

# FIRST LIGHT

June 2020

Vol. 165 No. 88

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 June, we will begin a new series, "Blessed Assurance" and learn from the amazing life and hymns of Fanny Crosby. 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](http://firstwichita.org) or at 5:00 p.m. on [facebook.com/thegatheringworshipservice](https://www.facebook.com/thegatheringworshipservice).

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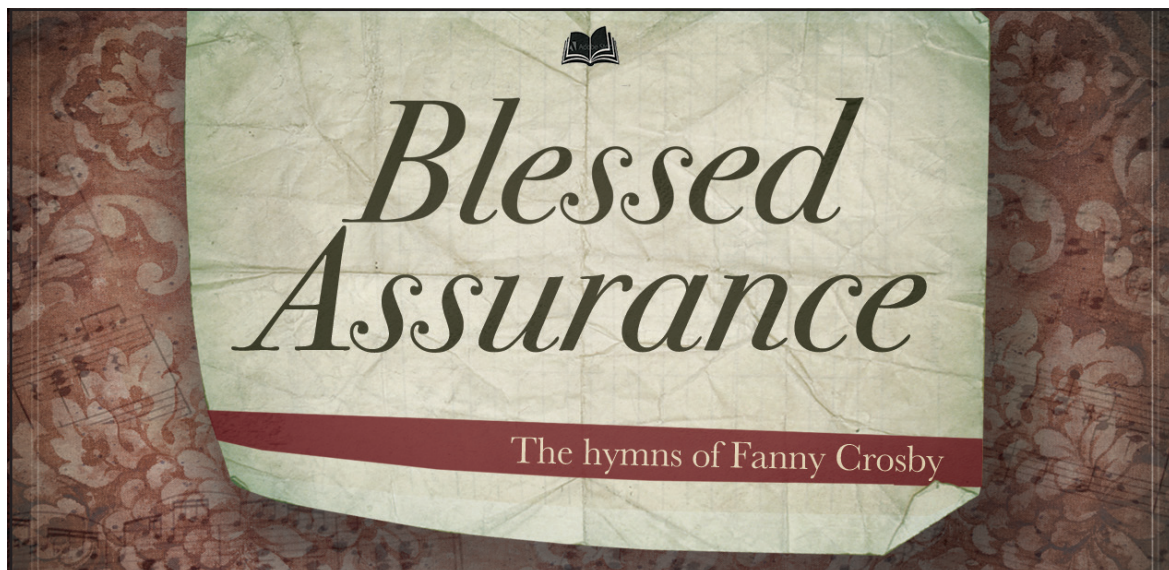
## FEED THE HUNGRY

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

**June food collection:  
Pasta/ Mac and cheese**

**FIRST**  
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
Life. Downtown.

[www.firstwichita.org](http://www.firstwichita.org)  
330 N. Broadway • 316-267-6244  
On Broadway between 2nd & 3rd Streets  
in downtown Wichita.



Blessed Assurance is something we have been leaning into during these uncertain times. The life of Fanny Crosby, the author of that hymn, is one of faithfulness in spite of adversity, uncertainty and changing times. Born in 1820, she lost her eyesight as an infant as the result of an eye infection. Her father left his family before she was one, and she was raised by her mother and grandmother. There were no schools for the visually impaired, but

Fanny's grandmother had her memorizing scripture each week and Fanny had an amazing memory. When she was 18 her mother re-married and within six years had three children and once again was abandoned by her husband. Fanny helped raise her half siblings and was also a teacher in the New York Institute for the Education of the Blind. She married at 38, to one of the finest organists in the New York area. They had daughter who died in her

sleep soon after birth. The marriage never recovered but they remained friends. Fanny continued to write hymns and in her 94 year life, she wrote nearly 9000 hymns, many still beloved today. Her faith in the midst of adversity and all she experienced is an invitation and challenge for us in 2020. This sermon series will invite us to embrace the faith that keeps us "near the cross" and reminds us that in all of life we can claim "blessed assurance, Jesus is mine!"

### ■ June 7, 2020

Holy Communion  
"Blessed Assurance: Echoes of Mercy"  
Romans 5: 1-5,  
Matthew 9: 1-8

### ■ June 14, 2020

"Blessed Assurance: Whispers of Love"  
Romans 5: 6-11,  
Matthew 9: 9-13

### ■ June 21, 2020

Father's Day  
"Blessed Assurance: Filled with His Goodness"  
Romans 5: 12-15,  
Matthew 9: 18-26

### ■ June 28, 2020

"Blessed Assurance: This is My Story"  
Romans 5: 18-21,  
Matthew 9: 35-38

### ■ July 5, 2020

Holy Communion  
"Blessed Assurance: Jesus"  
1 Corinthians 10: 23-33,  
Matthew 10: 40-42

## Diaper Drive June 2020

Want to do something special to help families in Wichita hurting from the economic crisis?

Without a paycheck or with a drastically reduced income, families with infants and toddlers may be choosing between food and diapers. Open Door Community Food Ministry is providing 10 to 12 diapers per child per month if they have any available and if they have the correct size. Open Door depends on donations for this ministry. First United Methodist Church wants to help!

Every Wednesday in June diapers and baby wipes may be dropped off at the AB entrance between the hours of 1:30 and 3:30 and 6 and 7 p.m. Masked and gloved volunteers will be there to take your contribution. You do not need to leave your car.

If you choose to contribute by donating money, send a check to First Church with diapers in the

memo. You can also donate through our online giving on the church's website or app. The money collected will be used to buy diapers and wipes that will go to Open Door.

Babies do not understand "pandemics" or "economic crises" but they do know dirty wet diapers are miserable. Babies will not know that you gave the diapers and wipes, but they will know a clean diaper is heavenly!

Drive Thru Diaper/Wipe Drop off  
Wednesdays in June

1:30-3:30 p.m. and 6-7:00 p.m.

AB Entrance

No need to exit your vehicle!



**PLEASE PRAY FOR**

the hospitalized, our members and attenders with long-term and terminal illness, their caregivers, the homebound and those who are in nursing homes. Pray for our Guardian Angels and Stephen Ministers.

Articles for the next edition of *First Light* are due June 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](mailto:prayer@firstwichita.org) to ask for prayer from the people of First United Methodist Church.

Email [pastoralcare@firstwichita.org](mailto: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.

**COVID 19 Update: Re-Open Task Force Team Formed**

The staff and leadership of First United Methodist Church continue to monitor all the information around COVID 19 and Governor Kelly’s phased re-opening plan. On May 4, the Church Council met via Zoom to begin to discuss how we will implement a re-opening plan for First Church. A task force was formed which includes: Steve Rogers, Church Council Chair; Jolynn Campbell, Trustees Chair; Linda Hopper, Senior Saints; Donna Fisher, Hospitality; Mary Herrin, Hospitality; Joseph Schumock, Family Ministries; Diane Elder, Staff Pastor Parish; Noah Naughton, Facility Manager, Chy Billings III, Director of Music, Brad Remington, Director of Family Ministries and myself. We met for the first time May 13 after reviewing several guidelines for re-opening from the Great Plains Annual Conference, other conferences and churches, as well as the State of Kansas guidelines. Earlier that day, some task force members were also able to attend a webinar on re-opening United Methodist churches. The discussion was thoughtful and measured and hopeful even though the restrictions that will be necessary once we do re-open to small groups and worship can be overwhelming.

The task force will continue to meet and work on more specific recommendations. The group did however, come up with two preliminary items that will affect us through June.

The first recommendation: **To continue what we have been doing with NO in person worship through the month of June.**

Our Church Council Chair, Steve Rogers wrote the following:  
*“The task force felt this journey & each decision on how and when we will walk the halls of First Church together again face-to-face, should be slow and full of care for one another. That we should extend and frame this process with a spiritual sense of allowing each other a “Grace to Wait”, as supported by John Wesley’s general rule to “Do no harm”. We will continue to be the church, open and alive downtown, doing what we do well: our ministry of offering to the community and our members our weekly DTA TV worship service on Sunday mornings and also the Gathering as an online worship community. Each has become a vital life-line and ministry to our community as many churches curtailed their in-person Sunday worship.”*

We know, through our tracking, that our online presence has significantly grown as well as our television viewership. We celebrate that we are worshipping together, even though we are in separate places, we are together in the Holy Spirit. I have been received dozens of letters, e-mails and messages each week with an appreciation for how we are connecting through Downtown Alive, from people across this state, nation and world.

The church has never been “closed,” only the building is being restricted in terms of usage. Several of our Sunday School classes, committees and small groups as well as our children and youth ministries are using Zoom successfully to stay connected.

An online survey is available on our website, for everyone to share their comfort level for returning to the building for worship and small groups. Paper copies of the survey are also available for those who want to use that medium to share their insights.

The responses to the survey will assist the task force in designing unique worship and/or small group experiences tied to our building use, while practicing the latest safety recommendations by the CDC and social distancing with masks, disinfectants and hand-sanitizers as our staple ingredients. Your input is essential in helping us put together a plan where we keep our members, guests and staff as safe as possible, without unnecessary risk.

The second recommendation from the task force is **not allowing large outside groups in the building.** As we continue to work through the protocols for the resuming of our own activities, it made no sense to allow other groups to be in our building without the protocols in place.

Thank you, for your prayers, your understandings and your faithfulness to the reign of God as experienced through the ministry and mission of First United Methodist Church.

Graced to serve,  
Cindy



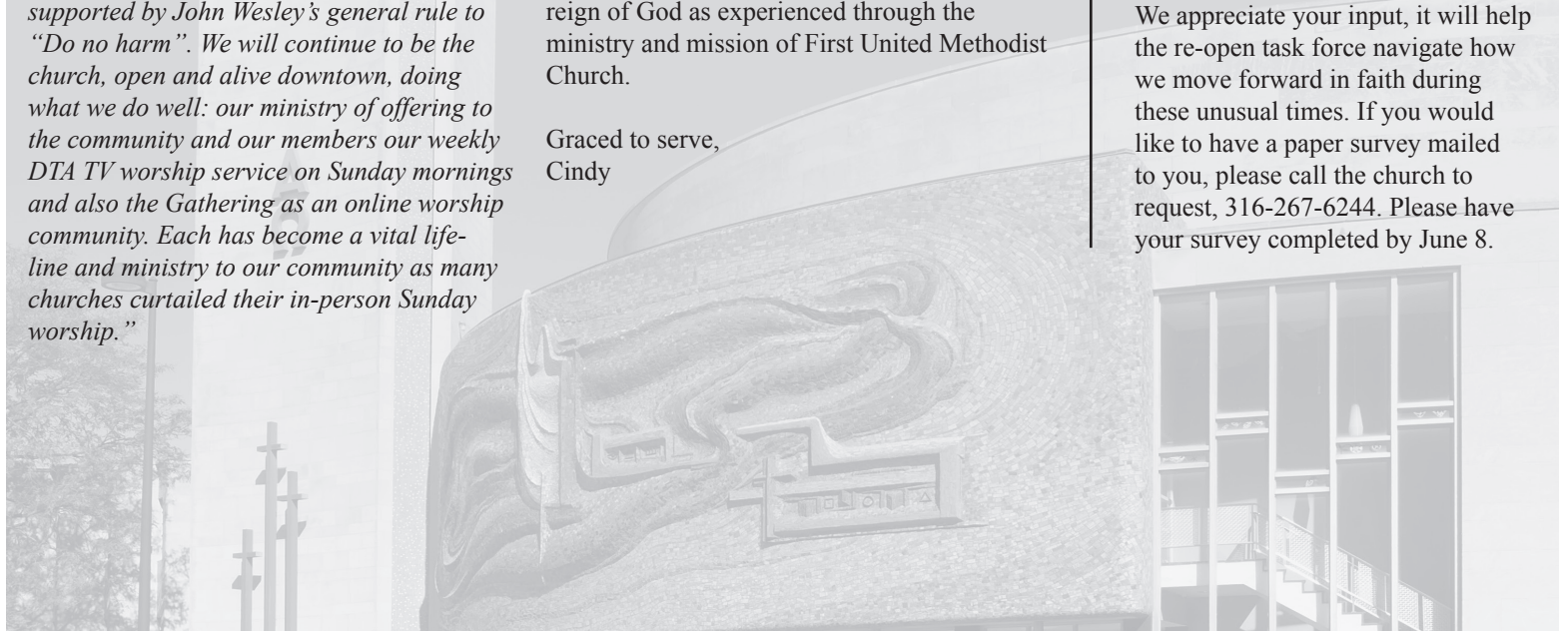
**Face Masks Required**

The task force has decided to require face masks for those who entering the building. Beginning Tuesday, May 26, all persons entering the building will be required to wear a face covering or mask. The task force felt this action is non-negotiable at this stage of the COVID-19 pandemic. As you know, a good portion of our congregation is in the high risk and vulnerable population, including some of our staff. When you enter the building, if you do not have a face mask, disposal masks will be available at the receptionist desk. If you are unwilling to wear one, then you will be asked to leave the building. This is not out of meanness or stubbornness on the part of the task force, but out of great care for each one of our staff, our members and any visitors. Thank you for your cooperation!

**Re-open Survey**

We invite you to fill out a re-open survey, through a link on our website, e-news, app or Facebook page. We would love to hear your thoughts and feedback on how and when we begin to re-open First Church following “stay at home” orders.

We appreciate your input, it will help the re-open task force navigate how we move forward in faith during these unusual times. If you would like to have a paper survey mailed to you, please call the church to request, 316-267-6244. Please have your survey completed by June 8.



## OUR GIFTS

APRIL 2020 OFFERING  
\$63,397.51  
RECEIVED YEAR-TO-DATE  
\$502,138.09  
BUDGET YEAR-TO-DATE  
\$512,212.56  
EXPENSES YEAR-TO-DATE  
\$399,934.01

OTHER CONTRIBUTIONS  
MISSIONS  
\$330.00  
RECEIVED YEAR-TO-DATE  
\$1,159.00

CAPITAL FUNDS  
\$110.00  
RECEIVED YEAR-TO-DATE  
\$2,380.00

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  
\$22,936.11  
RECEIVED YEAR-TO-DATE  
\$89,368.60  
BUDGET YEAR-TO-DATE  
\$77,716.92  
EXPENSES YEAR-TO-DATE  
\$91,634.36

TOTAL CONTRIBUTIONS  
\$86,773.62  
RECEIVED YEAR-TO-DATE  
\$605,780.69

# New Organist Announced

We are so grateful for the gifts of Ralph Phillips who has filled in the last few months as our interim organist. Thank you Ralph! We are pleased to introduce our new organist, Dr. Bryan Mock. Look for a full bio in the July "First Light". Bryan will be joining us the first Sunday in July.

Bryan Mock has been a church musician for most of his life, having sung in choirs consistently since age 8, being raised in the Evangelical United Brethren Church, now part of the United Methodist Church. He served an Episcopal Church as Organist-Director of Music in Cincinnati for 37 years, during which he also taught as Adjunct Associate Professor of Music at the College-Conservatory of Music. For 15 years he was Associate Director of the Cincinnati Boychoir, developing the training scheme for over 150 boy choristers. He was also elected national President of the Association of Anglican Musicians, the professional organization for Episcopal musicians. He has been heard as an organ recitalist in major cities in Europe and North America.



Dr. Bryan Mock will begin as our new organist on Sunday, July 5.

## A Note from Pastoral Care

*Even though restrictions are still in place due to the COVID 19 coronavirus, your Pastoral Care Team is available to anyone who is in need of pastoral care.*

Currently, we have not resumed hospital visitation in person, but we are continuing to make daily phone calls to our church members who are in the hospital. 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](mailto: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 given directly to the pastor on call during the evening or weekend. Your Pastoral Care Team – Rev. Tal Tittsworth, Pastor Cindy Watson and Leslie Coates. Pastor Rebecca Goltry Mohr will return mid-June from Maternity Leave.



Open Prayer Meeting  
Mondays at 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

## OUR FAMILY

**We welcome new members:**

Sharon Achziger,  
Tom and Patty Gnefkow

**We grieve the deaths of:**

Irene Nelson,  
sister of Barbara Maas

Betty Hull,  
sister of Don Hull

Eloise Kennedy,  
mother of Kathryn  
Standiford

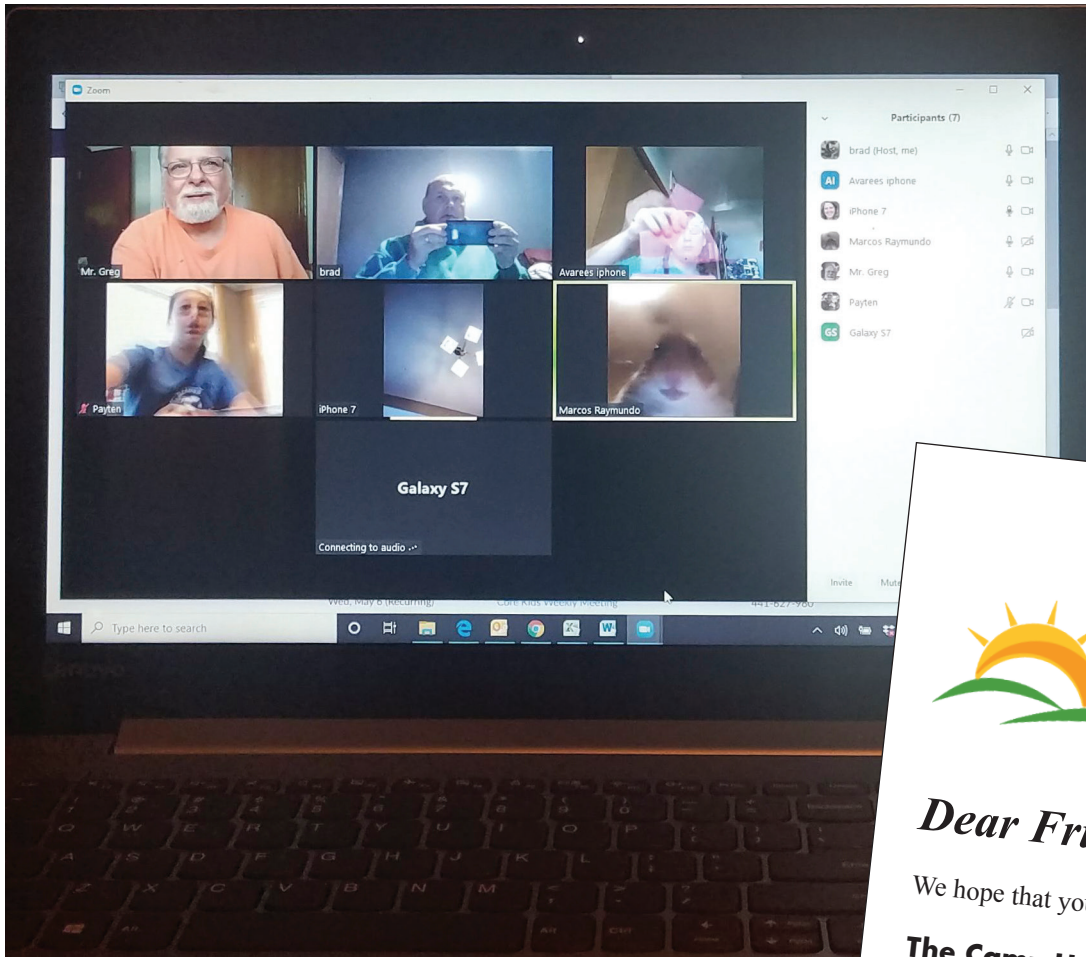
## AmazonSmile Purchases Support First Church

Did you know shopping on Amazon can benefit the church? First Church is eligible to receive donations from AmazonSmile. The website operated by Amazon lets you enjoy the same wide selection of products, low prices, and convenient shopping features as on Amazon.com. The difference is that when you shop on AmazonSmile ([smile.amazon.com](http://smile.amazon.com)), the AmazonSmile Foundation will donate 0.5% of the purchase price to First Church.

On your first visit to AmazonSmile, you will be prompted to select a charitable organization to receive donations from eligible purchases before you begin shopping. First Church is listed on AmazonSmile as First United Methodist Church of Wichita. AmazonSmile will remember your selection, and then every eligible purchase you make on

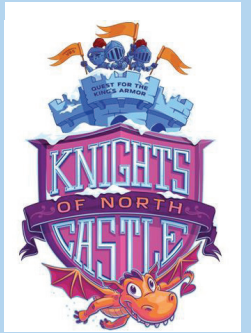


AmazonSmile will result in a donation. You can manage your purchases and other account information on Amazon.com and AmazonSmile using a single account. You can use your existing Amazon.com account on AmazonSmile if you have one, or create a new account if you don't. Contact the business office, 316-267-6244, if you have any questions.



**Vacation Bible School 2020  
Due to COVID-19 and the  
gathering limitations, we have  
decided to cancel VBS at First  
United Methodist Church this July.**

The Family Ministry Council is working hard to put together a virtual VBS experience for families and small groups that would allow lessons to be done at home. Watch for more information as it becomes available.



*Dear Friends of Camp Horizon,*

We hope that you and your loved ones are staying safe and healthy during this difficult time.

**The Camp Horizon Site Council and the Great Plains Camping Board voted unanimously to suspend all summer camp programs and retreats through August 31, 2020.** Over the last two months, we have wrestled with this decision daily and have given it extensive prayer and consideration. Our staff have consulted medical and camp professionals, as well as county and state health officials to try and make the best decision possible.

In an effort to continue forward with our 74th summer camp season, we considered multiple alternatives including shortening the summer and working within health guidelines. However, we determined we could not safely reduce the overall risk to our campers, our staff, and their home communities. We hope you understand how difficult this decision is and know it weighs heavily on us all. Families registered for summer camp or retreats who have a reservation between now and August 31st can expect to hear from us via email in the coming days regarding refunds and rescheduling options moving forward. For summer camp questions, contact Darci at [darci@horizoncenter.org](mailto:darci@horizoncenter.org). For retreat questions, contact Diana at [diana@horizoncenter.org](mailto:diana@horizoncenter.org).

This is a time of great loss for the camp community. Our 23 hired summer staff, 200 spring volunteers, anticipated 1,200 summer campers, and 45 retreat groups are all leaving a major hole in the life of the camp right now. Further, a total of \$50,000 worth of planned camp improvements have been put on hold, and we have significantly reduced year-round staffing.

Nevertheless, our camp community remains strong, and many have already reached out to offer their support. We are confident camp will weather this storm. While we know that safety is always the correct choice, it does not come without a cost. In the coming weeks and months, we invite you to join us in giving to ensure that the long legacy of camp may continue in the future. You can donate online at [www.horizoncenter.campbraingiving.com](http://www.horizoncenter.campbraingiving.com) or send a check to:

Camp Horizon  
30811 Horizon Dr.  
Arkansas City, KS 67005

Please be in prayer for camp leadership as we work through this difficult time and seek to continue to serve in all the ways we can, in all the places we can, for all the people we can, as long as we can. And we will be praying for all of you until we can gather around the campfire again.

*In Christ,  
Joel Wilke  
Camp Director*



**Sunday School Continues on Zoom**  
Pre-K-thru 4th grade – 10:00 a.m. ZOOM Call.

Sunday school lessons will be sent out early in the week by e-mail for anyone that might want them. If you are not included on that list and would like to be added, please e-mail Brad Remington at [bradr@firstwichita.org](mailto:bradr@firstwichita.org). The Zoom video call information will also be e-mailed as well as posted on the Core Kids- First UMC Wichita Facebook page. [facebook.com/corekidsfirstwichita](https://www.facebook.com/corekidsfirstwichita)

**5th Grade thru 12th Grade – 4:00 p.m. on Sunday afternoons**

The lessons for our afternoon sessions will be sent out by e-mail as well as posted on Facebook for all the youth to access. Anyone wishing to be added to the distribution list can contact Brad Remington at [bradr@firstwichita.org](mailto:bradr@firstwichita.org). We will have a discussion on the lesson Sunday afternoons through Zoom. Zoom video call information will be included in the e-mail as well as posted on the Core Student Life Ministries Facebook page. [facebook.com/CoreStudentLifeMinistries](https://www.facebook.com/CoreStudentLifeMinistries)

**Wednesday Children and Youth Activities Break for June**

Since we usually take a break from Wednesday Nights during the summer, we will pause our Wednesday night Zoom for now. We hope we might be able to gather at the church in July for some fun summer activities. Keep an eye out on your e-mail and for a postcard coming soon!



May 5, 2020

Rev. Cindy Watson  
 First United Methodist Church  
 330 N. Broadway  
 Wichita, KS 67202

Dear Rev. Watson,

Thank you so much for hosting the Jim Schmidt Memorial Donation Event to benefit Open Door on May 2<sup>nd</sup>. Having more than two hundred participants is a tremendous success! We appreciate the much needed food and hygiene items for the Community Food Ministry. The diapers and toilet paper are a huge need, as well – thank you!

During 2019, the Community Food Ministry provided 23,024 boxes of food to those in need in our community. The Commodity Supplemental Food Program for seniors provided an additional 21,234 food boxes. With the COVID-19 pandemic, we are seeing the need grow. Your donations will go a long way in helping those in need, especially during such a stressful time for so many.

As you know, Open Door's mission is to *"Provide for basic human needs, promote positive life changes, and restore hope and protect dignity,"* to those we serve by providing food, clothing and shelter. We could not meet our mission without your support.

Again, thank you for your time and effort in organizing a wonderful memorial drive to remember Jim Schmidt, and for supporting Open Door. He was well-loved by our community, and it certainly showed. Please relay our thank you to everyone involved!

Blessings,

Nicole C. Dibben  
 Development Director

## June Mission Updates

### June Mission Project: Diapers and Wipes

We encourage you to drop by the church on Wednesdays in June with your diaper and wipe donations! Volunteers will be available to take your contributions at the AB entrance from 1:30-3:30 p.m. and 6:00-7:00 p.m. There is no need to exit your car! Monetary donations can be sent to the church and marked "diaper drive" or through our online giving on the firstwichita.org website or First Church App. Thank you for your support!

### July Mission Project

Our July Mission Project will be **Toilet Paper**. We are not yet certain how that collection will take place, but watch for updates as July becomes closer! Thank you for your continued support of our community through your generous donations!

### Hannibal, Missouri Family Work Team

Unfortunately, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, we had to cancel our Family Work Team to Hannibal, Missouri. Please watch for alternative opportunities to help in our local community through missions.

### Bailey, Colorado Work Team

If you are interested in the Bailey, Colorado Work Team, please contact Annette Schmidt at [annettes@firstwichita.org](mailto:annettes@firstwichita.org). As soon as we are able to have a meeting, we will get one scheduled and you will be contacted.



www.umopendoor.org  
 P.O. Box 2756 :: Wichita, Kansas 67201-2756  
 [316] 265.9371 tel :: [316] 265.4064 fax



# Class News & Notes

## Hand in Hand with 50-50

The big news for many of us is that as of May 18 we can get a hair cut! Ten to twelve weeks even with an at home trim is a long time unless one is trying to grow out their hair. Likewise, things are beginning to slowly open up in our church. We are now planning for the reopening of the building through recent information from the Reopening Task Force Committee. There will be no in person worship during the month of June. We will continue to have our Zoom meetings led by Ken Van Blaricum at 10 a.m. on Sundays. Call or e-mail him to join. If you need his information contact the Ebys or Hoppers.

I am hoping more people will be able to have someone look at your phone, I-pad, or computer to help you connect with our discussions on Sunday mornings. We've timed it so that it is over and allows you to attend First Church on KAKE TV at 11 a.m. If you have a child, grandchild, or a great-grandchild, perhaps they can safely help you connect.

As a class we encourage each of you that are able to reach out and call two people a week. If you like to chat, more is better. Reach out to those who live alone especially or are in care facilities. Many of us who can get out are getting somewhat "antsy". Thankfully, we have had some beautiful weather. If it is safe, try taking a friend for a drive around town.

Pray for those who you know of that are ill, may be having even elective surgery, or are just a bit "stir-crazy." Rejoice that we still have many ways to communicate! Snail mail still works!

## People's Open Doors 300D

People Open Door class began a new adventure this month by Zooming on Sunday mornings. Our regret is that we didn't start doing it sooner and also that many of our members are not equipped to Zoom. We miss seeing and visiting with them.

During this time of absence from the church building, we lost our dear class member Eloise Kennedy. Eloise was a vital participant in our class, and she will be missed greatly. When remembering her, we think of her generous and giving heart. She was our Courtesy Chair for many years and kept the cards and notes flowing into our homes when we couldn't be in class or for our personal celebrations. Thanks for giving us so much of yourself Eloise. May God bless your family during this time of loss.

Bud Hudson continues to make daily small steps back to wellness. We are grateful to Karen for keeping us posted as to his progress and for always being there for Bud. They are a blessing to each other.

We look forward to when we gather again in our classroom and in the meantime, we are praying for our class members, church members and clergy, our state and nation and its leaders.

## Pneuma 302D

Pneuma continues to meet through Zoom, thanks to Dan Lord and Alan Ebright. It is great to see each other. The past few weeks, Dan has provided a time for breakout rooms of small groups for a five-minute period of "catching up". We were reminded of the message from Bishop Saenz concerning gathering in person which stated: "...this is about honoring and doing our part individually and collectively to protect God's sacred gift of life...". In keeping with that statement, our plans are to continue meeting this way until it is safe for us to meet face to face.

We have continued to have class members share the impact of the pandemic on their lives. One Sunday was devoted to allowing questions to be asked of our previous presenters. On the other Sundays, the following class members have shared their reflections.

- Peggy Baldwin shared the impact the pandemic has been having on the banking industry.
- Phil Davis reflected how the pandemic has impacted his business and the availability of financial help for small businesses.
- Vickie McArthur and Connie and Bob Bishop responded to the following questions posed by Dan:

1. How am I being affected by the pandemic?
  2. How am I coping with the changes due to the pandemic?
  3. What new routines are starting to become normal for now?
- We were blessed to have the ability to hear and learn from all the presenters. It is evident while some of our experiences during this time are truly unique, others are certainly ones we can identify with.

Life events have continued for our class while being apart. We rejoice with Michele and John Steinbacher and Shelley and Phil Davis on the births of new granddaughters. We celebrated our Pneuma teachers and nurses, as well as the retirement of one of our teachers, Rhonda Willome. Congratulations go out to Courtney Hull, daughter of Lucinda and Ray, and Lindsay Lord, daughter-in-law of Cindy and Dan as they graduated with their bachelor's degrees from WSU and KU, respectively. Our prayers have been with Evelyn Fisher on the death of her nephew in Texas and with the family of Chris Immel, who was one of the early members of Pneuma. Being able to share these times, even via Zoom, has been a blessing.

Hoping this finds our First Church family well. We miss you. God be with you till we meet again.

## Seekers 306B

The COVID 19 virus can't keep the Seekers down. We have been meeting via ZOOM on Sunday morning at 10 a.m. We average over forty participants each Sunday. Church class online is a great way to see former members that have moved from Wichita and to welcome new friends. It is wonderful to see our classmates and to share our joys and concerns.

Dave Brant finished Adam Hamilton's book, "The Walk" and is presently using, "A Plain Account of Christian Perfection" by John Wesley to lead our discussions. If you would like to join us Sunday morning e-mail Dave for an invitation.

The Seekers played Bible Trivia, using questions designed for children. Congratulations to Wendy Ramsey for having the most correct answers! In June we will be participating in the Diaper "Drive Through" Drive. Don't forget to bring your diapers and wipes any Wednesday afternoon in June from 1:30 to 3:30 and 6 to 7 p.m. at the AB entrance. You don't need to leave the car. Join us via Zoom and we look forward to safely returning to our classroom in the future.

## Religious Nurture Center

Matt Schrock, RNC Director has continued to reach out with phone calls to members and deliver games and art supplies to group homes to help keep them entertained in their homes. Staff will start sending cards and postcards to stay in touch with members on a regular basis.

# Stay Connected with First Church

## 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.



## 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.

## DTA Television Ministry still "Alive" during COVID!



Rest assured that our television ministry is alive and well during these disconcerting times. What a blessing that over 40 years ago our congregation started this ministry, AND that it would enable us to continue to share our worship service with so many others during this pandemic, as well as those of you who normally join us in person!

Patrick Myers, Director of Media, has done an outstanding job ensuring this ministry continues to operate as smoothly as possible during these challenging times. We have many wonderful volunteers that help fill the 12 positions needed to fully staff the

broadcast. Patrick has formed two volunteer teams that serve every two weeks to minimize exposure, along with 3 or 4 "regulars" each week. The entire Denise & Ken Hole family are just a few of those faithful volunteers. Many thanks to all of you!

Pastor Cindy has received many notes and e-mails of appreciation for our broadcast. Who could have imagined when this ministry was created that it could be so vital in the situation we are in today. We are grateful for all the donors, estate gifts, and memorials throughout the years, and those who currently support this important ministry of our church!

## Covenant Continues

What does a Bible study group do when their leader takes time off for maternity leave and then they are separated from their church meeting space by a pandemic? We had plans to complete our 24 week study even without Pastor Rebecca, but those plans crashed quickly. However, our two Covenant groups, one afternoon and one evening, chose to combine and continue, not with the lessons (we tried to Zoom the video lessons but without success) but just to stay connected.

So, every Wednesday evening, even though we are way past the ending date when we should have been finished with our study, we still "meet" together with the aid of ZOOM technology for about 45 minutes. We take time to share joys and concerns, pray, and learn more about each other. Really, the only thing missing is refreshments, and we're working on that!

Small groups were at the heart of the early Wesleyan Church and we are finding that the need to share in groups continues over 200 years later, even though we use a different meeting method. Knowing that others care with Christian love is keeping us close until we can meet again. Thanks be to God.

## First Church Family



*I am so grateful for the grace you continue to give during these extraordinary times. Despite the struggles that come with acclimating ourselves to necessary precautions, I'm humbled when I see how even with social distancing, our ministry leaders and congregants have "come together" to continue to carry out God's work.*

*The music ministry has certainly looked different these past several weeks. These changes have looked like pre-recorded, socially-distant quartet singing, showing pre-recorded choir anthems from previous services, more involvement from our amazing Gathering Band, and other details. Despite these changes, our mission to minister through music has remained constant and still serves as a driving force in our broadcast services. It is my hope that when you have tuned in on Sunday*

*mornings that you continue to find comfort and joy in the songs and hymns.*

*I must admit, not having the opportunity to make music with our DTA choir, cantors, and bell choir has been an incredibly difficult adjustment for me on a personal level. It is evident how incredibly devoted and talented these musicians are through their musical offerings and, recently, their unwavering patience. These musicians, as well as our entire church family, has been a source of motivation for me these past few weeks. Recently, I've immersed myself in the latest research related to trends surrounding performances and concerts during the COVID-19 pandemic, scholarship from vocal scientists, vocologists, and instrumental experts, articles from medical professionals, and the re-opening strategies and processes of other congregations worldwide. In the midst of all this research, the*

*one thing that has impacted me most is the song in my heart, "Perfect submission, all is at rest. I in my Savior am happy and blessed. I'm watching and waiting, I'm looking above; Filled with His goodness, lost in His love."*

*Things may seem uncertain, my friends, but we have a blessed assurance in Christ. Take some time this week to sing a favorite hymn or song. Reflect on the musical moments in your life that bring you peace. Going forward in faith is no easy task especially when we are moving into the unknown, but I believe that our music ministry will be even stronger and even more essential as we move forward together.*

With gratitude,  
Chy Billings  
Director of Music | First United Methodist Church of Wichita

COMING IN WORSHIP

**June 7**  
"Echoes of Mercy"  
Romans 5: 1-5  
Matthew 9: 1-8

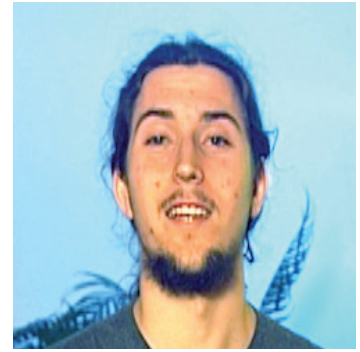
**June 14**  
"Whispers of Love"  
Romans 5: 6-11  
Matthew 9: 9-13

**June 21**  
"Filled with His  
Goodness"  
Romans 5: 12-15  
Matthew 9: 18-26

**June 28**  
"This is My Story"  
Romans 5: 18-21  
Matthew 9: 35-38



# Congratulations to our 2020 Graduates and Scholarship Recipients!



**Jaden Steinbacher**  
Scholarship Recipient  
Wichita State University



**David Hole**  
Scholarship Recipient  
Wichita State University



**David Brant**  
2020 Graduate,  
Master of Divinity,  
Asbury Theological Seminary



**James Hole**  
Scholarship Recipient  
2020 Graduate  
Wichita Southeast High School



**Tyler Kurtz**  
Scholarship Recipient  
Wichita State University



**Elizabeth Hole**  
Scholarship Recipient  
University of Texas at Dallas



**Courtney Smetana-Hull**  
Scholarship Recipient  
2020 Graduate,  
Bachelor of Communications,  
Wichita State University



**Kate Davis**  
2020 Graduate  
Master of Theological Studies,  
Iliff School of Theology



## 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](mailto:firstlight@firstwichita.org). Please include your name, phone number and e-mail address when submitting material.

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