

# The Parable

Hillsboro United Methodist Church Newsletter



As I write this on January 26, the temperature is a balmy 0 degrees, and the wind chill “feels like” minus 13 degrees. At least the sun is shining. What a weekend we’ve had!

The first thing I think every morning when I wake up in a warm house is the people who aren’t so fortunate. The unhoused in the U.S. and the people in Ukraine who are enduring winter without power, heat or water. I say thank you God for a warm shower!

As always for three weeks now, I’m thinking about Minneapolis. The city has been disrupted by federal enforcement officers and peaceful protests. No matter what your views, I doubt any of us feel good about the death of Renee Good, or a kindergartner, Liam Ramos, being dragged out of school and sent to a detention center in Texas. Or an elderly grandfather, a U.S. citizen, being pulled from his home in his underwear on January 18, driven around for several hours without any explanation why he

was being detained. On Friday there were clergy, wearing their ordination stoles, at a peaceful march through Minneapolis. As they knelt and prayed, I saw them zip-tied and hauled off. And on Saturday, January 24, we saw the killing of Alex Pretti.

Some of you may be thinking, why is the pastor being “political?” I assure you this is not about politics. This is about Jesus and the gospel he preached. Jesus was very clear that his followers were to care for the poor, the sick, those in prison, the immigrant, the hungry. Love your neighbor, protect the children and those who are vulnerable. Jesus pursued justice, to relieve the burden of oppression for those who are mistreated or outcasts. In Micah 6:8 God tells us, *“What does the Lord require of you? To do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with your God.”*

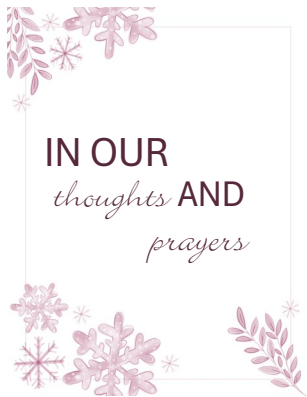


How far are we willing to go to carry out God’s will?

Mother Teresa said, *“One of the reasons we don’t have peace in this world is that we have forgotten that we belong to one another.”* Jesus sends a clear message that we all belong in God’s kingdom, and as Christians we’re called to stand up for justice, mercy, compassion and kindness, and to love our neighbor. Are we standing with Jesus? The season of Lent begins February 18. May we spend those 40 days ready to stand with Jesus wherever it takes us. Go well and safely, the Lord be ever with you.

*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:**

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

**Those in nursing homes:**

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



**MAIN STREET MINISTRIES FOOD PANTRY VOLUNTEERS**

**February 7 - Pastor Margaret & Reg Matz**

**March 7 - Kirby & Kathy Rector**

**April 4 - Larry & Judy Klein**

**Third Sunday Food Offering will be February 15**

**Cash offering will support  
HUMC Benevolence Fund**

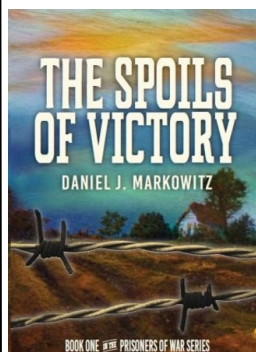
**Thank you to everyone who brings food for the  
Main Street Ministries Food Bank  
on the third Sunday of each month.**

**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:** *canned meats, evaporated milk, pop tarts, popcorn, rotel, salsa, bleach, trash bags, laundry detergent, fabric softener, dryer sheets, toothbrushes, toothpaste, shampoo/conditioner, mouthwash, 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)

**NEW BOOK: *The Spoils of Victory* by Daniel Markowitz**

This is the story of a young German soldier being sent to the POW camp in Concordia, KS. This book gives a dramatic new perspective on how war reshapes the world, one person at a time. This young soldier is being sent to a farm at Peabody, KS. This story will grip you, as you enter into his world of fear, mistrust, love and forgiveness. The past experiences of war he faced has given him the possibility of either finding happiness in a love relationship or it could shatter his world, as well as the family he is hired to work for. This is a book for men and women to read, so men – please give this book a chance. Three men from our church have already read this book and give it a “thumbs up!” Women, as well as men, will want to read this book, especially if you are interested in World War II stories. It is hard to remember while reading this book that it is fiction, but perhaps there were stories just like this that actually happened. In the book you will read about towns such as Salina, and even Hillsboro and Salem Hospital in Hillsboro! This is a book that looks honestly in various opinions of whether war or serving in the armed forces is part of God’s will. The Mennonite family that the young soldier is hired to work for also had to look deeply into their theology about serving in the armed forces and knowing that their own son who was raised a Mennonite, decided it was God’s will for him to serve. The community of Peabody had their own prejudices against the Germans. Please consider reading this book not only for challenging reading, but educational facts about the POW young men in Kansas.



February 1	Andy Davis
February 2	Judy Klein
February 3	Landon Roberts
February 5	Diana Dalton
February 7	Mark King
February 11	Bob Unruh
	Chris Bernhardt
February 18	Braxton Klenda
February 20	Karen Troyer
	Reg Matz
February 24	Ray Janzen

**Our Presence & Gifts  
in January**

Date	Worship	Offering
4 <sup>th</sup>	38	\$1,460
11 <sup>th</sup>	48	\$ 651
18 <sup>th</sup>	51	\$__
25 <sup>th</sup>	0	\$ 0

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

**THANK YOU**

*In December we sent Dale's gift cards to the four families at Main St Ministries, and thanks to your generous offering, we also sent \$250 to put toward their badly needed roof repair. We received this thank you:*

Dear UMC Family,

Thank you so very much for your continued support of MSM. Your generous gifts help us to continue our ministry to women and children.

Blessings!

Lindy, Main St Ministries Board



## **CHRISTMAS EVE OFFERING**

The Christmas Eve offering (*December 24, 2025*) was designated for H4C (*Hillsboro Community Child Care Center*) and HAMA (*Hillsboro Area Ministerial Association*). The offering totaled \$680 and was divided equally between the two entities. Way to go!!! The Center is a blessing for this community and all who are in need of quality childcare. The Ministerial Association uses their funds to help people with urgent needs such as utilities and rent. Thank you to everyone who contributed.



## **NEW ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS**

Beginning **February 1** a new Sunday School Class will meet in the church library at **9:30 AM**. For the first six weeks, they'll be studying the parables, using a video study by Josh Scott. The Sunday School class that meets in the Choir Room is studying the book "52 Churches" by Peter DeHaan. Both classes are open to any interested adult—check it out!

## **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.



## **BOWLING PARTY**



The youth will host a bowling party on **February 8 from 5:00 - 7:00 PM**. Come and bowl (you can watch the Super Bowl on the television screens) or come to visit and enjoy snacks. Bring your kids, grandkids, neighborhood kids—all church folks and your guests are welcome.

### **United Methodist Women**

**Thursday, February 12  
7:00 PM**

**Fellowship Hall**

*All church women  
and their guests are welcome.*

### **Men's Breakfast**

**Fellowship Hall**

*Friday, February 20<sup>th</sup>  
7:00 AM*

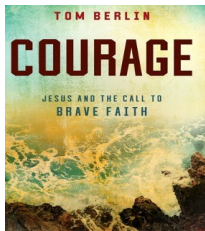
All men are invited.



## **LENT AND EASTER**

The season of Lent is a time of repentance and deepening our faith as we prepare for the joy of Easter. Lent begins on **Ash Wednesday, February 18** and ends with Easter. There will be special worship services as follows:

February 18	ASH WEDNESDAY - 5:30 PM
March 29	PALM SUNDAY
April 2	MAUNDY THURSDAY ( <i>Communion</i> ) - 5:30 PM
April 3	GOOD FRIDAY
April 5	EASTER



## **LENTEN BIBLE STUDY**

*Courage: Jesus and the Call to Brave Faith* by Tom Berlin. Classes will be on **Wednesday mornings at 10:00 AM** and **Wednesday evenings at 6:00 PM**. Sign up at the welcome desk in the entryway if you plan to participate so the pastor can order a book for you.

## **HIGH FIVE FRIDAY**

*We can show our love and care for children in our community by participating in High Five Friday. Here's the scoop from Principal Nathan Heibert:*

Thank you for signing up for High Five Friday. I have you down to join us on **Friday, April 10**. First, know that parking is a little different this year, due to our construction. Please have your greeters park on the side streets - Eisenhower, Kennedy, or Wilson (*note from Pastor: you're also welcome to park in the driveway at the parsonage*) and walk up, OR they can park in our back NE gravel parking lot. Our main East parking lot is for the majority of our staff and has only a few extra spaces for guests.

When you come, **the doors will open at 7:30 AM**. We will have your group meet in the hallway right outside the office. Have greeters on both sides, smiling, giving high fives, and using names when possible to greet students. There may be a few students who are hesitant; just take a step back and greet them with a smile and give them space.

Thank you again for your group's willingness to come and serve our students! It is a great start to their day.



## **LOOKING AHEAD**

On **Sunday, March 8**, we'll be pleased to host SNC (Spirit 'N' Celebration) in the 10:30 am worship service. These are very talented high school vocal students who perform a wide range of music. We'll follow worship with a potluck lunch for our guests, their families, and all of us. Don't miss it!



## **LET THE CHILDREN COME**



Sometimes we have babies and toddlers join us on Sunday mornings. For that reason, we're starting a nursery rotation. If you're willing to be "on call" on a Sunday morning, please volunteer on the Nursery Sign-Up. Hang out in the entryway before church, ready to greet anyone with young children. Let them know you're available to stay with them in the nursery, so parents or grandparents can focus on the worship service. You might be needed on the Sunday you volunteered or there might not be anyone that week and you can go ahead and join the worship service. Let's work together and show how much we care about children!

## **CHRISTIAN NATIONALISM WORKSHOP**

Free workshops focusing on resisting Christian nationalism in our church pews and in our communities have been scheduled for throughout the first half of the year throughout the Great Plains Conference.

In 2025, the conference passed the resolution "Christian Nationalism: Mercy and Justice" both rejecting the tenets of Christian nationalism and committing to sponsor workshops "to provide education on understanding, recognizing, and eliminating the tenets of Christian Nationalism from worship and ministry in their congregation."

The Great Plains Mercy & Justice team will be hosting six practical workshops across the conference. All are from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturdays. The pastor will be attending and is happy to bring others with her.



**February 21: North Central and Western Kansas districts, at Salina Trinity UMC.**

The link to register is:

<https://gp-reg.brtaapp.com/ResistingChristianNationalismWorkshops>

## Hillsboro United Methodist Church

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**Margaret Johnson, Pastor**

Phone: 316-655-1801

Email: megjohnsonwichita@gmail.com

Office Hours

Monday, Wednesday, Thursday & Friday

**Sharon Denholm, Office Assistant**

Office Hours

Monday, Wednesday, & Friday mornings

**Missi Redger, Custodian**



# Sunday School — 9:30 AM

# Sunday Worship — 10:30 AM

[www.hillsboroksumc.org](http://www.hillsboroksumc.org)



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## **POSITIVE & PRAYER THOUGHTS**, by Dot Ensz, Prayer Coordinator

- \* God's love never ends.
- \* Never give up on prayer.
- \* 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**

