

The Parable

August

Hillsboro United Methodist Church Newsletter



"I can do all things through him who strengthens me." Philippians 4:13

This is the key memory verse for the children at Vacation Bible School this summer. It's also a favorite of many adults. The words remind us that when life seems overwhelming and hopeless, we have a source for endurance and perseverance to keep us going.

The letter Paul wrote to the Philippians is often referred to as the "joy letter." I went back and read chapter 4 in order to get some context for verse 13. Paul speaks of rejoicing in the Lord. He talks about the peace of God which surpasses all understanding. He mentions those things that are worth doing. And just before our memory verse of 4:13, he talks about his contentment, whether he has little or has plenty.

I encourage you to read Philippians—it's only four chapters, but I promise you'll find nuggets of encouragement and joy, reminders of the riches we have in Christ Jesus.

The Bible stories for VBS include how Joseph uses his gift to interpret dreams, which saves the people in Egypt during a seven-year famine. The courage of Queen Esther is shared (Esther 3:7-8:8), Jesus praying in the Garden of Gethsemane (Matthew 26), and the work of Peter and John at the temple (Acts 3) when a beggar is healed in the name of Jesus the Christ.

It's worth making time to dig into our Bibles and read scripture. Even events from thousands of years ago are relevant to us today. Joseph uses his gifts to save the people from starvation. *How are we using our God-given gifts?* Esther saves her people from destruction and defeats the plot to exterminate the Jews. *Where are we standing up against oppression?* Jesus models what it means to be obedient and to seek to do God's will. *What has God laid on your heart?* Peter and John demonstrate the hope they find in Christ. *Are we sharing that hope with others?*

We're never too young or old to learn the VBS Bible stories! Go well and safely, the Lord be ever with you.

Pastor Margaret





Those in need of prayers:

Cheryl Jost, Ian Thomson, Students at Fern Valley UMC, Zimbabwe

Those in nursing homes:

Eileen Butler, Jen Dies, Martin Fent, John Darting,
Elaine Lowry, & Merle Knak



MAIN STREET MINISTRIES FOOD PANTRY VOLUNTEERS

August 1 – Larry & Judy Klein
September 5 – Charlotte Takahashi
October 3 – Pastor Margaret

Third Sunday Food Offering will be August 16

Cash offering will support EmberHope

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!

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: pie filling, rotel, salsa, canned meats, evaporated milk, pop tarts, popcorn, bleach, trash bags, dryer sheets, laundry detergent, fabric softener, 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



Primary Election Day
is **August 4, 2026.**

Voting booths will be set up in
the fellowship hall for that day.

Vacation Bible School

Friday, July 31
from 5 - 8 PM

Saturday, August 1
from 9 - 2 PM

Sunday, August 2
Celebration beginning at 10:30 AM
Potluck Lunch following celebration



Finance Meeting

Wednesday, August 19
5:00 PM



Church Council Meeting

Wednesday, August 19
5:45 PM



Men's Breakfast

Friday, August 21
7:00 AM

Fellowship Hall



Our Presence & Gifts in June

Date	Worship	Offering
7	49	\$1,884
14	45	\$1,000
21	49	\$1,740
28	45	\$5,375

Our Presence & Gifts in July

Date	Worship	Offering
5	46	\$1,450
12	38	\$1,649
19	51	\$1,986
26	36	\$550

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



TOWN HALL MEETING

Thank you to everyone who stayed for the Town Hall meeting on Sunday, July 12. We had good questions and conversation about the Simplified Board structure which is currently under consideration. The structure would fold the administrative responsibilities for finance, staff/parish, trustees, and church council into a nine-person Leadership Board. The nine members would be elected in three classes—which means three people would rotate off each year and three new persons would come on. This is the same requirement we currently have for the administrative committees.



The church council will meet on Wednesday, August 19 to determine whether the church would benefit from moving to the Simplified Board structure or if we want to continue with the status quo. If church council members decide we should move to this new way of work, a church conference is required. The church conference is convened by the District Superintendent and those who are members can vote for or against the proposed change.

If you have questions or comments, please share those with members of church council: Marie Adams, Alex Jost, Lyman Adams, Keith Jost, Natalie Jewell, Rod Koons, Carrie Koons. You're also welcome to visit with the pastor. We'll give you an update after August 19.

THANK YOU!



Vacation Bible School will be underway (July 31-August 2) just as you receive this newsletter. The theme was *Snowball Mountain Challenge: Find Your Strength in God*. We'll be able to share more in the next newsletter. In the meantime, we want to thank all the people who helped make this ministry a success! A huge thank you to **Debbie Ratzloff** who worked tirelessly for many months to organize and prepare for this vital children's ministry.

SUNDAY, AUGUST 16 WORSHIP SERVICE

Children and youth are invited to bring their backpacks for a special back-to-school blessing. We'll also recognize teachers and staff who are returning this fall.



BACK TO CHURCH POTLUCK

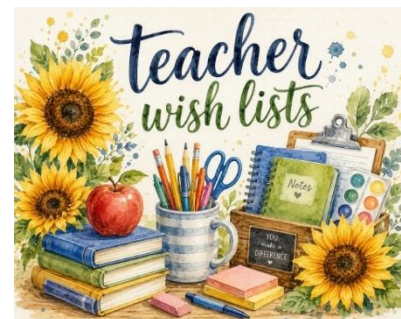


Sunday, August 23 — after the worship service.

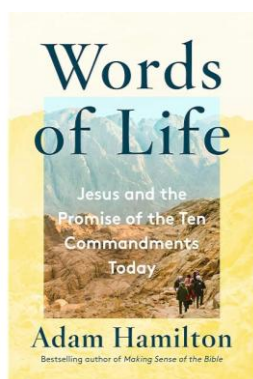
When families head back to school it's also a time when they think about heading back to church. If there's someone you know that we haven't seen in a while, invite them to join us. Maybe you have a new neighbor who doesn't have a church home—invite them too! Then bring your favorite dish to share and enjoy tasting what others have to offer.

AN “APPLE” FOR THE TEACHER

Once again we’re serving our community by providing classroom supplies requested by the elementary teachers. We won’t be delivering apples, but we hope to fulfill their “wishes.” Find a “wish” on the “wishing tree” in the Sanctuary and purchase the requested item. Return items to the church no later than Sunday, August 16. If you’d like to help with the delivery on Monday, August 17, let the pastor know.



FALL BIBLE STUDY



Words of Life: Jesus and the Promise of the Ten Commandments Today by Adam Hamilton.

This is a ten-week study, longer than the usual six weeks. But after all, there *are* ten commandments! So don’t hesitate to sign up if you’ll miss one or two sessions. That’s to be expected.

Dates: all five Wednesdays in September, three in October (Oct. 7, 14, 21) and two in November (Nov. 11 and 18). We’ll meet at 10:00 AM. Anyone interested in an evening session, please contact Pastor Margaret.

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. When possible, the service is uploaded on Mondays 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

