

# The Parable

**JANUARY**  
2026



I don't know about you, but I'm ready to leave 2025 in my rear-view mirror and look ahead to new days in 2026. I'm not saying there weren't some good times in 2025. The church has been faithfully carrying out the ministry of caring for those who are food insecure, serving children and youth through weekly gatherings, helping out in the community, and gathering for weekly worship and Bible study, along with many other things.

However, the pressures and stress in our culture have taken its toll. It seems we've lost our civility and the ability to disagree without becoming divided, or even in some cases violent. We're distressed by news of people who are homeless, the ugly rhetoric of our political leaders, and the wars, poverty and disease that are rampant not only in the U.S. but around the world.

We celebrate the Christmas season with hope, peace, joy and love. We can't forget the One who came to change our lives, enabling us to not just cope with our earthly life, but also to thrive. We thrive when we continue to do the work of Jesus.

In 2026, I want to focus on the new vision statement for the United Methodist Church. The vision encourages United Methodists to embody the following principles:

- **Love Boldly**: Passionately love God and, like Jesus, embrace and include people of every age, nation, race, gender and walk of life. *Inspired by Matthew 22:37-39 and John 13:34-35*
- **Serve Joyfully**: With a Christ-like heart, journey alongside the most vulnerable, offering care and compassion with joy. *Inspired by Psalm 100:1, Nehemiah 8:10, John 13:14-15 and 1 Peter 4:10*
- **Lead Courageously**: Follow Jesus' example by resisting and dismantling all systems of evil, injustice, and oppression, striving for peace, justice and reconciliation. *Inspired by Joshua 1:9 and Ephesians 6:10*

With the help of the Holy Spirit, I believe we can do this! Will you join me and love boldly, serve joyfully, and lead courageously?

*Pastor Margaret*



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*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:

Nancy Caudell, Ian Thomson  
Students at Fern Valley UMC, Zimbabwe

## Those in nursing homes:

Martin Fent, John Darting, Dot Ensz, Elaine Lowry, & Merle Knak



## **MAIN STREET MINISTRIES FOOD PANTRY VOLUNTEERS**

**January 3 - Bob & Priscilla Unruh**

**February 7 - Pastor Margaret (Need Another Volunteer)**

**March 7 - Need Volunteers**

**Third Sunday Food Offering will be January 18**

**Cash offering will support**

**UM Human Relations Day Special Sunday**

**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:** Specific needs include rotel, salsa, canned meats, evaporated milk, pop tarts, popcorn, bleach, trash bags, laundry detergent, fabric softener, dryer sheets, toothbrushes, toothpaste, mouthwash, shampoo/conditioner, bar soap, body wash, wash cloths, mop/broom, tums, deodorant, air freshener, paper towels, toilet paper, Kleenex, feminine hygiene products, dish soap, and disposable razors.

*Items are collected every third Sunday at worship*

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](http://www.mainstreetministries.net/food-bank)

**United Methodist Women**

**Thursday, January 8**  
**7:00 PM**

**Fellowship Hall**

*All church women and their guests are welcome.*

**Men's Breakfast**

**Fellowship Hall**

*Friday, January 16<sup>th</sup>*

*7:00 AM*

*All men are invited.*



**JANUARY Birthdays**

January 1	Edith Darting
January 22	Tim Butler
January 24	Terry Unruh
	Trevor Unruh
January 25	Kim Koop
	Jay Pschigoda
January 27	Debbie Ratzloff

**Our Presence & Gifts  
in December**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Worship</b>	<b>Offering</b>
7 <sup>th</sup>	38	\$3,900
14 <sup>th</sup>	48	\$8,668
21 <sup>st</sup>	51	\$2,500
28 <sup>th</sup>	41	\$1,225

**\$3,600 is required each week  
to meet church-budgeted needs.**

**WINTER TURNS INTO SUMMER!**

Remember that our Vacation Bible School theme is “Snowball Mountain Challenge.” Debbie Ratzloff will be gathering supplies for decorating with snow scenes in mind. Items she requested in last months newsletter: Spray Snow, Styrofoam Peanuts, Snowflake Christmas Decorations, Christmas Icicle Decorations, Indoor Snow Blankets, White Tinsel, Garland.

If you find hats and gloves marked down in the after-Christmas sales, bring those as well and we'll get them sent down to Open Door for those in need.

**TWO SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES**

Alex and Hannah Jost plan to lead a new Sunday School class in the new year for those who would like to be part of a small group for Bible study. They'll meet in the Church Library at 9:30 am on a date soon to be announced. Let them know if you're interested.

The Genesis Sunday School class has existed for many years and is a group of faithful, thoughtful members. They're always glad to welcome new folks who want to have lively discussions while exploring the Bible and discussing how to live out the Christian faith. In January they'll be meeting in the Choir Room and exploring a book called *52 Churches*. The author spent a year visiting those 52 churches and sharing insights about what's good and what needs improvement. Check it out at 9:30 am on Sunday mornings.

## **CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED**

The church office will be closed for the New Year holiday on **January 1 - 2**.

## **UNHANGING OF THE GREENS**

We'll remove the Christmas decorations after church on Sunday, **January 4** and provide pizza for those who can stay and help. We'd love to have lots of helpers to make the job go quickly!



## **WINTER BIBLE STUDY**

For four Mondays, **January 12 - February 2 at 10:00 AM**, you're invited to meet with the pastor and read through the lectionary texts for the following Sunday. There's no "homework," all you need is a Bible. The sign-up on the back table will help the pastor know how many additional handouts to prepare.

## **GUEST PREACHER**

On Sunday, January 25 our guest preacher will be Rev. John Martin, retired elder. John will be preaching on Matthew 4:12-23, using the sermon title "Creation, Creativity, and the Church: What's Next?" John spoke to the church council last year about the One Board Model, a new way to streamline the church's administrative leadership team. He's been meeting with interested leaders in our church to explore whether we want to move in this new direction. Our group members are: Natalie Jewell, Alex Jost, Marie Adams, Keith Jost, Lyman Adams, Pastor Margaret. We also have a prayer team that has been holding the people and process in prayer: Lindy Wiens, Shari Sisk, Reg Matz. All of you will hear much more about this in 2026.

## **TACKLE HUNGER**

There will be a "souper bowl" lunch after church on **February 8** before the Super Bowl, as we continue to "tackle" hunger in our communities. A free will offering will be given to the local food bank. Watch for a sign-up sheet for those who might volunteer to provide soup, crackers, cheese, or desserts.



## Adult Sunday School — 9:30 AM

## Sunday Worship — 10:30 AM

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 usually uploaded to our Facebook page, Hillsboro KS UMC.



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Office Hours

Monday, Wednesday, Thursday & Friday

**Sharon Denholm, Office Assistant**

Office Hours

Monday, Wednesday, & Friday mornings

**Missi Redger, Custodian**



### **Positive & Prayer Thoughts**, by Dot Ensz, Prayer Coordinator

- \* God's love never ends.
- \* Never give up on prayer.
- \* Don't miss the beauty of the day.
- \* God lives inside of us.
- \* We matter to God and God matters to us.
- \* Worship God in spirit and truth.
- \* Strong faith with help get through hard times.
- \* When the day is hemmed with prayer, it is less likely to unravel.
- \* God's word adds value to our lives.
- \* Thank God for everything.
- \* God's love - pass it on!

Dear God,

You are amazing and awesome. Please give us the courage and strength to put you first in our lives. Thank you for all you do, and have done, for us. You give us life. How we live that life is our gift back to you. We love and praise your holy name and we thank you.



In Jesus' name,  
**AMEN**