

# STULL COMMUNITY of FAITH

1596 E 250 Rd, Lecompton, Ks 66050

## FEBRUARY 2025 - Newsletter

Dear Stull Community of Faith Church Family,

Do you recall a fun little song in Sunday School:

“This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine  
This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine...”

This cute lullaby is an African American song from the 1920s. It was often reported to be written for children in the 1920s by Harry Dixon Loes.

This song reminded me of my smartphone. Have you ever accidentally activated your smartphone's little flashlight? Maybe while it was in your purse or your pocket, just blazing away for no reason (I've done it with the camera app and ended up with twenty pictures of the inside of my pants pocket. All that powerful light (and all the phone's energy!) is wasted.

Jesus's words in Matthew 5:14 remind me of this modern parallel: "You are the light of the world. A city on top of a hill can't be hidden."

Many of us have grown comfortable keeping our faith tucked away, like that flashlight in a pocket. Perhaps we're worried about offending others, or we've bought into the idea that faith should be completely private. But Jesus's imagery of a city on a hill challenges this notion directly. He doesn't say we should be or could be visible – he states it as a fact: a city on a hill can't be hidden.

Think about that for a moment. In Jesus's time, cities were often built on hillsides for protection, and the light from their fires and torches would naturally shine out across the countryside at night. They weren't trying to be seen; they were seen because of what they were and where they were placed. In the same way, when we truly live out our faith, visibility isn't something we have to force – it becomes a natural outcome of who we are in Christ.

This doesn't mean we need to stand on street corners with megaphones or turn every conversation into a sermon. Instead, it's about letting the authentic light of Christ shine through our daily actions, conversations, and choices. It might look like:

- Responding with grace when others expect anger
- Speaking hope into somebody's desperate situation
- Making ethical choices in our workplace, even when costly
- Showing compassion to those others overlook

Sometimes we keep our light hidden because we feel inadequate or unprepared. Remember, though – Jesus didn't say "You will become the light" or "You should try to be the light." He said, "You are the light." It's not about perfection; it's about presence and authenticity.

As we move forward towards Lent, I challenge each of us to consider: Where have we been keeping our light hidden? What would it look like to move that light from the pocket to the hillside? The world needs the hope, love, and truth we carry – not displayed with arrogance, but shared with humility and grace.

Let's step out of our comfort zones together, allowing God's light to shine naturally through our lives. After all, that's what cities on hills do.

In Christ's Light, Pastor Kyle

Pastor Kyle has established standing office hours in his office in the Faith and Friendship Center on Wednesdays from 10:30-1:30ish. He is also available to meet with people at any time as needed; just give him a call.

You can watch our 11am Sunday worship services on YouTube on Sunday evenings of each week. Visit [www.stullcoff.com](http://www.stullcoff.com), click on multi-media tab in the menu across the top third of the page, click on You Tube on the left side of that page; you will be taken to each week's service.

**FINANCE REPORT:** Jesus wants us to know that “every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows.” James 1:17. Please consider your giving's to the church as an action done because we are blessed by the gifts received from above. We have several options available for giving, along with the collection plates on Sunday during worship. If you have any questions, just talk with Jane or Mary.

**DILLON'S COMMUNITY REWARDS PROGRAM:** For anyone who doesn't know, the church is a member of the Dillon's Community Rewards Program. You can designate the Stull church (still under the name of “Stull UMC”) as your benefactor. The process of signing up is very simple. Brenna or Mary would be happy to help with the process. We receive approximately \$30-\$35 each quarter from 8-9 loyal shoppers. We'd love to have you join the program!

Learn about people in the Bible and enjoy “Bread and Broth” by Cynthia Cowen our Lenten Bible Study Book. Starting March 12th, 7pm for six weeks on Wednesday evenings. Anyone is welcome to attend.

We will have a Blankets of Blessing sewing day Sunday, March 16<sup>th</sup>, immediately following worship. Check back for details of lunch. Bring a snack to share. You do not need to know how to sew to be of great help with this ministry project. There are many steps in the process to complete a blanket.

We will be having a **chili cook-off** competition for our 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday potluck on Sunday, March 30<sup>th</sup> at noon. We encourage folks to prepare their best batch of chili and enter the contest. We will have three judges: Pastor Kyle, Douglas County Sheriff Jay Armbrister, and a chief appointed representative from Douglas County Consolidated Fire District #1. Prizes: farm fresh ground beef and a Lone Pine Farms gift card. Questions, contact Millie @ 785-207-0258.

**WIPE OUT'**----The Community Cupboard is doing a paper drive, as it is need of paper products! We are one of the few pantries in the county to offer personal hygiene items to our cliental which is greatly appreciated. We have a HUGE need for paper towels, toilet paper, and facial tissues especially as we have hit the cold/flu season. Please leave your items on the table in the church basement or back of the sanctuary. If you'd prefer to do a drop off, contact Brenna @ 887-6605 or Mary @ 331-7326 to schedule a time.

Over \$3800 was raised at our 22<sup>nd</sup> annual Valentine's benefit dinner to be shared with the Peter Vincent family!

Thanks, from the Peter Vincent family for all the effort, prayers, and donations that were shared at the Valentine's benefit dinner.

Thanks to the McLouth UMC church family and community for their donation of canned soups and canned pasta meals for the Community Cupboard! It's so appreciated.

Thanks to everyone who attended and donated to our annual pancake and sausage fundraiser in January. The proceeds were utilized to re-paint all the walls in our Faith and Friendship Center.

The recycling bins provided by Douglas County that are located on the East edge of the church campus will be removed in the next few weeks. Too many people are leaving trash, tires, non-recyclables, and even recyclable bags around the bins and in front of our shed. These items have to be disposed of in other ways and places by our church community. They are also blowing in around on our church campus creating an additional mess.

Pastor Kyle will host a grief study program beginning in late April after Easter. Check back for details.

Want to receive the newsletter via e-mail and also get special newsletters, please contact Carolyn at 785-925-0190 or [cwulfskuhle@lpa-s.com](mailto:cwulfskuhle@lpa-s.com). Help save a tree and postage.

**PRAYERS:** Judy Wulfskuhle, Jim Jackson, Kylie Jackson, John Kennison, David Shipman, and those in our hearts needing prayers.

**JOY** - Spring time just around the corner.

## **CHURCH CALENDAR**

Feb 26th, - 9:30 am Wednesday Morning "Muggers" meets for coffee/tea and conversation; anyone in the community is welcome to join in whenever possible.

Feb 27th, 10-11 am Harvesters Rural Mobile distribution is in the church parking lot to Distribute perishable food items to anyone in need of these services.  
NOTE TIME CHANGE!!

Mar 5th – 9:30 am Wednesday Morning "Muggers" meets for coffee/tea and conversation; anyone in the community is welcome to join in whenever possible.

- 6:30 pm Ash Wednesday service held in the sanctuary.

Mar 6th, 6:30-7:30pm Community Cupboard and the Closet open in the church basement for anyone in need of this ministry.

Mar 12th – 9:30 am Wednesday Morning "Muggers" meets for coffee/tea and conversation; anyone in the community is welcome to join whenever they can.

– 7pm Lenten Bible Study – Jacob – in F&FC.

Mar 16th – 12pm Blankets of Blessing Sewing Ministry immediately following worship.

Mar 17th – 7pm Administrative Team Meeting held in the F&FC.

- Mar 19th – 9:30 am Wednesday Morning “Muggers” meets for coffee/tea and conversation; anyone in the community is welcome to join whenever they can.  
– 7pm Lenten Bible Study – Moses – in F&FC.
- Mar 20th – 6:30-7:30pm Community Cupboard and the Closet open in the church basement for anyone in need of this ministry.
- Mar 26th – 9:30 am Wednesday Morning “Muggers” meets for coffee/tea and conversation; anyone in the community is welcome to join whenever they can.  
– 7pm Lenten Bible Study – Joshua – in the F&FC.
- Mar 27th – 10-11 am Harvesters Rural Mobile Food distribution is in the church parking lot to distribute perishable food items to anyone in need of these services. NOTE TIME CHANGE.
- Mar 30th -12pm 5th Sunday potluck with a Chili Cook Off competition (see article).  
Apr 2 – 9:30 am Wednesday Morning “Muggers” meets for coffee/tea and conversation; anyone in the community is welcome to join whenever they can.  
– 7pm Lenten Bible Study -Elisha – in the F&FC.
- Apr 3rd – 6:30-7:30pm Community Cupboard and the Closet open in the church basement for anyone in need of this ministry.
- Apr 9th – 7pm Lenten Bible Study – John the Baptist – in the F&FC.  
Apr 15<sup>th</sup>, 5-7pm Quarterly Community Meal night with lasagna, bread, green beans, tossed salad and homemade desserts on the menu. Dine-in or carry-out is available. Donations accepted for local church mission and ministry projects.
- Apr 16th – 7pm Lenten Bible Study – Jesus – in the F&FC.  
Apr 17<sup>th</sup>, 6:30pm Maundy Thursday service will be held in the sanctuary.  
Apr 20<sup>th</sup>, Easter Sunrise Service will be held with details TBD (check website and Facebook page)



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