

SALINA *first*  
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



*“Making disciples of Jesus Christ  
for the transformation of the world”*

At Salina First United Methodist, our mission — given to us in the Great Commission — **is to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.** This mission is reflected in each one of our ministries as we intentionally seek to connect with others on the greatest journey of life and pursue the development of a community comprised of deeply committed disciples of Christ who know, serve, and love God.

We began 2020 in an all church committee meeting setting goals in anticipation to see God move throughout the coming year. Little did we know what the year had in store. 2020 took us all by surprise; however, even when we were physically distanced because of COVID-19, Salina First found new ways to come together like never before in order to make Christ known.

Starting in February, we began Live Streaming our services in order to help connect our congregation in worship, prayer, and learning. This ministry grew exponentially as we learned throughout the year correct various technical issues and how to effectively come together on-line as a faith community. As this ministry continues to grow and develop in the coming year(s), please consider how you can be part of this team (no experience necessary, we're all learning!).

Generosity and gratitude go hand in hand. In thanksgiving, as we offer ourselves, our tithes, and our offerings to Christ, we give joyfully knowing that God is the source of all blessings, and as grateful recipients of God's many blessings, we are called to express our gratitude by prayerfully and faithfully giving back to the Kingdom of God. In this brochure, you will find a brief overview of the ministries of Salina First throughout 2020. Your generosity enables these ministries to be couriers of compassion and hope not only inside the walls of the church, but throughout our community and across the globe.



*Your Generosity  
truly makes a  
difference here at  
Salina First.*





At Salina First, Children are seen as vital to the Kingdom of God. Throughout this past year, adaptations were made to continue to serve in the safest way possible in this new and strange time. Beginning in March, daily devotionals for kids were offered by Pastor Richard for kids to watch and respond back to. At one point, the whole front of the Church office was filled with artwork and photographs sent in from Salina First Kids.

Additionally throughout the school year we continued to do First Kids Midweek Manna program digitally as Rhonda sent out weekly Midweek Manna GROW emails. Some Sunday School teachers also communicated with students by email (some with video and some not), and Easter Kits were sent out by mail. Opportunities for kids to grow in their faith practices are essential to inspire a relationship with God and the desire to care for others. 2020 presented us many challenges, but in the end, God's glory was still taught in this time!

Because of safety concerns, Blessing of the Backpacks was held outside at a special gathering in Oakdale park the afternoon of August 9th. The gathering was held in coordination with our annual All Church Family Picnic. This event included games, a shared meal, and a quick devotion. Additionally, Third Graders received their Bibles at a special outdoor Worship in the Park service held at Eric-Stein Stage in Oakdale Park on September 20th. This was a wonderful service in that we were able to celebrate our students as we came together as one body of Christ.

When schools began in September, in person Sunday School and Midweek Manna GROW resumed. Sunday School is available for preschool to 5th grade at 9:40 each Sunday. We started a new curriculum, Celebrate Wonder, in September. This curriculum allows the children to use their natural sense of awe, wonder, imagination and curiosity to help shape their growing faith. GROW occurs each Wednesday during MWM. Through scripture, activities and object lessons the students focus on a different topic each month. This past year we have focused on Spiritual Habits, The Teachings and Parables of Jesus, Easter, The Early Church, Solomon, Elijah and the Psalms.

The Children's Choir is made up of K-5th graders. They sing in both services every second Sunday of the month and during a special Christmas worship.

SHINE is a bridge program for 4th and 5th grade students to prepare them to join the youth in 6th grade. They meet on the second Sunday of each month for fun, games and Bible study.

# @ FIRST YOUTH

In 2020, UMYF has averaged about 35 students weekly in our Youth opportunities. We graduated 4 seniors, finished the Pergola project on the South lawn, and had a strange hybrid of in person/on-line youth ministry.

When COVID-19 hit, the youth began to meet via zoom as the school year came to a close. Throughout the summer, many events were held following safety guidelines that allowed for students and families to fellowship together and grow in their faith. Throughout the summer, both middle school and high school Sunday Bible studies were held in the park and outdoor family activities were offered each week including a scavenger hunt, lake day, messy game night, water game night, ice cream and games, egg drop, and a Nerf battle.

The newest Confirmation Class is getting set to launch in 2021. Please prayerfully consider how you can invest in the lives of these young people. You can mentor a student or be a Confirmation Class supporter. Mentors are paired with one-on-one with a student to guide them in their Confirmation process as well as create a powerful, personal, intergenerational spiritual friendship at Salina First. Confirmation Class supporters help with logistics and the preparation needed to have powerful class sessions. Each of our youth benefit from having adults in their lives who are seasoned in their faith—Adults who get to know them personally and share in the young person's hopes and dreams. Research tells us that young people need at least 5 mature adults pouring into their spiritual lives, to help them grow a lasting faith that will continue to grow throughout their life.

As we continue into year 2 of the Pray for Me prayer campaign for our students, the intergenerational partnerships that have developed continue to help youth growth in their faith. The Pray for Me campaign launches in November and seeks to provide a network of adults to help students flourish in faith and life beginning with prayer.

# ADULT DISCIPLESHIP

## **Congregational Care**

- Although COVID has limited the ability for personal visits the team continues to send cards and make phone calls to our members. Post cards have been mailed to all members periodically throughout the year.
- The National Caring Congregation Training Webinar was completed by the Congregational Care team.
- Made New Yoga is led by Deb Newton.
- The Prayer group meets on Wednesday at 1:00pm. When they are not able to meet, prayer requests are shared via email.
- Rays of the Son is a group of individuals that serve as the connecting link to members of our church who are in a permanent care setting and not able to attend church. They minister to congregants on a regular, ongoing basis via mail or phone.

## **Spiritual Growth**

- A weekly Bible Study was provided at Ashby House for those in residence there.
- Core Faith Trainings have been offered during Sunday School, Tuesday Bible Study and Midweek Manna.
- Midweek Manna has also provided Revealing the Mysteries of Heaven as a small group.
- There are 6 Adult Sunday School Classes.

## **Raising Up Young Adult Disciples**

We are continuing to partner with students from KWU providing opportunities for college students to explore their calling in ministry in youth, music, and communications.

Salina First continues to provide day packs of food in place of the Blessing Box for the homeless in our area. The day packs are also provided for Laundry Love on the third Tuesday of each month.

Love Fund/Love Salina provides emergency assistance to an average of 30 individuals/families a month. Help with rent, utilities and transportation are provided.

The Red Cross held Blood Drives at Salina First in February, May, July, September, and will again in November. Each month we went beyond our goal, averaging 16 pints of blood collected during each drive.

Cottonwood Elementary School is the adopted school of Salina First. Socks, underwear and sweatpants were collected for the students throughout September.

Members of the congregation helped to serve the supper meal at Salvation Army during the months of February and September.

During Operation Christmas Child, many congregants fill a box to send to a child, and the Missions team provides extra items for the shoeboxes and covers the shipping costs.

Salina First rose to the challenge of Trinity Methodist to raise donations for Project Salina throughout September.

## MISSIONS



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