

NORTH RIVERSIDE NEIGHBORHOOD

THE LEAFLET

WOODLAND
United Methodist Church

1100 W.15 ST.N.
(316)265-6669

WWW.WOODLANDUMC.COM

MAY 1, 2026

A Pastor's Word

Dear People of Woodland,

Lately, I've been reflecting a lot on the role of unexpected surprises in life and faith. As a person who likes to have a plan in place, I am sure I've missed out on beautiful God moments because they didn't conform to my schedule or idea of how

things should go. That makes me sad! And, the Spirit is continuing to work in my life, and I'm currently finding that unexpected things are some of my favorite, as they remind me of the Holy's commitment to bring order out of chaos, to exchange beauty for ashes, and to bring good out of bad situations. The story about our milpa garden is one example of this; I've included it in this Leaflet in case you've missed it from other places.

Our May sermon series is one we do annually called Sing Praise, where we take a look at secular songs through a spiritual lens. This year's series will have a slight twist, as all the songs we will examine come from musicals! Here are the musicals, in order, in case you want to watch (or re-watch!) them in advance: Big River, Sister Act, Wizard of Oz, Dear Evan Hansen (this is playing at Roxy's starting on May 8!), and Annie.

I know we are approaching the summer months, a time when many folks travel, our choir and bell choir take a break, our students go to camp and on mission trips, and life just seems to develop a different rhythm. As we navigate these less-regular months, know that God loves you and so does your Woodland family!

Grace and Peace,

Pastor Valecia





Upcoming Events



Join us for an interactive style of worship that includes a potluck meal and table discussion on May 3! After service, Kate Hagman will share a bit about one her passions - fostering pets for Beauties and Beasts, an organization dedicated to finding every pet a loving home.



Church Workday!

May 2, 9:00 a.m., Terrace Room
We have jobs to fit all abilities!

Woodland UMC
1100 W. 15th St. N

pastor@woodlandumc.com

This workday will be focused mostly on indoor projects, sprucing up our space so we can more effectively share with others. However, outdoor projects will also be available if that is more your speed!

Woodland Scholarships

Every year, Woodland gives out scholarships to active congregants who are attending a trade school, college, graduate school, or seminary. Congregants may receive the scholarship up to four consecutive years; you can access the scholarship form by visiting

<https://woodlandumc.breezechms.com/form/scholarship>

Application must be received by May 31.

Gamut Sunday School Class

Our intergenerational Sunday School, Gamut, will be trying a different format for the next few weeks as they wrestle with issues brought up in the book Living the Questions 2.0. Pastor Valecia will lead the first week, then we plan to rotate leaders through the rest of the very short and manageable chapters. This will be a discussion intensive class, as we learn from and with one another! At the end of the month, we will discuss the path forward for Gamut, as we have lots of options!



HAPPY BIRTHDAY MAY

NAME & BIRTHDATE

Melodee M. 5/3	Eva S. 5/24
David Y. 5/9	Valecia S. 5/25
Lee H. 5.14	Walker F. 5/26
Ze Eisen 5/17	Kate H. 5-27
Christina L. 5/24	



Reports



Music

Our beloved accompanist, Sun Bogan, will be moving next year to Virginia to live with her husband. While we wish her all the best, we also acknowledge that it will be sad to see her go!

We will be doing a bit of experimentation with music over the summer to see what the future sounds like for Woodland's worship. If you have an interest and gift for music or other performance arts (creating poetry, dance, spoken word, etc.) that you are willing to share, or if you have interest in learning and starting something new, we'd love to know about it! Click [here](https://woodlandumc.breezechms.com/form/musicinterest) (<https://woodlandumc.breezechms.com/form/musicinterest>) or call the office and we'll be in touch soon.



Resisting Christian Nationalism

On April 18, Woodland hosted a workshop for the Conference on Resisting Christian Nationalism. Over 90 people were registered, and we had great conversations surrounding what it means to follow Jesus, what it means to be an American citizen, and healthy ways to express both our faith and our patriotism. Thank you to all who hosted and provided cookies; I heard numerous times how well people were cared for while in our space. Good job, church!





About a year ago, our church decided to put in a community garden. We didn't have much time, but ICT Farms came to our rescue by recommending a Milpa garden. Also known as a Chaos garden, a Milpa garden uses a wide variety of vegetable and flower seeds mixed together that do well in our climate and soil literally thrown all over the area. Not only does the diversity in plants help farmers know something about our soil type, but it also helps correct it, so it is a good option for soil that has never been planted. And, a Chaos garden is an appropriate name for it; there are no neat rows of carefully curated plants. Everything is jumbled together and whatever will grow, grows, in all of its natural goodness! Anyway, several people quickly came together to till the soil, clear away grass clods, and plant. We anxiously awaited to see what would grow, and after a couple of weeks, we had plants! But then, a setback occurred with a miscommunication, and the whole garden was mowed over. So, we added even more chaos to our chaos garden! Discouraged but not defeated, we left the plants alone to see what would happen. Unfortunately, the mow put most of the vegetable plants behind schedule enough that it was too late in the season for them to produce fruit, but we did get some lovely flowers that brought in pollinators and butterflies. In addition, some hospitalized Woodland folks received some lovely zinnias to help brighten their day! Not a total loss, but of course we were disappointed that food wasn't produced.

Fast forward about 7 months to this week, and our new friends from the International Rescue Committee were itching to get into our garden. I think we all assumed that they just wanted to start pulling weeds so that we could get ready to plant new things. But then, the most marvelous thing happened; they came into our garden and started harvesting what we thought were weeds! It turns out that the plant with the little yellow flowers you might have noticed these last few weeks produces seeds that can be crushed and the oil consumed, similar to a canola oil. The leaves are cooked and eaten just like turnip greens. Finally, the root actually produces a turnip-like bulb that can be eaten. They were so excited to be harvesting something they knew and loved. And we thought it was just weeds.

Out of the chaos twice over, people were fed.

What an important reminder for us that God works through all things, even chaos, to bring about goodness. That sometimes, what we consider an awful mess is producing treasures we might not even recognize!



Sunday School

Class Notes

4.19.26

Prayers & Concerns

- Alys's sister fell and has fractures in both hips
- Beth's sister has medical testing and is awaiting an apartment to become open in Wichita. Its been hard on Beth. Her brother-in-law Paul is having radiation on his tongue. And Mary is having medical tests plus Mary's dog died!
- Taunya is concerned about friend, Irene who will be working World Cup in KC as they are known for trafficking.
- Linda's friends Calvin & Cinda had a baby boy, Clarke, early. He only weighs 4 lbs.
- Thanks to Suzy, Deana and Anita for hostessing the Resisting Christian Nationalism workshop.

Lesson Notes

Linda started a new lesson series from the book, "Yes Lord, I Have Sinned But I Have Several Excellent Excuses", by James W. Moore. The author says, the problem isn't with admitting we have sinned, but we are learning how to justify everything. God does not want excuses, He wants forgiveness, penitence and commitment. 1John 1:5-10

4.26.26

Prayers & Concerns

- Prayers and Concerns
- Concern for Don E. and his bout with pneumonia.
- Bob O. will be getting a heart monitor this week in treatment for Afib.
- Beth M. requests prayers for Mary who has a rare form of lung cancer. Mary's husband Paul is currently in the hospital with a feeding tube.

Joys

- Thanks to Deana for delivery of food to UM Open Door.
- Alys K. celebrated her 90th birthday.
- Baby Clarke is in the NICU and is gaining weight.
- Greetings to old-time Woodlanders from former member Sky Harris Hendricks

Lesson Notes

Linda continued our discussions based on "The Best of James Moore". Today we listened to the author's stories about encouragement, seeing the face of God, being welcomed, receiving kindness and forgiveness. Class members shared their examples of these topics. Additionally, some Bible trivia was thrown in the mix.



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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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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.