



October 2015
Vol. 160 No. 32

Join us for inspiring worship at 8:15 a.m., 10:50 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. every Sunday • Church School and small groups for all ages meet Sundays at 9:30 a.m.

THIS SUNDAY

Join us in October for worship as we talk about love; why we love our church and why we should, “love. period.”!

Services are at 8:15 a.m. and 10:50 a.m. or live at 11:00 a.m. on KAKE TV and live on the web at live.firstwichita.org and at 6:00 p.m. at Mead’s Corner.

Come fall in love with First Church!

INSIDE

2

Toilet Paper Collection

3

RNC Pecan/Open House

4

Tutors and Mentors

5

Where did you see God?

7

Events Calendar

8

Awakening Update

FEED THE HUNGRY

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

October: Canned Vegetables

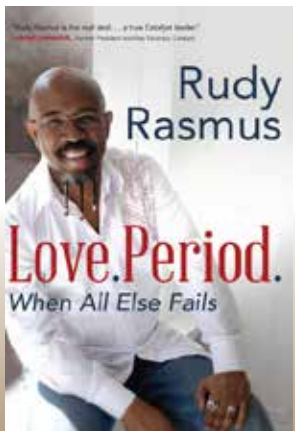


www.firstwichita.org
330 N. Broadway • 316-267-6244
On Broadway between 2nd & 3rd Streets
in downtown Wichita.

SERIES BEGINS OCTOBER 18

Love. PERIOD.

What would happen if we truly loved those who are different from us in race, background, abilities, gender, economic status, identity, or physical condition? How would our communities change if we stopped being afraid of those who don’t fit our definition of “loveable”? How would our hearts find greater joy if we acknowledged the risk of loving without conditions – and did it anyway?



Join us as we partner with St. Mark United Methodist Church for the series, “Love. Period.” beginning October 18. As a part of this partnership, Pastor Junius Dotson and Pastor Kent Rogers will swap pulpits along with church choirs on October 25 and November 15. Stay tuned for more information on exciting opportunities and events associated with this partnership.

This new series is based on the book, “Love.Period.”, authored by hustler turned pastor, Rudy Rasmus. He challenges us to live the most daring way we can; to refuse to follow the hate and apathy of our world; to speak the words that Jesus intended: “I choose to love.period.”

Quilt Auction & Chicken Noodle Dinner

The 22nd Annual Quilt Auction and Chicken Noodle Dinner will be held on Saturday, October 24. The United Methodist Women will prepare everyone’s favorite chicken noodle dinner in addition to holding the annual bake sale with “goodies” for everyone.

The First Place Quilters have been busy working hard all year on beautiful offerings for the live auction, the silent auction and the country store. Items for these venues will include everything from placemats to king sized quilts. The country store will feature priced items. Once again, Weigand Realty will provide the auctioneer and team for the event. They graciously donate their time to make the auction a success.

Dinner tickets are \$10/adults and \$7.50/children. Doors open at 5 p.m., dinner is served at 6 p.m. and the live auction begins at 7 p.m. The bake sale and country store will be open from 5 p.m. to the end of the event. Tickets will be available at the church prior to the event.

Please contact Patsy Kutz (259-1179) or Paulette Dibbern (744-0716) with any questions.



Saturday Night Alive!
October 10, 2015
5 p.m.

The First Church family will gather for a special combined worship service on Saturday evening, Oct. 10, at 5 p.m. in the Sanctuary! Join us for a dynamic service as we conclude our “I Love My Church” series and present our 2016 giving commitments.

Following the combined service, we will gather across the street at Café 402, (located in the downtown YMCA) for a buffet dinner, \$10 per person. Please make reservations with the First Impressions Receptionist.

The Prairie Fire Wichita Marathon will be racing through our neighborhood on Sunday morning, October 11, making it difficult to get to First Church. We would encourage everyone from all venues to worship together on Saturday evening in the Sanctuary! There will be no church school or services on Sunday morning, but our Saturday service will be broadcast during our normal 11 a.m. time slot Sunday morning on KAKE-TV and online at live.firstwichita.org.

PLEASE PRAY FOR

Our Military Deployed:
Brandi Streit, granddaughter
of Ray Dodge

Continuing Concerns:
Di Bartels, Nancy Beard,
Paul Bielefeld, Willa Mae
Borger, Barbara Borrer, Ray
Brown, Shelby Campbell,
Kaylee Davis, Judy Eakin,
Hilda Ellington, Sonya Foster,
Virginia Garrison, Carl &
Dorothy Glenn, Jo Ellen
Hancock, Nancy Hancock,
Mary Havey, Beth Hoch,
Paul L. Hodson, Shirley
Johnson, Rev. Annamore
Kahlari (Zimbabwe), Lorine
Kieler, Jean Kling, Edmund
Klingsporn, Butch & Judy
Lovell, Kay McKenney,
Marcia McKenney, Jim
Matthews, Joyce Miller, Paul
Miller, Roman Palmer, Del
Rhinehart, Susan
Robinson, Kathy Santo,
Eric Schwieger, Brennon
Shafer, Dean Thorpe,
Dawn Wadsworth, Annette
Wapelhorst, Carol Williams,
Micah Williams, Virginia
Williams, Jason Wisbey, our
partner churches in
Zimbabwe, caregivers, and
our homebound members.

Articles for the next edition of
First Light are due Oct. 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

First Church Toilet Paper Drive
During October

For most of us, toilet paper is
just one of those essentials that we
throw into our grocery carts without
much thought. But to many Wichita
families, money spent on toilet paper
is money not spent on food.

“Toilet paper is one of the most
requested items by the clients I helped
at Open Door” stated Lois Short. As
a response to this need, First Church
will be collecting toilet paper October
4-18. All paper that is collected will
go to the United Methodist Open Door
Community Food Service on North
Mosley. Nita Nikkel, the volunteer
coordinator for Open Door commented
“clients ask for it, not because they
believe we have it, but because they
need it.” If Open Door has toilet paper
that has been donated, and most of the
time there is none, a family of four
or less receives one roll with larger
families getting 2 for the month!

Please bring your contributions to
the AB Entrance or D Entrance—a
four pack of generic or a case of brand
name--all are needed and welcomed.



*“Toilet paper is one of the most
requested items by the clients I helped
at Open Door”*

—Lois Short

Hand Quilting Available

The First Place Quilters do hand quilting
of finished quilt tops for the public. If you
have some quilt tops that need to be made into
finished quilts, please call Paulette Dibbern
(744-0716) or Barbara Novotny (264-1714)
for more information. The fee charged for
this work will depend on the size of the quilt
and how much quilting needs to be done.
Charges for this work are very reasonable
for this kind of work. If you have friends or
family that a have need for this service, please
pass on this information.

Go
Royals!

Members of the First Church 708 Small
Group, comprised of youth in college
through mid twenties, spent a night
of fellowship at a recent Kansas City
Royals game. Thanks to Greg Anton
and Dennis Artz for going along.



Church Women United will
meet at 1:00 p.m. on October 2
at Inter-Faith Ministries located
at 829 N. Market. The program
will be Listening Forum.

The Executive Committee
of First Church UMW will
meet at 10:30 on Wednesday,
October 7 in Room 101B.

The First Church Circles
will meet on Wednesday,
October 14 as follows:

Elizabeth Circle will meet at
First Church in Room 107B at 1 p.m.
Leslie Swearingen will be the
hostess and the program will be
from Geri Emery Wichita West
District UMW President.
Cost is \$5.

Esther/Lois Circle will meet
at First Church in Room 107B at
10 a.m.
Mariam LeBaron will be the
hostess and Pam Thorpe will
bring the program.
Cost is \$3.50

Naomi Circle will meet at
Larksfield, 7373 E. 29th St. N.
at Noon.
Maralee Rounds will be the
hostess and Patricia Tristan,
Director of Kids’ Discipleship
will bring the program.
Cost is \$10.

Rachel Circle will meet at
1461 N. Pine Grove at Noon.
Linda O’Neal will be the hostess
and Bonnie Laycock, Director of
Missions will bring the program.
Cost is \$5.

Joy Circle will meet on
Thursday, October 15 at 7 p.m.
in the First Church Library.
Kathy Stratman will bring the
program on the Zimbabwe
Partnership.

OUR GIFTS

AUGUST 2015 OFFERING
\$83,846.36
RECEIVED YEAR-TO-DATE
\$792,716.00

OTHER CONTRIBUTIONS
MISSIONS
\$200.00
RECEIVED YEAR-TO-DATE
\$18,313.05

CAPITAL FUNDS
\$515.00
RECEIVED YEAR-TO-DATE
\$41,773.36

VAN MAINTENANCE FUND
\$125.00
RECEIVED YEAR-TO-DATE
\$2,000.00

ORGAN MAINTENANCE FUND
\$0
RECEIVED YEAR-TO-DATE
\$1,441.00

TELEVISION MINISTRY
\$8,666.00
RECEIVED YEAR-TO-DATE
\$116,316.10

TOTAL CONTRIBUTIONS
\$93,352.36
RECEIVED YEAR-TO-DATE
\$972,559.51

Religious Nurture Center Pecan Fundraiser and Open House

Religious Nurture Center is gearing up for our annual pecan fundraiser. Last year, your generosity helped us gain a net profit of over \$1,000 to benefit our ministry that serves individuals with developmental disabilities. Your continued support helps us to meet our budget obligations as our program has been asked to raise half of our annual budget. The deadline for order forms is October 18, 2015. The price per bag is \$12.00 (an extra \$1 per bag due to a price increase from

our pecan vendor).

We all know that pecans can be used to make delicious holiday dishes while an added health benefit is that pecans top the list of all tree nuts for antioxidants. A USDA study finds that pecans lead the pack for antioxidants and suggest that a serving of pecans a day may lower “bad” cholesterol levels, decrease blood pressure and fight against prostate and breast cancer. Pecans are a lean source of protein and high in fiber. One ounce of pecans provides



10 percent of the recommended daily value of fiber. Pecans are definitely nature’s health food. No matter how you choose to eat your pecans, you can be assured you are getting a healthy and delicious product.

The RNC will be hosting an Open House on Sunday, October 18 from 9:30 a.m.-

12:30 p.m. to celebrate the room improvements we have been able to make over the past year thanks to the continued generosity of First Church members. Cookies and tea will be served and we encourage you to see our new tile floor, 70 inch television, popcorn machine and touch and see aquatic tank.

Thank You, from the Chris Edmiston Family

Brothers and Sisters at First United Methodist Church, my name is Chris Edmiston, and for the last 3 months I have been the venue leader at the Awakening service. I would like to take a short moment to share with you the gratitude my family has for you.

My wife, Linda, and our three children, Elliott (9), Christian (5), and Emma (6 months) moved from San Antonio, TX the last weekend of June, 2015. The trip was long, but we made it safe and sound. Upon our arrival, our new town home was beautifully set up and there was a crew waiting for us to begin the task of unloading boxes and furniture. Dinner was taken care of, and we were able to sleep in our own bed that evening. The next few days and weeks were such a shock on our family, and having a body of believers to come around

us and help provide meals and encouragement made a massive difference. When we needed anything, we made a call, and there it was. There was no lack of generosity, and I am astonished by the amount of support we’ve continued to have around us.

I feel the need to share this thankfulness because I don’t know that we do that enough; offering up gratitude is a lost art, and one we need to participate in more often (myself chief among them). I am personally quick to share when I am disappointed, when a need was not met, but I don’t give thanks with the same fervency. I expect my complaints to be heard, but whether my gratitude is heard or not isn’t as vital.

Well, it’s vital right now that you know you are appreciated. Thank you, sincerely. There are still needs our family has, and we



specifically covet your prayers in regard to peace in our home and healing for my wife and her chronic pains. But please know that we are ever thankful for your love.

*With Thanks,
Chris Edmiston & Family*

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.

You’re Invited: Building Tour

There will be a tour of the First Church building on Sunday, October 4, at 9:30 a.m. This is a very large building and there are many places to see: the children’s chapel, the beautiful adult chapel, the RNC area, and many more. Reservations are not needed so if you can join us for the tour, just meet in the back of the Sanctuary at 9:30 and Judy Sunderland will be there to greet you. It will take about 45 minutes. Hope to see you there!



OUR FAMILY

**We celebrate the birth
of a baby girl to**
Mike and Ailyn Penley

We grieve the deaths of:

Darryl Kutz, husband of Patsy Kutz

Bernell Baldwin, mother of Phil Baldwin

Charlotte Benefiel

Jim Matson, husband of Glenna Matson

Vera Heidebrecht,
mother of Ken Heidebrecht

Dwight Patton, husband of Kay Patton

Kathryn Unruh,
mother of Gary Unruh and Vicki Tanner

Celebrating 10 years of Tutoring and Mentoring!

Libby Eaton
DIRECTOR OF SCHOOL PARTNERSHIPS

This fall is the tenth year of a wonderful tutoring and mentoring program for our neighborhood children at Park Elementary. Over 30 First Church individuals have tutored and mentored.

Research shows that tutoring children can not only improve their reading and math skills, but also lead to motivation for reading, improved self-esteem and a positive attitude towards school. Carolyn Vosburg has tutored Park kindergarteners. She loves to tutor and watch the excitement of kindergarteners as they gain new skills.

Bruce Quantic says, "Tutoring at Park has been a very gratifying experience for me and has had a carry over value for some great kids as they gain new skills. For 25 years I taught students at Friends University who were going into education as a career. That was fun! To drop back a few notches

and teach elementary kids by tutoring has been refreshing and challenging as well. Why not "give it a try?"

Tutors are assigned to a teacher at the grade level of their choice and usually work once a week with a student. The teacher provides the materials.

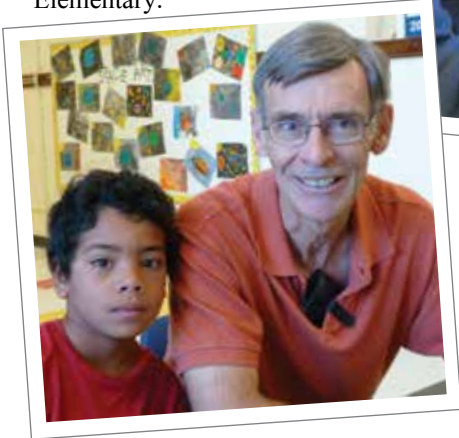
Mentors meet with the students during their lunch hour. A mentor usually eats lunch with the student and spends time visiting, playing a game, making a craft, or just listening to the child. Research shows that mentoring holds great promise in helping youth succeed in life. There is strong evidence that children who have had a mentor have a reduced incidence of delinquency, substance use, and academic failure. Mentoring programs can promote positive outcomes, such as improved self-esteem, increased social skills, and knowledge of career opportunities.

Brad Sherard has mentored at Park for several years. He leaves his job over the

noon hour once a week to spend time with a student assigned to him. Brad says, "I mentor because this is what God through his Holy Spirit has shown me that He wants me to do, and in mentoring over the last five years, I have been blessed abundantly." Brad has encouraged others at Grace Med, where he works, to mentor at nearby Park Elementary.



Tutors and mentors are always needed, especially this year. Please contact Libby Eaton at church. She will be glad to answer questions, and is qualified by USD 259 to provide your training. You will be blessed and so will our neighborhood children!



Kids' Discipleship Celebrations!

Patricia Tristan
DIRECTOR OF KIDS' DISCIPLESHIP

Today marks the first month of my ministry here, at First Church. God has been amazing with me and has given me the opportunity to play, worship, sing, pray and have fun with your children. Here are some of the activities that we have been doing in Kids Discipleship Department!

- Wednesday Nights kicked off on Sept. 9, with a Family Fun Night! Bingo, popcorn, nachos, musical chairs, and other games were a way to connect children, youth, RNC and El Mesias Church to the ministries of First Church.

- Kids' Discipleship celebrated the launching of a new Sunday School unit, "Whirl", on September 13 with an attendance of more than 25 kids and six volunteers. September 13 was also Rally Day and having all our families attend was a blessing. Face painting, interactive games and puzzles, I Love my Church balloons and movie night prizes were the highlight of children's ministry.

Ways to support Kids' Discipleship Team:

- Pray for our teachers and assistant volunteers.
- Volunteer to help out a Sunday School teacher once a month (9:30 – 10:30 a.m.)
- Be a sponsor for CORE56 boys & girls groups (needing a male and female to come once a month on a Wednesday night).
- Be part of Children's Council

For other volunteer opportunities please contact Patricia Tristan, Director of Kids' Discipleship by email at patriciat@firstwichita.org or call 267-6244 ext. 318.



CORE

STUDENT LIFE MINISTRIES

WEDNESDAYS @6P

OCTOBER SCHEDULE

October 7 - "Repurpose"

Bottom Line: God has a purpose for your life.

October 14 - "Rethink"

Bottom Line: Rely on God to get rid of worry and anxiety, enjoying God's peace regardless of your circumstances.

October 21 - "Redesign"

Bottom Line: Redesign your life, with God at the center of everything you do.

October 28 - Wacky Wednesday Party

Enjoy games, snacks, and a fun costume party, with special guest DJ Elektrik Faith

 Core Student Life Ministries

Where Did You See God Today?

North Carolina Mission Team Report

“Where did you see God today?” Was a question asked of the fifteen members of the mission team that traveled to work near the Outer Banks of North Carolina. This was a disaster recovery team, and our tasks were to help restore and rebuild homes damaged in the hurricanes that have hit that area in the past few years. We split into two teams, with six of us working on a home that needed walls rebuilt, insulation installed, plumbing secured, a new toilet installed, and deck railings built. The rest of the crew worked at the camp where we stayed, helping to ready the camp for the volunteers that would come when the next hurricane hits. This part of the team added a deck/porch to a sleeping trailer, and built a wall and installed windows on a supply shed.

Where did we see God? We saw Him in the beauty of the land where we stood, surrounded by tall trees and beautiful waters, calm for the moment. We saw God in the kindness of strangers who would go out of their way to see if we needed help or directions. We saw God in each other as we worked together and learned to know each other better. And we saw God in the angel he sent to us in the form of Sam Bravo.

We were driving on a very busy interstate

in Knoxville, Tennessee, sandwiched between two semi-trailers when BOOM! We had a blowout on a tire on the trailer. Our driver managed to move us to the side of the highway, and with traffic speeding by, we started getting out of the van to survey the damage. As we were getting the emergency equipment out of the van, another van and trailer pulled up right behind us. The driver came to us and said “Could you use some help? I have a new tire, already mounted, and I have a jack in my trailer.” Almost before we could even process what was happening, this man and several of our team members had the damaged tire replaced with the new one and we were ready to go!

When we asked for the man’s name and address so we could send him a thank you note, he said his name was Sam Bravo. He didn’t give us his address and he refused to accept any payment for the new tire and wheel. He said, “We are put on this earth to help each other, and today my task was to help you.” With that, amid our many “thank you’s”, he got into his van and drove away.

We saw God that day, in Sam Bravo, the angel He sent to help us. Through our mission work, we hope others will see God in us.



“We are put on this earth to help each other, and today my task was to help you.”

— Sam Bravo

Guatemala Stove Project Expands

Did you know that First Church’s Stove Builders of Guatemala project has been expanding? This expansion encompasses several different aspects of the project making. It is a very exciting time in the life of this project!

Stove Builders of Guatemala had



Felipe, one of our master stove builders, put a finishing touch on a new stove.

several people stop by their booth at this year’s Annual Conference. In addition to interest expressed by these persons, there has been a growing interest from a number of churches in Texas and Nebraska. A partnership program has been developed to allow these churches direct participation with First Church on this project which allows us to meet the needs of even more people. We are currently working with 4 churches in the partnership program.

A very generous anonymous gift was given this summer to the stove project which will allow us to keep all our stove builders working on a regular basis for a number of months. This was fantastic news as the number of families needing stoves continues to outgrow the amount of money we have. Our stove builders rely on the income from building stoves to help support their families.

The next mission team to Guatemala will leave in November. Some of these team members will be going to Chichicastenango where the Methodist Church of Guatemala is headquartered. They, along with one of our master stove builders, will be training two new stove



This new stove will make a tremendous difference in the quality of life for this family.

builders chosen by the Methodist Church of Guatemala so we can start building stoves in a new community. This will increase the number of trained stove builders to 12 and will begin a partnership between Stove Builders of Guatemala and the Methodist Church of Guatemala.

Members of the November team will

also be shopping for the ever popular Christmas frogs which will be available, along with other Guatemalan items, at the December Mission Lunch. This is First Church’s only event to directly raise money for Stove Builders of Guatemala. Come out and support your project of helping others help themselves.

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

Double Ring 106B

Connie Mayer will be greatly missed when she moves to Atlanta to be near her daughter. We will miss her faithfulness to Double Ring class and Debs and her brave and sweet spirit in the face of failing eyesight. God go with you, Connie.

We are saddened to report the death of Dwight “Pat” Patton on September 12 in Colorado. He was a long time faithful member of Double Ring class. Our sympathy and prayers are with his wife Kay and their family. One week later, the death of Jim Matson added to our grief. Our prayers go out to Glenna and the family.

Terry Klein, co-vice-president, spoke to us on August 30 about his experiences during war time, with maps to illustrate his message. On Rally Day we joined with other classes to hear Gracia Burnham’s inspirational talk about her captivity in the Philippines and her eventual release.

Our next class social will be on October 9 when we meet in Yoder for a fried chicken lunch at Carriage Crossings with time for shopping and visiting. Debs will meet October 21 at the home of Sally Dewey.

Many of our members need our concern and prayers at this time for themselves or family members. It is our privilege to remember these needs in our daily prayers

50/50 107B

This welcoming class represents Christ and community and all are invited to attend. We are an active group that believes in volunteering in church, community and world missions. We are rich in spiritual growth, lasting friendship and church involvement. Socials are an important part of our fellowship.

Charlotte Benefiel, former class member, passed away recently in Arizona. Her service was held September 12 in our church. The burial was also in Wichita.

Dorothy Filson created a wonderful worship center for us August 16 with many things to remind us of the beginning of school. Leslie Coates was our speaker that morning. He explained many things about his life. He also told us about the “tip jar” money from Meads Corner that is being used for Park and Washington schools.

Our class attended the Rally Day in Wilke Family Life Center on September 13. We all were anxious to hear Gracia Burnham’s story. September 20, a speaker from Youth Horizons shared about their work.

We enjoyed four visitors in our class September 6. David and Glenna Snyder’s son and wife visited, as well as Paul Stephens with his mother Mary Alice and Mark Brown with his mother Pansy Brown. Mothers are a special part of our families.

Please come and visit our 50/50 Class anytime.

Hand in Hand 101B

September 12 we enjoyed a class social with dinner in Yoder, and the following day we gained so much from Gracia Burnham’s powerful talk and experienced our first Rally Day. What a way to start fall!

We are currently using the book, “Love.Period”, as our class curriculum. Classes will be taught by Cliff Bertholf and Donna Fisher. All venue leaders will be using this text as inspiration for the next sermon series beginning October 18.

Our next ladies social will be at Jimmie’s Diner on 29th St. No. and Rock Rd. on October 9 at 1 pm. Make reservations by signing up in class or contacting Sawny or Jean.

Keep October 30 and November 7 open for “Fall Fellowship” events. December 12 will be our Christmas Party at Larksfeld Place.

We welcome visitors and new members always!

Koinonia 303D

Recently Jack Shelton filled in for one of our speakers and gave a very good lesson. He discussed several historical trials, beginning with the Roman trial sentencing Jesus to the cross, the convictions following Lincoln’s assassination and the Nuremberg war trials. There were unusual legal aspects to all of these trials. Most of our speakers this summer were informing us on the community services available for children and teens. We made donations to the Wichita Children’s Home and Carpenter Place.

Dr. Pam Thorpe is our speaker on October 4 and on October 18 we will have Rabbi Michael Davis with us. Just a reminder, the church will be closed on Sunday, October 11. The only service will be on Saturday, October 10, at 5 p.m.

On the social side, the date for our annual Christmas party will be on Friday, December 18, at the Meeting Place, 3147 West Maple. Check the Gazette for the October socials and other information. Join us on Sunday morning or at any of our socials.

Pneuma 302D

We have had a super summer welcoming guest speakers who have addressed a number of social issues. Our last speaker, Evelyn Fisher, informed us of the response of the Great Plains Conference to many social issues. In October we will be taking some R&R time to Reflect & Respond to what we have heard this summer.

We have had a number of Pneuma members participating in outreach/church activities such as ESL start up, Park School ministry, Raise My Head Foundation, Rally Day, choir, youth support in CORE 56, tech team for Downtown Alive, Senior Saints, Awakening hospitality, and one of our members even went with our college aged student group, 708, to a Royals game this summer so that they could travel together in a church van. We have found many different ways to LOVE OUR CHURCH!

Thanks to Linda Ebright for hosting September Pneuma Women. Connie Green will host in October.

Our sympathy is extended to Peggy and Phil Baldwin in the loss of Phil’s mother.

Religious Nurture Center 100D

RNC will be going enjoying a day of fishing and barbecue at the home of David & Betty Moore in October. The pecan fundraiser is in full swing, please have order forms submitted by October 18. We will be showcasing all the major room improvements completed this year at our Open House on Sunday, October 18 from 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., refreshments will be served.

We have been blessed with an outpouring of generosity that allowed us to install new tile floor, 70 inch flat screen television, movie theatre style popcorn machine and a touch and see aquatic tank. Our Sunday School lessons for October will focus on the relationship between wealth and happiness and how we can best use our gifts to help others.

Seekers 306B

During October the Seekers class will finish the study of Christ and Politics in the 1st Century led by Dan Householder. On October 18 we will begin a study titled “Love. Period.” led by Judith Oswald. This study will coincide with a sermon series based upon the same book. We have plenty of space for visitors so we would love to have you come visit us in 306B.

We have a couple of social events scheduled in the next few months and all are invited. We are going to play Glo Golf on October 3 at 7 p.m. and in November we are going to a Mennonite dinner served at a private home in Yoder. We would love to have you participate in our social events. Please contact Janet Robinson or any class member for more information. Please join us in 306B at 9:30 on Sunday mornings.

CALENDAR

October 2015

- 1

Thursday

9:00 AM First Place Quilters - Quilters/Emmaus
1:00 PM Stewardship Mailing - 308B
6:30 PM ESL Classes - 100D
6:30 PM El Mesias Praise Band Practice - 200D
- 2

Friday

8:00 AM Camp Horizon Workteam
8:30 AM Mead's Bakers - Meredith Hall Kitchen
- 3

Saturday

8:00 AM Camp Horizon Workteam
- 4

Sunday

8:00 AM Camp Horizon Workteam
8:15 AM Heritage Worship - Chapel
8:30 AM Religious Nurture Center - 100D
9:00 AM Archives Open House-210B
9:30 AM CORE 56 - 311C
9:30 AM Middle School Youth Small Groups - 200D
9:30 AM Adult Sunday School Classes - Church Wide
9:30 AM Sanctuary Group @ Mead's Corner
10:30 AM El Mesias Worship Service - 200D
10:50 AM Downtown Alive - Sanctuary
10:50 AM Awakening Worship - Wilke Family Life Center
6:00 PM The Gathering @ Mead's Corner
- 5

Monday

5:30 PM Church Council- 101B
- 6

Tuesday

8:30 AM Mead's Bakers - Meredith Hall Kitchen
6:30 PM Awakening Meeting - Wilke Family Life Center
- 7

Wednesday

9:30 AM Stephen Ministry II Supervision - 302B
10:30 AM UMW - 101B
12:00 PM Apple Core- 302B
1:00 PM Nightshift Quilters (Evening) - 308B
5:30 PM Downtown Alive Choir Rehearsal - Sanctuary
6:00 PM CORE Kids; CORE56 - 106C, 108C, 311C
6:00 PM Basics Life Group - 107B
6:15 PM Religious Nurture Center - 100D
6:30 PM El Mesias - Wilke Family Life Center
7:00 PM Men's Bible Study - 103B
- 8

Thursday

9:00 AM First Place Quilters - Quilters
1:30 PM Group Mentoring - 302B
6:30 PM ESL Classes - 100D
6:30 PM El Mesias Praise Band Practice - 200D
- 9

Friday

8:30 AM Mead's Bakers - Meredith Hall Kitchen
- 10

Saturday

5:00 PM Downtown Alive Worship Service - Sanctuary
6:00 PM Dinner Buffet- Cafe 402
- 11

Sunday

No services due to the Prairie Fire Marathon
- 12

Monday

9:00 AM Stephanie's Small Comforts – 106-110B
1:00 PM Archives - 208B

- 5:30 PM Hospitality and Integration Commission - 107B
7:00 PM Adult Council - 204A

13

Tuesday

8:30 AM Mead's Bakers - Meredith Hall Kitchen
5:30 PM Board of Trustees - 308B
6:00 PM Stephen Ministry Training - 306B
6:30 PM Awakening Meeting - Wilke Family Life Center

14

Wednesday

10:00 AM UMW Circle - 107B
12:00 PM Apple Core - Book/Bible Study - 302B
1:00 PM Elizabeth Circle - 107B
1:00 PM Nightshift Quilters (Evening) - 308B
5:30 PM Downtown Alive Choir Rehearsal - Sanctuary
6:00 PM CORE Kids -CORE56 - 106C, 108C, 311C
6:00 PM Basics Life Group - 107B
6:15 PM Religious Nurture Center - 100D
6:30 PM El Mesias - Wilke Family Life Center
7:00 PM Men's Bible Study - 103B

15

Thursday

9:00 AM First Place Quilters - Quilters
1:00 PM Stewardship Mailing - 308B
6:30 PM ESL Classes - 100D
6:30 PM El Mesias Praise Band Practice - 200D
7:00 PM Circle Of Joy - 302B

16

Friday

8:30 AM Mead's Bakers - Meredith Hall Kitchen

17

Saturday

10:00 AM One Spark Homeless Meal - Meredith Hall

18

Sunday

8:15 AM Heritage Worship - Chapel
8:30 AM Religious Nurture Center - 100D
9:30 AM CORE 56 - 311C
9:30 AM Middle School Youth Small Groups - 200D
9:30 AM Adult Sunday School Classes - Church Wide
9:30 AM Sanctuary Group @ Mead's Corner
10:30 AM El Mesias Worship Service - 200D
10:50 AM Downtown Alive - Sanctuary
10:50 AM Awakening Worship - Wilke Family Life Center
6:00 PM The Gathering @ Mead's Corner

19

Monday

5:30 PM Staff Parish Relations - 204A
6:30 PM HALL Committee - 107B

20

Tuesday

8:30 AM Mead's Bakers - Meredith Hall Kitchen
6:30 PM Awakening Meeting - Wilke Family Life Center

21

Wednesday

9:30 AM Stephen Ministry II Supervision - 302B
12:00 PM Apple Core - Book/Bible Study - 302B
1:00 PM Nightshift Quilters (Evening) - 308B
5:30 PM Downtown Alive Choir Rehearsal -Sanctuary
6:00 PM CORE Kids- CORE56 - 106C, 108C, 311C
6:00 PM Basics Life Group - 107B
6:15 PM Religious Nurture Center - 100D
6:30 PM El Mesias - Wilke Family Life Center
7:00 PM Downtown Alive Committee - Media Suite
7:00 PM Men's Bible Study - 103B
- Don't Forget!

Combined Service:
Saturday, October 10
5 p.m., Sanctuary
All of our services will meet for a special combined service on Saturday evening

22

Thursday

9:00 AM First Place Quilters - Quilters/Emmaus
6:30 PM ESL Classes - 100D
6:30 PM El Mesias Praise Band Practice - 200D

23

Friday

8:30 AM Mead's Bakers - Meredith Hall Kitchen

24

Saturday

5:30 PM Quilt Auction and Chicken Noodle Dinner - Meredith Hall

25

Sunday

8:15 AM Heritage Worship - Chapel
8:30 AM Religious Nurture Center - 100D
9:30 AM CORE 56 - 311C
9:30 AM Middle School Youth Small Groups - 200D
9:30 AM Adult Sunday School Classes - Church Wide
9:30 AM Sanctuary Group @ Mead's Corner
10:30 AM El Mesias Worship Service - 200D
10:50 AM Awakening Worship- Wilke Family Life Center
10:50 AM Downtown Alive - Sanctuary
11:00 AM Mission Lunch - Meredith Hall
6:00 PM The Gathering @ Mead's Corner

26

Monday

9:00 AM Stephanie's Small Comforts – 106-110B
2:00 PM Diabetes Support Group - 107B Kitchen, 101B
5:00 PM Executive Committee - 204A
5:30 PM Finance Committee - 204A

27

Tuesday

8:30 AM Mead's Bakers - Meredith Hall Kitchen
6:00 PM Stephen Ministry Training - 306B
6:30 PM Awakening Meeting - Wilke Family Life Center

28

Wednesday

12:00 PM Apple Core - Book/Bible Study - 302B
1:00 PM Nightshift Quilters (Evening) - 308B
5:30 PM Downtown Alive Choir Rehearsal -Sanctuary
6:00 PM CORE Kids- CORE56 - 106C, 108C, 311C
6:00 PM Wacky Wednesday - Wilke Family Life Center
6:00 PM Basics Life Group - 107B
6:15 PM Religious Nurture Center - 100D
7:00 PM Men's Bible Study - 103B

29

Thursday

9:00 AM First Place Quilters - Quilters/Emmaus
6:30 PM ESL Classes - 100D
6:30 PM El Mesias Praise Band Practice - 200D

30

Friday

8:30 AM Mead's Bakers - Meredith Hall Kitchen

31

Saturday

OCTOBER 2015 | FIRST LIGHT

COMING IN WORSHIP

November
October 18-November 22
"Love. Period."
Partnership with
St. Mark United
Methodist Church

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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Life. Downtown.

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



AWAKENING

Awakening Worship 10:50 a.m. | Wilke Family Life Center

Over the last few months, the Awakening service at First United Methodist Church has undertaken some amazing new ventures, and we'd like to take a moment to share those victories with the full body of our church.

In the middle of August our venue leader, Chris Edmiston, began visiting several Sunday School classes and sharing his testimony. He was also able to open up about his heart and the vision God has placed in him for the direction of the Awakening service. In inviting those classes to join in worship, we've been able to share as a community in fellowship, breaking of bread, prayer, and apostolic teaching. The reception from those who have taken the time to attend has been amazing and encouraging. Chris will continue to visit with classes, and has begun teaching a small group entitled "Basics," which is a practical and conversational small group for

new and growing believers.

September 1, Awakening began producing a new podcast on iTunes entitled "Awakening @ First Church." This podcast lets us share each week's message with our community and beyond. It has given us a way to relate to those around us what they can expect to hear at the Awakening service. The podcast has also enabled us to share other events that have taken place in the Awakening venue space, including the story of Gracia Burnham who shared her testimony on September 13. This podcast has been a fruitful tool already and will continue to allow us to share the gospel within our walls and beyond.

Looking on the horizon, Awakening will be hosting several events in the next few months. Beginning in November, we will have monthly music experiences, with styles varying each month. We will also

be hosting film viewings throughout the year and into next. We hope to share with others this amazing place we have to come together as a community in love and grace, free of condemnation. Our goal is to devote ourselves to the tenets of the early church and grow as they did, disproving the thought that God is out to get you. We know our Father loves us, and we want to show that to others. We invite you to join with us as we pursue that venture.

Grace & Peace,
Awakening @ First Church

You can hear the Awakening podcast by subscribing to 'Awakening @ First Church' in iTunes. Please email questions and comments to 'ChrisE'@firstwichita.org

Stephanie's Small Comforts Update

I wanted to take this opportunity to inform everyone of my intent to step down as the leader of Stephanie's Small Comforts in December of this year. I'm pleased to announce that Susan and George Stover will be continuing this blanket ministry with a new name, to be announced soon. I appreciate having had the opportunity to have shared in this ministry at First Church over the past 10 years.

Thank you all for your love, prayers and contributions toward Stephanie's Small Comforts. Through your gifts and generosity, we have blanketed over 20,000 children and adults with the love of Christ, in memory of our precious Stephanie. Dave and I so appreciate the love and support each of you

have shown us through these past years.

And a very much heartfelt thank you to "The Comforters". You have held me up when I would have fallen and given me your love and support. With your hands and heart of Christ you have given love and comfort to so many. I am so blessed by you all and I love each and every one of you.

We pray that you will continue to support this new blanket ministry. May God richly bless you in all that you do.

Stephanie's parents:
Peggy and Dave Brant



A Letter from Liberal UMC

Good afternoon, Kent. I am Keith Anglemyer - senior pastor at Liberal FUMC. I wanted to share something with you that has been created following our youth group's mission trip to Wichita in July.

Our kids had the opportunity to help in the quilt ministry room at your church. Some of our youth got very excited about the possibility of starting a similar ministry in Liberal. Before they came home, they stopped to purchase some material, then got home and began to work. They cleaned out an old storage room, and it became perhaps the first ever "youth sewing room" in the Great Plains Conference.

But not only did our youth get inspired - it also inspired other generations of helpers as well. In addition to parents helping and making quilts, some of the older ladies got involved as well, and continue to come and work with the kids on the days the quilters get together. It has been great to see how this project has brought generations together!

The congregation has supported the ministry as well. We now have a cabinet full of donated material, plus we have received donations of sewing machines and finances to support the project. It has truly become a church-wide mission!

We have plans for our first quilts to be delivered in the near future. We will be



targeting child advocacy agencies - one in our area has over 450 referrals per year. The agency tries to make sure each one of those children has a quilt, among other things. We will help to make sure that happens.

All of this started because of the ministry that is presently operating in



your church. I wanted you to know that your outreach program "reached out" and captured the hearts of our youth, who are now reaching out on their own to make a difference in the world.

God's Blessings,
Keith Anglemyer