

FIRST LIGHT

December 2016
Vol. 161 No. 45

Join us for inspiring worship at 8:15 a.m., 10:50 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. every Sunday • Church School and small groups for all ages meet Sundays at 9:30 a.m.

THIS SUNDAY

During the month of December we will begin a new series, "All I Really Want for Christmas". What is it that you want most this year?

Join us for worship Sundays at 8:15 a.m., 10:50 a.m., or live at 11:00 a.m. on KAKE TV and live on the web at firstwichita.org, and at 5:00 p.m. at Mead's Corner.

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Blue Christmas

FEED THE HUNGRY

Food collected in the A/B entrance goes to United Methodist Open Door.

Dec: Macaroni & Cheese

FIRST
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
Life. Together.

www.firstwichita.org
330 N. Broadway • 316-267-6244
On Broadway between 2nd & 3rd Streets
in downtown Wichita.

DECEMBER @ FIRST CHURCH

First Church Wichita is bustling this December! Look through the many opportunities to celebrate this Advent season with your church family. What a wonderful time to invite a friend, neighbor, family member or even a stranger! We hope to see you this season at First Church!

Join us this December!

4 2:00 p.m.
Family Christmas Workshop
Downtown YMCA

7 6:00 p.m.
Mead's Corner/ RNC
Movie Night Mead's Corner

14 6:30 p.m. CORE Kids
Family Christmas Program
Wilke Family Life Center

15 6:30 p.m. Park
Elementary Winter Program
Sanctuary

20 7:00 p.m.
Blue Christmas
Wilke Family Life Center

22 7:30 p.m.
17th Annual Brett Valliant
Christmas Concert
Sanctuary

24 5:30 p.m.
Bilingual Family Christmas
Eve Service
Wilke Family Life Center

24 11:00 p.m.
Candlelight Communion
Service
Sanctuary
LIVE KAKE-TV and online
at firstwichita.org

25 11:00 a.m.
Christmas Morning
Worship
Sanctuary
LIVE KAKE-TV and online at
firstwichita.org
(One combined service-
Sunday school classes will
not meet)

Jan. 1 11:00 a.m.
New Year's Day Worship
Sanctuary
LIVE KAKE-TV and online at
firstwichita.org
(One combined service-
Sunday school classes will
not meet)

Brett Valliant and friends December 22

*Join
us!*

Brett Valliant and friends

December 22

7:30 p.m.

First Church Sanctuary

Donations to the pipe organ
maintenance fund are appreciated



Join us for our new sermon series for Advent, "All I Really Want for Christmas." As children we often had long lists of what we hoped would be under the Christmas tree. Even as youth and young adults and older adults, we have some hope of something special. As parents and grandparents and mentors it gives great joy to find a special gift for someone we love. Something in this season begs the question, what do you really want for Christmas? As we work through our Advent devotion book, perhaps what we really want is something that can't be found. In the words of Dr. Suess, "perhaps Christmas doesn't come from a store, perhaps it's a little bit more." We will be exploring the "more" Christmas: the peace, hope, joy and love that comes through the birth of Christ.

November 27
All I Really Want for Christmas: "Peace"
Isaiah 2: 1-5
Luke 1: 67-79

December 4
All I Really Want for Christmas: "Hope"
Isaiah 35: 1-10
Luke 1: 13-25

December 11
All I Really Want for Christmas: "Joy"
Isaiah 35: 1-10
Luke 1: 13-25

December 18
All I Really Want for Christmas: "Love"
Isaiah 11: 1-10
Matthew 1: 18-25

December 24
All I Really Want for Christmas:
"God's Presence"
Isaiah 9: 2-7
Luke 2: 1-20

December 25
All I Really Want for Christmas:
"God Among Us"
Isaiah 52: 7-10
John 1: 1-14

PLEASE PRAY FOR

Our Military Deployed:

Brandi Streit, granddaughter of Ray Dodge

Continuing Concerns:

The hospitalized, our members and attenders with long-term and terminal illness, their caregivers, the homebound and those who are in nursing homes. Pray for our Guardian Angels and Stephen Ministers.

Articles for the next edition of *First Light* are due Dec. 15, by 9 a.m. Material should be submitted to the appropriate ministry director for approval. Questions can be directed to Erin Davis, 267-6244 ext. 300.

Prayers

Email prayer@firstwichita.org to ask for prayer from the people of First United Methodist Church.

Email pastoralcare@firstwichita.org to ask for a visit, call, or private prayer from the congregational care team.

The Congregational Care Team,
Rev. Dr. Tal Tittsworth,
Leslie Coates

OUR FAMILY

We grieve the deaths of:

Larry Belew

**Jacquelin Smith,
mother of
Lee Almon**

**Dorothy Ream,
wife of
Robert "Bob" Ream**

Support our Hand-Up Program with your Christmas Eve offering

This year, 50% of the offering on Christmas Eve will go to the Hand Up Program for 2017. Last year we saw approximately 250 people and spent over \$12,000 helping people get through the week, search for jobs, get to doctors' appointments, fill prescriptions, and much more. Thank you for your support of this program through your donations. If you are interested in being directly involved in this ministry, please contact Leslie Coates, Director of First Connections.

A stranger appears at the door. They push the button to ring our First Impressions Receptionist. "Can I help you?" she will inquire. Many times a day this is how we begin conversations with those who approach our church building. Sometimes the guest has business, sometimes an appointment, but many times what they bring is deep need. We are located in the middle of some of the greatest hurt in our city, and with a tall tower boldly presenting the United Methodist cross and flames, we are a beacon of hope. People from all walks of life and circumstances ring at our door.

The Hand-Up Program is our way of providing some assistance to those who ask. Every Thursday morning we fill six, 20 minute, appointment slots. Director of First

Connections, Leslie Coates then sits down with them and has a conversation. This is not a conversation of approval, vetting, or qualification. It is not a "filtering" of those who are "valid" or "invalid." It is simply a conversation. Usually the opening is a description of the Hand-Up Program, a quick overview of the church's desire to be a part of our community, and then an assurance we will give help regardless of the circumstances. The rest of the meeting is mostly listening. The stories of our neighbors are sometimes hard to hear, sometimes extremely compelling, and almost always far more complicated than 20 minutes can contain. To the best of our ability we work to connect people with other agencies who help with specific needs. Many times we refer clients to our Marriage and Family Therapy interns. At

the end of each meeting, we give the client a couple of Dillons gift cards. They are useful in so many ways, fuel for a vehicle, household items, pharmacy items, groceries, or they can be used to purchase bus passes at the service counter. We can't solve financial problems. We only give out \$25-\$75 at a time (there is a \$125 limit per 12 months/per person), but what we do offer is a connection. They are always invited to join us for worship if they do not already have a church home, and they are invited to contact Leslie should they ever want to chat over coffee or discuss issues further. We value the confidentiality of these guests, so their stories mostly go untold, but many you have likely met. They are in our Sunday schools, worship services, and in our neighborhood. They, in fact, are not a "they" at all. They are "us."



First United Methodist Church will once again sponsor meals for the Inter-Faith Shelter for the month of January, 2017. This means small groups from our church, and other connected community groups will be able to sign up to provide a meal at the Warming Souls Winter "Overflow"

Shelter, located at 841 N. Market. As in years past, we are asking groups to sign up for a breakfast or an evening meal, purchase the groceries, prepare and serve a meal. The Homeless and Low Income team will provide paper products. To schedule your meal, contact Vicki Tanner

at 316-773-5853. You will receive the informational booklet on providing a meal after you have reserved your time. If you have questions concerning the Warming Souls Winter Shelter, please contact Frances Rathbun at 316-208-9284.

OUR GIFTS

OCTOBER 2016 OFFERING
\$83,740.38
RECEIVED YEAR-TO-DATE
\$986,678.51

OTHER CONTRIBUTIONS
MISSIONS
\$1,170.00
RECEIVED YEAR-TO-DATE
\$20,449.04

CAPITAL FUNDS
\$435.00
RECEIVED YEAR-TO-DATE
\$94,434.00

VAN MAINTENANCE FUND
\$125.00
RECEIVED YEAR-TO-DATE
\$2,250.00

ORGAN MAINTENANCE FUND
\$0.00
RECEIVED YEAR-TO-DATE
\$3,505.00

TELEVISION MINISTRY
\$46,505.31
RECEIVED YEAR-TO-DATE
\$152,427.79

TOTAL CONTRIBUTIONS
\$131,975.69
RECEIVED YEAR-TO-DATE
\$1,259,744.34

Our Mission
Making Disciples of
Jesus Christ
for the transformation
of the world.

Our Vision
Changing lives—
transforming communities

Our Purpose
To create a Christian
community where anyone
can become a completely
committed follower
of Jesus Christ.

Year-end Contributions

Any money received by the church (in the offering plate or otherwise) after December 31 must be reported as 2017 giving for tax purposes. This is true even if the check is dated in 2016. The only exception is for checks that are mailed and bear a 2016 postmark. Please contact the Business Office if you have any questions about year-end contributions.



AWAKENING

By Chris Edmiston

Through much of the last year Awakening has experimented with multiple ways to fulfill our mission, vision, and purpose as a denomination, a church, and a worship service. This includes the unique task of building up a community of persons new to our church. Our focus has been to provide weekly opportunities for teaching, prayer, fellowship, and communion, all while planning with excellence in a modern worship setting.

As we move into Advent and the start of a new year, we will focus on investing in the community of believers dedicated to seeing this vision become a reality. We will continue to meet on Saturday evenings through Advent, sharing in conversation, prayer, communion, and a time of stripped back, acoustic music. We will also spend time casting a vision and praying for individuals and families to join us on this exciting journey. We invite each of you to join us in this vision and prayer.

We will also be thinking strategically about how we can better utilize artistic partnerships with other churches. We will continue to bring performers of all kinds into our space, opening our doors to many who have never stepped foot



into our church.

We also hope to consider how we can both impact and be impacted by one of our greatest outreach ministries: Mead's Corner. We truly believe that this beacon in our community can be a hub for spiritual growth and outreach as we move forward. We hope to utilize this resource in intentional ways beginning at the start of the year. This is also true with our latest venture at the Downtown YMCA.

Moving forward we ask for your prayer, your

presence, your gifts, your service, and your witness. This is not a single undertaking, but is instead a new way of thinking and living. We're relying heavily on our Father to guide us along the way through His Spirit as we navigate the complex and changing landscape of ministry. There's no quick fix; there's not one simple answer. But the journey is worth it and we will maintain focus on the vision God has given us.

All Church Conference

Tuesday, December 6
6:30 p.m.
Meredith Hall



Mug Shots: Stephen Ministers Caught in the Act!

Have you seen Stephen Ministers in the act of their ministry? Probably not, since it's done one on one in a confidential manner, it's hard to document. Let's just say that reporting on their acts of love and compassion is a story worth telling and since we can't share it all, we are going to share about your Stephen Ministry Team as being some of the MOST WANTED caregivers around and ask that when you spot them, thank them for what they do, and ask about how you can join their notorious ranks.

Culprit #1: Greg Anton Eyes: Blue Employment: Retired

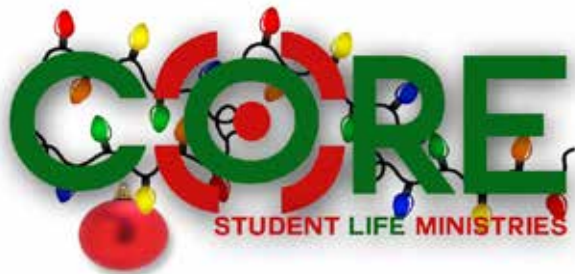
Associates: Has been seen with his wife, Lark, accomplice for 44, years praying with worship leadership before services, preparing communion for Heritage service and at Staff Parish meetings.

Training: Completed Stephen Ministry Training in 2014, taught by Linda Mack and further trained as a Stephen Ministry Leader in 2015 in St. Louis by Stephen Ministry International.

Should be considered trustworthy and caring.

Rumored to be the instructor for the next class of Stephen Ministers forming for the spring of 2017.

Please contact Tal Tittsworth at the church if you are interested in joining in this ministry that lets God be the Cure Giver and you can be the Care Giver.



Kids' Discipleship Team is inviting you and your family to an afternoon of Christmas creativity! Family Christmas Workshop is LOTS of fun! Bring your children to the YMCA to make gifts, crafts and their own special Advent Wreath. Children will be engaged in a mission project of assembling gifts for our homebound.

**Sunday, December 4
Downtown YMCA
2-4 p.m.**

Pre-K through 6th Grade (Children under 5 are welcome, parents must be present to assist child)

For more information, please contact Patricia Tristan at patriciat@firstwichita.org

Calling all singers!

Our children's choir started rehearsals for the Christmas season! If your child is eager to sing a joyful song accompanied by our Downtown Alive Choir this is the time to attend!

Rehearsals:

- Wednesday Nights at 7 p.m.
- Sunday Morning at 11 a.m. (during Kids' Worship)
- In set rehearsal, Sunday December 11 at 9:30 a.m..



Children will sing along with the Downtown Alive Choir on Sunday, December 11!

Family Christmas Program

Join us for a relaxed and fun Family Christmas program on Wednesday, December 14. Children will be performing the Christmas play, "The Not-So-Silent Night" and signing some of our favorite Christmas carols!

**Wednesday, December 14
6:30 – 8:00 p.m.**

**Wilke Family Center
Hot Cocoa, Coffee, Cider
and cookies at the end of the program!**

Celebrate our Staff and Volunteers

November 5, six members of the Kids' Discipleship Team

attended a Children's Workshop at Woodridge Christian Church. This was a time of bonding and learning how to center our ministry on the person of Jesus. It helped us celebrate our current ministry and understand our current situation with an open mind and open hearts. Those in attendance were Ann Baker, Kelly Owens, Jaden Steinbacher, Diana Silva, Marina Godbey and myself. I ask you, congregation, to keep these servants in your prayers as well as the many others who volunteer on a regular basis at Wednesday nights and Sunday mornings to make Kids' Discipleship a light in the darkness. There is great power in this ministry, when a child is touched by God's love through our ministry, his/her life is

changed; this is happening every time we meet and I can truly see God at work.

Thank you note:

The Kids' Discipleship Team would like to thank all Sunday school classes involved in the Holiday Treats program. Thanks so much for embracing the idea of partnership and making the children feel loved and accepted. There are still spots available, if you are interested in helping out. You rock!

- New Years (January 8)
- Spring Break (March 12)
- Easter (April 16)

Sincerely,

*Patricia Tristan
Director of Kids' Discipleship*



Above, members of CORE Kids, Youth and their families getting ready to see, "For King & Country" in concert.

CORE Youth

It's the most wonderful time of the year! It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas! Whatever carol you use to describe it, the Christmas season is upon us. But, as we move through Advent, we pause to take a look back at the things we were thankful for in November.

Last month, a group of 30+ kids, youth, and parents attended a concert featuring world-renown Australian band "For King & Country," and had an incredible time singing and worshipping with several thousand of our closest friends. We also enjoyed an evening at the Downtown YMCA, watching "Finding Dory" on Family Movie Night. Thanks to everyone who came out for November events.

December brings us a time of studying the true meaning of the season. Our Wednesday evening youth group will meet for the final time in 2016 on December 7, and Sunday morning small group will wrap up 2016 on December 18. Also on December 18, the youth (7th-12th grade) will gather for our second-annual Christmas PJ Movie Night at the home of Ken and Denise Hole.

If you are interested in volunteering with the youth on Sunday mornings or Wednesday evenings in 2017, please contact Caleb Fouse, Director of Youth Discipleship for more info at calebf@firstwichita.org.

Washington Family Math Night

First Church was pleased to support the education of our neighborhood children by being an inviting presence at Washington School for their recent invitational Family Math Night. There were a record number of families in attendance, due partly to the temptation of pizza provided by our School Ministry Fund.

The theme of the night was "pirates," and many staffed dressed for the occasion. Families and their children went from center to center, making and playing math games, and picking up clues to the secret "pirate map" along the way. The Washington staff is so appreciative for the support of the First Church congregation and the Mead's Corner Tip Jar. We are thankful to Papa John's Pizza downtown for giving us a greatly reduced price for this educational event.





UMW NEWS & EVENTS

Left: Wanda Tittsworth-Wright (center) was presented the Mission Recognition pin from Janet Robinson (left) and Diane Elder (right)

Below: Coila Earnest (center) was presented with the Mission Recognition pin from Janet Robinson (left) and Diane Elder (right)

■ First Church UMW is pleased to host the Church Women United at their Annual Assembly with a luncheon at 12 noon on Friday, December 2.

■ First Church UMW Expanded Executive Committee will meet on Wednesday, December 7 at 10:30 a.m. in 101B.

■ First Church UMW Circles will meet on Wednesday, December 14 as follows:

■ Elizabeth Circle - 1 p.m., \$5
Hostess: Wanda Wright, 3051 N. Parkdale Cir. - 722-1655
Program: Director of Youth Discipleship - Caleb Fouse

■ Esther/Lois Circle - 10 a.m., \$3
Hostess: Sally Dewey, 641 N. Woodlawn #69
652-8788
Program: Bonnie Beuning

■ Naomi Circle - noon, \$5
Hostess: Lois Short, 4700 W. 13th #1127, 687-4206
Program: Bonnie Beuning

■ Rachel Circle - noon, \$5
Hostess: Coila Earnest, 1252 N. Westlink, 722-6711
Program: Christmas

United Methodist Women celebrate an exciting, inspiring fall!

By Janet Robinson,
President, United Methodist Women

Our UMW Unit meeting on November 9 gathered our circles together for the installation of new officers and the announcement of our two honorary members of 2016, Wanda Tittsworth-Wright of the Elizabeth Circle and Coila Earnest of the Rachel Circle. These women epitomize the very best in UMW and mission service in our community and received the Mission Recognition pins.

Wanda has served in UMW unit and circle leadership, keeping in touch with the bereaved and ill, teaching Bible studies or giving book reviews. She was on the inaugural planning team for the Park School Partnership, and then became a mentor and tutor in the school. Whenever there was a special event at the school Wanda came with soup or apples or treats or a smile, whatever was needed to cheer on the children and staff. Later Wanda helped establish the UMW-Park School Mothers' ministry that

continues today. The Lay Witness Mission weekends and Walk to Emmaus were foundational for Wanda in her spiritual walk, and have shaped her ministry for decades. Downtown Alive Choir and Double Ring Class have been her constant commitments too. We are fortunate at First to know her and experience her gracious witness in every aspect of our church life together. God bless you Wanda!

Coila Earnest is known far and wide for her long service in the church and in UMW. She was the church secretary at Pleasant Valley UMC, and later here at First Church. That began her ministry of serving and sharing in our midst. She has been a member of the Double Ring Class and the Rachel Circle. Coila has been UMW Unit President, a greeter and hostess in the Narthex, and a children's leader at the annual UMW School of Christian Mission, now known as Mission U, a mission training event in the conference. For many years Coila has been our UMW Secretary of Program resources ordering all our print materials. And the

UMW Chicken and Noodle Dinner every fall has a bake sale where Coila is the organizer, hostess and cashier! The Walk to Emmaus was a special renewal ministry to Coila and for 30 years she participated in a weekly reunion group organized around prayer and faith sharing. The Earnest home has had an open door to church groups for meetings and meals, always served up with hospitality. God bless you Coila!

The Chicken-Noodle Dinner and Bake Sale 2016 was a great success in November and we thank the church for supporting our efforts that fund our local and global mission projects. Our fall women's Bible study wraps up soon, and we'll pause for the Advent season. Another Blood Drive is being planned for the new year, so watch for news!



Volunteers Assemble Dental Kits



Both Double Ring and People's Bible Study Sunday School classes completed dental kits, combining the work with times of fellowship and snacks. The Science Club of Campus High School sponsored by Kelly Owens and a small group of American Heritage Girls, hosted by a neighbor of George and Susan Stover, also had fun making the kits and felt a sense of giving to others at the same time. These four groups together completed several thousand kits for children and adults in need in South Central Kansas through the dental division of Grace Med.



Please join us on Sunday at 9:30 a.m. for any of the classes listed below.

Double Ring 106B

While Jack is recovering from surgery, we have had a number of different persons filling in with interesting lessons. These include Terry Klein, Ernie Krehbiel, Sam with the Islamic Society, Libby Eaton, and Micah Williams. Libby will be teaching our class the four Sundays of Advent, based on the book, "All I Really Want." She assures us that it will be fun! Come join us in Room 106. Visitors are always welcome. As we pray for Jack's recovery, we also remember several others in our class who are in need of our prayers and concern. This is an important part of our class ministry.

Double Ring Debs met with Sally Dewey on November 16 with a program concerning the outreach of the Food Bank throughout the state. Our next class social will be a Christmas luncheon on Sunday, December 4, at the Mediterranean Grill.

Thanks to Barbara Maas for cookies in honor of Veteran's Day, and also for Halloween. This adds to the enjoyment of our fellowship time.

We were pleased to hear a good report from the quilt auction, bake sale, and chicken-noodle dinner. Thanks to all who spent many hours to make this event a success.

50/50 107B

Dr. Ackerman keeps our minds alert with his lessons every Sunday. We appreciate him.

We are sorry to learn that Maurice Hendershot is in the hospital and that Bill Thompson fell. Also, Ken Rupe has been having some health issues. Please keep all of them and their families in your prayers.

Our class has been busy celebrating 90 year old birthdays, plus other birthdays. We have been eating lots of cake!

November 27, the class began a 4 Sunday Advent series, based upon the book, "All I Really Want". We are excited to have Steve Rogers leading this study. There will be no Sunday school class on December 25 and January 1.

We hope you had a wonderful Thanksgiving, remembering all the things the Lord has done for you. The 50/50 Class always welcomes you to join them on Sunday mornings.

Hand in Hand 101B

Our class has been studying Faith Links topics recently, but will begin the Advent study, "All I Really Want." This book is being widely used by our adult classes and Pastor Cindy highly recommends it!

Our class members will be enjoying the annual Hand in Hand Christmas party and "unique" gift exchange on Saturday, December 10 at 4 p.m. at Larksfeld Place. Reservations are to be referred to Grace Brooks. The cost per person is \$15.

A number of our class members have been making transitions, so we are happy that all has gone well for them.

Our next Hand in Hand Ladies gathering will be January 13 at 2 p.m. (eat lunch on your own). It will be at Milk Floats in Delano at 535 W. Douglas. This is a DESSERT experience.

We welcome everyone to join us. We have lots of good times with great fellowship.

Koinonia 303D

For the month of December, we look forward to Chris Edmiston leading our Advent study using the book, "All I Really Want" by Quinn G. Caldwell. In November we had a talk on the ASAP Haiti Education Project and the class decided to sponsor a student. We will be providing a scholarship for a 12th grade student, Demelvar Claudette. This will allow her to finish her schooling.

Our upcoming socials include attending the Forum Theater production of "Christmas Letters" on December 3. December 16, we will have our class Christmas party. Start looking for your white elephant gift now and plan to attend. Check the Gazette for complete information

Open Doors 204A

Open Doors continues to study the fascinating study, "What on earth am I here for?" by Pastor Rick Warren. Class discussion following the DVD series has been very rewarding as we discover together the individual answers to this question.

Class members attended the Chicken Noodle Dinner and Quilt Auction, having a great time. We so appreciate all the volunteers that helped with the cleanup of Meredith Hall, as the appearance was outstanding. Our appreciation again to Danny White, with his part as a volunteer with all that was accomplished.

Our class is looking forward to the Advent Study, to be shared with the People's Bible Study Class. We are thankful for the invitation to join them.

We are very thankful as a class, to share in the Christian fellowship we have together, celebrating the eight years of the beginning of our "Open Doors" class. We always welcome new and returning visitors to 204A, the Old Library.

People's Bible Study 300D

People's Bible Study class completed a study of the I Am statements of Jesus found in the gospel of John. Beginning Thanksgiving weekend, Andrew Stover will start our four week Advent study based on the book, "All I Really Want". We are pleased that the Open Door class will be joining us for this study. We welcome any others who would like to join us.

The class had a great time putting together dental kits, eating snacks and visiting with one another one Saturday afternoon. We look forward to another fun afternoon of assembling dental kits in January. If you have a desire to assemble kits, but need a group with whom to do it, please let us know of your interest. The more, the merrier!

A number of our class members enjoyed the Quilter's chicken noodle dinner and auction and wish to thank all those who made an enjoyable evening with our church family possible.

Pneuma 302D

We are wrapping up a study of Adam Hamilton's book, "Seeing Gray in a World of Black and White". Following our annual Thankful Brunch, we will be participating in the Advent study "All I Really Want".

Many Pneuma members supported the fundraising gala for Raise My Head Foundation. It was a successful evening, raising funds to pay off the mortgage of the house. They are close to welcoming their first women residents.

November Pneuma Ladies was held at the home of Connie Bishop. Our hostess in December will be Jean Artz. The annual Pneuma Progressive Dinner will be December 11.

We welcome any who are looking for an interesting and accepting Sunday school class. Dr. Dan Lord's lessons strengthen our spiritual growth and give us new perspectives on relevant issues.

RNC 100D

Special thanks to all the members of First Church who generously supported our annual Pecan Fundraiser. We also want to thank the Quilt Auction for again making the RNC one of its beneficiaries. We are so blessed to have all of these individuals making sure our ministry has funding to continue meeting the spiritual needs of our members.

Our Sunday school lesson continues with the theme from October of underdogs and how faith in the Lord allows us to overcome all obstacles. We have used the Bible story of David & Goliath.

In December, Mead's Corner will again host us for an evening of hot chocolate, snacks and a movie and the RNC will host the ARC dinner. The ARC is a community organization that serves individuals with developmental disabilities and they will be stopping for dinner at First Church before going out to view Christmas lights.

Seekers 306B

The Seekers have had a meaningful fall in service and study. We prepared Halloween treat bags for all of the children's department and launched a new adult study set in the Holy Land, "In the dust of the Rabbi" led by Larry Harris.

Bonnie Beuning shared stories from her United Methodist Women mission team to Ecuador. With beautiful slides she illustrated for us the geography, agricultural life, and Methodist worship and work with our sister churches there. Libby Eaton spoke to us about the role of UM Bishops and introduced us to the background of our new Bishop Saenz.

We are anticipating a wonderful Advent study with David Brant leading us through December. We are grateful for our many inspiring teachers.

Our festive class Christmas party will be held on December 10 in the First Church Parlor and then we begin planning for our volunteer service at the Homeless Shelter overflow in January.

Seekers is a welcoming class of working and retired adults who know we are blessed to be a blessing! Please join us for coffee and conversation any Sunday morning.

Calendar

December 2016

Holiday Building Hours

The church building will be closed the following days:

Monday, December 26, 2016
Monday, January 2, 2017

1 9:00 AM 12:00 PM 8:00 PM	Thursday First Place Quilters - Quilters/Emmaus Quilt Luncheon - 107B Forum Theater - Christmas Letters - Wilke FLC	8:30 AM 9:30 AM 9:30 AM 9:30 AM 9:30 AM	Religious Nurture Center - 100D Sanctuary Group @ Mead's Corner Adult Sunday School Classes - Churchwide Core Youth Small Group: The Thread - 200D CORE-Kids Sunday School - 106C, 108C, 110C, 200C, 311C El Mesias Worship - 200D	2:00 PM 5:00 PM	Forum Theater - Christmas Letters - Wilke FLC The Gathering @ Mead's Corner
2 11:00 AM 12:00 PM	Friday Open Door Lunch Prep - Meredith Hall Kitchen Church Women United - Meredith Hall	10:30 AM 10:50 AM 11:00 AM 2:00 PM 5:00 PM	Downtown Alive - Sanctuary Mission Lunch - Meredith Hall Forum Theater - Christmas Letters - 200D The Gathering @ Mead's Corner	19 5:30 PM 5:30 PM 6:30 PM	Monday Staff Parish Relations - 302B Homeless and Low Income Meeting - 107B Harmony Guitar Lessons - 200D
3 5:30 PM	Saturday Awakening- Wilke FLC	12 9:00 AM 1:00 PM 4:30 PM 5:30 PM 6:30 PM 6:45 PM	Monday Caring Comforts - 106B, 110B Archives - 208B Neighborhood Outreach Team - 103B Hospitality and Integration Commission - 107B Harmony Guitar Lessons - 200D Adult Council - 204A	20 6:30 PM 7:00 PM	Tuesday Awakening Leadership Team - 302B Blue Christmas Worship Service - Wilke FLC
4 8:15 AM 8:30 AM 9:30 AM 9:30 AM 9:30 AM 9:30 AM 10:30 AM 10:50 AM 2:00 PM 5:00 PM 2:00 PM	Sunday Heritage - Chapel Religious Nurture Center - 100D Sanctuary Group @ Mead's Corner Adult Sunday School Classes - Churchwide Core Youth Small Group: The Thread - 200D CORE-Kids Sunday School - 106C, 108C, 110C, 200C, 311C El Mesias Worship - 200D Downtown Alive - Sanctuary Forum Theater - Christmas Letters - Wilke FLC The Gathering @ Mead's Corner Christmas Workshop - Downtown YMCA	13 5:30 PM 5:30 PM 6:30 PM 7:00 PM 7:00 PM	Tuesday Board of Trustees - 308B Harmony Guitar Ministry - 200D Awakening Leadership Team- 302B Kids Discipleship- 310C Boy Scout's - 1B	21 9:30 AM 12:00 PM 5:30 PM 6:15 PM 7:00 PM	Wednesday Stephen Ministry II Supervision - 302B Apple Core - Book/Bible Study - 302B Downtown Alive Choir Rehearsal - Choir Room Religious Nurture Center - 100D United Methodist Men - 103B
5 6:30 PM	Monday Harmony Guitar Lessons - 200D	14 12:00 PM 12:00 PM 5:30 PM	Wednesday Elizabeth Circle - 107B Apple Core - Book/Bible Study - 302B Downtown Alive Choir Rehearsal - Choir Room Religious Nurture Center - 100D Core Kids - 111C Core-Kids Wednesday Nights - Wilke FLC United Methodist Men - 103B	22 9:00 AM 7:30 PM	Thursday First Place Quilters - Quilters/Emmaus Christmas Organ Concert - Sanctuary
6 6:30 PM 6:30 PM 6:30 PM	Tuesday Awakening Leadership Team - 302B El Mesias Covenant Team Meeting - 200D 2016 Charge Conference - Meredith Hall	6:15 PM 6:30 PM 7:00 PM 7:00 PM	Thursday First Place Quilters - Quilters/Emmaus Forum Theater - Christmas Letters - Wilke FLC Park Winter Program - Sanctuary	23 24 5:30 PM 11:00 p.m.	Friday Saturday - Christmas Eve Bilingual Family Worship Service- Wilke FLC Candlelight Communion Service- Sanctuary
7 9:30 AM 10:30 AM 12:00 PM 1:00 PM 5:30 PM 6:15 PM 6:30 PM 6:30 PM 6:30 PM 7:00 PM	Wednesday Stephen Ministry II Supervision - 302B UMW Executive Meeting - 101B Apple Core - Book/Bible Study - 302B Daytime Quilters - 308B Downtown Alive Choir Rehearsal - Choir Room Religious Nurture Center - 100D CORE-Kids Wednesday Nights - 111C, 200C, 311C El Mesias Bible Study - 301D Core Youth - 200D United Methodist Men - 103B	15 9:00 AM 8:00 PM 6:30 PM	Friday	25 10:50 AM	Sunday - Christmas Day Downtown Alive - Sanctuary
8 9:00 AM 8:00 PM	Thursday First Place Quilters - Quilters/Emmaus Forum Theater - Christmas Letters - Wilke FLC	16 17 10:00 AM 10:00 AM 5:30 PM	Saturday UMW Morning Circle - 101B Chrysalis Team Meeting - 302B, 306B Awakening - Wilke FLC	26 27 6:30 PM	Monday - Building Closed Tuesday Awakening Leadership Team- 302B
9	Friday	18 8:15 AM 8:30 AM 9:30 AM 9:30 AM 9:30 AM 9:30 AM	Sunday Heritage Worship - Chapel Religious Nurture Center - 100D Sanctuary Group @ Mead's Corner Adult Sunday School Classes - Churchwide Core Youth Small Group: The Thread - 200D CORE-Kids Sunday School - 106C, 108C, 110C, 200C, 311C El Mesias Worship - Wilke FLC Downtown Alive - Sanctuary	28 12:00 PM 6:15 PM 29 9:00 AM	Wednesday Apple Core - Book/Bible Study - 302B Religious Nurture Center - 100D Thursday First Place Quilters - Quilters/Emmaus
10 5:30 PM 6:00 PM	Saturday Awakening - Wilke FLC Seekers Christmas Party - 203B	10:30 AM 10:50 AM		30 31	Friday Saturday
11 8:15 AM	Sunday Heritage Worship - Chapel				

COMING IN WORSHIP

December 4
All I Really Want:
"Hope"
Isaiah 35: 1-10
Luke 1: 13-25

December 11
All I Really Want:
"Joy"
Isaiah 35: 1-10
Luke 1: 13-25

December 18
All I Really Want:
"Love"
Isaiah 11:1-10
Matthew 1: 18-25

December 24
Christmas Eve
"God's Presence"
Isaiah 9: 2-7
Luke 2: 1-20

December 25
Christmas Day
"God Among Us"
Isaiah 52: 7-10
John 1: 1-14

FIRST LIGHT

First Light is published monthly by the First United Methodist Church of Wichita, Kansas. It is produced by First Impressions, the Production and Creative Arts Team at First Church, and is provided at no cost to our members and friends.

ARTICLES FOR FIRST LIGHT

We welcome content and story ideas for First Light. They can be submitted to First Impressions at firstlight@firstwichita.org. Please include your name, phone number and e-mail address when submitting material.

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 in downtown Wichita.

What is Blue Christmas?

Blue? Yes, blue as in the blues. As in "I am feeling blue." Not everyone is up and cheery for the Christmas holidays. Dealing with the death of a loved one, facing life after divorce or separation, coping with the loss of a job, living with cancer or some other disease that puts a question mark over the future, and a number of other human situations make parties and joviality painful for many people in our congregations and communities. There is a growing attentiveness to the needs of people who are blue at Christmas. Increasing numbers of churches are creating sacred space for people living through dark times. Such services are reflective, accepting where we really are, and holding out healing and hope. (from – www.umcdiscipleship.org)

First United Methodist Church, Wichita will be holding a Blue Christmas worship service on December 20 at 7:00 p.m., the eve of the shortest day of the year. We will be gathering in the Wilke Family Life Center where Rev. Tal Titsworth, Rev. Cindy Watson, Leslie Coates, and Huron Breaux (music direction) will guide us through a celebration of the season as experienced in grief and uncertainty.

Blue Christmas
December 20
7:00 p.m.
Wilke Family Life Center



This is the 11th year that we have welcomed our neighborhood community into our beautifully decorated First Church Sanctuary for the annual Park Elementary Music Program. All congregants are invited to join the festivities as these dear children greet you with smiles and songs of the season. Join us on Thursday, December 15 at 6:30 p.m. You will be blessed!

Nov 17-Dec 11

"Funny, Fresh, and Fabulous!"

The world premiere of a new musical.

Christmas Letters

Featuring:
Leslie Coates!

Wilke Family Life Center
 Tickets at forumwichita.com or 618-0444
 Use code FUMC20 for a 20% discount



Jack Michael Hall was baptized by Rev. Cindy Watson at Downtown Alive worship on October 23, 2016. His parents are Brent Hall and Samantha Burke-Hall.