

“DRAW THE CIRCLE WIDE, RIPPLES OF THE SPIRIT”
“Ripples of Hospitality”

This Sunday we wrapped up the series, “Draw the Circle Wide.” The series began on Pentecost, the day when the Spirit descended upon the crowds and people spoke in all languages. The series concludes with a ripples opening up to invite in the stranger, to nurture and accept all people by welcoming the Samaritans of our lives. The circles we are left with after this sermon series have hopefully become more inclusive and have space for growth in how you interact with others.

This week, the circle continues to grow as VBS (vacation bible school) will take place every evening at FUMC. The VBS theme this year is, “To Mars and Beyond!” one way we can lift up the ministries that our children are involved in is by praying for them each day. You will see that the daily devotion has a “VBS Power Launcher,” these follow the VBS lessons the children will be learning have fun keeping these Power Launchers at the forefront of each day this week!

Things I’d like to remember from today’s sermon: **“Ripples of Hospitality”**

Daily prayer: *God, you are the artist that draws the circle wide. Help us to show hospitality and love to all people in our lives. Bless your dear children as they are learning about your great love for them in VBS. And give each volunteer and teacher the understanding to draw their circle wide so that love can ripple from the bounds of our community. We love you God, Amen.*

This week’s sermon may be viewed at <http://sundaystreams.com/go/firstwichita>

Study Guide

Monday, July 15, 2019 Galatians 5:22-25

The fruits of the spirit are contrasted with the many works of the flesh. The Spirit produces singular fruit in a justified person manifested in a variety of ways. Because of the love Jesus Christ has for us, we belong to Christ, the characteristics of the flesh have gone away and we have a new life in the spirit. We seek to live and be guided by the Spirit in all that we do. Living as people with goodness and spirit-given giftedness, each of us are called to not become apathetic or lazy with our giftedness but to share our gifts with the world! *How can you share the fruits of the spirit you have been given to others? What are the fruits of the spirit you have to share?*

VBS Power Launcher: Go Beyond with Faith!

Tuesday, July 16, 2019 Luke 10:25-37

This is the story of the Good Samaritan. Where do you locate yourself in this scripture? So often in popular culture we aspire to be the Samaritan, but never in scripture does it say 'Good Samaritan.' Why do you think our culture has such a fascination with this story? This story, shows hospitality, and selfless giving in such a way that we all want to be the Samaritan. We all want to make a difference in our communities and we want to be the person that surprises others with our giftedness. Today, be bold and think about how you can notice those Good Samaritan's of your life and how you might go out of your way to bless others. *Have you had a Good Samaritan encounter? What happened? How did it leave you feeling?*

VBS Power Launcher: Go Beyond with Boldness!

Wednesday, July 17, 2019 Deuteronomy 30:9-14

This scripture is central what it means to be the people of God. If you follow God's commands, you will be blessed. This is the Hebrew bible understand of loving and serving God. It was rather formulaic and legalistic. But this defined code of conduct to love God and neighbor is still ingrained in how we live out our faith with loving kindness. *How can the boundaries God sets for how we live our lives bring joy to God? In what ways can you better love and serve God through daily actions?*

VBS Power Launcher: Go beyond with kindness!

Thursday, July 18, 2019 Psalm 25:1-10

"Make your ways known to me, Lord; teach me your paths." As we are called into a life of discipleship, we seek to follow the path of God. With each step we take in life we yearn to know God more fully and live our lives as people convinced of God's compassion and goodness. For all of these things we are thankful! *Have you ever been off the path that God has set before you? How do you know when you are following God and trusting in God's promises?*

VBS Power Launcher: Go beyond with Thankfulness!

Friday, July 19, 2019 Amos 7:7-17

If you like the prophet Amos, you don't understand him. This scripture reading has Amos' call story, with the plume line and the series of visions. The series of visions is interrupted by Amos' call story. Amos, a prophet is a figure of a particular time and place within Israel's narrative. Amos, a dresser of sycamore trees does not think he is cut out for the work of a prophet, but nevertheless God calls him to prophesy. Speaking truth to power, the call of Amos reminds us to cling to the hope of God in times of strife. *When is a time that you spoke out during an unpopular time and you felt alone? How does God speaking through you show up in your life?*

VBS Power Launcher: Go beyond with Hope!