

FIRST LIGHT

June 2018
Vol. 163 No. 63

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 June as we begin the new series, "Vacation for the Soul". Summer is a wonderful time to focus and reflect on a vacation for our souls, that we might deepen in our spiritual walk and learn to find the paths which connect with Christ. We hope to see you in 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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School Celebrations

FEED THE HUNGRY

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

**June food collection:
Pasta/ Mac and 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.



On June 3, we will begin a new sermon series, "Vacation for the Soul." As a child, I always looked forward to summer vacations. We never had "big" vacation plans, but when I was younger there were picnics, trips to the park, Vacation Bible School, events with the Wichita Park and Recreation, sometimes a baseball game with fireworks and an occasional trip to a little cabin in eastern Kansas. As I grew older there was camp, both Girl Scout and church camps, bell choir and The Free tours. Summer was a time to be savored, school was out the schedule was more relaxed and the days were longer and the evenings seemed to

slowly move into the nighttime. Now, I am no longer a school girl or a youth, my children are grown and on their own. I still feel that sense of relaxation when summer hits. I spend long evenings on the deck when possible, ride my bike for both exercise and enjoyment, find more moments to be with family and friends. I believe we need vacations, we need time when the pace slows down and we can savor life a bit more. In scripture, that is called "Sabbath." In the Hebrew Law, that is a weekly occurrence and we are "commanded" to keep the Sabbath

June 3

"Sabbath: Friendship with God"

Deuteronomy 5: 12-15,
Mark 2: 23- 3: 6

June 10

**"Reverence of God:
Paying Attention to God"**

2 Corinthians 4: 7-9, 15-18,
Mark 4: 20-22, 31-35

June 17

**"Grounded in God: Sown,
Rooted and Harvested"**

2 Corinthians 5: 11-17,
Mark 4: 26-34

June 24

"Confessing to God: Fear and Awe"

Job 38:1-11, Mark 4: 35-41

Holy, in fact it is the only commandment that says that. Our lives have become so complex and driven, that this summer is a good time to focus and reflect on a vacation for our souls, that we might deepen in our spiritual walk and learn to find the paths to connect with Christ. Join us this summer for a "Vacation for the Soul".

Camp Horizon Work Team

So how does one enjoy a great weekend with church family? Join friends and make new ones on a multigenerational weekend team at Camp Horizon. Some arrived as early as Thursday; some left Sunday afternoon. On Saturday May 5, the main event began. Approximately 45 members, and 3 ducklings, of our congregation enjoyed a wonderful day at Camp Horizon. Some planted flowers in various locations, others installed wood bench tops in different locations. While some crews painted and trimmed repaired buildings, another crew helped with paperwork in the office. Some cleaned out the swimming pool and many helped with general yard work. Around 3:00 the important task of playing began! Tours on foot and in vehicles



investigated new and renovated buildings. Many discovered the cement factory, while others rode bikes on trails. A great dinner followed at the dining hall. The evening ended with a service held in the new outdoor sanctuary led by Dr. Dan Lord. The three amigos, led by Leslie Coates with Jim Valliant and Stuart Mack, guitars in hand led the congregation in song, with the help of Suzanne McKaig on the piano. We all enjoyed the fellowship at a great retreat. The camp is now ready for a new camping season bringing over 1200 youth to a closer relationship with God.

Wednesday Prayer Service

Beginning June 6,
join us each
Wednesday at
12:10 in the First
Church Chapel
for a lunch time
prayer service.
We will be
focusing on the
spiritual disciplines
from our sermon
series.

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 July 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,
Rev. Rebecca Goltry Mohr,
Leslie Coates

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.

**Memorial Sunday
A Time to Celebrate a
Legacy of Faithfulness**

Worship services held the Sunday preceding Memorial Day remembered and recognized those who left gifts to First Church at their passing. We celebrated these gifts and recalled memories of those who

blessed the church at death, as they had in life. Names of those who died in the last year and left a legacy gift or whose family named a memorial gift were read, as candles were lit, in memory of

each one. We are grateful for these expressions of faith and love, represented by memorial and legacy gifts, which help us to reach out to our community and world in mission, changing lives in Christ's name.

Legacy Gifts

Legacy gifts are made through a person's estate and can provide for its future. Between May 1, 2017 and April 30, 2018, estate gifts were received from these faithful individuals.

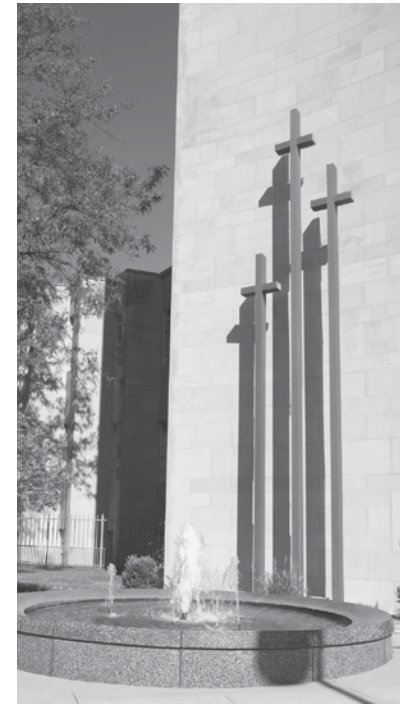
Name	Recipient / Purpose
Ralph Look Estate	Undesignated*
Nancy Beard Trust	TV Ministry / Organ maintenance fund /Undesignated*

* Board of Trustees will direct these funds to various church needs

Memorial Gifts

Memorial gifts are made in the memory of another. Between May 1, 2017 and April 30, 2018, a total of 490 memorial donations were made. These gifts were directed to special church needs, representing interests of those who died or fulfilling unique needs of the church.

Name	Recipient / Purpose
Robert Novotny	Meredith Hall improvements
Jeanette Robertson	Hand-up Fund
Dieter Dibbern	Building maintenance
Alden Carter	TV Ministry
Wanda Lay	To be designated
Eugene Miller	TV Ministry
John Kelso	TV Ministry
Walter Robinson	TV Ministry
Bettie Benedick	TV Ministry
Marjorie White	TV Ministry
David Ubben	TV Ministry
Dawn Wadsworth	TV Ministry
Doris Thompson	Choir scholarships
Donna Reynolds	TV Ministry
Arlene Klingsporn	Religious Nurture Center
Lee Riege	TV Ministry



OUR FAMILY

We celebrate the birth of:

Chase Kuhn, son of Amanda Shaffer and Mark Kuhn

We welcome new members:

Clarence (Sonny) Woodward (reaffirmed membership)

Jason Rutherford

Wayne and Sandra Howdeshell

We grieve the deaths of:

Fred Ricks

Gloria Wooten

William "Bill" Brooks, husband of Grace Brooks

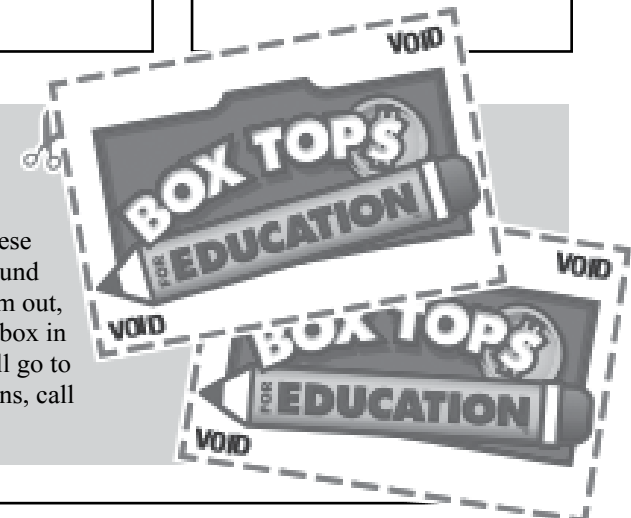
Joyce Benson, sister of Helen Smith

John Fisher, brother of Evelyn Fisher



Clip Box Tops for UMW

Everyone in our church can help us save and cut out BOX TOPS found on hundreds of products in our stores. No doubt you already have some of these products on your shelves today. Extensive lists of these products can be found at the desks at the AB and D entrances. Watch for these items and cut them out, put them in an envelope or plastic bag and leave them in the UMW postal box in the 2nd floor business office. These BOX TOPS (worth 10 cents each) will go to Park School to help purchase supplies for their school. If you have questions, call Shirley Ross at 651-0544.



OUR GIFTS

APRIL 2018 OFFERING

\$81,123.04

RECEIVED YEAR-TO-DATE

\$460,282.89

BUDGET YEAR-TO-DATE

\$442,725.00

EXPENSES YEAR-TO-DATE

\$387,615.64

OTHER CONTRIBUTIONS

MISSIONS

\$100.00

RECEIVED YEAR-TO-DATE

\$1,782.00

CAPITAL FUNDS

\$710.00

RECEIVED YEAR-TO-DATE

\$2,910.00

VAN MAINTENANCE FUND

\$0.00

RECEIVED YEAR-TO-DATE

\$0.00

ORGAN MAINTENANCE FUND

\$0.00

RECEIVED YEAR-TO-DATE

\$0.00

TELEVISION MINISTRY

\$19,324.37

RECEIVED YEAR-TO-DATE

\$103,586.47

BUDGET YEAR-TO-DATE

\$83,717.00

EXPENSES YEAR-TO-DATE

\$84,867.13

TOTAL CONTRIBUTIONS

\$101,257.41

RECEIVED YEAR-TO-DATE

\$568,561.36

OVER 70½ AND OWN AN IRA?

Qualified Charitable Distributions become more appealing

The Qualified Charitable Distribution is a tax-favored option for claiming charitable donations. But, the new Tax Cuts and Jobs Act has increased the potential deductibility of charitable donations for taxpayers who do not itemize their deductions.

The new tax legislation nearly doubles the standard deduction to \$12,000 per single taxpayer and \$24,000 per couple filing jointly. That means many taxpayers who have claimed itemized deductions in the past, including charitable contributions, will now claim the higher standard deduction instead. If you are one of those taxpayers, making donations as a Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD) can earn you a tax break on top of your standard deduction.

Following is information to help you navigate the QCD strategy:

What is a Qualified Charitable Distribution?

The QCD is the direct transfer of up

The CORNERSTONE INITIATIVE

to \$100,000 directly from your IRA to qualifying charities. Donations (IRA withdrawals) made under the QCD provisions are not included in your taxable income. If you are still itemizing your deductions, you can choose either the QCD or the itemization.

Logistically, this can be a check made payable to your charity by your IRA custodian and mailed to you to deliver. Or it can be a direct transfer from your IRA to the charity. (Make sure that your name, as the giver, will accompany the transfer.)

The important thing is that you never take ownership of the withdrawal.

Who can use a QCD?

You must wait until you pass age 70½ before you can make a qualified distribution and it must be from an IRA (vs a 401k plan). The Required Minimum Distribution (RMD) for an IRA owner starts at 70½, so the QCD treatment satisfies your RMD. But you can charitably distribute up to \$100,000 (per person), regardless of the amount of your RMD.

Getting the details right

Talk to your financial advisor and your tax preparer to determine the best way to use the QCD. Keep documentation of the charitable gifts you make with the QCD, including receipts from the charity. Make sure that your tax professional knows about your QCDs because the tax statements will continue to report distributions in the usual way.

Welcoming the Stranger

Individuals and congregations who are seeking ways to assist immigrants and refugees are invited to attend "Welcoming the Stranger – individuals, churches and schools." This forum by the Immigrant Family Support Network will explore services to refugees and immigrants in our public schools, how one can "accompany" immigrants and stories from churches on support to refugees, the decision to become a sanctuary church. The forum will be held on **Saturday, June 30 from 9 a.m. – 12:15 p.m. at First Presbyterian Church, 525 N. Broadway.** A group from First Church will be attending, and will have a processing and reflection time to gain new insights. Please contact Pastor Rebecca if you are interested.



Thank you for attending all church Sunday School on April 28, Mark your calendars for July 29- Deann Smith from Open Door will be joining us!

Spanish classes
taught by
Rev. Sergio Tristan
coming this
September.



Corps to Visit First Church June 17



MICAH CORPS visiting First Church on June 17- one team will be teaching about immigration during the Sunday School hour in the Double Ring Class- all are welcome to learn and attend. Micah Corps is a Great Plains UMC internship for young adults based on combining faith with social justice. Micah Corps is based on Micah 6:8. Eight interns are divided in teams of two, and each team focuses on a different topic. This year, the topics are immigration, peace and nonviolence, food insecurity and poverty, and environment. The interns will learn about their topics from experts in those fields, study what the Bible and United Methodist teaching says on those topics, and then present them to churches throughout the Great Plains Conference, to encourage the local church to engage in justice work in their communities.

Vacation Bible School – July 16-20, 5:15 - 8:00 p.m.

Join First Church and El Mesias as we partner together in hosting a Vacation Bible School to remember!

Babylon: Daniel's Courage in Captivity. Torn from his homeland and forced into a foreign King's service, Daniel maintained his steadfast faith because he knew God was with him through it all. Kids will meet him and hear his story during this action packed week. Each day, kids will sing, dig deeper at tribe time; visit ancient Babylon, and more! Register children Pre-K through entering 5th graders by filling out a card or by visiting our website, firstwichita.org.



Vacation Bible School Needs Adult Disciples!

There are many ways YOU can be involved in Vacation Bible School, here are some of the discipleship opportunities available:



Center Leaders are the core of Babylon VBS; these are the people who lead a variety of Bible time's activities with the kids and other adults.

- Palace Playground – Lead Tribes in high-fun, low-tech games each day
- Music Shop – Make a musical craft while sharing your beliefs.
- Jewelry Bazaar – Lead children in making a keepsake necklace of old-times.
- Mosaic Studio – Lead children in making a special mosaic memory box.
- Astronomy School – Lead children in to making a unique glow globes.
- Cylinder Seal Shop – Help children make their own cylinder seals.
- Food Court – Provide children an opportunity to taste yummy foods.
- Hanging Gardens Nursery – Show children how to make their own miniature hanging gardens.
- Metalworking Shop – Show children how to make their own metallic nameplates.

For a more detailed list of jobs please visit one of our display tables in A-B entrance or D entrance starting Sunday, June 3 at our VBS Kickoff! If you are ready to say yes, contact Patricia Tristan to get your assignment at patriciat@firstwichita.org or by calling 267-6244 ext. 318.

Tribe Leaders will be traveling with a group of children and an assistant tribe leader to the different centers. Tribe leaders don't have to set up anything; they just come each day, follow their leader manual, help facilitate discussions, and have lots of FUN. Babylon needs 12 Tribe leaders and 12 Tribe assistant leaders.

There are other opportunities to serve...Be a photographer, a greeter, a cook, be part of the set up team or clean up team. We need friendly people to register children, help count offering, there are endless possibilities; we just need a willing heart.



Hello First Church!

May marks the end of school and the conclusion of another exciting year of Youth Ministry. This past year has been filled with numerous transitions and great happenings. I would like to thank you for all the love and support that has carried us thus far. As many of you know, my position as youth director was on an interim basis. With the conclusion of the school year we will begin searching in earnest for someone who will take our youth program to the next level. I covet your prayers and well wishes as we enter this process and invite those who have concerns to approach leadership with their insights. If we work together and join in the task of raising the next generation of church members, I have no doubt our efforts will be blessed and honored by God. I am including the program plans for the first half of summer in hopes that it inspires confidence in the youth program and that it encourages people to come out and participate with our youth.



Youth Summer Schedule of Events

June 1-9

Set up Riverfest group messenger and coordinate hangout events.

Both youth and parents are invited to join in a snapchat group message in order to coordinate meetups and share what fun things are going on at Riverfest. Search for Ozymendius on Snapchat to connect!

June 7

Annual Conference Packet Day.

Annual Conference will be hosted in Wichita this year and in order to accommodate the event the church will be assembling packets. This will be done in tandem with Riverfest events. Both youth and parents are invited to help!

June 13-16

Pick an educational trip day to Annual Conference.

Once the agenda has been sent, we will select a day that most relates to youth interests and attend in order to learn more about the Methodist system and governance.

June 20

Mead's Corner Game Day/Hangout.

More details will be provided as we get closer to the date. I already know that there are some scheduling conflicts, so we will probably change the day. Keep posted for more updates.

June 29

Cook Out at the Mohrs for Joe's last Day.

Pastor Rebecca and Joe will be hosting youth, family, and church members as we open up our home for a cook out to celebrate the 8 months of Joe's time in the youth program.

If you have any questions or need updates or information for any events, please feel free to text or call me on my personal phone, 580-729-0781, Joe Mohr, Director of Youth.

Spring Fling 2018

It was a beautiful Saturday morning when 55 persons shared a delicious breakfast in Meredith Hall, prepared by the Local Missions Commission, prior to leaving to work on Spring Fling projects. With the gorgeous weather, we had a team working at the church on the front lawn and gardens and another team working outside Raise My Head. There was a team working at Mead's Corner and a team at the church working on projects for Washington Elementary. We had a team cleaning pews in the Sanctuary, another team cleaning Meredith Hall kitchen, and a team working in the children's area. We even had a group that made cookies at home and took them to the Via Christi-St. Francis Ronald McDonald House. The fellowship was wonderful, the work was good, and we were able to serve others.



WIN (Women's Initiative Network)

The April Missions Project was to gather needed items for the Women's Initiative Network. This was a new project for us and the response was overwhelming. We delivered two loads of requested items to them! Thank you so much.

Mission Lunch
Sunday, June 24
Meredith Hall
11 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Menu

Easy Supper Casserole
 Cole Slaw
 Relishes: carrots, celery, pickles
 Roll
 Ice cream sandwiches

To benefit the Bailey, Colorado Work Team

MISSION calendar

May – June 2018: Baby Diaper and Baby Wipes Drive (Mother's Day to Father's Day)
 June 3: Commissioning of Lake Michigan Work Team - Downtown Alive
 June 3: Camp Fontanelle Family Work Team Information Meeting, 12:30 p.m., Room 101B
 June 3: Africa University Work Team Information Meeting, 1:30 p.m., Room 101B
 June 9-17: Lake Michigan UMC Camp and Retreat Center Work Team
 June 10: Assembly of UMCOR flood buckets and hygiene kits, 1B Hallway, after Downtown Alive (Rescheduled from June 3)
 June 24: Mission Lunch to benefit Camp Horizon
 June 25-27: Oklahoma Disaster Recovery Work Team

Mission/Outreach Lunches
 June 24: Mission Lunch
 July 22: Mission Lunch
 August 26: Mission Lunch
 September 23: Mission Lunch
 October 28: Mission Lunch
 November 18: Mission Lunch
 December 16: Mission Brunch

Della Lamb Community Services Receives Third Blessing from First Church Women

First Church sent its third all-women mission team of nine ladies to Della Lamb in Kansas City, MO in April. Della Lamb is a National Mission UM site, organized and supported by United Methodist Women and the general church, serving those in poverty. Della Lamb began in 1897 as a response to the influx of Italian immigrants coming to the US seeking a new start for their families. Methodist Women, concerned with inadequate housing, rolled up their sleeves and offered assistance and welcome to their new Italian neighbors.

Today DL continues its ministry to low income families. They operate affordable programs for the working poor that provide nutritious, safe, stimulating

environments so parents can be productively employed, or learning new job skills. Della Youth Services provides quality youth activities after school and Saturdays.

While our women served at DL they spent time playing with, rocking and reading to the infants and preschoolers, meeting the parents and serving alongside the teachers. They also assisted in the preparation of the family Christmas gifts that the DL community prepares. Toys, winter hats and mittens, new underwear, coats, books, and gifts for parents are collected all year. Our women paired mittens with hats, wrapped new children's books, and sorted good used clothing.



Bonnie Beuning, Shy McPherson, Libby Eaton, Carolyn Mayfield, Emilie Petersen

Cont'd on page 8

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

Double Ring 106B

Our class lesson has continued with the Sermon on the Mount. In what Jesus had to say, there were five discourses. 1) Beatitudes, 2) Mission of Discourse 3) Parabolic – Parables 4) Church – Lost Sheep 5) End of times. All of these are a part of the Sermon on the Mount found in Mathew. Jesus not only prayed the Sermon on the Mount, but also lived it. It isn't easy for us to follow in his footsteps, but it is something for us to aspire to.

Class member Don Ambrose, along with his son Randy, went on the Washington D.C. Honor Flight and said it was a trip of a lifetime.

Stuart Mack provided an informative slideshow on Camp Horizon.

Our next social will be "Breakfast on Broadway" on June 23. Contact Mary Hill if you'd like to join us. We'd love to have you join us any Sunday morning for a thought-provoking lesson with a group of loving people.

50/50 107B

It's beginning to feel more like summer in Kansas, as the sun is warming our earth and giving us beautiful trees and flowers to enjoy.

We are saddened by the sudden death of classmate Fred Ricks, he will be missed.

We have had some excellent teachers the past few weeks. We enjoyed Bill Thompson showing us his interesting films and several other wonderful lessons from many people. We are still excited about our 70th Anniversary. We had such fun doing all of our projects and we are still talking about it. The response was very good and it was so nice to have a few of our old classmates come back. We were pleased that so many from the church came on the Sunday after to see our room and visit.

Please stop by room 107B while going or coming, to receive a friendly handshake and a chat with our members.

Hand in Hand 101B

Cliff Bertholf will be finishing his lessons on 1st and 2nd Timothy and Titus on June 3. Then on June 10, Ken Van Blaricum will begin an 8 week study of Moses, a series by Adam Hamilton.

Graduations, weddings, and anniversaries seem to be the reason for class socials this time of the year. Our class is invited to the wedding reception for Marcia (Hillman) Kurtz and John Kurtz on June 2 from 2-4 in the Parlor. On June 16 Charlie and Jean Eby will celebrate their 50th anniversary at the Wichita Country Club from 3-5 p.m. All class members are invited and we hope many of you will come.

The ladies enjoyed lunch at the Rib Crib in Derby on May 1. Our next luncheon will be on July 13 at a location to be determined.

Koinonia 303D

Our hearts are saddened by the death of Joyce Benson, our friend and classmate, on May 4, 2018. We will miss Joyce's smile and her kind, caring attitude.

Koinonia is studying and discussing the book, "Some Folks Feel the Rain Others Just Get Wet" by James W. Moore. Social activities for June include Sunday lunch at 12:30 p.m. at The Anchor on June 3, DeFazio's on June 10, Spears on June 17, and Mission Lunch on June 24. Also, dinner on Friday evening at 6:30 p.m. at Bigs on June 1, LeMonde on June 15, and Felipe's at 3434 W. Central on June 29.

We invite you to come to Room 303D on Sunday morning at 9:30 a.m. to have a cup of coffee and join the discussion, or come join us for a meal and friendly conversation.

People's Open Doors 300D

People's Open Doors class celebrated the closing days of spring with a spring brunch at Caesars Table Restaurant. We all had a wonderful time sharing a delicious meal and fellowship with each other.

We enjoyed meeting Karen and Bud Hudson's daughter Joy, visiting from Kansas City. Members of our class attended the combined

Sunday School session, participated in Spring Fling, provided assistance at Camp Horizon and continue to be involved in the life of the church where needed. We also participated in First Lunch for the UM Open Door and continue to assemble Dental Kits. Contributions were made to the Diaper Drive. Class member Gary Wagner has been a dedicated volunteer, by assisting with the 2017 tax season filings held at First Church this year.

Our class is honored to have Rev. Charles Claycomb share with us, during the next 6 weeks, his journey through life, including his amazing "near death" experience. We all are looking forward to each session.

We lift up in prayer all those who are not able to attend Sunday School and we hold them in our thoughts. Please visit us, as we explore this amazing opportunity together to share in this "Miracle of Life Experience," being presented to us. We want to thank the Pneuma Class for inviting us to be a part of this special and informative presentation.

Pneuma 302D

Pneuma has started a 6 week series led by retired United Methodist minister, Rev. Charles Claycomb. He is sharing six dreams he had when he experienced a near death experience. We are happy to have People's Open Doors join us for this series.

Many in our class enjoyed the weekend work team at Camp Horizon. It was a blessing to be part of preparing the camp while being in fellowship in a beautiful setting. Pneuma provided the end of school year, summer celebration bags for our First Church children. Some of our members were privileged to be part of helping with the celebration for the Park 5th graders.

Sandra Rogers was the host of Pneuma Ladies in May. In June we will be at the home of Lucinda Smetana-Hull.

Please know that we would welcome anyone who would like to join us as we travel in our faith journeys.

RNC 100D

Our Sunday School lessons for June will use the movie "Wonder" which centers on a young boy with a genetic facial difference who deals with both cruel bullies and good friends. The movie has some clear positive themes that we can discuss that cover choosing kindness, appreciating everyone for who they are (rather than what they look like), true friendship, empathy and perseverance. Special thanks to all the volunteers who prepared and passed out carnations on Mother's Day and helped us go bowling at in May. Looking forward to our annual summer party on June 27 hosted by the People's Bible Study that will feature fireworks, ice cream, games and music.

Seekers 306B

Kansas went from winter to summer this year! But the Seekers are enjoying spring if in fact the weather isn't cooperating. Four of our Seeker women, Vicki Tanner, Emilie Peterson, Nancy McKellar, and Bonnie Laycock (we still count her as a Seeker!) went to Columbus, Ohio for the United Methodist General Assembly in May. The Strattmans have returned from their tour of England and Europe with the Laycocks. Graduations included Annette and Jim Schmidt's daughter receiving her Ph.D in nursing. Patsy Kutz spent three weeks in Texas attending end of school events and looking for a new home. Patsy is moving to Texas to be nearer to her children and will leave a big empty space in our class. Others of us have been attending grandchildren's soccer games, school concerts and programs, babysitting—all the perks of being a baby boomer.

Several Seekers have enjoyed visiting with George and Susan Stover in their home over lunch. Check with Kathy Strattman so we don't all show up the same week!

Join us this summer as we study God's word and strengthen our friendships.

Calendar *June*

1 Friday
 10:00 AM Day In God's World - 110C
 11:00 AM Open Door Lunch Prep - Meredith Hall Kitchen
 6:30 PM El Mesias Band Rehearsal - 200D

2 Saturday

3 Sunday
 8:15 AM Heritage Worship - Chapel
 8:30 AM Religious Nurture Center - 100D
 9:30 AM Core Kids Sunday School K-6th Grade - 110C
 9:30 AM Core Youth Small Group - 200D
 9:30 AM Sunday School - Church Wide
 10:30 AM El Mesias Worship - 200D
 10:50 AM Downtown Alive Worship - Sanctuary
 11:30 AM Agape Redeemed Church (ARC) - Chapel
 12:30 PM Information Meetings for Camp Fontanelle & Africa University - 101B
 5:00 PM The Gathering @ Mead's Corner

4 Monday
 5:30 PM Church Council - 101B

5 Tuesday
 10:00 AM All Staff Meeting - Pastor Cindy's Office
 5:30 PM Stephen Ministry Supervision - 302B

6 Wednesday
 12:00 PM Apple Core - 302B
 5:30 PM Downtown Alive Choir Rehearsal - Sanctuary
 6:30 PM El Mesias Bible Study - 200D, 301D, 111C, 200C

7 Thursday
 9:00 AM First Place Quilters - Quilters (D Sub Basement)
 10:00 AM Hand Up - A-B Entrance
 1:30 PM Annual Conference Packet Assembly - 308B
 5:00 PM Harmony Guitar Program - 200D
 6:30 PM God and Dogs - Parking Lot

8 Friday
Pray for Lake Michigan Work Team (6/8-6/18)
 6:30 PM El Mesias Band Rehearsal - 200D

9 Saturday

10 Sunday
 8:15 AM Heritage Worship - Chapel
 8:30 AM Religious Nurture Center - 100D
 9:30 AM Core Kids Sunday School K-6th Grade - 110C
 9:30 AM Core Youth Small Group - 200D
 9:30 AM Sunday School - Church Wide
 10:30 AM El Mesias Worship - 200D
 10:50 AM Downtown Alive Worship - Sanctuary
 11:30 AM Agape Redeemed Church (ARC) - Chapel
 12:00 PM Assembly of UMCOR Kits - Hallway of 1B
 5:00 PM The Gathering @ Mead's Corner

11 Monday
 8:30 AM TIM Retreat - 205B
 9:00 AM Caring Comforts - 106B, 110B
 1:00 PM Archives - 208B
 5:30 PM SPPRC - Pastor Cindy's Office

12 Tuesday
 8:30 AM TIM Retreat - 205B, 205B Kitchen
 10:00 AM VBS Workday - 111C, 211C, 200D
 2:00 PM Caregiver Support Group - Wilke FLC
 2:00 PM Dementia Caregiver Support Respite - 100D
 5:30 PM Adult Council - 204A
 5:30 PM Board of Trustee - 308B
 5:30 PM Hospitality & Integration Team - 107B
 7:00 PM Kids Council - 310C

13 Wednesday
 8:30 AM TIM Retreat - 205B, 205B Kitchen
 10:00 AM Great Plains Committee on Lay Servant Ministries - 107B
 12:00 PM Apple Core - 302B
 5:00 PM United Methodist Men's 100 Club Dinner and Auction - Meredith Hall
 5:30 PM Downtown Alive Choir Rehearsal - Sanctuary
 6:30 PM El Mesias Bible Study - 200D, 301D, 111C, 200C

14 Thursday
 9:00 AM First Place Quilters - Quilters (D Sub Basement)
 12:00 PM MFST Luncheon - 302B
 5:00 PM Harmony Guitar Program - 200D
 6:00 PM Mead's Corner Operations Committee - Mead's Corner Upper Room
 6:30 PM God and Dogs - Parking Lot

15 Friday
 12:30 PM UMW Ladies Luncheon - Meredith Hall
 6:30 PM El Mesias Band Rehearsal - 200D

16 Saturday

17 Sunday
 8:15 AM Heritage Worship - Chapel
 8:30 AM Religious Nurture Center - 100D
 9:30 AM Core Kids Sunday School K-6th Grade - 110C
 9:30 AM Core Youth Small Group - 200D
 9:30 AM Sunday School - Church Wide
 10:30 AM El Mesias Worship - 200D
 10:50 AM Downtown Alive Worship - Sanctuary
 11:30 AM Agape Redeemed Church (ARC) - Chapel
 5:00 PM The Gathering @ Mead's Corner

18 Monday
 3:30 PM Local Missions Commission - 101B

19 Tuesday
 10:00 AM Discipleship Staff Meeting - 304C
 5:30 PM DTA Committee Meeting - Media Suite
 5:30 PM Stephen Ministry Supervision - 302B

20 Wednesday
 12:00 PM Apple Core - 302B
 5:30 PM Downtown Alive Choir Rehearsal - Sanctuary
 6:30 PM El Mesias Bible Study - 200D, 301D, 111C, 200C

Food Handlers License

Do you have a Food Handlers' License? Please turn in a copy to Annette Schmidt (annettes@firstwichita.org). This allows us to be sure that we have a Licensed Food Handler in the kitchen whenever food is being prepared. Questions? Email or call Annette at the church.

21 Thursday
 9:00 AM First Place Quilters - Quilters (D Sub Basement)
 10:00 AM Hand Up - A-B Entrance
 6:30 PM God and Dogs - Parking Lot

22 Friday
 6:30 PM El Mesias Band Rehearsal - 200D

23 Saturday
 8:30 AM Double Ring Social/ Breakfast on Broadway

24 Sunday
 8:15 AM Heritage Worship - Chapel
 8:30 AM Religious Nurture Center - 100D
 9:30 AM Core Kids Sunday School K-6th Grade - 110C
 9:30 AM Core Youth Small Group - 200D
 9:30 AM Sunday School - Church Wide
 10:30 AM El Mesias Worship - 200D
 10:50 AM Downtown Alive Worship - Sanctuary
 11:00 AM Mission Lunch - Meredith Hall
 11:30 AM Agape Redeemed Church (ARC) - Chapel
 5:00 PM The Gathering @ Mead's Corner

25 Monday
Summer Camp - Elementary (6/25-6/29)
 5:30 PM Finance Committee - 204A
 7:00 PM Global Missions Commission - 101B

26 Tuesday
 8:00 AM All Day Camp - Camp Horizon

27 Wednesday
 12:00 PM Apple Core - 302B
 5:30 PM Downtown Alive Choir Rehearsal - Sanctuary
 6:30 PM El Mesias Bible Study - 200D, 301D, 111C, 200C

28 Thursday
 9:00 AM First Place Quilters - Quilters (D Sub Basement)
 10:00 AM Hand Up - A-B Entrance
 6:30 PM God and Dogs - Parking Lot

29 Friday
 6:30 PM El Mesias Band Rehearsal - 200D

30 Saturday

COMING IN WORSHIP

June 3

"Sabbath: Friendship with God"

Deuteronomy 5: 12-15
Mark 2: 23-3:6

June 10

"Reverence of God: Paying Attention to God"
2 Corinthians 4: 7-9, 15-18
Mark 4: 20-22, 31-35

June 17

"Grounded in God: Sown, Rooted and Harvested"
2 Corinthians 5: 11-17
Mark 4: 26-34

June 24

"Confessing to God: Fear and Awe"
Job 38: 1-11
Mark 4: 35-41

To become involved in any of the School Ministries programs, contact Annette Schmidt or Libby Eaton. Your heart will be warmed as you share God's love and make a real difference in the life of a child in our neighborhood!

School Celebrations

Park fifth graders, their families, and school staff, a crowd of about 200, packed Meredith Hall on May 15 to celebrate their completion of elementary school. The smiles on our guests reflected their appreciation for the snacks and support provided by First Church and Mead's Corner Tip Jar through the School Ministries. Eight First Church volunteers laughed together as they prepared food for this event.

Three celebration sheet cakes were delivered to Washington Elementary School for their fifth grade celebration event. These were also provided by School Ministries fund.

Perfect Attendance is important at all schools, but especially in schools of poverty. First Church celebrated with 16 children who had perfect attendance at Park by attending all day, on time, every day the entire school year. School Ministries supplied juice, a sweet



donut treat, and gift bags with a new neon green soccer ball and jump rope to help keep these children active all summer long!

Finally, 16 Park girls completed their Girls on the Run course by finishing the 5k race on May 13. Girls on the Run requires that the girls attend two weekly classes after school for 10 weeks in the fall and again in the spring. Topics of study focus on healthy lifestyle and self esteem. The final event is the run. School



Ministries helped underwrite the cost of the classes and new shoes for each child. The girls proudly wore Girls on the Run t-shirts with the church logo on the back.

Keep an Eye Out for Uniform Supplies This Summer!

This school year the need for donated school uniforms is at an all time high at Park. Homeless children and those living in extreme poverty are so grateful for uniform pieces donated by First Church and purchased with School Ministry funds.

Summer is a great time of year to shop thrift stores, garage sales, and ask family members or neighbors if children have outgrown clothing which is still in good

condition. Uniform pieces required are solid red, white, and navy blue tops, and khaki and navy pants, sweatpants, or shorts. The shirts can be any type, even t-shirts or sweatshirts as long as they are solid with no decoration. All sizes are always needed, but especially in short supply are pants and tops in children's 5, 6, 7, and 8. Gently used items need to be clean and in good repair, please.

Good used or new tennis type shoes

in children's sizes are always welcome. And, because of the AVID program which helps kids think ahead about higher learning, college themed shirts are allowed to be worn on Fridays. We have received and always welcome small or medium adult college shirts, but children's sizes are especially appreciated also. Items may be brought to the church and left for Libby. The receptionist will notify her that items have been donated.

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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FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
Life Downright

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

Della Lamb, cont'd

In recent years DL has been engaged in refugee resettlement work, welcoming refugees from war torn areas. When a refugee family arrives in KC a welcome team is waiting to move them into a modest apartment with donated goods for housekeeping, English classes, suitable employment, guidance for children's schooling and daycare, citizenship prep work and enough money to sustain them for 2-3 months. The DL team and volunteer mentors stand by the family but the refugees have longed to be here for years in a safe place and have signed a contract to work hard and be self-reliant. Our mission education sessions were enlightening and opened our eyes to the suffering of others in the world.

Jesus said "Come to me all you who are weary and heavy laden and I will give you rest." Paul said, "Bear ye one another's



Bonnie Beuning, Emilie Petersen, Libby Eaton, Shy McPherson, Carolyn Mayfield, Nancy McKellar

burdens and so fulfill the laws of Christ." And in 1903 Emma Lazarus wrote for the pedestal of our Statue of Liberty, "Give me your tired, your poor, your huddled masses yearning to breathe free, the wretched refuse of your teeming shore. Send these, the homeless, tempest-tossed to me. I lift my lamp beside the golden door". These words shape the faith and hope our Della Lamb missionaries have for people everywhere, and the calling they feel to be of service. UMW=Faith+Hope+Love in Action.



Janet Robinson, Bonnie Beuning, Emilie Petersen, Libby Eaton