

FIRST LIGHT

August 2020
Vol. 165 No. 89

THIS SUNDAY

During August, we will continue our series on the life and family of Jacob in, "Family Dynamics: The Saga of Jacob". 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](https://www.facebook.com/thegatheringworshipservice).

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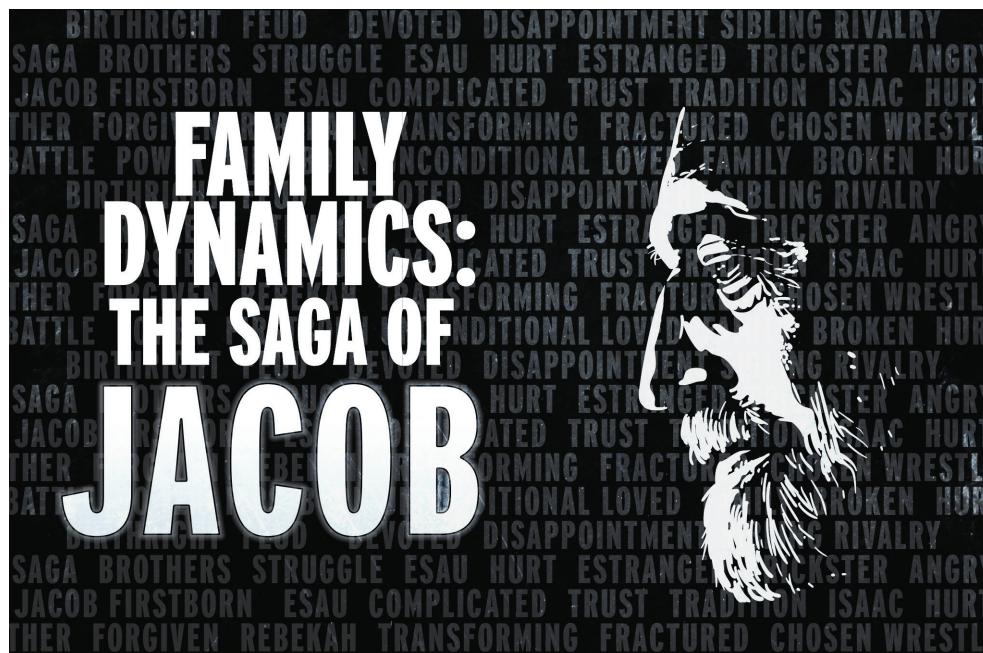
FEED THE HUNGRY

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

**August food collection:
Peanut Butter**

FIRST
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
Life. Downtown.

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



This August we continue with our series, "Family Dynamics: The Saga of Jacob". Jacob's story illustrates sibling rivalry, parental favorites, doing what it takes to come out on top, and ultimately fractured relationships healed. In the end, Jacob has a reckoning with God and he is never the same. His name is changed to Israel, which

means: the one who wrestles with God, and/or May God prevail.

Every part of this family drama can be seen in the 21st century in families of all kinds. Perhaps, COVID-19 has brought some of these dynamics into the forefront in your home. We will continue in this series to

explore the biblical narrative and teachings about humanity, as well as how our families form us, shape us and teach us about who we are, what the world is like, and how God can intersect in our lives. Join us Sundays in August on KAKE-TV, on our online streaming or on Facebook live.

■ August 2, 2020

"Tables Turned"

Genesis 29: 15-30,
Romans 8: 26-39

■ August 9, 2020

"Sibling Rivalry, Part III: Past Meets Present"

Genesis 29: 31-30: 24,
Romans 9: 1-5

■ August 16, 2020

"Learning and Setting Boundaries"

Genesis 31: 1-55,
Romans 9: 6-16

■ August 23, 2020

"Bargaining and Naming, Facing the Past"

Genesis 32: 1-32,
Romans 9: 17-23

■ August 30, 2020

"Reconciliation"

Genesis 33: 1-11,
Romans 9: 24-32

Church-wide Fellowship Hour Sundays - 2:00 p.m.



Each Sunday at 2 p.m., you are invited to join your First Church family for a fellowship hour on Zoom. Each week a different staff person will act as the host for the large group sharing. There will also be a time for small group breakout rooms. Bring your lemonade or tea, and a tasty treat, and log on every Sunday afternoon!

Follow the link below or on the First Church website:
<https://firstwichita.org/fellowship-hour/>

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88006073280?pwd=eFVpYXBuTlAveWVUdU1INzNnQ3gzdz09>

Meeting ID: **880 0607 3280**
Password: **448812**

PLEASE PRAY FOR

the hospitalized, our members and attenders with long-term and terminal illness, the homebound, and those who are in long-term care facilities and nursing homes. Also please pray for all the family members and caregivers who may be unable to spend time with their loved ones currently because of restrictions in place at hospitals and most of the care facilities and nursing homes. Continued prayer for the doctors, nurses and medical personnel caring every day for the medical needs of their patients. Pray for our Guardian Angels and Stephen Ministers and the pastoral care staff who continue to care for the spiritual well-being of individuals. Please also remember our teachers and school administrations, as they prepare for the reopening of schools and care for the safety and welfare of the children and students in our communities.

Articles for the next edition of *First Light* are due August 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

Join us in Prayer: 7:30 p.m. Each Day

We invite you to continue to join us in 15 minutes of prayer each day. We know that God listens when our hearts and prayers are united, to find healing, comfort, and guidance from Him during this time. The following prayer was written by our prayer team, a part of our re-opening task force. You are invited to pray it every evening at 7:30 or any other time during the day, as we ask God's guidance for the days ahead. The prayer team will share the next prayer in mid August.

Dear God, who sees us, knows us, and loves us just as we are, we praise you! Your mercy and compassion amaze us. We thank you, Lord! You're always with us. You care what happens to each of us every moment. This gives us hope, even in the midst of today's troubles. God of comfort, you teach us to trust. Your love is profound. The life and teachings of your son Jesus and the guidance of his Spirit, encourage us to follow his path. May our hearts expand to include all of your creation, realizing we all carry the sacred signature of our Creator. All glory goes to you, Lord Jesus Christ! Please soothe our grieving souls for the losses we have endured and will suffer in the future. Give us courage and strength enough to share with the fearful. We appreciate life and treasure our families and friends. We yearn to worship you once again in the place we have chosen to gather and know the time will come when it is safe enough. Meanwhile, we continue to pray in our homes and stay close to you. Despite misfortune and evil in the world, open our eyes to see your fingerprint upon the good that will rise like a rainbow after the storm. Bless and keep us in your loving embrace, Great Protector.

COVID 19 Update

There is not much to update in terms of our next steps. We are having wonderful success with doing old things "new." Virtual Vacation Bible School had a great response, not only from those families who connect with our church, but a wider reach through our television/ online/ Facebook live congregation. In July we also began a recorded devotion that is sent out to the phone numbers of our members and friends each Wednesday afternoon. On Sunday afternoons at 2 p.m., we have the opportunity to "see" our church friends via a Zoom fellowship time!

Our Sunday School classes are still going strong through Zoom with good connection, community and conversation. The internet and social media CAN be a blessing in a time of pandemic. Our Diaper Drive and our Toilet Paper Drive were both very successful.

For all this good news, unfortunately the positive numbers for COVID-19 in Sedgwick County continue to rise. The

City of Wichita as well as Sedgwick County are requiring masks in all businesses and the Sedgwick County Health Officer has again closed bars and night clubs and is limiting groups to 15 or less through at least August 21. Churches are of course exempt, but we see no reason to not follow the county's recommendations.

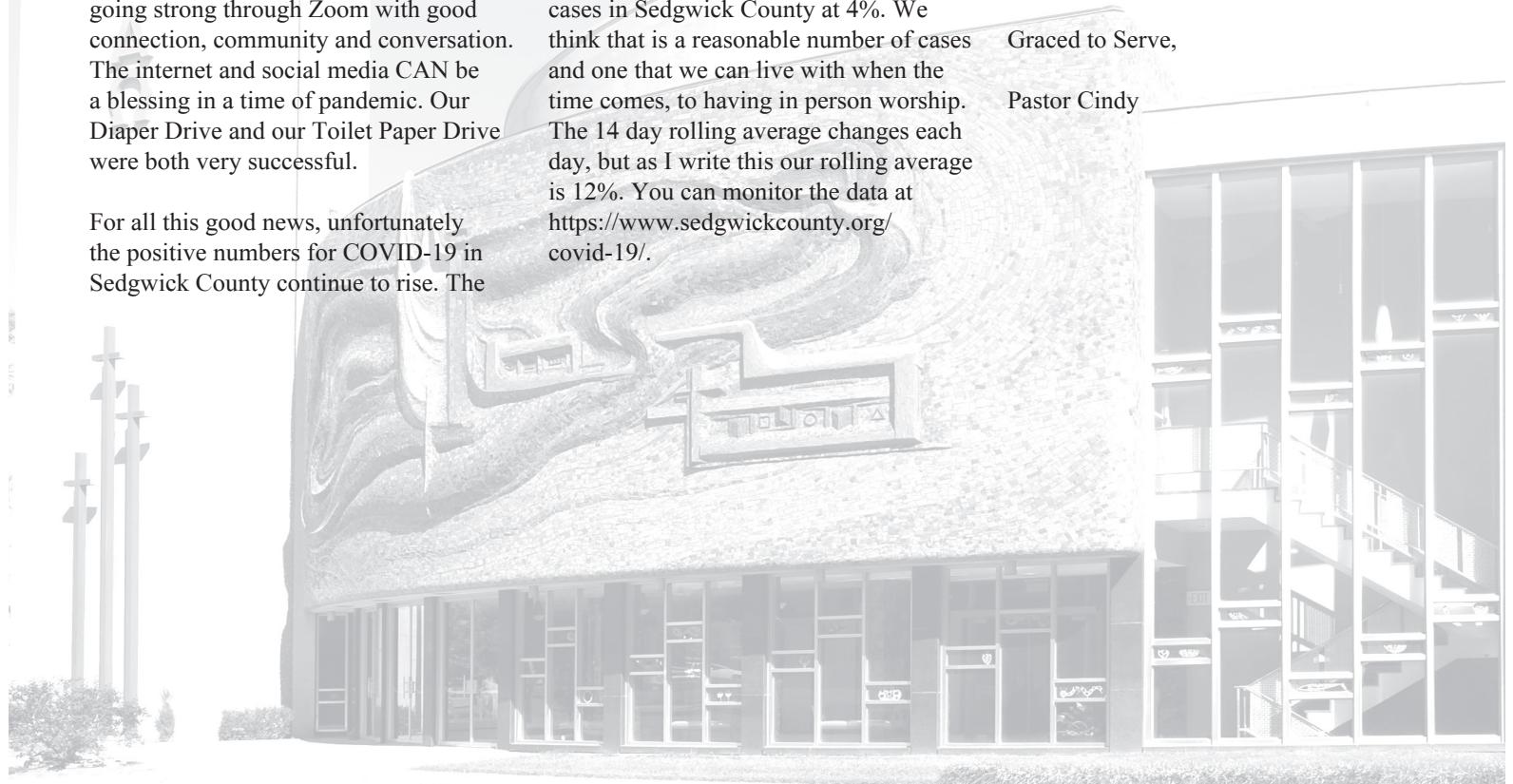
In our conversations, the task force has set a metric as to what level of risk we think is appropriate for in person worship to resume. We do not anticipate zero percent positive cases in Sedgwick County any time soon. So, the task force has set a 7 day rolling average of positive cases in Sedgwick County at 4%. We think that is a reasonable number of cases and one that we can live with when the time comes, to having in person worship. The 14 day rolling average changes each day, but as I write this our rolling average is 12%. You can monitor the data at <https://www.sedgwickcounty.org/covid-19/>.

I know that is not a perfect solution, but we feel that this will work for our congregation.

In preparation for when we do re-open to in-person worship, our Hospitality Committee is holding training sessions to update how we accommodate physical distancing and safety practices to keep everyone as safe as possible.

The staff continues to be creative as we participate in ministry in new ways. Please continue to pray for the church, those who are isolated, our health care workers and scientists as we live in this time of uncertainty. Please know I am praying for you.

Graced to Serve,
Pastor Cindy



OUR GIFTS

JUNE 2020 OFFERING
\$82,763.85
RECEIVED YEAR-TO-DATE
\$640,241.39
BUDGET YEAR-TO-DATE
\$666,561.92
EXPENSES YEAR-TO-DATE
\$544,294.05

OTHER CONTRIBUTIONS
MISSIONS
\$1,120.00
RECEIVED YEAR-TO-DATE
\$2,504.00

CAPITAL FUNDS
\$100.00
RECEIVED YEAR-TO-DATE
\$2,590.00

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

ORGAN MAINTENANCE FUND
\$0.00
RECEIVED YEAR-TO-DATE
\$10,735.00

TELEVISION MINISTRY
\$31,458.30
RECEIVED YEAR-TO-DATE
\$148,036.60
BUDGET YEAR-TO-DATE
\$116,575.44
EXPENSES YEAR-TO-DATE
\$136,107.65

TOTAL CONTRIBUTIONS
\$115,442.15
RECEIVED YEAR-TO-DATE
\$801,106.99

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.

GENOGRAM SEMINAR

discovering your unique family system

August 2 • August 9 • August 16
7 p.m. via Zoom

Contact Pastor Rebecca for more information, rebeccam@firstwichita.org

Genogram Seminars Begin August 2

Have you ever wondered why specific patterns are repeated in your family? Are there holes in how your family tells various stories? In conjunction with the “Family Dynamics” sermon series, you are invited to join Pastor Rebecca and her husband, Joe, for a three-part series about uncovering patterns in your family system. Little Amelia Mohr might also make some guest appearances. Through the genogram seminars, you will be shown how to create your own family

genogram so that you can discover the unique beauty of the family of origin you belong to.

A genogram is a pictorial display of a person’s family relationships and medical history. It goes beyond a traditional family tree by allowing the user to visualize hereditary patterns and psychological factors that punctuate relationships.

Sunday, August 2, 9, and 16 at 7pm on Zoom [https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89582686](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89582686908?pwd=c0F3Smg5Njg2bkpwaERxUGdZUTRTZz09)

908?pwd=c0F3Smg5Njg2bkpwaERxUGdZUTRTZz09

Even if you are not sure you want to create your genogram, you are still invited to join on Zoom August 2 to learn more about process and discern if this is for you. Please note that creating a genogram will require several hours of speaking with relatives about persons and relationships in your family. If you have questions about the process, please contact Pastor Rebecca.

Small Groups-Coming Soon!

A new small group program will be launching in September. If you are looking to share something you are passionate about with a small group, please contact Pastor Rebecca as she is currently recruiting small group leaders.

A small group at First Church consists of:

- A weekly meeting together at church or on Zoom on Wednesdays (time to be determined by leader)

- Meeting for 12 consecutive weeks. Fall small groups will meet for 12 weeks; September 2 through November 18, 2020. Winter groups will resume January 2, 2021.

- A commitment to care about each of the members of your roughly 7-8 person small group

- Sharing of joys and concerns from individuals followed by prayer each meeting

Some of the topics being explored for the small groups are: journaling, prayer, inclusion study, book studies on best selling books, young adult group, parent support group, grief share group and more to come!

A detailed catalog of small groups being offered will be released in early August. Small group sign-ups will be available through the online registration of attendance portal or and you can contact Pastor Rebecca.

OUR FAMILY

We grieve the deaths of:

Glenna Hendershot
Frankie Gassert
Orless O’Neal,
husband of Lynda O’Neal

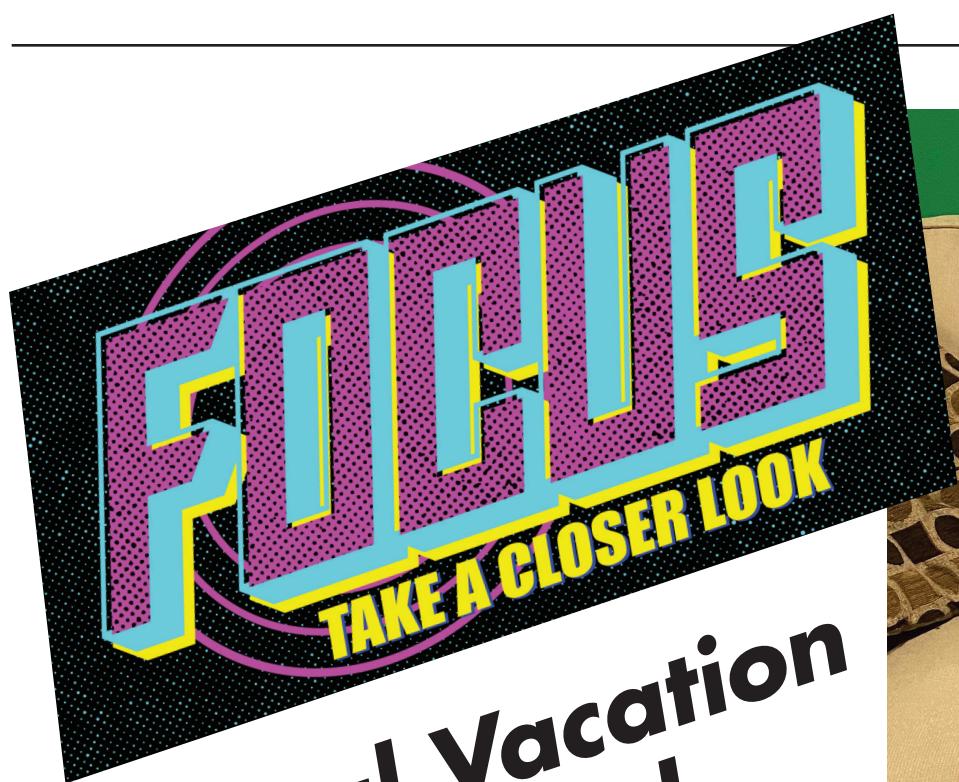
We celebrate the births of:

Victoria Lopez Esparza
born July 14, 2020
to Karina Lopez

Levi Dawson
born June 22, 2020
to Tara and Shaun Dawson

We welcome new members:

Doris Marie Rush
Ronald Dean Rush



Virtual Vacation Bible School a Success!

Thank you for joining us for an exciting FOCUS VBS! Our primary goal is to connect kids into a growing relationship with Jesus Christ. We know that through this relationship, we can lead them to a better future. This summer we had to get creative with how we shared Vacation Bible School with our children! We made the decision to have a virtual VBS so that families could participate from home. Each day a new video was shared featuring an opening, story time, a craft, music, devotion and a closing. In addition, each registered participant received a packet with sacks including a craft for each day, a pre-packaged snack for the kids to enjoy each day, and some First Church swag! A big thank you to our volunteers and staff that made this unique endeavor a success and thank you to everyone that took the time to participate in our Virtual VBS 2020!



Zoom Sunday School Continues for Children and Youth

Zoom for Children and Youth Sunday School will continue as it has for the last few months. Please contact Brad Remington, Director of Family Ministries if you would like more information, bradr@firstwichita.org.

Pre-K-Thru 4th Grade

10:00 a.m. Sundays- ZOOM

Core Kids Facebook page: facebook.com/corekidsfirstwichita

5th Grade thru 12th Grade

4:00 p.m. Sundays - ZOOM

Core Student Life Ministries page: facebook.com/CoreStudentLifeMinistries/

Coming Soon...

We are working on plans for a small group meeting for children and youth in person at the church in a courtyard or an outside space where we can maintain social distancing. Watch for more information!

August Mission Updates



Bailey Colorado Work Team

A Mission Work Team to Bailey, Colorado and the Deer Park UMC is planned for this September. The team will drive from Wichita to Bailey, CO on Thursday, September 17 and return to Wichita on Sunday, September 20. Lodging and meals are provided by the Deer Park UMC. The team will be working at the church. The cost of this team is \$75.00/person. For more information, please contact Annette Schmidt at annettes@firstwichita.org.

School Supply Drive COVID-19



For the past 12 years, First Church has collected school supplies and uniforms for our neighborhood children who attend Park Elementary. Children, their families, and Park staff have been very grateful.

However, because of COVID 19 this year, we are changing our approach. At this time, school attendance plans are not solidly in place. In addition, the School Ministries Task Force does not want to ask any congregants to shop for supplies during the virus. Thus, First Church members are encouraged to support our School Ministry program by mailing donations to the church or submitting them online at firstwichita.org. Our plan may not be ideal, but it is the safest solution during this crisis. Once school resumes and teachers find what materials are truly needed, we will have the funds to order supplies and have them shipped to the school.

On behalf of our neighborhood children, we thank you for your continued support of the education of students living in downtown Wichita.- Libby Eaton

June Diaper Drive Totals

Thank you to everyone who has contributed in our drive thru donation events! Here are the totals for diapers and wipes collected in June. Stay tuned for totals from our July toilet paper drive coming soon. Your generosity is positively effecting families in our community in this difficult time!

+ 9,760 The total number of diapers donated to Open Door, including those purchased with monetary donations.

+ 10,035 The total number of wipes.

= lots of happy babies!



Class News & Notes

Koinonia

Several members of the Koinonia Sunday School Class recently met in the church during the week. Class members wore masks and practiced social distancing. We were grateful for the opportunity to be together again. Our small class hopes we can begin meeting weekly during the week. We ask that class members contact Lois Stewart several days before the next planned meeting, if they are attending, so we will know how many are coming.

People's Open Door

Most in our class have gotten the hang of using Zoom for Sunday School and are enjoying teacher Barbara Simons lessons. Great interactive conversation follows after the scripture introduction and short narrative by Barbara. Our topics from the study book seem to know all about the world we live in today despite being written some time ago. Amazing how history repeats itself! We'd enjoy having others join in if they don't currently have a class on Zoom to attend. We continue to lift up in prayer members of our class and church family who are experiencing health challenges and hope that they feel the arms of the Father encircling them.

We will be serving First Friday Lunch on August 7, assembling sack lunches in our classroom prior to delivery. Thanks to Judith Oswald for help in this endeavor. We donated funds to the Family Fun Night on July 3 and for those who attended it was a fun evening. This was in place of our usual RNC celebration. We have also donated funds for the Diaper Drive and TP Drive, all outreach ministries of our church. We pray for continued COVID-Free days and ask that all STAY SAFE!

Pneuma

Pneuma continues to meet via Zoom, our "new normal". Our times together this month have covered the topics of the Annual Conference and Racial Justice.

Pat McKaig, Dave Seely, Steve Rogers, and Alan Ebright shared their reflections on being part of the Annual Conference which was held via Zoom. Dave worked to find a way legally for the Annual Conference to meet in that manner. There will be another Annual Conference held this fall with the hope that it can be held live.

As we entered our weeks of concentrating on Racial Justice, Dan Lord provided the following list of things that we, as Pneuma, all share.

1. We all strive to be good people who want to live a good life.
2. We all have a personal identity and social group identity.
3. We all have implicit bias towards people from other social groups.
4. We all have white skin and live in a white world view.
5. We all lack an adequate history of racial injustice in the United States.
6. We all can jump to opinions/judgments and block out learning.
7. We all have much to learn about how we perpetuate racism.

We were encouraged to "attend" the Town Hall meeting held on July 1 by the General Conference and to check their site for sources on "Dismantling Racism". The following Sunday we were encouraged to share something that we learned from attending the meeting or learned from the site.

The class was blessed to have Alan Ebright interview Vickie McArthur regarding her experiences with racism, both in her personal life and work. We hope this finds you all well.

Seekers

The Seekers are continuing to be a community of support and study outside the walls of the church building with the aid of technology. We are grateful for the opportunity to be connected in these strange times. We are averaging about 40 members per Sunday.

David Brant is continuing his lessons based on the minor prophets and their application to us in 2020. To give him enough time for the lesson and to also give the members a time to share, we have bumped Zoom start time to 9:45 on Sunday morning. We finish in time to worship at 11:00. If you would like to join us, contact Tamara Esposito, David Brant, or Tom Tanner for an invitation. Our prayer requests are many, but our shared joys are also many. We continue to be grateful for our many blessings.

Connect with the Gathering

The Gathering continues to meet on Sunday evenings at 5 p.m. via Facebook Live. We also do a "Sign-off" every weeknight sometime between 8:30 and 10:30 p.m. If you follow The Gathering Worship Service Facebook page, you can get notifications when The Gathering goes live.

The Breakfast Club Bible Study is still meeting each Wednesday at 7:30 a.m. If you would like to join this meeting, please e-mail LeslieC@firstwichita.org to receive the meeting ID number.

The
GATHERING
Worship
SUNDAYS • 5 P.M.

Mid-Week Devotionals on the Phone Continue Each Wednesday

First Church discipleship staff are sharing a mid-week devotional on the phone with all parishioners each Wednesday afternoon. If you have a phone number on file with the church office, you should be receiving the weekly devotional. If you miss the call, you can call back the number to hear the recorded message from the week. The phone number that will come through is 866-665-4386. Contact the church, 316-267-6244 to update your phone numbers on file.

MIDWEEK PHONE DEVOTIONAL

WEDNESDAY AFTERNOONS

EXPECT A RECORDED PHONE CALL FROM FIRST CHURCH EACH WEEK WITH A SHORT DEVOTIONAL MESSAGE (866-665-4386)

IF YOU NEED TO UPDATE YOUR PHONE NUMBER ON FILE, CONTACT THE CHURCH AT 316-267-6244



Stay Connected

WITH

First Church



We are working hard to stay connected with our First Church family during this time of pandemic. If you have an idea for keeping in touch with each other, please let us know. Below are some tools to help you stay in the know! We miss you!

WORSHIP

Downtown Alive worship Sundays at 11 a.m. through our live-streaming, on KAKE-TV, or now live on our Facebook page. You can also watch past services at your convenience on our website. The Gathering worship live on Facebook, Sundays at 5 p.m., [facebook.com/thegatheringworshipservice](https://www.facebook.com/thegatheringworshipservice)

ZOOM

Many Sunday school classes and small groups are connecting each week through Zoom. We are also having a Church-wide fellowship hour each Sunday at 2 p.m. through this online platform. If you would like more information or have questions about how you can access Zoom, contact Erin Davis at erind@firstwichita.org.

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.

FACEBOOK

Have you connected with the church through Facebook? This is another great tool to stay informed of what is happening with your First Church family. We regularly share information through this platform and we are also now posting our broadcast on Facebook Live every Sunday morning. Join us at [facebook.com/wichitafirst!](https://www.facebook.com/wichitafirst!)

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 "FIRSTWICHITA 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.

WEEKLY E-NEWS

We send an e-news out each Friday with information about what's happening in worship that Sunday as well as other news and happenings in the upcoming week. We have also been

sending an additional update as needed to keep you informed of important information related to Covid-19 and how the church is proceeding. If you would like to be added to this list, please e-mail Erin Davis, erind@firstwichita.org with your request.

PRAYER REQUESTS

Feeling overwhelmed, sad, anxious? Share your prayer requests at our firstwichita.org/prayer, or by e-mail, 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. Online giving provides options for donating to the general budget, TV ministry, as well as various missions collections and memorials.

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.

COMING IN WORSHIP

August 2

"Tables Turned"
Genesis 29: 15-30
Romans 8: 26-39

August 9

"Sibling Rivalry, Part III:
Past Meets Present"
Genesis 29: 31-30:24
Romans 9: 1-5

August 16

"Learning and Setting
Boundaries"
Genesis 31: 1-55
Romans 9: 6-16

August 23

"Bargaining and
Naming, Facing
the Past"
Genesis 32: 1-32
Romans 9: 17-23

August 30

"Reconciliation"
Genesis 33: 1-11
Romans 9: 24-32

By Appointment Surplus Sale

Due to concerns and restrictions in our community related to COVID-19 First Church will be hosting a "by appointment" surplus sale on Fridays from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. in August and September. Items for sale include: preschool furniture, games, office furniture, seasonal items and much more! Please contact the church office to set up an appointment or email Pastor Rebecca, rebeccam@firstwichita.org.



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. Downtown.

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

First United Methodist Church & community partners present:

Downtown Friday Films

7:00 p.m.
Cancelled

August 11 August 21 August 28

TALLGRASS FILM ASSOCIATION HARVESTER THEATRE COMPANY THE FORUM

Downtown Friday Film Series Cancelled

Unfortunately, due to the rise in COVID-19 cases and out of an abundance of caution for participants, we have made the decision to cancel the Downtown Friday Film series.

FREE WHEELCHAIR WASH

August 22 Saturday 9am-2pm

The Medical Loan Closet will POWER WASH your wheelchair in our commercial washer with water jets to sparkling fresh in just 15 minutes. Large parking area for easy access to MLC 6655 E. Harry. Seated waiting areas will be available with bottled water provided.