 6p Finance 7p Church Council	10	11	12
13 8:45a The Way Service 9:30a Adult S.S. 10:30a Sanctuary Service  8p AA/AI-Anon	14	15 10a Tue @ 10	16	17 12 Open Windows	18	19
20 8:45a The Way Service 9:30a Adult S.S. 10:30a Sanctuary Service  8p AA/AI-Anon	21	22 10a Tue @ 10  Enlightener articles due	23 6:45a Men’s Morn	24	25	26
27 8:45a The Way Service 9:30a Adult S.S.& J.A.M. “Let’s Get Soaked” Day 10:30a Sanctuary Service 7:15p– 8:45p Pool Party/ Ice Cream SOCIAL 8p AA/AI-Anon	28	29  10a Tue @ 10	30	31  		

HOME-MADE ICE CREAM SOCIAL

&

Pool PARTY

FREE Swimming  
Ice-Cream & Cookies



Sunday July 27  
7:15 - 8:45 p.m.  
Clay Center Aquatic Park

Sponsored by CCUMC Special Events Team

Invite your family  
& friends!!


Keshawn Baptism

Keshawn Eidenmueller was baptized on Sunday, June 1, which also happened to be his 15th birthday. As a sign of support, along with his family, Keshawn was joined by his buddies from Youth Group. We are proud of Keshawn and share a warm welcome to him. His parents are Andy and Wendy Eidenmueller.



Workshop –

Paige Taddiken was the presenter at one of the work-shops that were held at UMC Annual Conference this year. Her topic was “Elevating Your Church Hospitality: Practical tips for a warm welcome.”. Over 200 people were in attendance. We are excited that Paige was invited to share with other United Methodists what is happening in Clay Center, Kansas and how we have adopted the idea of offering up radical hospitality to all. Paige will be offering this same workshop in various other cities throughout our conference during the remainder of the year.



LET’S GET SOAKED

Join us for our  
JULY J.A.M. DAY

WATER WORKS  
Sunday, July 27th  
9:30 - 10:15 a.m.

North Church Lawn

Wear Play Clothes &  
Plan to Get WET!!

Bring a towel

For all kids thru High School