

## CHAPMAN UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

# NEWS FROM THE PEWS

February, 2026

### Pastor Connie's Corner

I sometimes wonder if we really understand the season of Lent. We often hear people talking about what they might give up for Lent and it seems that the point is to let go of something we take great pleasure in as a way of denying ourselves. Certainly, self-denial can be a worthy discipline during Lent as well as any other time in our faith journey, but I believe that self-denial is meant to be a means to an end rather than an end in itself, and while it has a place in the Lenten journey it is only a part of what Lent is about. One of my worship planning books says it this way:

"Lent is a time for evangelism and for true conversion—a time for growing through repentance, fellowship, prayer, fasting, and concentration upon our baptismal covenant. We are to be signs of God's kingdom in this world"(The Handbook of the Christian Year)

What does it mean to "be signs of God's Kingdom in this world"? We pray, "Thy kingdom come; Thy will be done", maybe being signs of the kingdom means that we are doing what God asks of us. Surly you have heard the saying contributed to Michelangelo, describing how the statue is already in the marble and he must only cut away what isn't part of the statue. Perhaps this is what we do during Lent. God is already at work in us and continually creating us in God's own image and self-denial is the process of letting go of everything that does not belong. Let's pray for ourselves and one another. Let's pray that the all that is not of God will be carefully removed and the God's Kingdom is revealed.

*-Connie*

***"This Commandment  
we have  
from him,  
that he  
who loves  
God should  
also love his  
brother."  
-1 John 4:21***





### Thank You to...

- **Care group 4** for the fellowship coffee.
- **Everyone who brought games and treats** for a very enjoyable game night and to **Chip and Janet** for hosting the event.
- **All who helped** with remembrance for Kelly Taylor.
- **Everyone** jumping back into helping with another season of Community Dinners.
- **You beautiful people** willing to keep your hands in the dishwater—you know who you are!
- **Nominations committee** and all who said “yes” to serving on a church board, committee, or team.
- **Everyone** who counted and reported so we could get the end of year reports done.

### DID YOU KNOW?

We United Methodists are people who live with a Wesleyan understanding of God and faith. Do you ever wonder what that means? What are the things we hold in common with people in other faith traditions? What is distinct about our faith? [www.umc.org](http://www.umc.org) is full of information about our history, our beliefs, our people, our mission, and so much more. You can ask questions, read articles, or listen to podcasts that will help you to understand the depths of our Wesleyan heritage.



I want to thank everyone for all the prayers and support given to Kelly and me during his hospital stay and to me since his death. He was overwhelmed when I told him of all those praying for him. Thank you too to the ladies for the meal after his memorial service and all that attended the visitation and service. For a man that always said he didn't care if he had a service, he would be so happy to see his family and friends that attended. Kelly was certainly one of a kind, didn't know a stranger, often came across gruff but had a heart of gold underneath. Thank you, Pastor Connie for all you have done for us.

One of the Bible verses I chose for his service was Philippians 2:4. “Don't look out only for your own interest but take an interest in others too.”

That was Kelly.

God is Good! Love, Katie



Remember how much fun we had celebrating all our birthdays last March? We are ready to do it again March 29<sup>th</sup> (Palm Sunday) right after Church. The first order of business is to sign up a dozen people who will bake a cake and prepare a table for all the birthdays of a particular Month. If you would like to host a table, please let pastor Connie know as soon as possible.

### Bernice Huff Circle

On December 9, ten members of the Bernice Huff circle met for the final meeting of 2025. Everyone brought snacks to share and spent time enjoying the Advent season. Katie Simmons provided a devotion how kindness and giving can actually help you. Another devotion reminded us of six beliefs about Christmas: the miracle of Christ; His purpose for coming; His purpose in our lives; His comfort; His joy; and the belief in earnestly seeking him.

**The next meeting will be in March when we will plan activities for 2026.**

Here at CUMC, we are reaching out as we love, grow, and serve through faith

# Outreach Report

## February Mission of the Month to Support CASA

The Missions Committee mission of the month for **February is CASA of the 8<sup>th</sup> Judicial District**. CASA stands for Court Appointed Special Advocate whose concept is based on the belief that every child has the right to a safe, permanent home. A CASA volunteer speaks exclusively for the child's best interest while that child is in the court system. These frightened and confused children often become victims of a swamped child welfare system, which is a complex legal network of lawyers, social workers, and judges who frequently are too overburdened to give thorough, detailed attention to each child who comes before them. Once a CASA volunteer is assigned to a child, that volunteer will stay with the case until it is closed and the child is placed in a safe, permanent home.

CASA of the 8<sup>th</sup> Judicial District covers the counties of Dickinson, Geary, Marion, and Morris. All CASA volunteers are unpaid, giving of their time and talents to help the children of our area. All volunteers are required to attend classes to be trained in their responsibilities. CASA is not supported by the government; its money comes through grants, some allocations by each county, and individual donations. By supporting CASA we will be helping the program continue their good work for the benefit of the children in our communities.

If you would wish to make a contribution to CASA of the 8<sup>th</sup> Judicial District during the month of February you may do so at the Missions Committee table in the Narthex.

Our mission of the month for January was Kids in Crisis. With the loving generosity of the congregation (and a \$100 donation from the missions fund) CUMC made a donation to Kids in Crisis in the amount of \$565.00. Thank you!

## 2025 Year End Report

Sing praises for the caring and generosity of the people of Chapman United Methodist Church!! Throughout the year 2025 Missions has been able to donate to 11 important missions. Here is a short accounting of the giving we, the people of the church, have been able to donate to support these missions:

Senior Citizen Center	\$431
Chapman Elementary Students	\$643
Elsie Brooks Cancer Fund	\$540
Neighbor to Neighbor	\$980
CASA	\$450
Kids in Crisis	\$754
Christmas in July	\$500
4:10 Irish Den	\$685
Helping Hands	\$550
Operation Christmas Child	\$920 (amount for shipping only)
Adopting Christmas Families	5 recipients

*Together We Can  
Make A Difference*

Over \$6,453 in support of these organizations, most which are right here in our community.

**This could not be done without YOU.**

## Community Dinners Resume

The first community meal of 2026 took place on January 28. Those attending were treated to lasagna, salad, and dessert. It was a cold, icy night but we had a great group of workers to prepare, serve, and clean-up after the meal. 69 community members enjoyed their meals; we hope to have more friends and neighbors at the February 25<sup>th</sup> meal. Please plan to come and bring a friend.



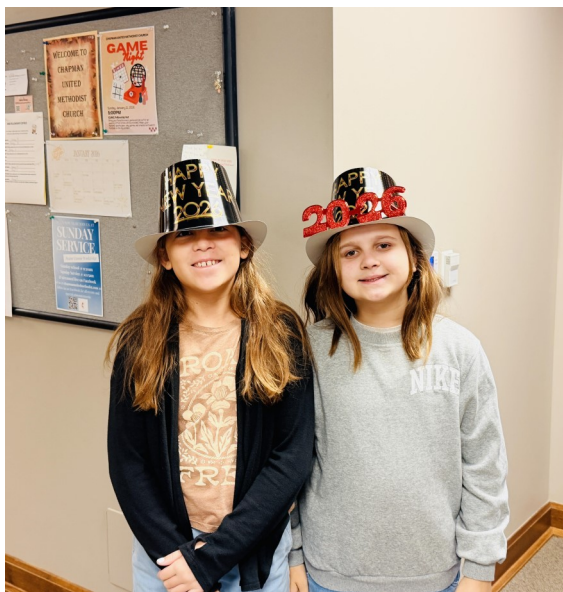
Thank you to those who attended the game night held on Sunday, January 11th. Those who attended brought games, snacks, enjoyed fellowship and watched football on the big screen. Some games were more competitive than others but all had a great time, many playing games they had never heard of. Thank you to Chip and Janet Edwards for hosting this fun event. If you are interested in more game nights, please let the Love, Grow, and Serve committee members know.



# Youth News

## Greeting in the New Year!

Did you join us on Sunday, January 4th? If you did, you noticed some of our youth ringing in the new year and greeting members as they came in. Sunday school classes will be greeting the first Sunday of each month, as well as participating and assisting in Worship throughout the year.



Reminder: Worship assistant sheets can be found in the Narthex on the podium. Anyone (youth of all ages!) can sign up to help greet, usher, read scripture and acolyte. Please consider doing so.

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CHURCH**

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**UPCOMING EVENTS:**

**B. Huff Circle** 2/10

**Lion's Chili** 2/11

**Feed 5-7pm**

**Ash Wednesday** 2/18

**Community** 2/25

# FEBRUARY

## Birthdays & Anniversaries

2/2	Melissa Weishaar
2/4	Joyce Leach
2/5	Ray & Marlene Daisy
2/6	Cooper Will, Hunter Will
2/9	Daniel Will
2/13	Kenny & Kathy Albers
2/18	Judy Frieze, Kendra Mars- ton, Ian Suther, Taylor LeCount, Brittini Schmidt Gillespie
2/19	Carol Frasure
2/21	Jon & Connie Wooldridge
2/22	Vicky Chamberlin



## Worship Assistants

### Liturgists

February 1: Lynn Kruse

February 8: Sylvia Schmidt

February 15:

February 22:

### Ushers

February 1:

February 8:

February 15:

February 22: Ray Kruse

### Greeters

February 1: **Youth**

February 8: Sylvia & Terry

Schmidt, Kaylene Miller

February 15: Darlene Stillwagon

February 22: Ray & Lynn Kruse

### Acolytes

February 1:

February 8:

February 15:

February 22:



## February 18th Imposition of ashes come and go:

8:30- 9:00 a.m.

11:30 p.m.-12:30 p.m.

4:00-5:00 p.m.

Have some news that  
should be featured  
next month? Please e-  
mail it to Erin at  
chapmanmethodist@  
gmail.com.