



FIRST LIGHT

December 2019
Vol. 164 No. 81

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

THIS SUNDAY

During December we will begin our Advent sermon series, “Women of Advent”. We hope to see you in worship Sundays at 8:15 a.m., 10:30 a.m., 10:50 a.m., 5:00 p.m., or live at 11:00 a.m. on KAKE TV and live on the web at firstwichita.org.

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Blue Christmas

FEED THE HUNGRY

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

December food collection:
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.



The Christian new year begins with the season of Advent. This year, using Matthew 1, we will be looking at the “Women of Advent.” Usually genealogies list only the paternal relatives, but Matthew lists four women. Four INTERESTING women, that one might not usually consider lifting up as examples. A widow who seduces her father-in-law, an actual prostitute who hides the Israelites in exchange for her family being saved, a Moabite woman, part of a nation excluded from Jewish community and the name often used as a descriptive for “enemies of God.”

The final woman was married and the king of Israel demanded her presence and when she was found pregnant her husband was murdered. These are the women of Advent, not some holy and righteous women, but women who were strong, determined and in their own ways faithful. Matthew remembers them as ancestors of Jesus. Jesus’ mother Mary, also had scandal attached to her as an unwed mother. These women are reminders to all of us that we can be followers of Christ, no matter what our background.

The Women of Advent schedule

December 1
“Tamar, the Widow”
Genesis 38: 11-18, 24-30,
Matthew 1: 1-6

December 8
“Rahab, the Prostitute”
Joshua 2: 8-15,
Hebrews 11: 30-34

December 15
“Ruth the Moabite”
Ruth 1: 16-22, Luke 1: 47-55

December 22
“Bathsheba, Wife of Uriah”
2 Samuel 11: 1-16, 26-27,
Matthew 1: 18-25

December 24
“Mary, Blessed Among Women”
Isaiah 9: 2-7, Luke 2: 1-20

December 29
“We are the Ancestors of Christ”
Luke 2: 25-38

Christmas at First Church
December 4
6:00 p.m.-Churchwide, Advent Open House

December 15
8:45-10:45 a.m., Christmas Mission Bruch

December 21
7:00 p.m.- Wilke FLC, Blue Christmas Service

December 22
12:00 p.m.- Meredith Hall,
All Church Fiesta Lunch

December 23
7:30 p.m. - Sanctuary
20th Annual Brett Valliant Christmas Concert

December 24
Christmas Eve Services, 5:30 p.m.
Interactive Family Service
Sanctuary

11:00 p.m.
Candlelight Communion
Sanctuary, 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 December 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 FAMILY

We celebrate the baptism of: Chloe Whitters

We welcome members: Marcos Raymundo Payten Remington Chloe Whitters

We grieve the deaths of: Dominick Sublett, grandson of Evelyn Brown

Holly White

Robert McCoskey, husband of Virginia McCoskey

Dale Goodrich, husband of Jeanette Goodrich

Lorine Kieler, wife of Rev. Harold Kieler

Brett Valliant Announces Resignation

It is with a heavy heart that I share with you the news that Brett Valliant will be moving on to a new state and a new job, the first of January. It has been such an honor and delight for me to work with Brett, as he is one of the most gifted musicians I have ever met. I am deeply happy for him and this new opportunity. I will miss him and wish him the very best. Below is an excerpt from Brett’s resignation.

Being on staff at First Church for 21 years has been the greatest privilege of my life, and it is with many great memories that I am resigning effective the end of 2019 with Christmas Eve being my last services.

To say I am thankful for the years at FUMC would be an

understatement. Don Enoch always told me that if I ever leave FUMC, make sure to be running towards something and not away from something. I’m certainly not running away, but rather to an opportunity I can’t pass up.

My colleague in Arizona, passed away unexpectedly and they have offered me his full time position, and I have accepted. Please keep me in your prayers as I make this transition. The last time I had a new job I was in high school!

Gratefully, Brett Valliant

Please join us on Sunday, December 22 in worship, as we celebrate Brett’s many years



of ministry with First Church. There will be an opportunity for the congregation to share their appreciation through personal memories as well as notes and cards. We will also gather on December 23, following the 20th Annual Brett Valliant Christmas concert for a reception in his honor, thanking him for his faithful service to First Church.

All Church Sunday School December 29, 9:30 a.m., Meredith Hall



Join us in Meredith Hall after the rush of the holidays to rekindle and reconnect with friends from First Church at the All Church Sunday School. As we celebrate our Savior born, we will sing Christmas carols, play Christmas games, sip coffee, hot cocoa and eat tasty donuts. All classes are

encouraged to meet together on this 5th Sunday to make new connections with others in our congregation. What better way to start off the New Year! You don’t have to be in a Sunday school class to come, we hope to see many and hear the stories of your encounter with Christ this holiday season.

New Stephen Ministry Class Forming

I pray that you may be active in sharing your faith, so that you will have a full understanding of every good thing we have in Christ. – Philemon 1:6

By DENISE HOLE When you sign up for Stephen Ministry training, only God knows how you will be used, or how your life will change. I guarantee it will. In the past 9 years, Stephen Ministers have quietly been working behind the scenes walking side by side with care receivers. Their dedication to visiting care receivers once a week for about an hour, as a trained lay care giver brings blessings unimagined. To become a Stephen Minister, you need to apply, be interviewed, and trained. The 50 hours (20-2 ½ hr. sessions) of training will stretch your understanding, caring, listening and serving God. It will require reading about depression, boundaries, confidentiality and speaking the truth

in love. Practice sessions will make you laugh, and cry; just like a campfire at the end of church camp. After training, Stephen Ministers meet bi-monthly for peer supervision groups, where the caring relationships are monitored to ensure the best care possible in the name of First Church and Stephen Ministries. Some relationships with care receivers last just a few weeks, others have lasted over a year. We ask for a two year commitment, 6 months of training and 18 months of service as a Stephen Minister. You can always re-up and stay longer. An evening class is forming now to start January 21, 2020 on Tuesday at 5:30 p.m. Come join us! Contact Rev. Tal Tittsworth at the church or Denise Hole for more information.

Christmas Eve Family Service

5:30 p.m., Sanctuary Come join us in the Sanctuary on Tuesday, December 24 at 5:30 p.m. as First Church will be experiencing an interactive retelling of the nativity story. This family service is designed for people of all ages and abilities. It will include carol singing, storytelling, and each participant will receive a prop straight from the Nativity Story! The service will conclude with the candlelight singing of “Silent Night”. A cookie reception, and a family photo booth will be available for all immediately following the service. This classic family Christmas Eve service is something you can invite all of your household guests to- they won’t want to miss out!



Pastor Cindy Study Leave

The Staff Pastor/Parish Committee in consultation with Pastor Cindy has affirmed a one-month study leave for Pastor Cindy beginning January 1, 2020. The United Methodist Discipline allows and encourages a month study leave each four years. (PP 350.2) Pastor Rebecca will be in charge of all pastoral duties and assignments during Pastor Cindy’s study leave (as well as Pastor Tal and all our other staff continuing their terrific work). The SPPRC enthusiastically supports and encourages our clergy in their continuing education.

OUR GIFTS

October 2019 OFFERING
\$58,732.50
RECEIVED YEAR-TO-DATE
\$917,629.89
BUDGET YEAR-TO-DATE
\$961,359.66
EXPENSES YEAR-TO-DATE
\$996,689.06

OTHER CONTRIBUTIONS
MISSIONS
\$593.00
RECEIVED YEAR-TO-DATE
\$14,820.00

CAPITAL FUNDS
\$110.00
RECEIVED YEAR-TO-DATE
\$5,669.19

VAN MAINTENANCE FUND
\$0.00
RECEIVED YEAR-TO-DATE
\$0.00

ORGAN MAINTENANCE FUND
\$0.00
RECEIVED YEAR-TO-DATE
\$11,564.00

TELEVISION MINISTRY
\$9,843.00
RECEIVED YEAR-TO-DATE
\$172,854.76
BUDGET YEAR-TO-DATE
\$201,292.50
EXPENSES YEAR-TO-DATE
\$227,969.49

TOTAL CONTRIBUTIONS
\$69,278.50
RECEIVED YEAR-TO-DATE
\$1,122,537.84

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.

Boxing Day
OPEN HOUSE
DECEMBER 26
2:00-5:00 P.M.

**PASTOR CINDY & ANDREW'S
HOUSE
1449 N. FAIRVIEW AVE.**

**PLEASE BRING A CANNED
GOOD OR NONPERISHABLE
ITEM TO HELP RESTOCK
THE SHELVES AT OPEN DOOR**

2020-21 Scholarship
Applications now available

2020-21 Scholarship
Applications now available
Each year, the Scholarship
Committee of First United
Methodist Church awards
scholarships to church
members who wish to pursue a
post-secondary education. This
includes, but is not limited to,

graduating high school seniors,
students already attending
college, and seminary students.
Scholarships are funded
through named endowments
and other gifts to the church
specified for scholarships.
Students are eligible to receive
a scholarship from the church

for up to five years, provided
they meet the scholarship
requirements. An application is
required each year.
Scholarship Application
forms are available at the
information centers in the A/B
and the D entrances and at
firstwichita.org.



**Completed 2020-21 Scholarship Application packets
are due at the church by Friday, January 17 at 5 p.m.**

The application due date is in January
in order to help students who are applying
for other matching United Methodist
scholarships. Earlier scholarship award
decisions and announcements will also
facilitate spring recognitions of First

Church's high school seniors.
If you have any questions regarding the
scholarship process, please contact Dr.
Mike Willome, Scholarship Committee
chairperson, at 943-9306.

Year-End Contributions

Any money received by the church (in the offering plate or otherwise) after December 31, must be reported as 2020 giving for tax purposes. This is true even if the check is dated in 2019. The only exception is for checks that are mailed and bear a 2019 postmark. Please contact the Business Office if you have any questions about year-end contributions.



United
Methodist
Women

**UMW Expanded Executive
Committee**
December 4, 10:30
Room 101B

**Church Women United
Annual Assembly Luncheon**
December 6, Noon
West Heights UMC
745 N. Westlink

FIRST CHURCH CIRCLES
DECEMBER 11

Elizabeth Circle
Hostess: Karen Hudson- 558-8555
Room 107B
Program: TBD

Rachel Circle
Noon
Hostess: Coila Earnest- 722-6711
1252 N. Westlink
Program: Christmas- Cheryl Ward
Cost: \$5.00

Sarah Circle
Noon
Hostess: Grace Brooks – 721-3747
7373 E. 29th St. N.
Program: Christmas- Polly McMillan

2nd Annual First Church Friendly Christmas Competition

Open House

December 4 • 6-8 p.m.

Come join in the festivities and fun!
Hot cocoa, cookie decorating, craft making!
Tour the church and see all the decorations!

All Church Christmas Event
Advent Open House
Wilke Family Life Center
Wednesday, December 4
6:00-8:00 p.m.

We are excited for the Advent Open House and would love to have your help at one of the following tables! We will be setting up on Tuesday, December 3 at 4:30 p.m.

- 1.Cookie decorating table
- 2.Ornament making table
- 3.Christmas Bingo
- 4.Photo Booth
- 5.Miscellaneous Crafts
- 6.Coloring sheets for kids
- 7.Religious Center

THANK YOU TO EMBERHOPE to help again this year with the hot chocolate bar.

Youth Group and Children's Ministries – Wednesday Nights in December

The youth are all back together meeting now as Confirmation is complete. We look forward to being back together again.

■ December 4 – Advent Open House

■ December 11 – Make Christmas Cards with City Arts together with RNC

■ December 18 – CHRISTMAS Party – Bring a favorite snack – We will sing carols, eat, and have fun!

■ December 25 – NO YOUTH DUE TO CHRISTMAS

L to R: Brad Remington, Pastor Rebecca Goltry-Mohr, Chloe Whitters, Payten Remington, Marcos Raymundo, Rev. Cindy Watson, Greg Anton

Congratulations to Our Confirmands!

We are so proud of our Confirmands and all the hard work they have put in over the last 12 weeks. The class were recently confirmed in Downtown Alive worship on Sunday, November 17. Congratulations! We are proud to be on this faith journey with you!

Christmas Eve Services

We hope your family can join us for a Family Interactive service at 5:30 p.m. on Christmas Eve. This service will be in the Sanctuary. Cookie reception to follow.

Also, don't forget our traditional Christmas Eve Service at 11:00 p.m.

Wednesday, December 25 and January 1– NO YOUTH OR CHILDREN ACTIVITIES will meet! Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Share a Pair

December

Mission Project:

A Pair to Share

First Church mission emphasis for December is collecting gloves to warm the hands of our neighborhood children. Park School Social Worker, Lori Mueller, states that many children walk to school, and they are in desperate need of gloves.

Our Park School community hovers at about 97% poverty, even though parents are working one or often two jobs. Lori recently stated, “Our poor children just seem to be getting poorer.” That may seem odd to us, but the wages in our community are not rising at the same rate as the cost of groceries, clothes, utilities, etc.

All types of gloves are requested, from those for little children’s hands through adult sizes. Stretchy gloves, mittens as well as gloves with more lining are all welcome. Donations may be placed on the tree in the AB entrance or left with receptionists at either entrance. School Ministries Fund receives no money from the church budget. Thus, financial contributions are always appreciated. Checks should be made to the church with the notation of “School Ministries.” They may be placed in the offering or the vault drop outside the office, or mailed to the church.

As the cold weather arrives, it’s time to dig out your own gloves and bring a pair to share. We have about 350 neighborhood children at Park. Let’s try to warm all 700 hands!



Mystery Solved – How I Made a Friend over Toilet Paper!

BY JUDITH OSWALD

Large trash bags filled with toilet paper would show up in the Mission Closet or in the Director of Mission's office. Where did they come from? The rolls were not what one expected. These rolls were different sizes, but usually about the size of a roll used in the home and without plastic wrappings. Hmmm? Who brought them? Nevertheless, they were delivered to and received gratefully by the Open Door Community Food Ministry to be distributed to families.



Cal McMillan

One summer Sunday morning I was greeting in the AB entrance, when Cal McMillan came through the doors carrying a huge bag of toilet paper and ask the receptionist where to deliver it! Since I often deliver First Church's mission offerings to Open Door, I offered to skip the middle step and transfer his trunk-load of toilet paper to my car trunk and take it to Open Door. In

the parking lot, we reached an agreement. When he had collected several bags, he would call me and I would come to his home to pick it up and deliver it to Open Door, making sure that First Church was given credit for the donation. But where did Cal get all this toilet paper?

Here is the rest of the story! Cal's law office was near the downtown YMCA where he played racket ball each noon. He made friends with the maintenance supervisor. Discovering the ends of the huge commercial rolls of toilet paper used in the large round dispensers were thrown away, Cal ask if he could have them. He credits his Scottish heritage for this request! Cal has since retired but his YMCA friend still collects the ends of the rolls for him. When Cal calls me he identifies himself as the "toilet paper man" and I am in his list of contacts as the "toilet paper person". But I now think of him as my friend Cal, who saw a



needed resource being wasted and stepped up to bridge the gap between the YMCA and low income families.

Win-win situation! Cal's collection provides toilet paper for the Open Door clients. Cal is part of local missions and I am privileged to visit a member of our church in his fascinating workshop that I would not have otherwise known.

Mission Calendar

■ December Mission Project:
School Partnerships

■ December Food of the Month:
Macaroni & Cheese

■ December 15:
Mission Brunch to benefit UMCOR

■ January Mission Project:
Feed the Homeless

3rd Annual Mission Brunch December 15

The Mission Brunch is slightly different than our usual Mission Lunch! Two options are available individuals or classes can: (1) come to Meredith Hall to eat or (2) pick up food for your Sunday School class or group and enjoy in your room. Food will be available from 8:45 – 10:45 a.m. Simply complete a reservation form, available December 1 at the A-B Information Desk. Questions? Contact Annette Schmidt at annettes@firstwichita.org or 267-6244 Ext. 320.

Menu

Biscuits and Sausage Gravy
Sausage Egg Casserole or
Egg Casserole (without meat)
Cinnamon Roll Cake
Fruit
Juice
Coffee (if eating in Meredith Hall)

Mission Closet Update

In April 2019, we opened the Mission Closet at the end of the 1B hallway. We had decided to try this because the A-B Entrance was getting cluttered. Well, it didn't work out as well as we had hoped. Missions has not been getting as many donations and sometimes the closet became cluttered with various items.

We will continue to have barrels for Union Rescue Mission collection of books, DVDs, CDs and VHS tapes in the closet. Other donations may be left in the A-B if there is a display set up. If there is not a display, please notify the receptionist that you have donations for the monthly mission project so they can be picked up.



Family Promise[®] of Greater Wichita

Building community, strengthening lives.

You may have heard that First Church is changing from being a host church for Family Promise to being a support church. This means instead of hosting families in our building, we will be supporting another host church by providing volunteers for their host week. We do not have the exact dates yet, or the names of the churches we will

be supporting. We will plan to have a meeting in January for all who wish to continue to volunteer to support this ministry. Watch for upcoming details. If you need refresher training, one will be held January 12, 2020 at Covenant Presbyterian, 1750 N. Tyler at 9:45 a.m. These are scheduled regularly, watch for continuing notices.

Family Promise recently moved to their new Day House, just across the street from First Church (401 N. Emporia). If you or your group would like to help get things ready, contact carrie.corliss@familypromisewichita.org.

Thanks for your continued support - Schy McPherson and Dena Davis, coordinators

January Feed the Homeless

This January we will again provide breakfast for the homeless. We will be ordering food from Sam's and will need help delivering the food to

Humankind (formerly Inter-Faith Inn).

In addition to needing people to pick up the food at Sam's, we will also need monetary donations.

Or if you would like to bring food items to the church for delivering to Humankind, we will have a list of food items needed.

class News & Notes

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

Double Ring 106B

The holiday season is upon us and Jesus is certainly the reason for the season! We have much to be thankful for and our church and Sunday School are among them. One of our speakers in November was our historian Polly McMillan who provided interesting facts about the history of our Double Ring class.

On Veteran’s Day Sunday our class president, Rocky Janes, decorated with flags and gave a flag to each veteran. Don Hogg wore his WWII uniform on his 87th birthday and we sang “America the Beautiful” and said the Pledge of Allegiance. It was great!

We continue to study Adam Hamilton’s book, “Simon Peter-A Flawed But Faithful Disciple”. It’s an excellent book we recommend to all classes. In closing, we send our love to all of our brothers and sisters in Christ, wishing all a very joyous holiday season.

Hand in Hand 101B

Hand in Hand will be merging with the 50-50 class in January. We have met together several times for lessons, and will officially move to 107B in the new year. Diane Quantic will be teaching an Advent series in December.

Our Christmas Party will be in the auditorium at Larksfield Place on December 7 from 4-7 p.m. Grace Brooks will be our hostess. We’ve invited the 50-50 class to join us. This will be a good opportunity to get better acquainted before we officially become one class.

Several from our class will decorate on behalf with nativity sets for the Open House on December 4. Linda H. is heading up the poinsettia drive for our homebound members. Others helped prepare the Thanksgiving dinner on November 24. It’s a busy time in our church life. Stop by 101B for coffee and a visit in December and then 107B in January. Merry Christmas to all!

Koinonia 303D

The Koinonia class invites other single adults to join us in room 204A on Sunday morning for a cup of coffee and fellowship. Stay for an interesting study and discussion.

Our class eats together twice a week - lunch on Sunday at 12:30 p.m. and dinner on Friday at 6:30 p.m. We plan to see “A Christmas Carol” at the Forum Theatre on December 15 as a group. Koinonia will celebrate Christmas together at Spears on December 20 with a white elephant gift exchange. Guests are always welcome. Stop by room 204A for a schedule of our plans.

People’s Open Doors 300D

We have enjoyed our study from the book, “The Present Word”. We have learned that in order to experience God’s grace, we must hold on to our faith, always. We will delay continuing our study, for our Advent Series, “Before Christmas”, by Bill Chowder. This study, led by Barbara Simons, will bring us on a journey into the very heart of God, and to help us develop a greater understanding of what it means that “the Father has sent the Son to be the Savior of the world”.

Our class members continue to stay busy in the life of the church. The Chicken Noodle Dinner and Quilt Auction was a wonderful

success. We had active volunteers in food preparation, bidding, bake sale coordination, and attendance. We are always blessed with members from the RNC as we partnered with them at Spooktacular Sunday. Our class donated to the toilet paper drive, and individuals will be providing donations to Ember Hope. We look forward to the Open House and Friendly Christmas Competition. Last year was a great success, and we are excited to see what this year will bring!

Our Christmas Party gathering will include a bus tour of the beautiful Christmas lights, while we enjoy a box dinner on board. We pray for the unity and the love that is shown in First Church. And we encourage everyone to reach out and bring happiness to our families, friends, and others, sharing the good news! Please join us on Sunday mornings, and share in our Christian fellowship and friendship. Our doors are always open!

Pneuma 302D

We finished our study of Adam Hamilton’s book, “Making Sense of the Bible”. We enjoyed Alan Ebright interviewing Leslie Coates and look forward to his interview with Lavonne Beadle. Leslie shared how he came to be at First Church and some insight into his different roles in the church. Dan will be leading our Advent study. All are welcome.

Many of the class helped serve the dinner at the quilt auction and helped with the Thanksgiving mission lunch. We will be gathering to attend the Christmas Brunch on December 15, prior to attending class in our room.

Pneuma will celebrate the Christmas season with our annual progressive dinner on the 15th. We will decorate the Parlor as we take part in the FUMC Friendly Christmas Competition. Connie Bishop hosted Pneuma Ladies in November. The men gathered at Ziggy’s for food and fellowship. We rejoice with the Edmundsons in the birth of their grandson, Bishop Samuel.

Seekers 306B

Cold weather doesn’t stop the Seekers! It has been great to see so many members in our classroom the past few weeks. The ROMEOS (retired old men eating out) had 14 men meet for breakfast - a record.

The annual Christmas party will be December 14 at the Estancia Clubhouse. The meal will be roasted chicken with the trimmings catered by Nancy’s A-Maize-N Sandwiches. Please have your reservations into Judy Sawyer, Janet Robinson or Nancy Dinell by December 8. Each person is to bring one white elephant gift. Judy Sawyer has a plan for the gift exchange that is different than our traditional way. Come see what she has up her sleeve!

As a class we contribute to Operational Holiday and Share the Season. The basket was passed each Sunday in November so checks can be sent early in December. If you still want to contribute see Melody, class treasurer, immediately.

We are grateful for our church during this season of Advent. Our classroom door will be decorated to welcome all to join us. We will continue to pray for those who will be experiencing a different Christmas due to health issues, loss of family members or friends or unspoken concerns. We wish all a peaceful Christmas filled with joy and love.

Calendar December @ First Church

1 8:15 AM 8:30 AM 9:30 AM 9:30 AM 9:30 AM 10:45 AM 10:50 AM 11:00 AM 5:00 PM	Sunday Heritage Worship - Chapel Religious Nurture Center - 100D Core Kids Sunday School K-5th-106C, 108C, 110C, 200C, 311C Sunday School - Church Wide Core Youth Small Group - 200D El Mesias Worship - 200D Downtown Alive Worship - Sanctuary Nursery - 200C The Gathering @ New Covenant UMC Life Support Center	11 11:00 AM 12:00 PM 1:00 PM 5:30 PM 6:15 PM 6:30 PM 6:30 PM 6:30 PM 7:00 PM	Wednesday Daytime Quilters - 308B Apple Core - 302B Elizabeth Circle - 107B Downtown Alive Choir Rehearsal - Sanctuary Religious Nurture Center - 100D Youth Activities - 200D, 201D Children Activities - 110C, 111C El Mesias Bible Study - 103B Bell Choir Rehearsal - 305A	20 21 7:00 PM 22 8:15 AM 8:30 AM 9:30 AM 9:30 AM 9:30 AM 10:45 AM 10:50 AM 11:00 AM 12:00 PM 5:00 PM	Friday Saturday Blue Christmas - Wilke FLC Sunday Heritage Worship - Chapel Religious Nurture Center - 100D Core Kids Sunday School K-5th - 106C, 108C, 110C, 200C, 311C Sunday School - Church Wide Core Youth Small Group - 200D El Mesias Worship - 200D Downtown Alive Worship - Sanctuary Nursery - 200C All Church Fiesta Lunch – Meredith Hall The Gathering @ New Covenant UMC Life Support Center
2	Monday	12 9:00 AM 10:00 AM	Thursday First Place Quilters - 304D Prayers @ the Chapel - Chapel		
3 5:30 PM	Tuesday Stephen Ministry Supervision - 302B	13	Friday		
4 10:30 AM 11:00 AM 12:00 PM 5:30 PM 6:00 PM 6:15 PM 7:00 PM	Wednesday UMW Expanded Executive Committee - 101B Daytime Quilters - 308B Apple Core - 302B Downtown Alive Choir Rehearsal - Sanctuary Open House & Christmas Workshop - Wilke FLC Religious Nurture Center - 100D Bell Choir Rehearsal - 305A	14 15 7:00 AM 8:15 AM 8:30 AM 9:30 AM 9:30 AM 9:30 AM 10:45 AM 10:50 AM 11:00 AM 5:00 PM 6:45 PM	Saturday Sunday Christmas Missions Brunch - Meredith Hall Heritage Worship - Chapel Religious Nurture Center - 100D Core Kids Sunday School K-5th- 106C, 108C, 110C, 200C, 311C Sunday School - Church Wide Core Youth Small Group - 200D El Mesias Worship - 200D Downtown Alive Worship - Sanctuary Nursery - 200C The Gathering @ New Covenant UMC Life Support Center Pneuma Progressive Dinner - 205B	23 7:30 PM 24 5:30 PM 11:00 PM	Monday Brett's Christmas Organ Concert - Sanctuary Tuesday Christmas Eve Family Service – Sanctuary Christmas Eve Service – Sanctuary
5 9:00 AM 10:00 AM	Thursday First Place Quilters - 304D Basic Sewing Classes - 201D			25	Wednesday BUILDING CLOSED FOR HOLIDAY
6 11:00 AM	Friday Open Door Lunch Prep - MH Kitchen	16 3:30 PM	Monday Local Missions Commission - 304B	26	Thursday
7	Saturday			27	Friday
8 8:15 AM 8:30 AM 9:30 AM 9:30 AM 9:30 AM 10:45 AM 10:50 AM 11:00 AM 5:00 PM	Sunday Heritage Worship - Chapel Religious Nurture Center - 100D Core Kids Sunday School K-5th - 106C, 108C, 110C, 200C, 311C Sunday School - Church Wide Core Youth Small Group - 200D El Mesias Worship - 200D Downtown Alive Worship - Sanctuary Nursery - 200C The Gathering @ New Covenant UMC Life Support Center	17 5:30 PM 5:30 PM 18 11:00 AM 12:00 PM 5:30 PM 6:15 PM 6:30 PM 6:30 PM 6:30 PM 7:00 PM	Tuesday Stephen Ministry Supervision - 302B DTA Committee Meeting - Media Suite Wednesday Daytime Quilters - 308B Apple Core - 302B Downtown Alive Choir Rehearsal - Sanctuary Religious Nurture Center - 100D Youth Activities - 200D, 201D Children Activities - 110C, 111C El Mesias Bible Study - 103B Bell Choir Rehearsal - 305A	28	Saturday
9 6:00 PM	Monday Family Ministry Council - 101B	19 9:00 AM 10:00 AM 6:00 PM	Thursday First Place Quilters - 304D Basic Sewing Classes - 201D Pub Theology - AeroPlains Brewing	29 8:15 AM 8:30 AM 9:30 AM 9:30 AM 9:30 AM 10:45 AM 10:50 AM 11:00 AM 5:00 PM 30 31	Sunday Heritage Worship - Chapel Religious Nurture Center - 100D Core Kids Sunday School K-5th - 106C, 108C, 110C, 200C, 311C All Church Sunday School - Meredith Hall Core Youth Small Group - 200D El Mesias Worship Service - 200D Downtown Alive Worship - Sanctuary Nursery - 200C The Gathering @ New Covenant UMC Life Support Center Monday Tuesday

COMING IN WORSHIP

December 1
First Sunday of Advent
“Tamar the Widow”
Genesis 38: 11-18, 24-30
Matthew 1: 1-6

December 8
Second Sunday of Advent
“Rahab the Prostitute”
Joshua 2: 8-15
Hebrews 11: 30-34

December 15
Third Sunday of Advent
“Ruth the Moabite”
Ruth 1: 16-22
Luke 1: 47-55

December 22
Fourth Sunday of Advent
“Bathsheba, the Wife of Uriah”
2 Samuel 11: 1-16, 26-27
Matthew 1: 18-25

December 24
Christmas Eve
“Mary, Blessed Among Women”
Isaiah 9:2-7
Luke 2: 1-20

December 29
Christmas Sunday
“We are the Ancestors of Christ”
Luke 2: 25-38

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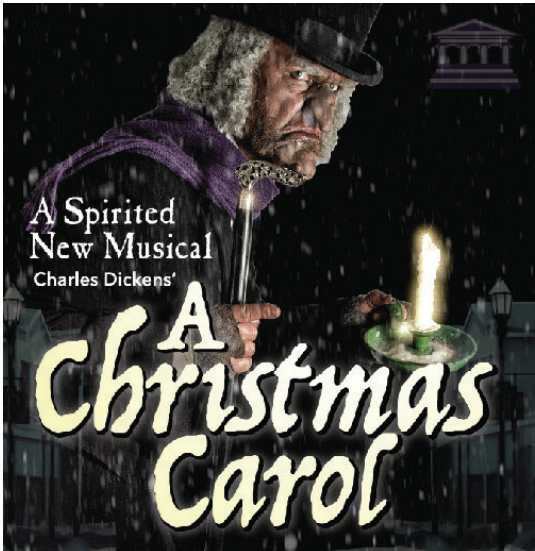
www.firstwichita.org
330 N. Broadway • 316-267-6244
On Broadway between 2nd & 3rd Streets
in downtown Wichita.

20th Annual
Brett Valliant
Christmas Concert

December 23
7:30 p.m.
Sanctuary

First United Methodist Church
330 N. Broadway, Wichita, KS
316-267-6244 • firstwichita.org

Forum Theatre Presents:



December 5-22 • Wilke Family Life Center

Shaun Michael Morse returns as Scrooge, in the Forum’s biennial production of Charles Dickens’ classic story of hope and love. This Forum original, with music by Paul Jackson and book by Conrad Jestmore, has become a Wichita holiday favorite. It never fails to entertain and inspire with a message of hope, love and the power of forgiveness.

Tickets available at forumwichita.com or 316-618-0444.

Blue Christmas Worship Service

December 21, 7:00 p.m.
Wilke Family Life Center

Christmas is a season where joy and revelry are on full display. Unfortunately, not all of us are always feeling what we see exhibited in store windows, advertisements, and other public spaces. Sometimes the pain caused by the loss of a relationship, a loved one, or unfortunate circumstances can be magnified by the holiday season. Blue Christmas is a worship experience to help put this into focus, to allow space to acknowledge our grief, and offer hope for healing.

BLUE
Christmas

December 21 • 7:00 p.m. • Wilke Family Life Center

Flower Ministry of First United Methodist Church

Sponsored by Congregational Health/Senior Saints



With Thanksgiving almost upon us, and the season of Advent to follow, it’s the perfect time of year to reflect upon our many blessings, and the special people who have blessed us. One of the First Church traditions is to deliver poinsettias to our homebound at Christmastime. For our homebound members, this ministry is a special way to express how much we care for them, and it also strengthens their connection to First Church.

If you would like to make a donation to our Flower Ministry Fund, please complete the form below and return it with your check to the church business office by December 15. Forms are also available at the AB desk. We will acknowledge all donors along with honorees/memorials in the January First Light.

Enclosed is \$ _____ towards the Flower Ministry Fund.

Donor Name _____

Address _____ Zip Code _____

Phone Number _____

In Memory of _____

In Honor of _____

Please complete the form along with your donation and return it to the First United Methodist Church, 330 N. Broadway, Wichita, Kansas 67202. Make your check payable to F.U.M.C. with ‘Flower Ministry Fund’ in the memo.