

Join us for inspiring worship at 8:15 a.m., 10:30 a.m., 10:45 p.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 April, we will continue to worship with you through our tv broadcast and our online streaming. We hope you join us Sundays at 11:00 a.m. on KAKE TV and live on the web at firstwichita.org or at 5:00 p.m. on facebook.com/ thegatheringworshipservice.

INSIDE

Check-in with Pastor Cindy

Pastoral Care Update

Childern and Youth

Covenant Bible Study

Class News and Notes

Events Calendar

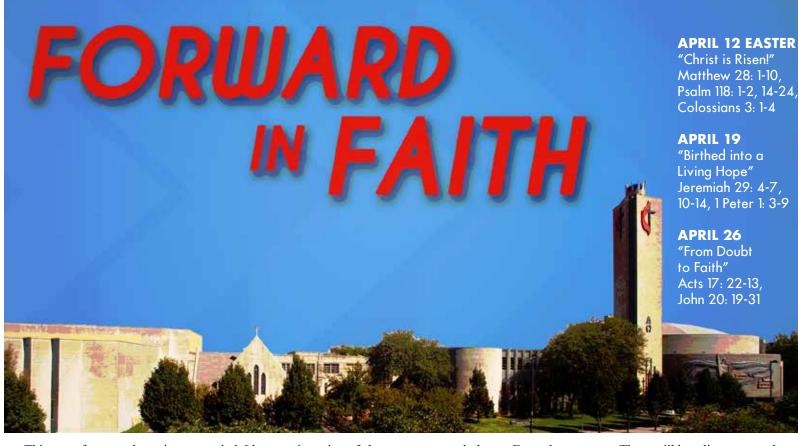
Mohr Shower

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

April food collection: Canned Vegetables

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

in downtown Wichita.



This year, for me at least, it is hard to wrap my head around the celebration of Holy Week and Easter when the world is living into social distancing, shelter in place and stay at home. Along with that, we had a wonderful kickoff planned for our 150th Anniversary Celebration, which of course has been postponed.

Our theme for our 150th is "Forward in Faith." I had planned our Easter season with that in mind. I have no intention of changing it. Forward in Faith is exactly what we need as we live in this time of uncertainty, anxiety and a pandemic.

I don't know about anyone else, but I am one that needs to be reminded that this is not the first time in history that we have faced plagues, economic downturns and faced with having to be creative as a community of faith.

That first Easter, there were

no new clothes or Easter hats or parades. There was social distancing, personal isolation and fear. The resurrection was questioned and had to be lived into as what it meant for Jesus' followers.

We, too, are living into a new season of Easter. This time, there will be no palms in processions during worship, no great gatherings, instead, we will be connecting through the television and through the internet for worship. There will be a live-streamed service for Maundy Thursday and Good Friday. We will worship the risen Christ and go "Forward in Faith" as a people who trust that God is with us.

Let us continue to gather, to continue to pray and to know that Christ is walking with us on this uncertain road. While I do not know all the future holds, I know that God is there, leading us through it all.

COVID 19HELP@ FIRSTWICHITA.ORG

Do you have a need? Are you looking for a way to help?

We have created this e-mail in order to connect people with needs with those who are eager to offer assistance. Please email your need or your willingness to help to **covid19help@firstwichita.org** and we will do our best to help!

PLEASE PRAY FOR

Continuing Concerns: 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 April 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.

Checking in with Pastor Cindy

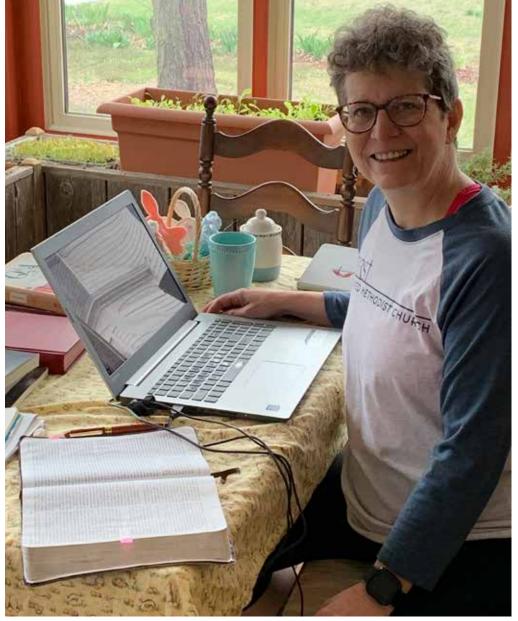
Dear friends,

Not all of you receive our weekly e-news or are on social media, but you probably know that things have been changing rapidly with the COVID19 pandemic. It wasn't two weeks ago, that I set out with seven other women to Arkansas for a mission trip to Heifer Ranch. I had sent our e-news noting that we were monitoring the situation with the novel Coronavirus. I thought that would suffice for a week or so. I was wrong. I wasn't there 24 hours before I was headed back to Kansas, as we faced an executive order limiting gatherings of 250 or more. Within another 24 hours, we had a worship service planned for online and television only with no people in the Sanctuary.

The staff began working diligently to figure out how to do ministry in new ways without being present with people. Daily and sometimes hourly, things have changed and with Governor Kelly's executive order banning groups of more than 10 people and Sedgwick County's 30 days stay at home order, we have cleared the calendar for the rest of March and all of April. While religious leaders and employees of religious institutions are considered essential, the ban of ten people or more still stands and with no end date. The church is open for limited hours to receive mail, deliveries and for some long term deferred maintenance to occur. The staff is available by phone, by e-mail, by text and we have the capacity to have a ZOOM conference or any other face to face through our computer or device screens.

We have had to postpone our kickoff 150th celebration as well other things. Palm Sunday, Holy Week and Easter without a congregation in the building will be different and difficult. However, I think that following the Center for Disease Control and local health officials directives is not only important, but imperative. I care about you and all the people who might come into our space.

I do not know how long this will last. We know



it will be at least 30 days.

My hope is that the worst will have passed and we will be able to safely gather the first Sunday in May and we will celebrate Easter (as the season IS 50 days) and the sacrament of Holy Communion. What a day that will be!

This has not been easy for me or the staff or any of us. In this "First Light" you will find updates on how we have been connecting and ways to stay connected. I miss you. I miss being with you. I am leaning deep into my prayer life and trusting that God's Spirit is surrounding the doctors, the nurses, and all the medical personal on the front lines of the fight against this disease. I invite you to continue to pray with me, as we live into a deeper faith in this uncertain and difficult time.

Graced to Serve, Pastor Cindy





OPEN PRAYER MEETING Mondays 10:30 a.m.

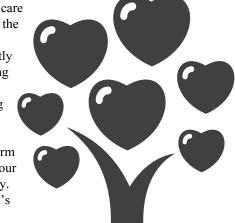
This prayer meeting is an audio phone call, and is led by our First United Methodist Church prayer team. Call the number below and have the meeting ID handy during the call. Dial: +1 346 248 7799, Meeting ID: 393 103 106

A Note from Pastoral Care

Because of restrictions in place due to the COVID 19, we are unable to make our daily pastoral care hospital visits. We are sad we aren't able to visit our church family in the hospitals right now, but our pastoral care staff is continuing to make daily phone calls to anyone in the hospital. At this time, getting information from the hospitals is especially challenging and is something we aren't able to fully rely on. Please let us know if you or a member in your household is in the hospital. You can email pastoralcare@firstwichita. org, or simply call the church and let our receptionist know. Lucy Buller, our First Impression Receptionist, is checking

voice mails regularly and will notify pastoral care of any hospital admissions. Our building hours during this pandemic are Monday - Thursday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., with 12:30 to 1:30 p.m. closed for the lunch hour. We continue to have emergency weekend on call pastoral care available, so if you reach the church after hours, those messages are given directly to the pastor on call during the evening or weekend. We look forward to being able to resume visits in person to our hospitals, rehabilitation and long-term care facilities, as well as our homebound church family. May you experience God's peace and protection.

Pastoral Care Team Rev. Tal Tittsworth Rev. Cindy Watson Rev. Rebecca Goltry Mohr and Leslie Coates



OUR GIFTS

FEBRUARY 2020 OFFERING \$68,276.99 RECEIVED YEAR-TO-DATE \$244,544.90 BUDGET YEAR-TO-DATE \$243,604.20 EXPENSES YEAR-TO-DATE \$244,355.38

OTHER CONTRIBUTIONS MISSIONS \$50.00 RECEIVED YEAR-TO-DATE \$629.00

CAPITAL FUNDS \$1,110.00 RECEIVED YEAR-TO-DATE \$2,160.00

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

ORGAN MAINTENANCE FUND \$10.00 RECEIVED YEAR-TO-DATE \$35.00

TELEVISION MINISTRY \$15,165.23 RECEIVED YEAR-TO-DATE \$52,921.76 BUDGET YEAR-TO-DATE \$38,858.40 EXPENSES YEAR-TO-DATE \$48,673.96

TOTAL CONTRIBUTIONS \$84,612.22 RECEIVED YEAR-TO-DATE \$300,290.66

Friday Zoom Lunches-with Pastor Rebecca

Are you tired of eating lunch alone? Grab your computer or phone and pull up a chair at your dining table, we can eat together! Join others for a lively lunch on Fridays at Noon. Together we will connect, laugh and pray in the comfort of your home while breaking bread together.

To participate in the meeting, copy the link (https:// zoom.us/j/914916772) into your web browser on your phone or computer.

Lunches begin March 27 and go through April 17.



Children and Youth Adjust to Remain Connected

The times we live in are changing rapidly! We are committed to keeping the Children and Youth involved as much as possible in the church, so we are operating a little differently through the month of April. Opportunities for our families to stay connected is laid out below. If you have questions or concerns, please contact Brad Remington, Director of Family Ministries, bradr@firstwichita.org.

Sunday School

Pre-K- 4th Grade – 10:00 a.m. ZOOM Calls.

Lessons will be sent out early in the week by e-mail for those who are interested. If you would like to be included in that list, please e-mail Brad at bradr@firstwichita.org. The Zoom video call link will also be e-mailed, as well as posted on the Core Kids- First UMC Wichita Facebook page. facebook.com/corekidsfirstwichita

5th Grade - 12th Grade – Sunday, 4:00 p.m.

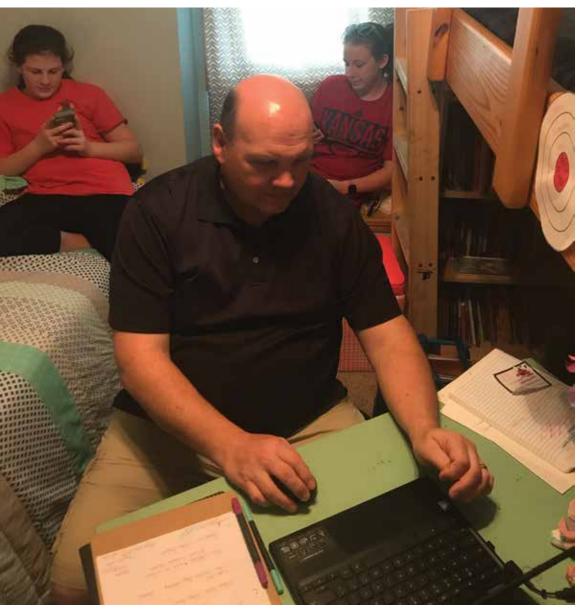
The lessons will be e-mailed as well as posted to Facebook for all the youth to access. If you want to be added to the list, please e-mail Brad at bradr@firstwichita.org. Sunday afternoons, we will discuss the lesson at our Zoom video chat. The Zoom video call information will also be sent through e-mail as well as posted on the Core Student Life Ministries page. facebook.com/CoreStudentLifeMinistries

Wednesday Activities

Pre-K –4th Grade – 6:00 p.m. – Wednesday Zoom Call We will discuss our lesson and also do a project that we can share with the congregation

5th Grade thru 12th Grade - 7:00 p.m. - Wednesday Zoom Call.

We will discuss a lesson and check in on everyone.

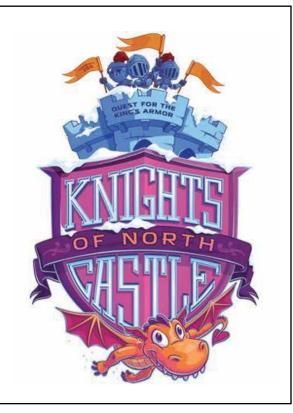


Brad Remington, Director of Family Ministries, keeps in touch with youth through e-mailing lessons as well as posting to Facebook. If you want to be added to the list, please e-mail Brad at **bradr@firstwichita.org**.

Looking Ahead to Summer!

Vacation Bible School June 15-19, 2020 9:00 a.m.-Noon (Lunch Included)

Please join us for a week of fun as we go visit the Knights of North Castle. This VBS is FREE, for ages Pre-K thru 4th grade! We will be looking for volunteers to help us that week with many jobs. If you are interested please contact Brad at the church or e-mail, bradr@firstwichita.org. Please notice we changed the time of VBS from evening to morning in the hopes that more children can attend, We will offer drop off at 8:00 a.m. for working parents with pick up at lunch time.





Covenant Bible Study Update

Covenant Bible Study continues to meet on Zoom every Wednesday at 6:30 p.m. This is a small group that is systematically working through the Bible in 24 weeks. Each week there is a covenant meditation, here is one of the meditations that is fitting for the time in which we are living.

Covenant Meditation: Living with Crisis, Lamentations 3:1-24

Crisis, personal or communal, can strip us down to our most vulnerable, raw and honest selves. Crisis can peel away any façade about being in control of our lives. Often our first response to crisis is to plant our feet more deeply into the ground in order to stay upright and then to get a stranglehold on what we think will save us. But no matter how strong our hold may seem, crisis by its very nature undoes something in and around us. Crisis peels life down to a layer of vulnerability that we thought we had skillfully covered up or, at the very least, managed well.

So when crisis strikes, we are rarely at ease speaking about our fear, despair, or hopelessness- not each other, and not even with God. We seldom practice the language of despair and lament because, somewhere along faith's way, the message was clear that to do so shows a lack of faith. Yet readings from Lamentations counter this message and instead provide us with some of the most raw, honest crisis language "spoken" and preserved by God's children. Therefore, our spiritual reading practice for this week invites us and asks us to rehearse, through prayer, the crisis language of lament. Today we will pray the scriptures by joining with a member of the community who is suffering, grieving, and feeling so hopeless that even God seems uninterested and removed. To prepare for the reading, locate Lamentations 3:1-24. Before reading this text, try to set aside any judgment about the content of this prayer, about whether or not you would pray these words. This prayer may not name your beliefs about God or God's ways.

Instead, approach this lament with anticipation of giving voice to a sister or brother who is living in the midst of a life-wrenching crisis.

Now, silently or aloud, read the verses slowly, attending to the emotions that arise with each image or phrase. Resist judgment about the prayer, but receive it with compassion and acceptance for the one who first prayed these words. When the reading is completed, offer a brief prayer for all who live in crisis and are calling out to God for help.

("Covenant Bible Study" Episode 20 Meditation, Linda M. Day)



AmeriCorps Update

The AmeriCorps volunteers who have been housed at First Church since January departed ahead of schedule on Friday, morning, March 20, heading back to their homes. Some were taking flights from Wichita to various connection flights. Others went back to deliver the van to their Denver headquarters, then flew out from there. The kids were from all over the country, from Minnesota to Texas, New Jersey to Florida to California and Washington!

These fine young people worked four days a week on Habitat homes in our city and one day a week for our church. Thanks to all in our congregation who helped provide meals and showed grace and gratitude to these kids during their stay. They do not know their future, but hope to reconnect after the current health crisis for their next work assignment, currently scheduled in Wyoming. Included below is a lists of projects they were able to complete during their time at First Church!

This sweet message from team member, Isabella, sums up their sentiments: *"Thank you for providing so much for this team. We loved meeting all the church members and felt so welcome here."*

Projects Completed

•Painted restrooms in the C and D Buildings

•Helped move and clean for the surplus sale – including cleaning out the B building sub- basement

Removed damaged plaster on C3 office walls, Library, 304B
Painted B/C stairwell

•Cleaned carpet in Student Center worship area

•Painted 101B and moved People's Bible Study from 301D to 101B

•Helped replace hot water heater in D building

•Cleaned and moved Annette's office back

Helped facilities check tower drain
Helped disinfect and sanitize rooms in the church due to the COVID-19
Assisted Forum and facilities in cleaning and organizing Wilke
Assisted Business Office in cleaning the store room

Special Deliveries to Our RNC!





During these challenging times, the Religious Nurture Center is doing their part to help their members keep up their spirits! Special deliveries are being made of care packages filled with faith-based and inspirational movies, popcorn, snacks, puzzles, card games and art supplies!

For more information on the Religious Nurture Center, our ministry to persons with developmental disabilities, contact Matthew Schrock, matts@firstwichita.org

Hand in Hand with 50/50

We last met on March 9 for our Lenten lesson. Ann Burgett was able to bring her mother, Glenna Hendershot, which was so nice. The Ladies got in one more luncheon at Caesar's on March 13. There were 17 of us including Melinda Kirk, a former member of Hand in Hand and Sawny Klaassen's sister in law, Kathy Thompson from Oklahoma. Dorothy Filson was there from 50-50. We will wait a bit before we make plans for May.

107B

We do want to keep in touch with our class members and several of us decided that the best way would be for class members revert to their previous ways of keeping in touch by calling in 50-50 and e-mailing in Hand in Hand. However, please anyone feel free to call or e-mail any of the following or someone you know well. Mary Lou Roedell, Maralee Rounds, Dorothy Filson, Bickley Foster, Jean or Charlie Eby, Linda Hopper, Bonnie Jo Holmes or Sawny Klaassen with joys, concerns or information that needs to be shared. See the church directory phone numbers. Sawny has a complete email system that can reach all for quick information. It is: gimmethyme@icloud.com

We hope everyone has a Happy Easter, even if it is quite different this year.

People's Open Doors 101B

We recently moved our class from the 3rd floor of the D building to the 1st floor of the B Building. Find us now happily enjoying the surroundings in 101B. Thanks to many volunteers and custodial staff, we were able to make a very smooth transition. Pastor Cindy, with Pastor Rebecca present, came March 8 to dedicate our new room. We had refreshments to celebrate and were delighted that former member Al Vopata was here from California to share with us.

Our Lenten study is well underway as we are studying the book "Entering The Passion of Jesus" by Amy-Jill Levine. A very insightful guide to Holy Week and preparing us for the journey of Jesus' last week. We are hoping that class members are keeping up with their study book on their own.

We look forward to reconnect with socials when the Corona virus is ended.

We realize several of our class members are dealing with medical problems that need our prayers and we are remembering them with cards and phone calls.

Pneuma 302D

Greetings from your Pneuma brothers and sisters. We hope you are all doing well. We look forward to being back together, but are grateful that we are able to remain in contact with each other and "attend" worship through the blessing of those who are willing to continue providing this opportunity through our media outlets.

Prior to our "sabbatical", Dan was leading us through our Lenten study of the hymn "Where Cross the Crowded Way of Life". We hope that we will be able to continue the study when we are back together.

The Pneuma Ladies joined with the ladies from Seekers, Inspire, and Sanctuary to "shower" Pastor Rebecca and Joe as they await the arrival of their daughter. The shower was held at the home of Linda Ebright. It was a great last social gathering before we found ourselves faced with the desire, but the inability to gather.

Our thoughts and prayers have been with Vicki and Jack Bond, as they mourn the death and celebrate the life of Vicki's sister, Angela.

Seekers 306B

With the goal of serving community, the Seekers class reached out in March. On the first Wednesday, we served dinner to our Youth and to our visiting AmeriCorp visitors. We also served lunch to our neighbors at the Open Door Homeless Daytime Shelter. They served the traditional Tater Tot casserole and the trimmings. Thank you to all who helped shop, cook and serve.

While we are experiencing this world changing crisis, our regular teacher, Dave Brant, will be teaching "The Walk" by Adam Hamilton using ZOOM. Tom Tanner and Dave Brant have been helping class members get hooked up. You can purchase the book on Amazon and read it immediately with your Kindle app. Hard copy might take a bit longer to receive.

We have been sharing joys and concerns via e-mail which we encourage all to continue to do. Phyllis Schanbacher does a wonderful job keeping us all connected. Stay tuned for news of any socials when it is safe to gather.

We encourage all to be safe and smart during this crisis since most of us are in the "risk" age group!



Family Promise Volunteers Needed

Volunteers are still needed for Family Promise the week of April 12-19, supporting Northwest Free Methodist Church (host church). To sign-up please contact Dena Davis 316-200-3721 davisdena67@gmail.com The Gathering in now LIVE on Facebook every Sunday night at 5:00 p.m. We are also singing off each night with a song. Follow The Gathering Facebook page to get updates and notifications. facebook. com/thegatheringworshipservice

Hand Up

Hand Up will be fully operational through the coming weeks, please submit applications online at firstwichita.org/handup. If you know of anyone facing economic hardship, please send them to Hand Up at First Wichita.

Marriage and Family Student Therapy

Our therapists are continuing to serve clients by way of teletherapy. They have been working hard to learn the new format, and will continue serving clients through this stressful time. We do have new therapists assigned for next year, but our transition period will be adapted according to how the future unfolds. If you are would be interested in receiving therapy by way of telephone at no charge, please e-mail studentmft@firstwichita.org.





Church Surplus Sale Postponed

We are grateful to Dennis and Jean Artz for inventorying the contents of the church and for all who were willing to work volunteer shifts during the sale. Stay tuned for when the sale will be held in the near future.



WAYS TO stay connected with FIRST CHURCH

WORSHIP

Downtown Alive worship Sundays at 11 a.m. through our live-streaming or on KAKE-TV. You can also watch past services at

your convenience. The Gathering worship live on Facebook, Sundays at 5 p.m., facebook.com/thegatheringworshipservice

Register your worship attendance Let us know how you are worshiping with us by registering your attendance online! Click on the Register Attendance button on our website home page or through the First Church app or through the link, firstwichita.org/ register-attendance.

FIRST CHURCH APP

Have you downloaded the First Church App to your phone or tablet? This is an easy place to access online worship, online giving, submit prayer requests, read weekly scripture as well as receive important information quickly. Simply text "FIRSTWICH-ITA APP" to be 77977 and you will be directed. If you have questions or issues downloading the app, contact Erin Davis at erind@firstwichita.org.

PHONE

If you have a concern or need, please feel free to call the church,316-267-6244. If you do not get an answer, please leave a message and someone will contact you as soon as possible.

PRAYER REQUESTS

Feeling overwhelmed, sad, anxious? Share your prayer requests through our firstwichita.org/prayer, or by email, prayer@firstwichita.org

ONLINE GIVING

It's important to remember, the work of the church cannot continue without your support! Giving can be sent to the church by mail, 330 N. Broadway, Wichita, KS 67202 or through online giving on our website, firstwichita.org or through the First Church app.





Thank you to all who attended our baby shower at the Ebright's home in March. The love and generosity we have experienced from this congregation as we prepare for the birth of our daughter warms our hearts. Baby Girl Mohr is due April 26- we are counting down the days for her arrival. -Rebecca and Joe Mohr

Hostesses pictured: Laura Sherard, Judith Oswald, Rebecca Mohr, Joe Mohr, Linda Ebright, Saundra Rogers, Libby Eaton

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. Bingo Prayer Walk |

As Sedgwick County is taking stay at home precautions, it is still a good idea to go for walks, if you are able, to get fresh air. Here is a little prayer exercise that you do while talking a walk.

B Begin	l Invite	N Notice	G Go	O Observe
Begin with an awareness that you are part of a community	Invite God to know who you are in a deeper way.	Notice beauty through creation	Go the "long way" to get back home	Observe the unique context of your home.
Begin with a deep breath	Invite a friend into a conversation on the phone.	Notice a different feature outside	Go towards something you are curious about	Observe the people you are around
Begin to find clarity on why this prayer walk matters today.	Invite the Spirit into this practice	GRACE SPACE (free space)	Go where God's spirit is leading you	Observe the areas of growth and new life.
Begin making concrete action steps on how to live out who God created you to be.	Invite somebody you don't know to worship with First Church online or KAKE TV	Notice places where you feel uncomfortable	Go at a pace where you can feel your heart beating faster	Observe places you might be called to make a difference
Begin praying for something that you have neglected to talk to God about.	Invite a sense of wonder and awe to fill you as you take each step.	Notice tangible actions you can do throughout your daily life.	Go around one building or feature three times.	Observe how you can make a difference in the world today.