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Living Water

A quarterly publication of the Five Rivers District

VOLUME 16, ISSUE 2

Hospice Caregiving ~ Meet Rachel Wegener by Marvé Ralston

There are some folks here on earth that fully resemble angels. Rachel Wegener is one of those folks to many.

Rachel began working for hospice after the death of her mother. She felt the need to give back for the help that she had been given. Rachel's mother lived in Oregon and Rachel was able to be by her side as her health failed. There were things that the hospice folks helped her with by asking questions to help gauge how prepared she was for the final stages of her mother's life and death preparations.

Hospice groups provide support and staff to help individuals and their families navigate the hours, days, weeks and often years that surround a serious disease that will not be cured. The goal is to provide comfort and pain relief while helping the individual live as fully as possible in the time left.

Rachel's first patient was in her late 90's. She was an avid scrabble player and enjoyed playing with Rachel and showed no mercy. She had a strong faith in the Lord and enjoyed talking about that. They developed a mutual friendship right up to her passing.

Another patient Rachel served was non-verbal. Rachel discovered her in great pain and crying out one day. Rachel was unable to get the nurses to take the crying seriously, so she called her hospice supervisor. On further inspection, they found that the woman had severe tooth pain and needed dental work. A hospice worker is there for the patient and can be a wonderful advocate.

Some qualities that are needed for this type of volunteer work include being a good listener, compassionate towards others, caring, knowledgeable of resources, dependable. A trustworthy person that shows up when needed or scheduled. Visits can be as short as thirty minutes but often take one to two hours once a week.

Passing judgement is not helpful stated Rachel. Most people just want to be heard. Neither is sharing your faith journey because it may conflict with the values or faith of the people you are trying to help. However, if they bring up the subject first, or ask her about her faith, she can share and answer their questions. (continued on pg. 3)

March 2020

Sun	Mo	Tue	We	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

April 2020

Sun	Mo	Tue	We	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

May 2020

Sun	Mo	Tue	We	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

Events:

Clergy Meeting **March 17**
Chanute 1st UMC
9:30am-12:30pm

Lay Servant Rally **March 21**
First United Methodist Church
Kearney, NE 9:00am-4:00pm
<https://www.greatplainsumc.org/laity-summit>

Lay Servant Training in Paola
First United Methodist Church
Paola, KS March 27-28
https:

Registration due by *March 13, 2020*

"Establishing a Congregational Care Ministry" **Presenter: Melissa Collier Gepford**
Intergenerational Discipleship Coordinator (Clergy and Laity invited)

Come discover the Five Steps to establishing a robust and sustainable Congregational Care Ministry in your context.

March 29, 2020 ~ 3:00pm-4:30pm

First UMC
202 S Lincoln
Chanute, KS

Creating Grief Support Ministries in a Local Church ~ offered in conjunction with the Paola Network of the United Methodist Churches ~ **All are welcome!**

Plum Creek UMC
319th and Plum Creek Road
Osawatomie, KS
Sunday, April 25 2020
2:00pm-6:00pm

General Conference: May 5-15th

Minneapolis, MN

Annual Conference: May 27-30

Kansas Expocentre, Topeka, KS

Continued from pg. 1 **Hospice Caregiving** ~ Rachel Wegener

The most recent training that Rachel has taken was for folks that truly have no one to be with them in their final hours. It is called "By Your Side." The training helped her learn how to sit by someone's side and hold their hand as they pass away.

Rachel was surprised several years ago by being awarded **Volunteer of the Year** by Great Lakes Caring, which was bought by another company and now goes by the name Elara Caring. She didn't realize all the hours she had put in and was truly surprised by the numbers.

"I think hospice is a wonderful organization, both for the individual and the family," she said. Perhaps this is your gift as well. Consider contacting your local agency to see what their needs are. Or as Rachel reminded, **"It doesn't have to be Hospice, volunteering is very rewarding if it is a good fit for the individual, Hospice or otherwise."**

Rachel Wegener is the United Methodist Women President for Five Rivers, PAUMCS Treasurer for the Great Plains, an active member at Lawrence 1st UMC, teaching an adult Sunday school class. She's been married to her husband Don for 26 years this April. They have four adorable cat fur babies and live in Lawrence, KS.

2 Corinthians 4:16

We are not discouraged. Even though our outer nature suffers decay, our inner nature is renewed day after day.

Apportionments and UMC Connectional Giving:

Did you know that part of the connection of our local churches is maintained through our giving outside of our community? All local churches are strongly encouraged to pay their apportionments (portion) which are 10% of their operating budget. Things like capital improvement funds, memorial giving, funds coming in for specific projects, etc. are not included in calculations. Apportionments have decreased for most in the last 5 years due to decreased giving. Apportionments fund many, many things. This giving should be pastor, and Lay Leader led. Apportionments for most of our churches are not questioned, much like tithing. Most of even our smallest churches are faithful in this. I cannot help but think that God blesses this act of obedience.

Is your church paying their apportionments monthly? If not, **ask why**. Many times it is because the new treasurer is not aware of the expectation or it is overlooked. What might happen if this year we were the district that paid the highest amount, instead of being at the bottom of the group? Let's try to improve our percentage this year. See below for details on how the money is spent. May God bless you all for your faithfulness!

<https://www.greatplainsumc.org/conferencegivingresources>

No church is an island. By standing alone, it is functioning without parts, missing some of it's appendages. It is limiting the common good by focusing only within it's own walls and not contributing to shared ministry goals.

Take advantage of all the Conf./District staff and tools available to you!

Five Rivers District
Great Plains United Methodists
PO Box 556
Baldwin City, KS 66006
785-841-4804



Is Lay Servant Ministry in Your Future? By Marve' Ralston

What is holding you back from a fuller knowledge of the bible, deeper discipleship and a more intimate relationship with the Lord? Several years ago, I would have spurted out half a dozen excuses. All of them seemed valid at the time. I now know, the very thing I needed to help with all of life's issues was leading me deeper into Lay Ministry.

The last two months have kept me busy at work with filing, online record keeping and verifying the Statistical Tables. For those that do not know me, I am your Five Rivers District Administrative Assistant. My job is primarily to support our District Superintendent and local churches with paper-work processing including clergy pay worksheets, scheduling meetings, answering questions and/or helping folks find out where to get additional UMC support and helping keep folks connected.

Outside of work, I am taking a Certified Lay Ministry course with the goal of becoming a Certified Lay Minister when I complete in May. What this will look like for me, I'm not sure. I am simply being obedient to the Holy Spirit to further my education. This class, which is a series of ongoing classwork for 10 months, has pushed me to learn at a faster pace than I would do on my own. This class has already helped me in my current job, which I have always considered a ministry.

<https://larcm.org/lay-training>

I began taking my first class in Lay Servant Ministry called the Basic, about ten years ago. I kept taking about one advanced class a year until my father passed away the end of 2018. After that, it seems like I cannot take enough classes or read enough books. I am filling the time I used to spend with dad in studies. It has to be a God thing, as I would be unable and unwilling to do this in my own power. <https://www.greatplainsumc.org/laity>

So where am I going with this? I'm certainly not bragging. ***It seems the more I learn, the more I realize how little I know. But what is growing is my love and knowledge of God.***

How about you? Can I talk you into taking the Basics Lay Servant course in a couple of weeks? If you feel the Spirit nudge, why don't you join us? I promise it is a journey you will enjoy and you will make many new friends to support your journey as well. (See pg. 2 for more information.)

Our Mission

Strives to help local congregations reach their full potential to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

What We Do

- Identify, steward and deploy resources to lead churches to accomplish the mission
- Receive District Strategy Team Priorities
- Identify resources
- Steward and deploy resources through multiple platforms
- Help local churches accomplish the mission
- Resourcing through ministries for youth, young adults, our six camps, our many campus ministries, new church development, Hispanic ministry, youth ministry, small-membership churches and more. Lay Servant Ministry, exploring your call via summer internships, resources for planning worship services and even ways to get involved in mission projects both within the conference boundaries and beyond.

Congregational Excellence

Our Team



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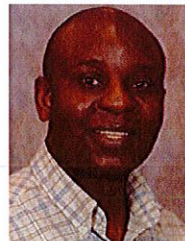
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How We Resource



Your *network* – with surrounding churches in your District



Connect with one of 6 camps in the Great Plains



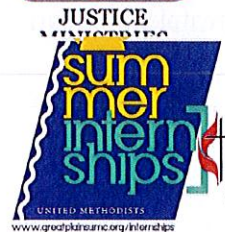
Trainings for Disaster Response & Church Preparedness



Lay Servant Ministry Training for Lay leadership



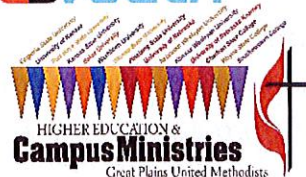
Mission Partnerships & grants in mercy & justice



Internships for young adults to explore leadership



Events in connecting ministry with youth



Connect students on college campus



Discover your church demographics and how to proclaim Christ in your community

Grants are available from Congregational Excellence for:

- Education Partnerships – Reaching out to your community through schools
- Community College – Reaching out to your community through community colleges
- Mission Engagement Grant – For domestic and foreign mission experiences
- Youth Service Fund – To jumpstart youth ministry in your area



FIVE RIVERS DISTRICT LAY SERVANT TRAINING

Friday & Saturday, March 27 & 28, 2020

5:00 p.m. Friday to 4:30 p.m. Saturday

Paola Kansas UMC

209 S Silver St, Paola, KS 66071/913 294-3475

Lay Servant Basic Course (pre-requisite for other courses)

Class size: 15 participants

Instructor: Dave Wasserfallen and members of the District LSM team,

Text: Lay Servant Ministries by Sandy Ziegler Jackson & Brian Jackson

This course is designed for participants to discover and employ personal spiritual gifts as God intended and to consider the importance of exercising servant leadership, developing future leaders, remaining rooted in consistent spiritual practices, and being part of a group that holds members accountable in their discipleship. Fee will include book.

Multimedia Technology for Church Volunteers (advanced course)

Class size: 15 participants

Instructor: Todd Seifert, Great Plains Conference Director of Communications

This course is designed to help lay persons understand and make appropriate use of technology to aid in worship and other church functions. If you have a laptop with Power Point that you use regularly, please bring it. However, that is not a requirement for the course. This can be taken by those interested in Multimedia but not necessarily wanting certification in Lay Servant Ministries.

Wesleyan Theology (advanced course)

Class size: 15 participants

Instructor: Kenneth Baker, Pastor at Paola UMC

This course is designed to help lay persons understand Wesleyan Theology and its place in the Methodist Doctrines. Using The Wesleyan Way by Bishop Scott Jones. Books will be available for loan or may be purchased through Amazon or Cokesbury.

Pastoral Care with Grieving People (advanced course)

Class size: 15 participants

Instructor: Jada Hodgson, CLM

This course is designed to give the Lay Servant a foundation in caring for grieving families and individuals. The course was authored by Jada Hodgson for Great Plains Conference and approved by the Conference Committee on Lay Servant Ministries. The class fulfills requirement for Advanced Course for renewal, but does not meet requirements for initial certification for Certified Lay Speakers. It can also be taken by lay people who are leading small groups but not necessarily needing LSM Certification.

There is a pre-reading assignment of Hodgson, Jada D.L. *A View from the Fog: A Story of Grief and Loss and Faith and Hope*. Bloomington, IN, WestBow Press, 2016. 978-1-5127-5592-3. It is available from Amazon.com

Preaching (advanced course-satisfies a requirement for CLSp and CLM)

Class size: 8 participants

Instructor: Rev. Carl Ellis- Lay Academy

This course will help students write a sermon in 7 days. Students will be helping put together meditations for Holy Week that will be shared with the district. There will be assignments to be done before the class, so registration needs to be no later than 3-18. Once registered, student will need to contact Carl Ellis at cellis@larcm.org for assignments. Course outline and syllabus will be sent at that time.

General information:

- Each class is limited as noted above (based on date that registration is received).
- Texts are available from the following providers (among others) and should be ordered to allow time for preparation before the training:
 - ✓ **Upper Room** - <https://bookstore.upperroom.org> or 800.972.0433
 - ✓ **Amazon** - www.amazon.com (also in Kindle version)
- Fee to cover lunch and expenses is \$50 (check payable to **Great Plains Conference UMC**) and is refundable only if you notify Marvé Ralston (785-841-4804, 5riversdistrict@greatplainsumc.org) by Thursday March 19.
- Lodging is available in Paola.
- For more information about Lay Servant Ministries (including contact information for district and conference directors), go to <http://www.greatplainsumc.org/laity>.

REGISTRATION FORM / Due with \$50 fee by Friday, March 13, 2020

Name: _____ E-mail: _____

Address: _____

Phone/Cell: _____ Church/District: _____

Course: () Basic () Multimedia () Wesley () Preaching () Grief Care

Special Needs: _____

Do you need directions to the church? () Yes () No

Return to: Five Rivers District / LSM, PO Box 556, Baldwin City, KS 666006-0556.