

THE PILLAR

*Stay connected with
your church family!*

February 2019

GENUINE FORGIVENESS

*Then he took a cup, and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, saying,
“Drink from it, all of you. This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out
for many for the forgiveness of sins.
Matthew 26:27-28*

For John and Charles Wesley and other foundational leaders, one of the core principles for the Methodist movement was grace. For them, grace was not passive. Grace was moving and active. In fact, grace was powerful! Grace is God's transforming work within us, the church, and the world. When we look at John Wesley's Way of Salvation we find grace!

- Prevenient Grace (prevenient grace that convicts us of sin and guides us back to God)
- Justifying Grace (justification or made right from separation with God), and
- Sanctifying Grace (grace that sets us apart for God's purposes as we grow up into the God's grace).

Thus, grace starts with the action of God and seeks to work within and through every follower of Jesus. By grace we can stand and by grace through faith we are be saved (Ephesians 2:8)!

Once we have received God's grace, we are called to show it! A powerful component of grace is forgiveness. If you look at politics, media, and even our struggles in in the church, the power of grace and the genuineness of forgiveness may not be so obvious! Forgiveness, like grace, is powerful. We hold no power when we cling to a grudge. It only hurts the one clinging to the unforgiveness! Unforgiveness leads to bitterness and bitterness robs us of the fullness of joy that Jesus offers.

Who do you need to forgive? Have you asked for forgiveness? Let the grace of God pour over you in the powerful act of forgiveness! Forgiveness is not always easy. In fact, genuine forgiveness needs the powerful grace of God to work in and through us! With Valentine's Day in February, we are reminded of love. The greatest act of love happened on the cross and allows us to be forgiven. Likewise, through the risen Christ, we can also genuinely forgive others. In fact, our sacrament of Holy Communion reminds us of this forgiveness through Jesus Christ. "This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins" (Matthew 26:28).

Beginning February 10, we'll tackle these questions and others: How important is it to forgive? How can God forgive us? Does forgiveness just happen? Is it possible to even forgive myself? Join us live or on the radio for worship as the sermon series explores deeper into Genuine Forgiveness.

Genuine Forgiveness

2/10/2019 – ***The Prerequisite***, Matthew 6:9-14,18:23-35

2/17/2019 – ***The Role of Grace***, Ephesians 2:1-10

2/24/2019 – ***The Role of Repentance***, Acts 2:36-40

3/03/2019 – ***For Yourself***, Matthew 22:34-40

May you have a grace-filled February,



Pastor Eric

Introducing Grow Kids Curriculum on Wednesday Nights

“Grow Kids” is designed for both elementary and preschool kids, with a separate preschool track that aligns with the elementary curriculum. On Wednesday nights, nursery and pre-school aged children will participate in Grow Kids in the nursery, while Kindergarten through 5th grade will be in West Fellowship Hall. The goal is to help our kids grow spiritually as they learn to apply what is taught in a way that is developmentally appropriate. Each weekly session consists of scripture, memory verses and engaging teaching techniques that align with one of the Discipleship strategies.



The curriculum has been created, influenced and written by real children’s pastors, in real children’s ministries.

THE GROW DISCIPLESHIP STRATEGY IS BASED ON FOUR SPIRITUAL HABITS:

- *spending time with God*
- *spending time with others*
- *using your gifts*
- *sharing your story*

Each weekly session consists of scripture, memory verses and engaging teaching techniques that align with one of the Discipleship strategies.

Not only does Grow Kids feed into Grow Youth, which Scott uses, but the curriculum also enables Salina First UMC to facilitate a weekly children’s program throughout the year! Everyone will want to be a part of this new ministry. Contact Rhonda at rhonda@salinafirst.com or 825-0228 ext. 145 to learn more.

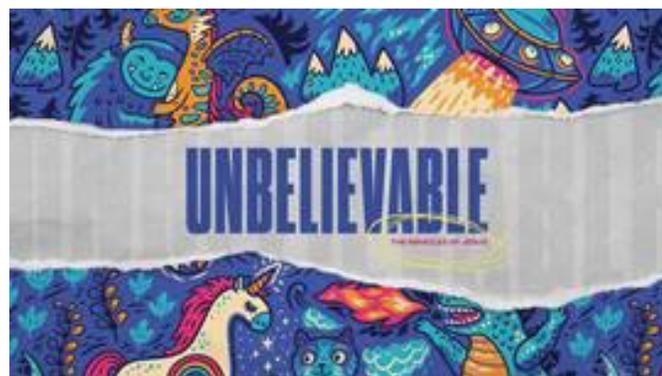


WHAT ARE FIRST KIDS LEARNING?

COMING IN FEBRUARY:

“UNBELIEVABLE: A 4-WEEK SERIES ON JESUS’ MIRACLES”

Kids love using their imaginations and playing make believe! It’s fun to be creative and play with unicorns, dragons, doll houses and LEGO bricks. But with all the things in our world that are unbelievable, kids need to know what is real and true. They need to know we can trust that God, His Word and the incredible real miracles of Jesus. In this series, kids will learn that God did things that seemed impossible and unbelievable, but those things were very real ways of showing us His power and His heart. This series will teach kids that God cares about us when we are sick, Jesus cares about us when we’re afraid, Jesus can provide for our needs, and Jesus can do the impossible.





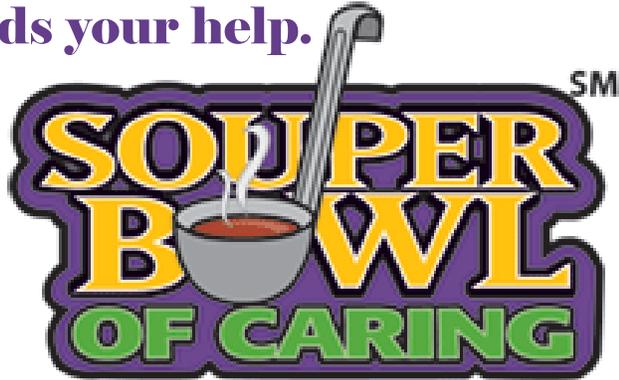
Thank you Salina First UMC, for donating \$891.00 to feed 4,050 meals to starving children. And thank you to the 22 members of our congregation that represented First UMC at the Mobilepack on Sunday, Jan. 20th from 4:30-6:30.



During this two hour shift at Trinity UMC over 46,000 meals were packaged, enough to feed 135 children one meal a day for a year. Many others from Salina First UMC volunteered on their own or with other organizations during this two-day event—an awesome show of Christ's Love from the Salina Community!

The Salina Souper Bowl of Caring needs your help.

We are asking Salina First UMC to donate 5,000 cans of soup. Last year we donated 4,191 cans.



The soup will be distributed to the Salina Emergency Aid Food Bank, Salvation Army of Salina, Salina Rescue Mission, Ashby House and DVACK (Domestic Violence Association of Central Kansas).

Please donate cans of soup or submit your cash/check donations now until Super Bowl Sunday which is February 3rd. For example, a donation of \$25 enables us to buy 60 cans of soup. Soup can donations may be placed in the grocery carts in the back of the Sanctuary. Cash or Checks may be left at the church office. We thank you in advance for your caring and sharing. For further information, contact rhonda@salinafirst.com.

FINANCIAL *Peace* UNIVERSITY

LEARN HOW TO CREATE A BUDGET, PAY OFF DEBT, SPEND WISELY, AND SAVE FOR THE FUTURE.
LEAVE MONEY STRESS BEHIND!

Take Financial Peace University with Jeff Geist at Salina First United Methodist Church. The course begins Sunday, February 10, and classes will run from 6 to 8 p.m. for 9 weeks. Cost is \$109.

To register visit salinafirst.com/financialpeace



DEBT IS THE THIEF OF YOUR future.

February 2019 Calendar

Salina First United Methodist Church

SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

3 *11AM-1:30PM @First Youth Baked Potato Fundraiser (Fellowship Hall)*
 8:25AM - Worship
 9:40AM - Sunday School Hour
 11:00AM - Worship
 5:00PM - Yoga
6:00PM - High School Youth Fellowship

4
 5:30PM - Church Council Meeting
 5:30PM - Children's Discipleship
 6:00PM - Leadership Orientation for Administrative Teams
 6:00PM - Faith Not Food

5
 9:00AM - Sewing Concerns
 1:00PM - Women's Bible Study

10
 8:25AM - Worship
 9:40AM - Sunday School Hour
 11:00AM - Worship
5:00PM - SHINE (4th & 5th Graders)
 5:00PM - Yoga
6:00PM - High School Youth Fellowship

11
 5:15PM - Finance Meeting
 6:00PM - Faith Not Food

12
 9:00AM - Sewing Concerns
 1:00PM - Women's Bible Study

17
 8:25AM - Worship
 9:40AM - Sunday School Hour
 11:00AM - Worship
 5:00PM - Yoga
6:00PM - High School Youth Fellowship

18
 5:30PM - Children's Discipleship
 6:00PM - Faith Not Food
Adult Discipleship Team Meetings
 5:00PM - Share
 5:30PM - Worship
 6:00PM - Journey

19
 9:00AM - Sewing Concerns
 1:30PM - Friendship Connection

24
 8:25AM - Worship
 9:40AM - Sunday School Hour
 11:00AM - Worship
 5:00PM - Yoga
6:00PM - High School Youth Fellowship

25
 6:00PM - Faith Not Food

26
 9:00AM - Sewing Concerns
 1:00PM - Women's Bible Study

CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL
(K-5TH GRADE)
 Every week
9:40-10:40AM
Check in at Room 300.

YOUTH SUNDAY SCHOOL
 Every week
9:40-10:40AM
Check in at the Youth Room (1st floor).

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

1

2

8:00AM - UMM (Methodist Men's Group @ McDonald's)

6

1:00PM - Prayer Group
5:00PM - Adult Handbells
5:30PM - Midweek Manna
6:00PM - Middle School Youth
6:00PM - Chair Yoga
6:00PM - Choir Practice

7

12:00PM - UMW General Meeting
6:00PM - Yoga

8

6:00PM - Crafty Friends

9

8:00AM - UMM (Methodist Men's Group @ McDonald's)

13

1:00PM - Prayer Group
5:00PM - Adult Handbells
5:30PM - Midweek Manna
6:00PM - Middle School Youth
6:00PM - Chair Yoga
6:00PM - Choir Practice

14

6:00PM - Yoga

15

16

8:00AM - UMM (Methodist Men's Group @ McDonald's)

20

1:00PM - Prayer Group
5:00PM - Adult Handbells
5:30PM - Midweek Manna
6:00PM - Middle School Youth
6:00PM - Chair Yoga
6:00PM - Choir Practice

21

22

6:00PM - Crafty Friends

23

8:00AM - UMM (Methodist Men's Group @ McDonald's)

27

1:00PM - Prayer Group
5:00PM - Adult Handbells
5:30PM - All Church Mission Night
6:00PM - Middle School Youth
6:00PM - Chair Yoga
6:00PM - Choir Practice

28

6:00PM - Yoga



FEBRUARY IS SALINA FIRST UMC MISSION MONTH FOR THE SALVATION ARMY.

During the month of February Salina First will provide 2 servers for the supper meal on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday from 5:00–5:45. Sign-up sheets are located on the welcome kiosks in the back of the Sanctuary. Thank you in advance for your service to the Salina Community.

Scott's Scribbles

“He was despised and rejected – a man of sorrows, acquainted with deepest grief. We turned our backs on him and looked the other way. He was despised, and we did not care.” –Isaiah 53:3 (NLT)

Have you ever noticed how rejection is such a consistent part of life?

Having been a youth pastor for more than two decades, I know a lot about this. Rejection and youth ministry are synonymous. Teenagers can be incredibly blunt. Many don't fully realize that adults have feelings. They tell you exactly what they think and often don't pull any punches when it comes to tact. For years, I regularly heard statements like these:

- *“My mom said she likes your new haircut. But I think it looks stupid.”*
- *“I brought my friend to hear you speak last week. You weren't very good.”*

And so it went.

Apart from my experiences working with teenagers, For years, I've battled with feelings of low self-worth and fear of rejection. I think a lot of us do, whether we admit it or not. Battling rejection is a constant struggle in life.

Maybe right now you're feeling rejected. You put your time, talent, or treasure forward and it wasn't received the way you had hoped. Maybe you're angry at the person who rejected you—and fearful that someone else will do it again. Maybe you're annoyed that your efforts weren't received like they should have been. Maybe you're simply sad—sad for the way things could have been. If only you hadn't been rejected...

One of the saddest things about living with rejection is that often we develop a skewed understanding about God. We start to think that He's always sitting on our shoulders, ready and eager to bust our chops for any infraction of the rules. We forget that He loves us and that His love is abundant and complete.

I'm telling you that God isn't about rejection, regardless of your performance or lack of it. He loves the whole world—that's why He sent His only Son, Jesus. Whoever believes in Jesus will have eternal life (John 3:16). He doesn't care if you have a big nose or can't play baseball or failed your geometry test or want to talk more than your husband wants to listen. His arms are always open wide.

And one of the amazing things about Jesus is that He understands what it feels like to be rejected. Though he was perfect, He was still despised and rejected. If you've been rejected, know that you are in good company. You're not alone. Jesus knows exactly what you're going through.

Experiencing rejection in this life is inevitable. The pain of rejection is real. But, so is the unlimited love and comfort of Jesus. Don't wallow in the mud of rejection. Run to Jesus. He's waiting with open arms.

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WHAT ARE @FIRSTYOUTH LEARNING?

COMING IN FEBRUARY:

“MEANT TO BE: A 4 WEEK SERIES ON LOVE & RELATIONSHIPS”

“We're meant to be.” It's how all of our favorite movies, songs, and books talk about love—as if the secret to an amazing relationship is a little bit of destiny, a whole bunch of feelings, and a tiny dash of magic. So it makes sense, when we observe the not-so-perfect, real-life relationships modeled by our friends, parents, and favorite celebrities, that we might start to wonder, “Wait—is that how relationships are meant to be?” In this 4-week series, we'll give students a better lens for evaluating their current and future dating relationships as you help them see that the secret to a relationship that's “meant to be” is to stay close to Jesus, date with purpose, know who you're looking for, and keep sex in the right context.

JOIN US:

WEDNESDAY NIGHTS 6–7:30PM (MIDDLE SCHOOL 6-8TH GRADE)

SUNDAY NIGHTS 6–7:30PM (HIGH SCHOOL 9-12TH GRADE)



Upcoming Women's Bible Study Group

"Seamless: Understanding the Bible as One Complete Story" (a 7-session Bible Study)

by Angie Smith

Led by Rhonda Bird

There's a seamless thread woven through every story in the Bible – a thread that connects its people, places, and promises in a whole new way. Ready to replace insecurity that holds you back and move forward with clarity and confidence in your understanding of Scripture?

JOIN US

TUESDAY AFTERNOONS AT 1:00 P.M.

BEGINNING FEBRUARY 12TH



ROMANS 12:9-10

LOVE WELL

YOUTH 2019

KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI | JULY 10-14, 2019

Love should be shown without pretending. Hate evil, and hold on to what is good. Love each other like the members of your family. Be the best at showing honor to each other.

— Romans 12:9–10 (CEB)

Youth 2019 is the every 4 year gathering of UMC youth from around the world. This year the event will be held close to home in Kansas City! We have several spots available for youth and adult chaperones to join together for a 5 day intensive worship, workshop, service and fellowship time.

Registration is first come first serve. Cost is \$100. Contact scott@salinafirst.com to register & learn more.

Finance Update

Greetings, Salina First UMC. After a strong December, we were able to improve our financial situation by around \$35,000 at the end of 2018! Additionally, due to great stewardship of our staff and committees, we curtailed expenses and spent \$79,473.46 under our 2018 budget. Thank you for being a blessing to this church!

Here's how we ended the year:

Total Income	\$ 532,434.56
Total Expenses	<u>(558,138.54)</u>
Net 2018	\$(25,703.98)

For 2019, we had similar pledges as 2018 and were able to substantially reduce the operating budget. Our total net operating budget needed for 2019 is \$568,353.37. If you have not pledged for 2019, you are encouraged and welcome to come by the church office and fill out the pledge card. Thank you again for your commitment to Salina First UMC.

—The Finance Team

February Birthdays & Anniversaries

2/1	Timothy Hicks, Lexi Lee (B-days), Jeff & Joy Hart (Anniv.)	2/15	Ruby Hassler, Debbie Sellers, Brittani Thompson (B-days)
2/2	Niklas Bohanan, Delores Zurfluh (B-days)	2/16	Noah Barton, Rex Parks, Kendell Richardson (B-days)
2/3	Connie Hocking (B-day)	2/17	Dave Hutchinson (B-day), Marshall & Janene Woodbury (Anniv.)
2/4	Scott Mitchell, Mallorie Pearson, Steve Robinson (B-days), Marylyn & Mark Matthaehi (Anniv.)	2/18	Don Jordan, Steve Kraus, Luke Scott (B-days), Cory & Susan Borthwick (Anniv.)
2/5	Sharon Romberger (B-day)	2/19	Conee Brown, Dorothy Carmichael, Tessa Snyder, TJ Swiercinsky (B-days)
2/7	Norah Figg (B-day)	2/21	Grant Byquist (B-day)
2/8	Georgia Kepple (B-day)	2/22	Eden Arb, Lindsay Eitel (B-day)
2/9	Elisha Cairns, Jack Gordon, Pamela Meehan, Afton Miller, Todd Smith, Davanee Storer (B-days), Larry & Joan Sams (Anniv.)	2/23	Leon & Joyce Marrs (Anniv.)
2/10	Maya Brown-Mereles, Amelia Burchfield, Terry Fellers (B-days)	2/24	Karen Thompson (B-day)
2/11	Conner Anderson, Arianne Burger, Connie Jones (B-days)	2/25	Addilyn Jagodzinske (B-day)
2/12	Melinda Eitel, Jim Jarvis, Marian Larson, Velta Sloan (B-days)	2/26	Sam Reed (B-day)
2/13	Lexi Burchfield, Aiclyn Eller, Lynda Hassler, Zane Hoff, Jeff May, Zoe Utter (B-days)	2/27	Chris Carrasco, Randy Hassler (B-Days), Richard & Songie McCall (Anniv.)
2/14	LeAnn Switzer (B-day), Doug & Ann Longbine, Sharon & Lynn Romberger (Anniv.)		

If we missed your birthday/anniversary, please email Sandy in the church office (sandy@salinafirst.com).

Return Service Requested

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UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



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