

FIRST LIGHT

September 2020
Vol. 165 No. 90

THIS SUNDAY

We will start September with Labor Day and Third Grade Bibles and then transition into a new sermon series, "Good News You Can Use". 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.

**September food collection:
Tuna**

FIRST
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
Life. Downtown.

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

SEPTEMBER WORSHIP

September 6

Labor Day/ Holy Communion
"Loving Labor"
Ecclesiastes 3: 9-13, Romans 12: 1-18

Normally on this Sunday we have an **anointing service** to rededicate our "work" whether it be paid or volunteer, whether a vocation or an avocation and be anointed with oil and prayer. This year our Labor Day anointing will have to look a little different. Since we will still be worshipping remotely, we invite you to share a picture of you in your "work" clothes. You could be volunteering in a mission setting, going to work in an office, or even working from home. We hope to share these images during worship, so please send pictures to media@firstwichita.org by September 3.

September 13

Third Grade Bibles
"Wisdom and the Word"
Proverbs 4: 1-14,
2 Timothy 3: 14-17

This second Sunday in September, we will present our third graders with their new Bibles! Also, be sure to have your personal Bible ready during worship for a special blessing, as we prepare for this next year of study and discipleship.

September 20

"Designed for Good"
Genesis 1: 26-2:3, Philippians 1: 3-11

September 27

"Damaged by Evil"
Genesis 3: 1-24, Philippians 2: 1-11

Good News You Can Use

Later in September we will begin a new sermon series, "Good News You Can Use", based in part on the book "True Story, A Christianity Worth Believing In", by James Choung. His book offers a way for new Christians and old Christians to understand the gospel in a new way, a way that offers grace and salvation not only for an individual but for the whole world. We are not saved for ourselves, but for the healing and hope of the world. Join us in September as we revisit the basics of our faith and commitment to Christ and fall in love with God and with this true story.

Small GROUPS

COMING THIS FALL

➤ CONTACT PASTOR REBECCA FOR MORE INFO:
REBECCAM@FIRSTWICHITA.ORG

NEW Small Groups at First Church

A new small group program is launching in September. All groups will be meeting on Zoom so anyone near or far is able to participate! Check out the detailed catalog of groups being offered on page 3 and find a group that works for you. Registration is available on our website, www.firstwichita.org/small-groups or by contacting Pastor Rebecca rebeccam@firstwichita.org or call/text 316.708.4274. Class facilitators will e-mail a link to attend your weekly small group as well as provide other information that is needed for each group. If you do not find a group you are interested in reach out to Pastor Rebecca and she can share about other groups already happening.

See New Small Groups, Cont'd on page 3

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 Sept. 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

A Note from your Pastoral Care Team

We miss you and want you to know you are in our thoughts and prayers. We hope you are blessed by worshipping with us through the Downtown Alive televised service from the comfort and safety of your home. We look forward to seeing you again in person when we resume in-person worship, but we realize some of you may not be able to return physically right away. If you consider yourself temporarily homebound, please call the church if you would like to be added to the weekly TV bulletin mailing list. Also, if you would like to receive the Upper Room devotional through the mail, please let us know. As we continue to look for new ways to keep us all connected during this time of physical and social distancing, we hope you will consider joining one of the online small groups or attending Sunday School class through Zoom, if you are not

already. We hope you are encouraged by the Wednesday afternoon devotional phone calls, and if you aren't currently receiving the calls, please make sure the church has your correct phone number(s). **For more information on small groups or Sunday School, please contact Pastor Rebecca at 316-267-6244, ext. 313.**

Finally, if you or a member of your household are in need of pastoral care, or are admitted to the hospital, the best way for us to obtain this information is for you to contact the church. Please e-mail us at pastoralcare@firstwichita.org or call the church during business hours and let our receptionist, Lucy Buller, know and she will forward the messages to us. We also continue to have emergency weekend on call pastoral care available, so if you reach the church after hours, those messages are



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

given directly to the pastor on call during the evening or weekend. We are making daily phone calls to our church family who are in the hospitals, and we look forward to being able to make in person hospital visits when it is allowed and safe for everyone.

COVID 19 Update

The COVID 19 cases continue to remain high and we have not yet reached the threshold of a 7 day rolling average of positive cases in Sedgwick County at or below 4%, set by the reopening task force. However, we do anticipate coming back to in person worship at some point and want to share some information with you so you might know what to expect when the time comes.

Worship Only-Limited Building Access

When we gather for our first Sunday back for in-person worship, there will be no other events happening on Sunday other than our two worship services in the morning and the Gathering in the evening. Only the AB entrance and the Broadway doors into the Sanctuary will be open. On Sunday mornings, only the Sanctuary building will be open with the rest of the building roped off, in order to keep track of where people have been, as we begin to have a greater amount of people in the building. Later, once we are comfortable with the process, we will open to Sunday School classes and small groups meeting on Sunday morning.

Worship Might Look a Little Different

Since we last worshipped in person in March, there will be some changes to how we are meeting. First: both the Heritage and the Downtown Alive services will be in the Sanctuary at their usual times with the custodial staff sanitizing the Sanctuary and restrooms between services. While many of us love the Chapel, creating social distancing in that space is not just difficult, it means we have to severely limit how many people can attend. The Heritage service will maintain its liturgy with the exception of the sung responses to retain its unique style of worship.

Arriving for Worship

When you enter through either the AB entrance or the Broadway doors you will be welcomed by a greeter who will be wearing a mask and you will be invited to sanitize your hands or wash them in the restroom. You will need to let us know every person who is attending with you and contact information, prior to the service. This is for the purpose of contact tracing should there be an outbreak of COVID 19 at the church. We will also ask you to register your attendance either through the church app or on your bulletin. You can return those attendance slips in the plates at the back of the Sanctuary following worship. The registration serves the function of signing-up for new ministries or prayer concerns or information you would like the church to have.

The men's and women's restroom outside doors will be propped open. There is a privacy wall, but that way there will be no touching of the door handles going in and out of the restroom. They will be sanitized between services. Noah Naughton, our Facilities Manager is working to install touchless water faucets and toilets.

Seating Plan

Once you are ready to enter the Sanctuary, an usher will seat you and your family group. Family groups must sit together. There will be no nursery, so children will sit with their families. The process will be similar to a wedding or funeral, where people are ushered in and out. You will not be able to choose which pew you will sit in. Seating will proceed from the front to the back, so we do not have people crossing each other's paths. Each service will have limited seating

available. We have 44 spaces on the ground level of the Sanctuary that allows for six foot distancing between members of the congregation. The Sanctuary is large enough that each "space" can hold one or two people or a family unit. At this time, the balcony is off limits. At the end of the service, the congregation will be dismissed from the back to the front. If you really would like to talk to someone, we invite you to do so outside where the open space makes it safer and less likely to pass the corona virus.

Limited Congregational Singing

There will be no or limited congregational singing. While there are some new studies available, currently the guidelines from the Great Plains Conference and other denominational information notes that singing is more risky than other activities. We will be invited to "hum" any hymns we might have and quietly whisper any liturgy. Any soloists or small groups will be singing from the choir loft or will be pre-recorded.

Worship Materials

All hymnals, Bibles, and envelopes have been removed from the pews. Bulletins for each service will be placed in the pew in front of each open pew. A pen will also be available to fill out your registration tab. Once the Heritage service is over, pens will be picked up and sanitized and then a separate set of bulletins and pens will be placed for the Downtown Alive service. Everything will be on the screen for liturgy. This maintains a cleaner and more sanitary environment.

See COVID Update, Cont'd on page 3

OUR GIFTS

JULY 2020 OFFERING

\$54,533.90

RECEIVED YEAR-TO-DATE

\$694,775.29

BUDGET YEAR-TO-DATE

\$723,998.60

EXPENSES YEAR-TO-DATE

\$654,381.54

OTHER CONTRIBUTIONS

MISSIONS

\$0.00

RECEIVED YEAR-TO-DATE

\$2,504.00

CAPITAL FUNDS

\$110.00

RECEIVED YEAR-TO-DATE

\$2,700.00

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

\$28,192.00

RECEIVED YEAR-TO-DATE

\$176,228.60

BUDGET YEAR-TO-DATE

\$136,004.70

EXPENSES YEAR-TO-DATE

\$162,123.86

TOTAL CONTRIBUTIONS

\$82,835.90

RECEIVED YEAR-TO-DATE

\$886,942.89

NEW Small Groups at First Church, cont'd from page 1

Disciple Fast Track: Luke/ Acts

This 12-week study immerses you in the books of Luke and Acts. The study is ideal for busy people who want to fit an in-depth Bible study into their schedule. Each week you will encounter three spiritual disciplines, learn what they are, and how you can engage those disciplines. In every session, you commit to how you will respond to Scripture in terms of ministry in the world. Each week you will be guided in experiencing the gift of Sabbath rest and renewal. Preparation is manageable, with 3–5 chapters of the Bible to read each day. Online videos will provide 3-5 minute video insights related to the week's session. Participation materials are \$15 and can be picked up from the church receptionist or mailed to your home.

Meeting time: Wednesday at 3 p.m. on Zoom beginning September 2 (12 weeks)
Facilitators: Deb Seely & Ernestine Krehbiel

Disciple Fast Track: The Prophets

This 12-week study immerses readers in the Old Testament Prophets. The study is ideal for busy people who want to fit an in-depth Bible study into their schedule. This study examines the connection between memory and identity as the people of God. The prophets are continually calling hearers and readers back to their God and to a sense of who they are as a people "set apart." Designed to establish the historical context in which the prophets spoke. Preparation is manageable, with 3–5 chapters of the Bible to read each day. Online videos will provide 3-5 minute video insights related to the week's session. Participation materials are \$15 and can be picked up from the church receptionist or mailed to your home.

Meeting time: Wednesday at 7 p.m. on Zoom beginning September 2 (12 weeks)
Facilitators: David & Nancy Dinell

Whites and Racism

We will be studying the book, "White Fragility" by Robin Diangelo. The author addresses the issues of "how it's hard for white people to talk about racism." The book, along with our discussion, will make you stop and think about your comments, attitudes, jokes, relationships dealing with racism. We will explore whether we are willing to make the necessary changes to improve our relationships with all races. Can we control our defensive reactions when our comments, attitudes, etc. are brought to our attention? If this sounds like the right fit for you, purchase book on Amazon, or buy local.

Meeting time: Wednesday at 4:30 p.m. on Zoom beginning September 9 (11 weeks)
Facilitators: Connie Barnum & Diane Quantic

GriefShare Support Group

If you've lost a spouse, child, family member, or friend, you've probably found there are not many people who understand the deep hurt you feel. This can be a confusing time when you feel isolated and have many questions about things you've never faced before. The GriefShare support group will meet weekly to help you face these challenges and move toward rebuilding your life. Each session includes a video seminar, support group discussion with focus, and personal study and reflection. GriefShare is for people grieving the death of a family member or friend. We understand that there are other losses in life that create feelings of grief. This grief is real, but it is not the kind of grief discussed in GriefShare sessions. We encourage you to ask a pastor, counselor, or church leader for help in finding resources that will be of specific help in your situation.

Meeting time: Thursday at 5:30 p.m. on Zoom beginning September 3 (12 weeks)
Facilitators: Kathy Hampton & Pastor Rebecca

Parent Support Group

Parenting is one of the greatest joys in life, but sometimes it can be scary, isolating or you might feel like you have no idea what you should be doing. During this time of Covid-19 First Church wants to provide a space for all parents with children at home to gather and share about experiences, pray for each other, and encourage one another. It is also a safe place to ask for advice and group counsel.

Meeting time: Thursday at 7 p.m. on Zoom beginning September 10
Facilitators: Greg and Lark Anton

Young Adult Small Group

20's and 30's year olds are encouraged to attend this small group where faith meets the working world. "Adulting" can be a challenge but it is better when you have friends who pray for you weekly and share in Bible lessons together!

Meeting time: TBD, will determine based on participant schedules
Facilitator: Joseph Schumock

College-Aged Student Group

College is a time of great transformation! Careers and passions become more concrete and sometimes it is easy for your faith to take a back seat during the busyness of school. This group will work to support each other through prayer and group discernment. Each meeting will include scripture, prayer and fellowship. It does not matter what university you attend, all college-aged students are welcome.

Meeting time: Wednesday at 9:00 p.m. on Zoom beginning September 9
Facilitator: Pastor Rebecca

COVID Update cont'd from page 2

Communion

Communion will be served in the pews with the bread pre-cut and served to each individual who has cupped their hands. The masked and gloved server will place the bread in their hands. When all have received, we will lift our masks and take the bread together. Likewise we will serve individual disposable cups and a masked and gloved server will place the cup in the hands of each individual.

When to Worship from Home
We know not everyone will be

comfortable returning and we encourage you to worship from home if you do not feel well, if you are running a temperature, coughing or sneezing, or if you are uncomfortable or unwilling to wear a mask. Masks will be required of everyone who enters the building.

I know all of this seems overwhelming, but the staff and re-opening task force are wanting to take no unnecessary risks with our members and guests. As more information is available, we may be able to

reduce some of our precautions. Until then, we will continue to find ways to connect as a community of faith.

We will still be offering Downtown Alive through KAKE-TV, through our online streaming and through Facebook Live. These avenues have provided us with a broader reach than ever before. We want to be in ministry for a long time to come.

*Graced to Serve,
Pastor Cindy*

OUR FAMILY

We grieve the deaths of:

Susan Stover,
wife of George Stover

Dr. Don Snyder,
husband of Darlene Snyder

George (Bud) Hudson,
husband of Karen Hudson

Connie Hye,
mother of Doug Hye

Matilda (Tillie) Strimple

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.

Zoom Sunday School Continues for Children and Youth

Children Sunday School will continue on Zoom 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](https://facebook.com/corekidsfirstwichita)



Youth to Meet at the Church

September 13 – 2 p.m.

We are excited for the opportunity to meet in person at the church! The youth will be gathering for a lesson and a fun project on Sunday, September 13 at 2:00 p.m. We will of course have social distancing in place and masks will be required. If you have questions, contact Brad, bradr@firstwichita.org. We look forward to seeing you!



Third Grade Bible Presentation

During September we will be presenting our 3rd graders with Bibles! If you have a third grader please be sure to contact Brad to be certain everyone is included. Additional information will be shared when details are confirmed.

New Partners!

The Gathering Worship service has moved their services to the Youth Center. We are excited as this will allow us to have a place to worship as well as music on Wednesday Nights (no singing) when we return to the church. We invite you and your family to check out the Gathering worship on Sunday nights at 5 p.m. on Facebook live. It is a great opportunity to see another First Church worship experience.

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. through 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.

The Gathering

The Gathering continues to meet on Sunday evenings at 5 p.m. via Facebook Live at facebook.com/thegatheringworshipservice. 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.



School Partnership Ministry Continues Despite COVID



BY LIBBY EATON

During August and September, First Church is asking for contributions to purchase school supplies for students at our neighborhood public school, Park, which has a poverty level at about 95%. We established a partnership with Park Elementary, 1025 N. Main, in March 2006, and, during the past 14 years, we have provided countless school supplies, backpacks, and uniforms, perfect attendance rewards and treats, snacks and shoes, 5th grade celebration party, games and tutors, and a multitude of items purchased and time gifted. The students who were at Park when we first began our mission there are now adults, working, attending advanced education institutions, and contributing members of our community. We are grateful to the patrons who frequented Mead's Corner and gave generously to this project through the tip jar. Now the torch has been passed to the First Church congregants and contributors. The School Task Force is charged with raising outside funds, but, unfortunately, three of our big fund raisers have been COVID cancelled.

Because of COVID, this fall will look differently to elementary students and teachers. Children may be in the classroom, socially distanced, or learning remotely from home. Much instruction will be given electronically. Thus, we have purchased headsets and earbuds, some with microphones, for each student. There will be no sharing of supplies. Thus, each child will need a supply box and pencil bag. Each child will need a sturdy, washable water bottle which will be refilled from a specially equipped fountain. Mechanical pencils are needed so that there is no sharing of germs on the pencil sharpener handle. Many items are placed on the list so that EACH CHILD



will have their own supplies.

The list is long, and you can see that, if you are a parent who has been out of work due to COVID and need to provide supplies for several children, it is a daunting task. We are called to help with contributions and prayers. We are also in partnership with Washington Elementary at Central and Pennsylvania. Our goals there are somewhat different, which include activities to support the staff and

encourage the community to come to events inside the school. Obviously, at this time, parents cannot come to school. However, we will do what we can to support the staff without being inside the school, which is forbidden for safety at this time.

Please consider giving generously by sending contributions designated for School Ministries to the church or giving online at www.firstwichita.org.

Quilters Busy Sewing Masks for Park Elementary

The Wednesday Quilters have made 175 facemasks of various sizes for students at Park Elementary. These face masks will be used by the Park Administration to replace lost or forgotten or dirty face masks. We will continue replenishing the supply as the year continues.

Pictured: Tamara Esposito, Vicki Tanner, Elaine Schurr and Judith Oswald
Not pictured: Peggy Brant



Class News & Notes

Hand in Hand with 50-50

Since mid-July we have been meeting on Zoom just checking in with one another and seeing how we are coping. We made notes of joys and concerns and distributed them by e-mail or by postal service. I can say we continued this through July, but in August our Zoom leader, Ken Van Blaricum asked if we would like to have a lesson format. We said "Yes", and we have been studying "Revival" by Adam Hamilton. It's a book about John Wesley and his teachings. The Hamilton's and Bishop Scott Jones and his wife Mary Lou Reese took a trip to England and walked the path and visited the places where John Wesley lived and worked. That's interesting right from the beginning! We have about 12-15 who participate, and it lets some of us who cannot come to SS, or who have moved to CO for the summer still participate. Meeting at 10 a.m. from home is a big help for those of us who are not early birds!

Van Blaricum's, Eby's, Quantic's and Linda Hopper participated in the Genogram class taught by Pastors Joe Mohr and Rebecca Goltry Mohr in August. Baby Mia visits from time to time. What a cutie! It's very interesting to see how we are connected in our families. Several other people also participated in these classes.

Several of us completed the Covenant Bible Study with Pastor Rebecca. We went "social" for 5 or 6 weeks with Doug Hye leading the combined class. Then Pastor Rebecca finished the last few lessons by Zoom when her maternity leave was over. We ended with Revelations!

We have followed the needs of the church in mission by bringing baby diapers and wipes, and toilet paper. Now, we will encourage our members to write checks, rather than bring supplies and clothing, for the Park School Ministry. Money can be used for needs not known to us at this time. We cannot serve or bring in food for the teachers right now. One day corona virus precautions will be lifted, and I am sure all will be relieved.

August was the month to step up our pledges or donations to the TV Ministry Fund. Many more of us from First Church have been "going to church" this way for quite a while now. Encourage others who are watching our service to give monetarily to keep this ministry alive for years to come. The cost is great!

We thought we might have a social in August but did not. We will wait to see how the curve is bending before planning to have a social. Let us pray that we will be able to meet again in our church home this fall and in small groups outside the church masked and distanced for now. Apple Core has found a place in Minisa Park under the big shady trees. Marilou Rodell sent a poem entitled "Heaven's Grocery Store" that should come to you by e-mail or in a mailed letter. It is very uplifting.

Koinonia

Several members of the Koinonia Sunday School Class have started meeting in the church every other week. We are grateful for the opportunity to support each other in person. We are able to enjoy meaningful conversations even while we wear our masks and practice social distancing. We ask class members to contact Lois a couple of days before the next planned meeting so we will know how many people to expect.

People's Open Door

We seem to be a resilient group of souls who continue to gather on Sunday mornings for Sunday School via Zoom. We enjoy our lesson presented by Barbara Simons and have lively discussions that extend into a second session of Zoom. Always eager to be of service to the broader community we gave \$100 to the School Supply Drive and prepared snack bags for Open Door on August 7. A hardy bunch gathered in our classroom to assemble bags with items that Judith Oswald graciously gathered together for us. Thanks!

We were saddened to lose a faithful member, Bud Hudson, this past month. Bud was a wonderful husband to Karen and father to 5 children. His caring and concerned heart will be missed by all in our class as well as the First Church community. Bud could always be counted on to lend a helping hand to so many without concerning himself about his own personal needs. His career touched many lives as we all 'drive' in and about the city of Wichita.

Join us on Zoom on Sunday mornings if you are interested in a group of lay persons studying the Bible in depth to learn how to be meaningful Christians in today's world.

Pneuma

Dan Lord led us in lessons on Psalm 44, which he referred to as a "National Lament & Prayer for Help". We reflected on how the psalm applies to the events occurring in the country. Dan divided the psalm into the following four sections which we were given time to discuss in breakout sessions.

- Psalm 44: 1-8 Our view of God and past divine benefits
- Psalm 44: 9-16 Our view of God failing us now
- Psalm 44: 17-22 Our protests and self-justification / Complaints of God's injustice
- Psalm 44: 23-26 Our demands for God to hear and act

We are currently taking time to address concerns surrounding COVID and the return to school.

We have shared in a number of joys this past month. We rejoice in the marriage of Danielle and Ben McKaig, son of Suzanne and Pat. Gary LeRock climbed to the highest points in three states leaving only three more to go. Pastor Cindy officiated at the renewal of the LeRock's wedding vows on their 30th anniversary, just as she had officiated thirty years ago. Deb and Dave Seely celebrated their 40th anniversary. Libby Eaton rejoices with the service dog she raised, Betty Boop, on the safe delivery of nine golden grandpups that will hopefully become future service dogs, too. As we share in these joys, we also share in the grief of Doug Hye and his family in the death of his mother, Connie.

Praying that all of our church family is staying safe and well.

Seekers

The Seekers have been studying the minor prophets during our Zoom class. Even though the prophets lived centuries ago in a very different world than ours, we have discovered that their mission, like ours, was to follow God's will for his chosen people. As Christians we are to act in a way that identifies us as Christians. "He has told you, O man, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?" Micah 6:8.

We have experienced loss with the death of Rev. Susan Stover. Our love goes out to George and to Annette and all who have experienced loss since we have been unable to be together.

We are praying for those of our extended family that are ill or have been in accidents, for our grandchildren starting a new school year, for the essential workers that allow us to live with comfort and security, and for our church.

Seekers don't forget to continue to support our class financially. During this "hands off period" in our world, we can still give financial support to groups and missions of the church that have depended on us in the past.

LIFE COACHING

Life Coaching Available

Life Coaching is a practice of entering into a collaborative conversation with the express purpose of making progress on one of life's many challenges. Are you a leader of a group looking to make big changes? Is your team or group struggling to adapt in these difficult times? Are you setting personal goals for yourself and having trouble reaching them, or struggling to even establish goals? Consider an introductory session with Leslie Coates, our director of First Connections. Leslie is approaching completion of all the requirements to become a certified Coach through the International Coaching Federation. Be a part of his growth while experiencing some growth of your own! lesliec@firstwichita.org.

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.

*Dear God, our Lord, and Holy Spirit,
We thank you for your Grace, Love
and Protection, Lord.*

*The months and days have seemed
long at times.*

*You have been our Constant
Companion.*

*We are grateful for the blessings of
friends, family and faith as we live
each day.*

You are our Constant Companion.

*We pray for those who are isolated
from friends and family as they stay
safe from harm.*

*You are our Constant Companion and
Comforter.*

*We seek to know how to manage the
many changes beyond our control.*

*You are our Constant Companion and
Protector.*

*As we continue thru this journey, we
thank you for being ever present
with us.*

*We rely on your Grace, Love and
Protection, Lord.*

In Jesus' name we pray, AMEN.

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

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 worshipping 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!

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 through 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

September 6
 "Loving Labor"
 Ecclesiastes 3: 9-13
 Romans 12: 1-18

September 13
 "Wisdom and
 the Word"
 Proverbs 4: 1-14
 2 Timothy 3: 14-17

September 20
 "Designed for Good"
 Genesis 1: 26- 2:3
 Philippians 1: 3-11

September 27
 "Damaged by Evil"
 Genesis 3: 1-24
 Philippians 2: 1-11



Church-wide Fellowship Hour Sunday, September 13 - 2:00 p.m.

Zoom Fellowship Hour has been a blessing for many! As we get into a rhythm for Fall, Zoom fellowship will transition to meet

once a month on the second Sunday of each month at 2 pm. We hope to see many on Zoom on September 13th!

Follow the link on our website:
<https://firstwichita.org/fellowship-hour/>

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.

**Welcome 2020-2021
 Marriage Family Student Therapists**

We want to welcome Lydia Ehrmann, Kaete Morgan, and Warren Tandoc to our Congregational Care Team. These three persons are the newest cohort of Friends University Marriage and Family Student Therapists. First UMC Wichita and Friends University have now been partnering to offer marriage and family therapy at no charge to our local community for five years. We are so grateful for each and every cohort, and this one is no different.

If you, or anyone you know, might be interested in taking advantage of these services, please contact them directly at studentmft@firstwichita.org.

Counseling and mental health care of all kinds available at no charge
 Graduate Student Marriage & Family Therapists
 Friends University MFT local partnership

For an appointment contact:
studentmft@firstwichita.org
 316-267-6244 ext. 304

Lydia Ehrmann Kaete Morgan Warren Tandoc