

FIRST LIGHT

December 2017
Vol. 162 No. 57

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

Join us in December as we revisit Dicken's classic tale, "A Christmas Carol" and journey through our past, our present and our future in, "A Christmas Carol Revisited". We hope you will 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.

INSIDE

2

Christmas Brunch

3

Annual Conference

4

CORE Kids

5

Missions

7

Events Calendar

8

Brett Valliant Concert

FEED THE HUNGRY

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

**December:
Macaroni & Cheese**

FIRST
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
Life. Downtown

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



Advent Sermon Series

In December we enter the season of Advent, an intentional time that we prepare for the coming of the Christ child and the celebration of Christmas. Of course in our culture, we are already in the "throes" of the Christmas season. Trees and decorations in some stores were already up in July, and once Halloween was over, other stores jump right to Christmas with perhaps a nod to Thanksgiving.

On December 3, we begin our Advent sermon series, "A Christmas Carol, Revisited." Charles Dicken's classic tale is as relevant now as it was over a hundred years ago. How many people are "Scrooge-like" when it comes to this season of

the year? There are so many commercials and distractions it is easy to become cynical and disillusioned. "A Christmas Carol" takes us on a journey through our past, our present and our future and how we will respond to the invitation to "keep Christmas" in hearts and spirits.

The Forum Theatre is producing the local version of the classic story and we will see parts of it in Downtown Alive through December. You can take in a play, come to worship, join a group that is studying the book, "The Redemption of Scrooge", and take advantage of the many ways we offer to prepare our hearts, our homes, our spirits and our minds to the gift of Emmanuel, God with us.

Sunday's in December

Join us in December as we revisit Dicken's classic tale, "A Christmas Carol" and journey through our past, our present and our future in, "A Christmas Carol Revisited". We hope you will 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.



December 3

"Marley's Ghost: Bad News
Before the Good News"
Isaiah 2: 1-5, Matthew 24: 36-44

December 10

"The Ghost of Christmas Past:
Remembering as a Path to Hope"
Isaiah 40: 1-5, Mark 1: 1-8

December 17

"The Ghost of Christmas Present:
Embracing the God Moment"
Isaiah 61: 1-4, 8-11, John 1: 6-8

December 24

"The Ghost of Christmas Yet to Come:
The Promise"
Luke 1: 47-55, Matthew 1: 18-25

December dates

"Redemption of Scrooge"
Advent Study

November 30-December 17
"A Christmas Carol"
Presented by The Forum Theatre
tickets at Forumwichita.com

December 3
2:00 p.m., Meredith Hall
Family Christmas Workshop
Crafts, cookies, hot cocoa,
family fun

December 20
7:00 p.m., Wilke Family Life Center
Blue Christmas Service
When you don't feel merry
and bright

December 21
7:30 p.m., Sanctuary
**18th Annual Brett Valliant
Concert**
Featuring vocalist Max Haverfield
and narrator Sierra Scott

December 24
Christmas Eve Services
5:30 p.m.
Bilingual Family Service

11:00 p.m.
Candlelight Communion
Live on KAKE-TV and online at
firstwichita.org

PLEASE PRAY FOR

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. Cindy Watson,
Rev. Dr. Tal Tittsworth,
Leslie Coates

OUR FAMILY

We rejoice in the births of:

Matthew Spacil, son of Marco and Maura Spacil

Raymond Josiah Hanson, son of Ray and Bri Hanson

We welcome new members:

Caleb Godbey,
James Hole,
Victor LeRock,
Adia Maupin,
Christal Shaner,
Yitzak Tristan

We grieve the deaths of:

Dawn Wadsworth

Doris Thompson,
wife of Bill Thompson



On Sunday, December 17, the Missions Department will be hosting a brunch in Meredith Hall from 8:30 a.m. until 10:45 a.m. Our Missionaries, Larry and Jane Kies in Zimbabwe, Africa, will be the beneficiaries of the fund-raiser. Missionary support is not included in the church budget so we raise funds throughout the year for their support.

Does your class have treats on Sunday morning? You can order from the menu and you don't have to go shopping or cook for your class! Just let Annette Schmidt (annettes@firstwichita.org) know what you would like and we will prepare it for you.

Menu:

Egg casserole
Cinnamon Roll Cake
Fruit
Biscuits & Gravy
Coffee
Juice

Please fill out a reservation form by December 10.

Retirements at First Church



Libby Eaton



Marvin Robertson

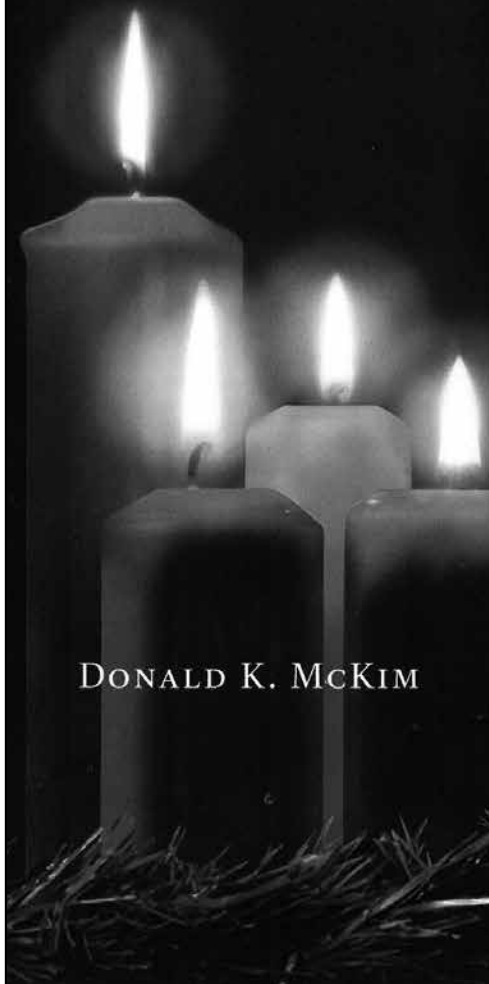
As 2017 comes to an end, two of our staff members will enter into retirement! We are so grateful for the ministries and service Libby Eaton and Marvin Robertson have provided at First Church. If you would like to participate in a card shower/ love offering for either Libby or Marvin, please deliver to the Information Desk by December 10. Checks for a love offering should be made to FUMC with the recipient in the memo.

A reception honoring Libby's years of service to First Church will be held on December 17 following the Downtown Alive service in the Narthex. The staff will also gather in December for a meal to celebrate Marvin's years of service at First Church.

Please join us in sharing your appreciation for Libby and Marvin for their time at First Church!

ADVENT

A Calendar
of Devotions 2017



DONALD K. MCKIM

Advent Devotional

First Church Adult Council is pleased to provide, as a gift, an Advent devotional, "A Calendar of Devotions 2017", by Donald K. McKim. Devotionals will be distributed after all services on Sunday, November 26, and will also be available on the first Sunday of Advent, December 3. They will also be enclosed with the TV bulletin mailing. Each day's devotion includes scripture, a short writing, a prayer, and quotes from the Protestant reformers.

OUR GIFTS

OCTOBER 2017 OFFERING
\$74,645.81

RECEIVED YEAR-TO-DATE
\$903,952.70

BUDGET YEAR-TO-DATE
\$937,825.34

EXPENSES YEAR-TO-DATE
\$961,238.84

OTHER CONTRIBUTIONS
MISSIONS
\$965.00

RECEIVED YEAR-TO-DATE
\$27,161.50

CAPITAL FUNDS
\$673.00

RECEIVED YEAR-TO-DATE
\$80,800.54

VAN MAINTENANCE FUND
\$25.00
RECEIVED YEAR-TO-DATE
\$250.00

ORGAN MAINTENANCE FUND
\$0.00
RECEIVED YEAR-TO-DATE
\$4,214.85

TELEVISION MINISTRY
\$15,714.00
RECEIVED YEAR-TO-DATE
\$204,582.11

BUDGET YEAR-TO-DATE
\$226,666.66

EXPENSES YEAR-TO-DATE
\$231,807.90

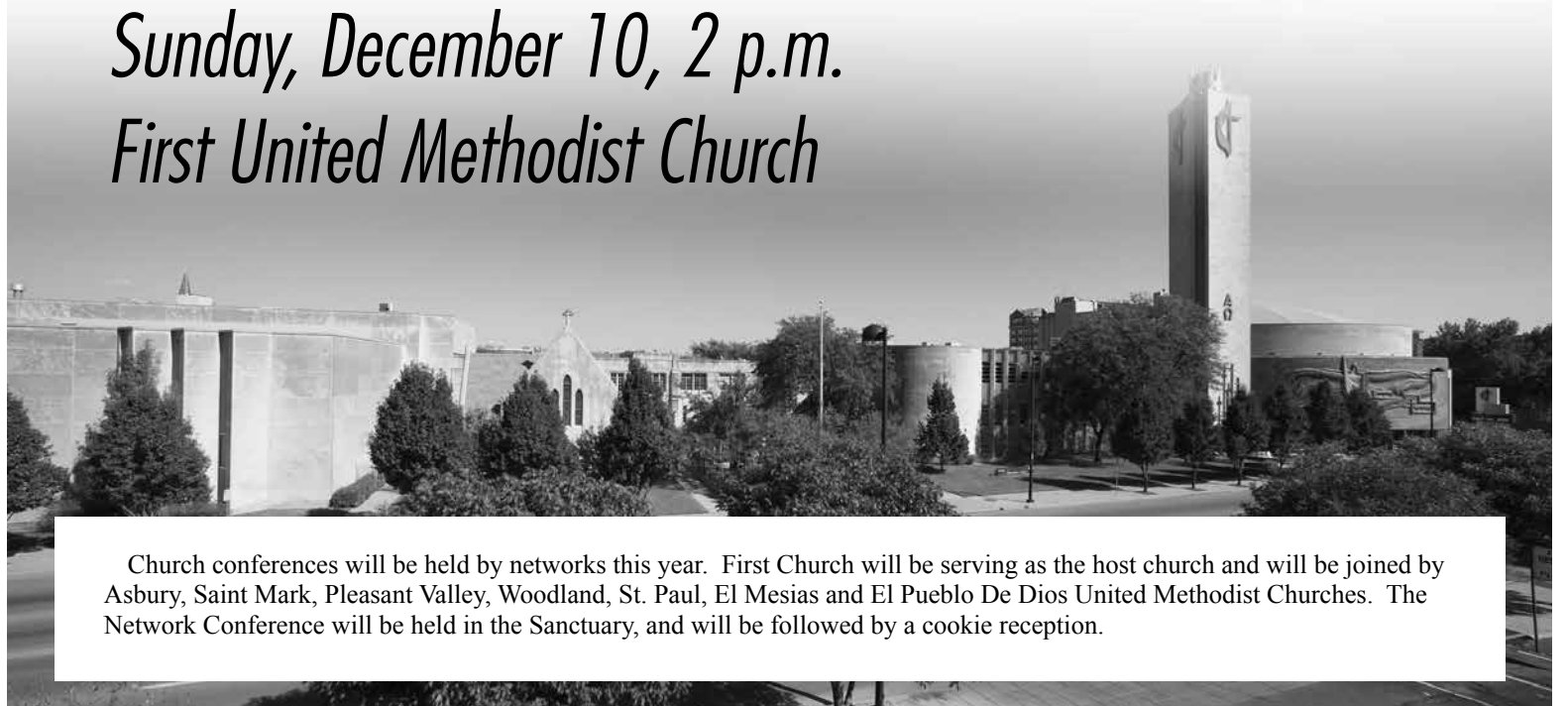
TOTAL CONTRIBUTIONS
\$92,022.81

RECEIVED YEAR-TO-DATE
\$1,220,961.70

2017 Annual Church Conference

Sunday, December 10, 2 p.m.

First United Methodist Church



Church conferences will be held by networks this year. First Church will be serving as the host church and will be joined by Asbury, Saint Mark, Pleasant Valley, Woodland, St. Paul, El Mesias and El Pueblo De Dios United Methodist Churches. The Network Conference will be held in the Sanctuary, and will be followed by a cookie reception.



Free Income Tax Preparation at First Church Starting in February

Plans are underway for First Church to become the Downtown Wichita host site for AARP-TaxAide Foundation's free income tax preparation service. The service will be available during the day Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday beginning February 5 through April 12. Appointments are necessary. Libby Eaton will be managing the appointment schedule and will begin taking reservations the second week in January.

We still need a few individuals who like to work with numbers and enjoy working with computers. Training will begin very soon, so if you have an interest in being a tax counselor, contact Ed Miller at 316-250-0565. Ed will be the local site coordinator. For more information you can also contact any of the three members of First Church who already serve as tax counselors for the program: Donna Fisher, Gary Wagner and Harold Connell. They would be glad to provide you with more information.

Year-End Contributions

Any money received by the church (in the offering plate or otherwise) after December 31, must be reported as 2018 giving for tax purposes. This is true even if the check is dated in 2017. The only exception is for checks that are mailed and bear a 2017 postmark. Please contact the Business Office if you have any questions about year-end contributions.



United Methodist Women In December

Church Women United

December 1, Noon
Annual Assembly Luncheon,
Covenant Presbyterian Church,
1750 N. Tyler.

Expanded Executive Committee

December 6, 10:30 a.m.
Room 101B

**Circle Meetings
December 13**

Elizabeth Circle
1:00 p.m.
Room 107B, Cost, \$5.
Diana Gulick (941-4488)
Program: Christmas—
Rev. Cindy Watson

Sarah Circle

Noon
6327 Oneida, Cost, \$5.
Janet Lively (259-9061)
Program: Christmas Crafts

Rachel Circle

Noon
1252 N. Westlink, Cost, \$5.
Coila Earnest (722-6711)
Program: Christmas

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.

Advent Season in the CORE-Kids Area...

Join us for a meaningful season of Advent as we get our hearts ready to receive the most wonderful gift to the world. The birth of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ!

Important dates to remember:

- December 3 – CORE-Kids Advent calendar starts
- December 3 – Christmas workshop for the whole family.
- December 13 -- CORE-Kids & CORE56 Wednesday Christmas Party, 7-8 p.m.
- December 24 – Core-Kids and CORE56 Christmas Breakfast, Sunday School @ 9:30 a.m.
- December 24- Family Bilingual Christmas Eve Service, Wilke Life Center @ 5:30 p.m. (Children will have a special participation).



CORE-Kids Advent Calendars “Up Above Bethlehem”

Pick up one of our CORE-Kids Advent Calendars for your family from your child’s teacher or they will be available upon request! Celebrate the coming of Jesus with this pop-up window calendar. Each day in December, lift up a numbered window to reveal a surprising message and an image of something or someone who was present to see God’s gift with their own eyes.

Family Christmas Workshop Sunday, December 3, 2-4 p.m. Meredith Hall

It is the time to come together and make Christmas crafts! We will provide all the materials for fun crafts and there will be time for a family picture too! Hot cocoa, cookies and prizes. Gather your family and spend and afternoon making memories together! Everyone is welcome!

Christmas Services Music Rehearsals

We will begin rehearsing music for our Family Bilingual Christmas service, on Wednesday nights starting on November 29 through December 13 from 7-8 p.m. We will also practice during Kids’ Worship every Sunday starting on December 3. We would love to have your child be part of our Christmas service, please call Patricia Tristan at 267-6244 ext. 318 for more information.

Then the King will say to those on his right... “I needed clothes and you clothed me.” The King will reply, “I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me.” - Matt 25: 36, 40



Coats for Kids

Recently a young neighborhood child arrived at Park School on a cold day in very ragged shoes. It was soon discovered that his toes had worn through the soles and were “walking” on the ground. A young lady arrived at school in flip-flops on a frigid day. Her family confirmed that she did not have any other shoes.

These are just two of the stories which illustrate why First Church School Ministry Task Force tries to supply the Park social worker with extra shoes to keep in the storage cupboard. Every day brings new challenges to our neighborhood families to feed, clothe, provide housing, and care for their children. Shoes may seem a small thing, but they provide the blessing of warmth, protection, and a feeling of self-worth to our neighborhood children.

As the cold weather arrives to stay, coats for our neighborhood children are needed. We have many new homeless families at Park, and coats are an urgent concern. Especially needed are smaller size coats for both boys and girls, sizes 6-10. Coats may be gently used, but clean please.

If you wish to make a donation towards Coats for Kids in our neighborhood, checks may be written to the church with Park School in the memo line.

Youth Fellowship and Ornament Exchange
Sunday, December 17, 3-5 p.m.
Mohr’s Apartment: The Eaton Place, 517 E. Douglas (use the green portico entrance)

Please bring one Christmas ornament per person. Snacks, drinks and games provided.

College and Young Adult Meet Up
Mead’s Corner
Friday, December 29, 5-7 p.m.
Coffee and appetizers provided.



Congratulations Confirmands

Confirmation Sunday was November 12 at Downtown Alive. Six youth made public professions of faith, and two were also baptized. The Confirmands also led worship using their various gifts of music and liturgy. First Church is excited to celebrate alongside these students as they deepen their relationship and commitment to both the church and Christ.

Dear First United Methodist Church Pastoral Staff and Congregation,

Thank you so much for the multiple recent donations of so many items to help our Park Elementary students! We really appreciate the donations of shoes, socks, underwear, uniforms, scarves, hats, and the additional school supplies! These items make such a difference in the lives of so many students on a daily basis!

We also appreciate your donations of college themed t-shirts and sweatshirts for our Friday AVID days. As an AVID (Advancement Via Individual Determination) school, we work hard to inspire our students to obtain a post high school education. Letting them wear college shirts on Fridays is part of this encouragement, but without donations of these items, this would be challenging!

We are continuously grateful for your congregation’s generosity and caring! Thank you for all that you do to support Park Elementary families and their students.

*Sincerely,
Kristi Franks, Principal
Lori Mueller, Social Worker*

Missions: Coming in January

Homeless Breakfasts

This year we are changing the process for our "Feed the Homeless" project. We will not be providing dinner, but will provide breakfast. We are collecting donations of items in the A-B or D entrances. Suggested items include breakfast cereals, cereal bars, granola bars, fruit (bananas, apples, oranges), pastries, orange juice, milk and things that can be easily put in their pockets.

The church will deliver the items to the shelter, so you do not have to be there at 5:30 a.m. Sign-up sheets will be at the Information Desks and in Sunday School classes in December.

Early Response Training (Disaster Response)

First Church will host Early Response Training (ERT) on January 27, from 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Register at <https://gp-reg.brtaapp.com/ERTWichita01-18>. Cost is \$25. Watch for more information about this training in the January "First Light".

Guatemala Stove Builders Work Team

January 20-28, Team Leaders: Bonnie and Steve Laycock

Hygiene Drive for Open Door

The Local Missions Commissions will be hosting a Toilet Paper drive during the month of January to benefit Open Door. Please bring toilet paper anytime during January to the Information Desk area. You may also donate money which allows us to purchase toilet paper.

So when you are out buying toilet paper, buy some extra packages and bring them anytime between now and the end of January to help those less fortunate.

Questions? Contact Annette at annettes@firstwichita.org.



BECAUSE THE MOST ESSENTIAL SCHOOL SUPPLY IS FOOD.

Volunteer Opportunity

The First Wednesday of each month (8-10 a.m.) we will be helping prepare food bags for Food 4 Kids at the Kansas Food Bank (1919 E. Douglas). These backpacks are discreetly provided each Friday for students across Kansas that are identified by local school teachers as needing more nourishment. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Annette Schmidt annettes@firstwichita.org. You can also sign up at <https://www.westheightsumc.org/missions-food-4-kids>. First United Methodist is in partnership with West Heights United Methodist on this project.

Upcoming Missions Calendar

December 5: Food 4 Kids @ Kansas Food Bank (8 a.m. – 10 a.m.)

December 17: Christmas Brunch, Meredith Hall (8:30 a.m. – 10:45 a.m.)

January 2018: Feed the Homeless Breakfast – all month

January 2018: Hygiene Drive for Open Door (Toilet Paper) – all month

January 3: Food 4 Kids @ Kansas Food Bank (8 a.m. – 10 a.m.)

January 20-28: Guatemala Stove Builders Work Team

January 27: ERT Training, 107B (8:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.)

January 28: Mission Lunch, Meredith Hall (11 a.m. – 1 p.m.)

Overall, almost 45,000 flood cleaning buckets were donated to UMCOR. And over 6,000 of those buckets came from the Great Plains UMC Conference. Over 300 of the buckets came from First United Methodist Church, Wichita!



Wichita First Church – you rock!

It took 17 minutes for 30 volunteers to load 200 completed Flood Cleaning Buckets, via a bucket brigade, into a trailer to be delivered to UMCOR affiliate Missouri Conference of the United Methodist Church in Columbia, Missouri! It was impressive! Bob and Janet Robinson left with the van and trailer once it was loaded and drove the buckets to Missouri.



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

Double Ring 106B

The holiday season is nearing and we look forward to being with family and friends. Some of our dearest friends are those we worship with and we are so thankful for them.

Two class members are currently in rehab following health issues. Gerald Beals and Polly McMillan are improving but need our prayers.

We continued with a study of Acts, Saul's conversion and the early church. During Jack Focht's absence, the Dir. of Missions, Annette Schmidt, provided an informative update on the status of missions and what is planned for 2018. We're excited for what's to come! We plan to use the Advent study book, "The Redemption of Scrooge", for our Advent lesson and guide.

A beautiful catered Christmas lunch is also planned in December at the church. We are a loving group of people who welcome you to join us any Sunday morning.

Hand in Hand 101B

Donna Fisher will lead us in the series, "Advent: the Redemption of Scrooge", November 26- December 17. We plan to share Christmas memories on December 24. Cliff will start a new series in Psalms, January 7.

Valerie is a new class leader on the first and second Sunday of the month. Others will fill in on the third and fourth Sunday. Charlie Eby made new class directories for everyone. If you don't have yours, they are in the classroom or we will try to get them to you. We will make a page of changes/errors and distribute it later.

The ladies enjoyed lunch at Alberto's in November and plan to have our next luncheon at Spears on Friday, January 12.

Class members have both contributed to the poinsettia fund and delivering poinsettias. Linda Hopper is coordinating this for the church through the Senior Saints.

Koinonia 303D

Koinonia will join other small groups in the Advent study, "The Redemption of Scrooge". This study reflects on several themes which Pastor Cindy will explore during her Advent sermon series. Join us for this enriching study.

Friday, December 22, Koinonia will hold our Christmas Party at The Meeting Room, 3147 W. Maple. Bring a covered dish to share. There is a \$5 charge.

We pray for concerns and joys in our prayer circle every week. Merry Christmas from the Koinonia Class!

50-50 107B

What a beautiful site on the way to our church to see all the wonderful colors in the trees. Every Sunday we enjoy getting together with our class members. Gary always has the coffee brewing for us.

Our teacher October 29 was Jeremy Kindy. He gave us a wonderful presentation about the Open Door on Topeka Street behind our church. He explained the way it operates with donations and many other things. It was very informative.

November 5, Ernestine Krehbiel spoke to us about how we can be inspired by doing many good deeds for others and by having positive thoughts with friends. November 12, good selections read by the Synders and other members, told about how WWII affected their lives as we remembered Veterans Days.

We are saddened by the death of Doris Thompson, another long time member, and wife of Bill. Her funeral was November 11 in the Sanctuary and the class hosted a reception. We are also saddened to learn of the death of Helen Halstead. She taught our class several weeks ago.

Our class is looking forward to our Christmas Party at Larkfield, December 2.

Stop by 107B for a handshake and a quick chat on Sunday mornings. You are welcome to come and stay to hear our lesson.

Pneuma 302D

We are finishing our study of The Beatitudes and will begin our Advent study "The Redemption of Scrooge" that will coincide with Pastor Cindy's Advent series with themes taken from "A Christmas Carol". Please feel free to join us for this study.

Pneuma will be celebrating the season with our annual progressive dinner on December 10. Pneuma Ladies met at the home of Connie Bishop in November and will meet at the home of Marlene Geier in December.

Many of our class were able to attend and share in the joy of the recent wedding of Marlene Coker to John Geier. Pneuma wishes the best and gives thanks for our longtime class member, Libby Eaton, as she prepares to retire from serving the church. We look forward to her being able to be in class again.

RNC 100D

RNC is looking forward to our December Wednesday night activities that will include Holiday Game Night and our annual Christmas Party hosted by Mead's Corner where we will feast on popcorn, scones and hot chocolate while enjoying a holiday movie. Our December Sunday School lesson will focus on the Nativity story this Christmas season.

Many thanks to all the members of First Church whose generous purchases of pecans helped us reach record breaking sales this year. Proceeds from the fundraiser will allow us to attend a Wichita Thunder hockey game, Wichita Wingnuts baseball game and host magicians and musicians to entertain us.

People's Open Doors 300D

Our class has celebrated the change of seasons, and welcomed the beauty of Thanksgiving and Christmas. We continue to be thankful to Rev. Joe and Rev. Rebecca Mohr for our class study, "What is the Bible?". We look forward to our Advent study, "The Redemption of Scrooge."

Our ministries of service included contributions to the RNC's pecan sale, and the Poinsettia Ministry in memory of former members. A wonderful UMW Unit Luncheon was prepared by Sharon Hamrick, Delaine Hartman, and Nonie Hollowell. We are grateful for the delicious meals they prepare.

A number of our class members were in attendance or served as volunteers for the outstanding Thanksgiving Mission Lunch. We are also very grateful to Annette Schmidt and all her volunteers for the beautiful and delicious dinner shared by all.

We look forward to a lovely Christmas Dinner Party together at Caesar's Table restaurant, coordinated by Karen and Bud Hudson. We are truly thankful for our time together and what First United Methodist Church means to each of us. We are truly blessed! Everyone is invited to share in our blessings of friendship and Bible studies.

Seekers 306B

We finished our study of John and are looking forward to the Advent study, "The Redemption of Scrooge." Dave Brant will lead this study which ties into Rev. Cindy's Advent messages. During the November break we have explored the issues of faith found in the movie "42" and have heard from our Church Counsel, Dave Seely.

The Seekers will celebrate the Christmas season with a dinner catered by Caesar's Table on December 9 in the Parlor. All Seekers and former members are invited to this evening of delicious food, white elephant gift exchanges, and fellowship. Please contact Annette or Jim Schmidt if you are interested in attending.

Our prayers are with members of our class who are dealing with health issues. We miss you and have lifted you up in our prayers. We are grateful for our Seeker family and are open to new family members. Won't you join us?

Calendar

December 2017

<p>1 8:00 PM 6:30 PM</p> <p>2 8:00 PM</p> <p>3 8:15 AM 8:30 AM 9:30 AM 9:30 AM 9:30 AM</p> <p>10:30 AM 10:50 AM 11:00 AM 11:30 AM 2:00 PM 2:00 PM 5:00 PM</p> <p>4 5:30 PM</p> <p>5 1:00 PM 6:30 PM 6:30 PM</p> <p>6 12:00 PM 1:00 PM 5:30 PM 6:15 PM 6:30 PM 6:30 PM 7:00 PM 7:00 PM</p> <p>7 9:00 AM 8:00 PM 6:30 PM</p> <p>8 8:00 PM 6:30 PM</p> <p>9 9:15 AM 8:00 PM 6:00 PM</p> <p>10 8:15 AM 8:30 AM 9:30 AM 9:30 AM 9:30 AM</p> <p>10:30 AM 10:50 AM 11:00 AM 11:30 AM 12:00 PM 2:00 PM</p> <p>2:00 PM 5:00 PM</p>	<p>Friday Forum Theater Performance - Wilke FLC El Mesias Band Rehearsal - 200D</p> <p>Saturday Forum Theater Performance - Wilke FLC</p> <p>Sunday Heritage Worship - Chapel Religious Nurture Center - 100D Sunday School - Church Wide Core Youth Small Group - 200D Sunday School K-6th Grade - 106C, 108C, 110C, 200C El Mesias Worship - 200D Downtown Alive Worship - Sanctuary Core-Kids Worship - 110C Agape Redeemed Church (ARC) - Chapel Forum Theater Performance - Wilke FLC Christmas Workshop - Meredith Hall The Gathering @ Mead's Corner</p> <p>Monday Church Council - 101B</p> <p>Tuesday DTA Planning- Media Suite Advent Study: Redemption of Scrooge - 204A Stephen Ministry Training Class - 103B</p> <p>Wednesday Apple Core - 302B Daytime Quilters - 308B DTA Choir Rehearsal - Sanctuary Religious Nurture Center - 100D Core Youth Group - 200D Core-Kids- 106C, 108C, 110C, 311C El Mesias Bible Study - 301D Bell Choir Practice - 305A United Methodist Men Bible Study - 103B</p> <p>Thursday First Place Quilters - Quilters Forum Theater Performance - Wilke FLC God and Dogs - Parking Lot</p> <p>Friday Forum Theater Performance - Wilke FLC El Mesias Band Rehearsal - 200D</p> <p>Saturday Forum Theater Performance - Wilke FLC</p> <p>Sunday Heritage Worship - Chapel Religious Nurture Center - 100D Mission Brunch - Meredith Hall Sunday School - Church Wide Core Youth Small Group - 200D Sunday School K-6th Grade - 106C, 108C, 110C, 200C El Mesias Worship - 200D Downtown Alive Worship - Sanctuary Core-Kids Worship - 110C Agape Redeemed Church (ARC) - Chapel Reception for Libby- Narthex Forum Theater Performance - Wilke FLC The Gathering @ Mead's Corner</p> <p>Monday Christmas Eve Tech Rehearsal - Wilke FLC Local Missions Commission - 101B</p> <p>Tuesday DTA Planning - Media Suite Christmas Eve Rehearsal - Wilke FLC Christmas Eve Rehearsal Dinner - 200D Advent Study: Redemption of Scrooge - 204A Stephen Ministry Training Class - 103B</p>	<p>11 9:00 AM 1:00 PM 5:30 PM</p> <p>5:30 PM</p> <p>12 1:00 PM 2:00 PM 2:00 PM 5:30 PM 6:30 PM</p> <p>6:30 PM 6:30 PM</p> <p>13 12:00 PM 1:00 PM 5:30 PM 6:15 PM 6:30 PM 6:30 PM 6:30 PM 7:00 PM 7:00 PM</p> <p>14 9:00 AM 8:00 PM 6:30 PM</p> <p>15 8:00 PM 6:30 PM</p> <p>16 8:00 PM</p> <p>17 8:15 AM 8:30 AM 9:00 AM 9:30 AM 9:30 AM 9:30 AM</p> <p>10:30 AM 10:50 AM 11:00 AM 11:30 AM 12:00 PM 2:00 PM 5:00 PM</p> <p>18 2:00 PM 4:00 PM</p> <p>19 1:00 PM 5:30 PM 5:30 PM 6:30 PM</p> <p>6:30 PM</p>	<p>Monday Caring Comforts - 106B, 110B Archives - 208B. Hospitality and Integration Commission - 107B SPPRC - Pastor Cindy's Office</p> <p>Tuesday DTA Planning - Media Suite Caregiver Support Group - Wilke FLC Caregiver Support Respite - 100D Board of Trustees - 308B Advent Study: Redemption of Scrooge - 204A Kid's Discipleship Council - 310C. Stephen Ministry Training Class - 103B</p> <p>Wednesday Apple Core - 302B Daytime Quilters - 308B DTA Choir Rehearsal - Sanctuary Religious Nurture Center - 100D Core Youth Group - 200D Core-Kids- 106C, 108C, 110C, 311C El Mesias Bible Study - 301D Bell Choir Practice - 305A United Methodist Men Bible Study - 103B</p> <p>Thursday First Place Quilters - Quilters Forum Theater Performance - Wilke FLC God and Dogs - Parking Lot</p> <p>Friday Forum Theater Performance - Wilke FLC El Mesias Band Rehearsal - 200D</p> <p>Saturday Forum Theater Performance - Wilke FLC</p> <p>Sunday Heritage Worship - Chapel Religious Nurture Center - 100D Mission Brunch - Meredith Hall Sunday School - Church Wide Core Youth Small Group - 200D Sunday School K-6th Grade - 106C, 108C, 110C, 200C El Mesias Worship - 200D Downtown Alive Worship - Sanctuary Core-Kids Worship - 110C Agape Redeemed Church (ARC) - Chapel Reception for Libby- Narthex Forum Theater Performance - Wilke FLC The Gathering @ Mead's Corner</p> <p>Monday Christmas Eve Tech Rehearsal - Wilke FLC Local Missions Commission - 101B</p> <p>Tuesday DTA Planning - Media Suite Christmas Eve Rehearsal - Wilke FLC Christmas Eve Rehearsal Dinner - 200D Advent Study: Redemption of Scrooge - 204A Stephen Ministry Training Class - 103B</p>	<p>20 12:00 PM 5:30 PM 6:15 PM 6:30 PM 7:00 PM 7:00 PM 7:00 PM</p> <p>21 9:00 AM 6:30 PM 7:30 PM</p> <p>22 5:30 PM 6:30 PM</p> <p>24 8:15 AM 8:30 AM 9:30 AM 9:30 AM 10:30 AM 10:50 AM 11:00 AM 11:30 AM 5:30 PM 11:00 PM</p> <p>25</p> <p>26 6:30 PM</p> <p>27 12:00 AM</p> <p>28 12:00 AM 9:00 AM 6:30 PM</p> <p>29 12:00 AM</p> <p>30 12:00 AM</p> <p>31 9:30 AM 8:30 AM 9:30 AM 9:30 AM</p> <p>10:30 AM 10:50 AM 11:00 AM 11:30 AM 5:00 PM</p>	<p>Wednesday Apple Core - 302B DTA Choir Rehearsal - Sanctuary Religious Nurture Center - 100D El Mesias Bible Study - 301D Bell Choir Practice - 305A Blue Christmas - Wilke FLC United Methodist Men Bible Study - 103B</p> <p>Thursday First Place Quilters - Quilters God and Dogs Brett Valliant Christmas Concert - Sanctuary</p> <p>Friday Investment Committee- 204A El Mesias Band Rehearsal - 200D</p> <p>Sunday Heritage Worship - Chapel Religious Nurture Center - 100D Sunday School - Church Wide Core Youth Small Group - 200D El Mesias Worship - 200D Downtown Alive Worship - Sanctuary Core-Kids Worship - 110C Agape Redeemed Church (ARC) - Chapel Christmas Eve Family Service - Wilke FLC Christmas Eve Candlelight Service- Sanctuary</p> <p>Monday- Merry Christmas! BUILDING CLOSED</p> <p>Tuesday Stephen Ministry Training Class - 103B</p> <p>Wednesday Chrysalis- Church Wide</p> <p>Thursday Chrysalis - Church Wide First Place Quilters - Quilters God and Dogs - Parking Lot</p> <p>Friday Chrysalis- Church Wide</p> <p>Saturday Chrysalis- Church Wide</p> <p>Sunday Sunday School - Church Wide Religious Nurture Center - 100D Core Youth Small Group - 200D Sunday School K-6th Grade - 106C, 108C, 110C, 200C El Mesias Worship- 200D Downtown Alive Worship - Sanctuary Core-Kids Worship - 110C Agape Redeemed Church (ARC) - Chapel The Gathering @ Mead's Corner</p>
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Holiday updates:

First Church will be closed, Monday, December 25 and Monday January 1.

On Sunday morning, December 31, we will have a combined service at 10:50 a.m.in the Sanctuary. (Heritage will not meet)

COMING IN WORSHIP

December 3
First Sunday of Advent
"Marley's Ghost:
Bad News before the
Good News"
Isaiah 2: 1-5,
Matthew 24: 36-44

December 10
Second Sunday of Advent
"The Ghost of Christmas Past:
Remembering as a
Path to Hope"
Isaiah 40: 1-5, Mark 1: 1-8

December 17
Third Sunday of Advent
"The Ghost of Christmas
Present: Embracing the
God Moment"
Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11, John 1: 6-8

December 24
Fourth Sunday of Advent
"The Ghost of Christmas
Yet to Come: The Promise"
Luke 1: 47-55, Matthew 1: 18-25

December 31
Epiphany Sunday
"The Real Work of
Christmas Begins"
Isaiah 60: 1-6, Matthew 2: 1-12

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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www.firstwichita.org
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 On Broadway between 2nd & 3rd Streets
 in downtown Wichita.



Don't forget to submit your poinsettia forms, in honor or memory of a loved one, by December 15. All donors along with honorees/memorials will be acknowledged in next month's *First Light*.

Grateful for First Church Family

On a recent Sunday afternoon, Orless O'Neal received a phone call from two men from the Seeker's Class who knew he needed some improvements to make his home more safely accessible. Soon Tom Tanner, Gary Unruh and his son, Jason, showed up to build an entry ramp from the garage to the inside of the home. The next day, they returned with a large platform, beautifully constructed to match the home, which helped Orless step up into the main living space. The men insisted on donating their time and labor. Orless wants First Church to know how grateful he is for this church family who exemplify working together to help each other.



Mead's Corner Hosts First Trunk-or-Treat

During October, Mead's Corner staff and volunteers gathered for the coffee shop's first annual Trunk-or-Treat. The event was a smashing success, with kids and families lined up around the block! A dozen friendly volunteers opened their trunks to the kids, and several more manned activity stations



such as face painting, bean bag and ring toss, and the most popular, pumpkin painting. Along with thousands of pieces of candy, the volunteers handed out popcorn, s'mores, non-food prizes, toothbrushes, and more than 200 kids books at a literacy table hosted by Pastor Cindy Watson. Children from First Church and from Washington and

Park elementary schools were all invited. Though there is no precise way to count how many people came to the event, we estimate over three hundred in attendance. Mead's Corner staff are incredibly grateful for all the help and donations received, and are already looking forward to an even bigger and better Trunk-or-Treat next Halloween!

