

NORTH RIVERSIDE NEIGHBORHOOD

THE LEAFLET

WOODLAND
United Methodist Church
1100 W.15 ST.N.
(316)265-6669
WWW.WOODLANDUMC.COM
FEBRUARY 26, 2026

A Pastor's Word

Well, it has been a hot minute since we got a Leaflet churned out; thank you for your patience as we've played catch-up on all the things! To help in getting the Leaflets out in a more timely manner, we need to share some of the joy of writing the content. If you are a point person on a project, team, group, etc., please send pictures and brief write-ups to office@woodlandumc.com so Cinthia can get it added.



Our goal is a full Leaflet at the start of the month, followed by a Leaflette to update half-way through. Remember, we like to advertise both upcoming events and report on past ones!

Lent is underway, and we are doing a series called Scandalous. Each week, we will hear stories from Jesus, John Wesley, and a modern day church that demonstrates for us how we can "be more vile," for the sake of the gospel. I've been looking forward to this one for months :) We will be having our annual Palm Sunday party on March 29, which is also the same morning as our Cantata. April 2 is our interactive Maundy Thursday service, and April 5 is Easter! After Easter, we will be doing some experimentation with music as we think ahead about what music might look like (sound like?) going forward.

Personally, I've been involved in some of the Wichita faith community's response to the injustices suffered by our immigrant neighbors at the hands of our government. It has been healing to be able to gather with other Jesus followers to protest and lament the cause that is being done, and it has led to some tense moments when counter-protestors have shown up screaming the most disgusting things. The prayer gatherings remind me that there is good in the world, and the counter-protestors remind me that the kingdom of God has yet to come in its entirety. They have also challenged me to practice what I preach - and love all my neighbors, YES ALL OF THEM, well.

It is an honor to serve alongside you, to laugh with you, and cry with you as we navigate this Jesus path together.

Grace and Peace,
Valecia

Upcoming Events

Share Your Gifts Sunday

Join us for a potluck meal/worship service Sunday at 11! Also, stick around to learn more about the bell choir, and see if you have what it takes to be a ringer as we learn the basics.

Woodland UMC needs

Volunteers!

Please let us know if you are interested in being a volunteer for IRC!

Anti-Christian Nationalism Workshop

Woodland will be hosting a workshop for the Great Plains Conference focusing on resisting Christian nationalism in our church pews and in our communities. 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."

It will be held on April 18, and we'd like to provide participants with a warm Woodland welcome! If you're willing to help host, please let Valecia know.

Our Lent Series

SCANDALOUS

Join us for our Lenten series that will challenge us to be more scandalous for the sake of the gospel, just as Jesus and John Wesley have done before us.

Ash Wednesday.....Feb.18,6 p.m.

Share Your Gifts Sunday...Mar.1,11 a.m.
(potluck!)

Palm Sunday Party.....Mar.29,10 a.m.

Choral Cantata.....Mar.29,11 a.m.

Maundy Thursday.....April 2,6 p.m.

Easter.....April 5,11 a.m.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY FEBRUARY

NAME	BIRTH DATE
JOE KOWING	2-5
KATHIE TURLEY	2-9
TRACY MOORE	2-10
JIM BROWN	2-18
GARYL TURLEY	2-26
DAVID PHILLIPS	2-26

North Riverside Association Meeting

BUILDING STRONGER NEIGHBORHOODS

with Amy Draut

Associate Director, The Neighboring Movement
North Riverside Resident

MONDAY, MARCH 16

7:00 PM

**WOODLAND UNITED
METHODIST CHURCH**

1100 W 15th St N, Wichita, KS

Strong, thriving neighborhoods start with caring neighbors who know and support one another. Join us to learn practical tools to build meaningful relationships that foster trust, increase safety, and create genuine connection.

Hosted by North Riverside Neighborhood Association



Reports

Share Your Gifts Sunday

In February, we had our first Share Your Gifts Sunday, where we celebrate an expanded idea of Communion, complete with a potluck, and also share an experience together as a congregation. For February's gathering, our friends at the International Rescue Committee (IRC) shared a bit with us about what their worship service looks like; although we could not understand the words of their prayers, their devotion, joy, and passion was easily perceived!





In a time when many of us are looking for ways to do good in the world and to shine the light on how Jesus-following Christians live out our faith, thank you good people of Woodland for being the hands, feet, and face of Christ with our refugee friends who are clients of the International Rescue Committee (IRC.) I first became interested in the work of the IRC a little over a year and a half ago as I was looking for volunteer opportunities in my “semi-retirement.” This organization has been helping to relocate refugees fleeing persecution in their home countries since the 1930’s. My entire career as an educator was spent focused on social justice work, ensuring all children received the education they needed regardless of race, background, economic status, or abilities. Soon after our current president took office a little over a year ago, most of the funding for the IRC was cut and all refugees in the process of relocating to the US were halted. Since then Woodland UMC has helped the refugees through a coat drive, a baby shower, and now through a Mustard Seed (small) grant through Global Ministries of the United Methodist Church. A small team of volunteers and I have been meeting weekly here at the church supporting nutrition and wellness classes. (Craig Ebert, Christina Lara, Anita Martz, and Suzy Young.) This has been a 3-way partnership between the IRC, The Sedgwick County Extension Service, and Woodland. We have been blessed to have the Extension Service Nutrition Educator (Alicia) provide the curriculum and lead the classes. Each week we welcomed between 5 and 20 refugees to the classes. Thursdays are a long day for them. They attend classes at the IRC in the mornings (mostly English and technology) and then travel to the church. In addition to providing the space for the classes to meet we prepare a meal using ingredients from a local food bank or from the IRC staff. It’s a little like the show Chopped, or as my family likes to call it, Pantry Challenge. Sometimes there is food leftover to distribute, and they were so delighted to receive fresh fruits and vegetables from Newbry’s garden in the fall! We also participated in a field trip to the grocery store with them. More than that, we interact with them. Their English is improving but unfortunately, I can’t say the same for my Swahili or Somali!

Each of the 16 families selected their “incentive” for completing the full course of the grant. Soup pots, crock pots, and Walmart gift cards for groceries were the most popular requests and our clients received those at class last week.

This has been such a rewarding experience! One of the most meaningful reflections of this partnership came from one of the clients just before Christmas. He said, “When we came to America, we didn’t think anyone here would love us. At your church, we have found that you do love us!” As our funding for the grant comes to an end, we are looking for ways to keep this partnership going as a ministry of our church. The Gospel tells us to welcome the stranger, to feed the hungry, to be the hands and feet and face of Christ. I hope you will consider partnering with us as we see where this ministry will take us. We will continue to meet at the church on Thursdays from 1-3 in the afternoon and we would love to have you come help!! If you are unable to come in person, there are other ways you can support this work. Many of our friends have lost their supplemental food assistance benefits and have little to no food in their homes. Donating to our Little Food Pantry, bringing fresh fruits and vegetables to the main kitchen marked for IRC, or including an extra offering specifically for the IRC ministry are all ways we can continue to bless our friends.

Please reach out to me with any questions you may have or to coordinate services.

Thank you!

Susanne Smith

316-305-3001

Leadership Board Retreat

On February 14, our Leadership Board gathered for a beautiful brunch courtesy of Brian Irwin and Arthur Stewart as we dreamed about what God is calling Woodland into next in 2026. We discussed the things we love about Woodland, the challenges that exist for our congregation, how we wanted to relate to each other as board members, and how we wanted to go about making decisions. Friends, this is a really strong board, and I have no doubt they will help lead us boldly and lovingly into the future!



Christmas and Epiphany Giving

Liberation Place is mutual aid in action—free diapers, formula, clothing, and more, and is a project of the Kansas Birth Justice Society. They received our Christmas Eve Offering in the amount of \$1029.31! Our United Methodist Women group also put together a baby shower to celebrate the work of staff and also to fill their supply closets with much needed baby items. Great job, church, supporting a great organization!



Thursday Night Supper Club



We have been hosting potlucks for the community Thursdays from 6-7 p.m. since November, and they continue to be a lovely place where neighbors can share good food, good conversation, and good connection. Our leftovers are generously shared with those who could use some food to take home, and our share table helps with some non-perishable food items as well. Set up and clean up are down to an incredibly impressive science; we use all "real" dishes, and a couple of weeks ago, the last of the clean up was done by 7:20! Thank you to those from our church who help make this happen, especially Christina Lara, Melodee Myers, Taunya Rutenbeck, and Harry, Peggy and Kristy Mishler. If you haven't been to one yet, I encourage you to check it out!

Ash Wednesday

Our Lent/Easter planning team did a great job organizing prayer stations for Ash Wednesday! A special thanks to Barbara Klausmeyer for leading this effort. Other team members include Kent Carter, Anita Martz, and Brad and Sarah Friesen.



Sunday School

Class Notes

Feb 15, 2026

Prayers concerns & Joys

- Joe finished new meds and is getting his appetite back!
- Kathy will miss her client Fred as he moves to VA.
- Beth will lead us in serving a Taco Bar to the teachers at Woodland for conferences.

Announcements

- Please donate Little Debbie snack cakes for the Drop-In meal.

Lesson Leader: Marietta M.

Notes: The Story of The Prodigal Son. We've been captured by the emotion of the younger son. The focus is on the older son. We often take open-ended parables for granted. What are your thoughts?

Submitted By: Anita M.

FEB 22, 2026

Prayers& Concerns:

- Beth is going to Springfield to help her sister with a cardiologist.
- Kurt's friend, Don, has pneumonia.
- Suzy's sister has diabetes issues.
- We are sorry for the passing of Helen Keller.

Joys

- Welcome back Joe and Cathy.
- Anita has finished with the wound clinic and the vein treatments!

Announcements

- Steve is singing in a Choral Society Concert at Sterling College.
- Kurt invited us to a fundraiser at the American Leigon BINGO-Feb 28, 3:00-5:00pm
- Next Sunday is our monthly Potluck in FH.

Lesson Leader: Steve M.

Notes: Steve M. Began session on "GIVE UP SOMTHING BAD FOR LENT" by James W. Moore. Today's item to consider giving up is grudges, grievances, & hatred. Consider what you're missing. You might want to give up apathy; don't quit on life. Try to not be negative & pessimistic. Let's focus on Lent and Easter.

Submitted By: Anita M.



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<https://woodlandumc.com/the-leaflet/>

WOODLAND UNITED
METHODIST CHURCH
1100 W.15 ST.N
WICHITA, KS 67203

OFFICE HRS

MON	10AM-2PM
TUES	10AM-2PM
WED	11AM- 3PM
THURS	10AM-2PM

FRI-SUN
!CLOSED!

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FEBRUARY



Happy Valentine's Day

ALL PERSONS ARE INDIVIDUALS OF SACRED WORTH. WE AFFIRM JESUS' EXAMPLE OF LOVE WITHOUT RESERVATION, AND COVENANT TO DEAL COMPASSIONATELY AND JUSTLY WITH EACH OTHER. THEREFORE, WOODLAND UMC WELCOMES ALL PERSONS OF ANY AGE, GENDER IDENTITY, RACE, ETHNIC ORIGIN, ECONOMIC REALITY, FAMILY STATUS, SEXUAL ORIENTATION, DIVERSE ABILITY OR SOCIAL STANDING AS FULL PARTICIPANTS IN THE LIFE AND WORK OF THE CHURCH DEVOTED TO THE RECONCILIATION OF ALL PERSONS AS CHILDREN OF GOD.