

# FIRST LIGHT

May 2020  
Vol. 165 No. 87

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 May, 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/thegatheringworshippervice.

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## FEED THE HUNGRY

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

## May food collection: Canned Fruit

FIRST  
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
Life. Downtown

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

# FORWARD IN FAITH

■ **May 3**  
"Faith Forming our Future"  
Acts 2: 42-47  
Luke 24: 13-35

■ **May 10 Mother's Day**  
"Following Faithful Women"  
1 Peter 2: 2-10  
John 14: 15-21

■ **May 17**  
"Blessed with Hope and Faithful Witness"  
Ephesians 1: 15-23  
Luke 24: 44-53

■ **May 24**  
Aldersgate  
Sunday  
■ **May 31**

**W**e continue in our sermon series, "Forward in Faith." We are still in Easter and at least being outside reminds us of new life! Flowers are blooming,

trees are leafing out, the days are lingering longer and warmer. While we will continue through the month of May with no in person worship, we will still

worship! We have much for which to be grateful and much to celebrate. As we go forward in faith, we go forward into the unknown, just as Christians

have generation after generation. These are challenging times, but we are an Easter people and we live into the future trusting in the God who is with us always.

## Jim Schmidt Memorial Drive Thru Donation Event Fills Open Door's Shelves

We were thrilled with the turn out for our Jim Schmidt Memorial Drive Thru Donation Event on the morning of Saturday, May 2. Over 200 vehicles streamed through the First Church parking lot, sharing donations for Open Door in memory of Jim Schmidt, who passed away in April. Jim was the retired Director of Emergency Management for Butler County and husband of our Dir. of Missions, Annette Schmidt.



**Photos and story continued on page 8**

**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.

Update from Pastor Cindy

**Dear Friends,**

The last few weeks have been difficult for all of us as we live into a time of self-isolation, social distancing and stay at home orders. While some businesses and organizations move toward re-opening, Bishop Saenz is encouraging churches to continue only online worship and meetings for the time being. Particularly churches that worship over 50, will need to have in place some strict protocols in order for everyone to stay healthy and safe. Here is how Bishop Saenz put it:

*“Social-gathering sizes guidelines, which include church gatherings, will gradually increase in phases over several months beginning May 1 for Nebraska and May 4 for Kansas. Gathering-size restrictions, safe-distancing guidelines, and sanitation recommendations will impact our larger congregations more than our smaller ones. For now, churches with an average worship attendance of more than 50 should continue to hold online worship services and record from home or the sanctuary with a small group of people. If a church chooses to have multiple services, several preparations must be made. There must be a plan for managing the number of people per service and a plan to safeguard contact behaviors and rituals (seating, communion, baptism, passing offering plates, singing, fellowship, passing the peace, after-church receiving lines, handing out bulletins, etc.). Churches that choose to gather must provide personal protection equipment such as gloves, masks and hand sanitizer, and disinfect surfaces between services. A plan should carefully consider the safety of children in nursery care, and there should be a plan for informing the congregation about the scheduling of different worship times, restrictions, and expectations.”*

You can find the full document on the church’s website. There are other documents outlining practical ways for churches to meet but many require no one over the age of 60 or with underlying health issues, in the building, including staff. They recommend every greeter and usher be gloved and masked and people to be escorted in and out of the sanctuary. The Great Plains website has that information out lined for us at, [www.greatplainsumc.org/coronavirus](http://www.greatplainsumc.org/coronavirus). I am deeply committed to the health and well-being of our congregation. While I applaud the extra pre-caution, some of the precautions feel unwieldy and unwelcoming for most people. Church Council and other committees will be having in depth conversations about how we begin and continue to offer our ministry within the walls of the church as well as continue ministry outside our walls.

When we do meet again in person, we will need to have in place extra pre-cautions to honor and protect our most vulnerable. The bishop states it like this:



The First Church staff as well as other groups and committees, continue to meet virtual through Zoom.

*“There will come a time when all gathering-size restrictions are lifted. However, we must anticipate that our lives and timelines will be shaped for at least the next year by the behavior of COVID-19. If at any time within a recovery stage COVID-19 cases significantly rise, a reversal to the previous step may be necessary. When we do meet, we will practice public safety recommendations for safe distancing, disinfecting spaces, and for other contact behaviors particular to the church-gathering experience. The directed health measures we take are meant to ensure the safety of our congregations, especially our older adults and people of any age who have serious underlying medical conditions who might be at higher risk. I do not want to increase fear, but gathering in closed quarters, singing, our contact rituals, and decreased ventilation in our gathering spaces creates a ripe environment for viral transmission. I strongly urge you to err on the side of caution. To gather in person or not for worship at this time is not a matter of faith vs. faithlessness, or about some conspiracy to suppress Christianity; this is about honoring and doing our part individually and collectively to protect God’s sacred gift of life, especially for the most vulnerable in our communities and our world.”*

The staff and leadership of First Church are choosing to err on the side of caution and continue to NOT have in person worship and meetings through May. I am sure by mid-May we will know more and have a better idea of how to move forward. We are still worshipping together through KAKE-TV and our online streaming and at 5:00 p.m. with the Gathering through Facebook Live. I know it is not the same, but it is gift for us to continue in our spiritual walk together. Some

Sunday school classes, small groups and committees are meeting by Zoom and doing so successfully. There may be things we have learned from this that we choose to keep.

I will continue to keep you updated as more information becomes available. Please continue praying for our ministry in our 150th year, for the staff and each other. We are a community of faith that is committed to changing lives by transforming communities. May we be committed to finding new ways to do so.

Graced to serve,  
Cindy



**It’s a Girl!**

Congratulations to Pastor Rebecca and her husband Joe on the birth of their daughter, Amelia “Mia” Josephine Mohr, on April 7, 2020. Please join us in praying for their new family. Pastor Rebecca will be on maternity leave until mid-June and we will be delighted to welcome her back!

## OUR GIFTS

MARCH 2020 OFFERING  
\$194,195.68  
RECEIVED YEAR-TO-DATE  
\$438,740.58  
BUDGET YEAR-TO-DATE  
\$449,497.88  
EXPENSES YEAR-TO-DATE  
\$326,889.80

OTHER CONTRIBUTIONS  
MISSIONS  
\$200.00  
RECEIVED YEAR-TO-DATE  
\$829.00

CAPITAL FUNDS  
\$110.00  
RECEIVED YEAR-TO-DATE  
\$2,270.00

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

ORGAN MAINTENANCE FUND  
\$10,700.00  
RECEIVED YEAR-TO-DATE  
\$10,735.00

TELEVISION MINISTRY  
\$13,510.73  
RECEIVED YEAR-TO-DATE  
\$66,432.49  
BUDGET YEAR-TO-DATE  
\$58,287.66  
EXPENSES YEAR-TO-DATE  
\$68,254.63

TOTAL CONTRIBUTIONS  
\$218,716.41  
RECEIVED YEAR-TO-DATE  
\$519,007.07

# A Note from Pastoral Care

Because of restrictions in place due to the COVID 19 coronavirus, we are unable to make our daily pastoral care hospital visits. We are sad we aren't able to visit our church family who may be in the hospitals right now, but one of our pastoral care staff is continuing to make daily phone calls to anyone who is in the hospital. At this time, getting information from the hospitals is especially challenging and is something we aren't able to fully rely on. Please let us know if you or a member in your household is in the hospital. You can e-mail [pastoralcare@firstwichita.org](mailto:pastoralcare@firstwichita.org), or simply call the church and let our receptionist know.

Lucy Buller, our First Impression Receptionist, is checking voice mails regularly and will notify pastoral care of any hospital admissions. Our church building hours during this pandemic are Monday through Thursday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., with

12:30 to 1:30 p.m. closed for the lunch hour. We continue to have emergency weekend on call pastoral care available, so if you reach the church after hours, those messages are given directly to the pastor on call during the evening or weekend. We look forward to being able to resume pastoral care visits in person to our hospitals, rehab and long-term care facilities, as well as our homebound church family. May you experience God's peace and protection.



**Pastoral Care Team**  
Rev. Tal Tittsworth  
Rev. Cindy Watson  
and Leslie Coates  
Rev. Rebecca Goltry Mohr will return mid-June from maternity leave.

## Ways to Stay Connected with First Church

### Worship

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

### 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](https://www.firstwichita.org/register-attendance).

### • First Church App

Have you downloaded the First Church App to your phone or tablet? This is an easy place to access online worship, online giving, submit prayer requests, read weekly scripture as well as receive important information quickly. Simply text "**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](mailto:erind@firstwichita.org).

### • Phone

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



### • Prayer Requests

Feeling overwhelmed, sad, anxious? Share your prayer requests through our [firstwichita.org/prayer](https://www.firstwichita.org/prayer), or by e-mail, [prayer@firstwichita.org](mailto: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](https://www.firstwichita.org) or through the First Church app.

## 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 celebrate the birth of:

Amelia Josephine Mohr  
to  
Rebecca and Joseph Mohr  
on April 7, 2020

### We grieve the deaths of:

Alice Kerr Black,  
sister of Connie Lee,  
aunt of Linda Ebright

Ralph L. Oswald,  
father of John Oswald

Dan Phelan,  
husband of Mary Phelan

Jim Schmidt,  
husband of Annette  
Schmidt

Don Rider,  
husband of Bette Rider

Emily Rude

## 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](https://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.



### Children and Youth Adjust to Remain Connected

We continue to stay committed to keeping the Children and Youth involved as much as possible in the church as we live in the midst of a pandemic. We will continue to find ways to stay connected to our church family! If you have questions or concerns, please contact Brad Remington, Director of Family Ministries, [bradr@firstwichita.org](mailto:bradr@firstwichita.org).

### Sunday School

**Pre-K- 4th Grade – 10:00 a.m. ZOOM Calls.** Lessons will be sent out early in the week by e-mail. If you would like to be added to distribution list, please e-mail Brad at [bradr@firstwichita.org](mailto:bradr@firstwichita.org). The Zoom video call link will also be e-mailed, as well as posted on the Core Kids- First UMC Wichita Facebook page. [facebook.com/corekidsfirstwichita](https://facebook.com/corekidsfirstwichita)



As of May 1, Camp Horizon has paused all camp registrations. They will announce their summer camp plans by May 18. Watch your e-mail, we will keep you updated as soon as a decision is made.

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

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

### Wednesday Activities

**Pre-K –4th Grade – 6:00 p.m. – Wednesday Zoom Call**

We will discuss our lesson and also do a project that we can share with the congregation

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

We will discuss a lesson and check in on everyone.

SUMMER

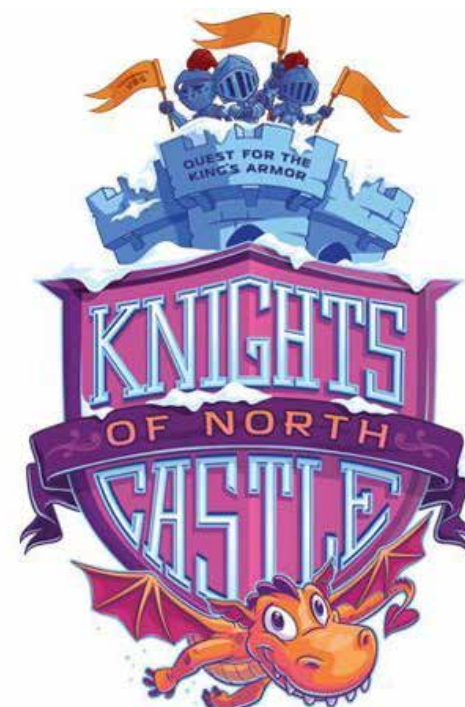
## Looking Ahead to Summer!

### Vacation Bible School Date Changes

**July 20-24, 2020**

**9:00 a.m.-Noon (Lunch Included)**

We have made the decision to push VBS till the end of July. Please plan to join us for a week of fun as we visit the Knights of North Castle. This VBS is FREE, for ages Pre-K thru 4th grade! We will be looking for volunteers to help us that week with many jobs. If you are interested please contact Brad at the church or e-mail, [bradr@firstwichita.org](mailto:bradr@firstwichita.org)





## Special Easter Deliveries

Religious Nurture Center delivered Easter baskets to the residential group homes of our members on Easter morning. Baskets were filled with Easter candy, movies, puzzles, balls and games for our members to enjoy. Many of our members

have communicated how meaningful it has been for them to worship with their roommates and residential staff through our televised Sunday morning worship service.



## Women's Lambing Weekend 2020, Heifer Ranch



Pastor Cindy weighing a lamb



BY: BONNIE BEUNING

The eight of us began on March 12, driving toward Perryville, Arkansas. The threat of the pandemic virus was tucked into our thoughts, but we had no idea the freedom of movement experienced on this trip would be the last time for an unknown period.

If you've visited the Heifer Ranch in the past, it has evolved into something more since then. It's still part of Heifer International, through which we can still donate funds to purchase farm animals for some of the world's poorest families.

Now it's a model of farming with concern for Earth's ecosystem, women's empowerment, raising farm animals humanely, and the success and well-being of farmers.

Our task was much greater than we expected, and we were eager to do it all! Not enough space here to list all the farm

chores, but here's a partial list:

Checking meadows for newborn calves, lambs, ewes in active labor; "branding" animals with paint; observing births of lambs, weighing newborns; tagging ears; herding, weighing sheep and pigs; moving chicks from brooder house to fields, tending to baby turkeys (poult).

Unfortunately, it was quite cold and rained most of the time. We warmed up at mealtimes, and had time to chat with young volunteers who came from a scattering of states and countries. The food was farm-fresh and scrumptious.

We were treated to a ranch wagon tour of the 1,200 acres, a guided tour of the garden and greenhouse, a goat milk soap-making demo, and assembled small wooden birdhouses to be distributed around the ranch. On our last evening, after a special dinner, we enjoyed s'mores in a light drizzle of rain.



## Quarantine Spring Clean Coats for a Cause

KAKE TV and In the Bag Cleaners are holding a coat drive for The Salvation Army for coat distribution in October 2020. Now is the perfect time to donate any unwanted coats as you've been stuck at home cleaning out your closets. It's how the coat you never wear can still make you feel warm all over! April 27 - May 16, drop off items at KAKE TV or any open In the Bag Cleaners location with curbside service. If you choose to not leave your house, In the Bag Cleaners will also pick up from your home. Call 316-267-3407 for pickup service anywhere within Sedgwick County. In the Bag Cleaners will clean all items to ensure they are disinfected before distribution. The Salvation Army will distribute coats to those in our community who otherwise might be left in the cold next winter.

It was eye-opening to see the symbiotic results when wise and natural methods work among animals, soil, and happy farmers.

It was deeply touching watching the ranch's young women confidently excel at hard jobs traditionally done mostly by men. Teaching us as we worked, alongside them, they were kind and encouraging, and obviously dedicated to the Heifer Ranch's purpose.

Men and women from coast to coast and other parts of the world come to the Ranch to attend classes and demonstrations. There are great informational videos on youtube.com as well.

We're home now and there's been time to reflect on our experience. How precious it was! For one long weekend, being amid the beauty of God's earth, cradling lambs and remembering Christ as the Good Shepherd. We were blessed.

# Class News & Notes

## **Hand in Hand with 50/50 107B**

Well, it has been quite a month as we celebrated Lent and then finished with Easter Sunday. Along with the coronavirus, it has been a month with many cancellations and learning new ways to communicate. We think our class has done a fairly good job of contacting others by phone, text, or e-mail. Hand in Hand with 50-50 had a trial "virtual class Sunday, April 26 on Zoom. We will be meeting over Zoom the next several Sunday's with Ken Van Blaricum leading the discussion. Ken will start with some scripture and then we will discuss it while being able to see one another. The Zoom meeting will be at 10 a.m. giving us time to tune into our church service at 11 a.m.

Everyone we've heard from thought the Easter service was absolutely wonderful! The message was one of joy, the flowers were stunning along with Cindy's shimmering stole. We want to acknowledge the wonderful music and especially how Ralph Phillips picked up the "Hallelujah Chorus" by memory when last year's music didn't come on immediately! The soloists and The Gathering Band were superb! Some mentioned the small kneeling bench Pastor Cindy has been using makes us feel the service is really in the same room as we are.

We think we better wait on the next Ladies lunch until June and see if it's safe to venture out by then!

Although Jim Schmidt is not in our class, we mourn his death and our love and prayers will remain with Annette, Stephanie, and other family. He and Annette served on many Work Teams and Jim continued to serve Mission meals until the very end. "Annette, our love goes out to you especially."

We all need to pray for our church to remain strong during this unusual time.

## **People's Open Doors 300D**

We are hoping our class members are coping with Covid19 and staying safe in this unprecedented time. We have indeed learned to like 'ourselves' during this time of quarantine.

It is looking more like mid-May every day before we will be gathering together again, and we are anxious to get together. Some of our members have made life changes this past month including Eloise Kennedy who has moved to Toronto, KS to live with her son and daughter-in-law and Bud and Karen Hudson have returned home after Bud's stay in rehab. Bud has recovery time ahead and certainly our thoughts and prayers are with him and Karen. When we can get out again, visits to their home will be welcomed especially if we bring along a casserole for their dinner!

We're praying daily for our entire church family and are so grateful for media to keep us in touch with our pastors and music leaders.

## **Pneuma 302D**

Pneuma has been meeting weekly via Zoom. We are grateful to Alan Ebright for making it possible and for Dan's continued leadership. We have had as many as 57 members join in the Zoom class. We have been blessed to have the following members share their experiences and reflections on the impact of the virus in their lives.

- Nancy Smith shared her experiences in deploying field hospitals for Samaritan's Purse to Italy and New York City.
- Deb Seely shared the impact of the virus on the church from local to global levels.
- Jim Valliant reflected on his experience as a respiratory therapist, the impact of the virus, and the lack of ventilators to aid those who are fighting the virus.
- Suzanne and Pat McKaig and Doug Hye reflected on celebrating Easter in a pandemic.
- Michele Steinbacher and Bob Tinker shared the impact of closing the schools on the children they serve and how difficult it has been to continue to deliver an educational experience. Mike Willome also shared concerns about the lack of technology in the homes of the students in USD 259. He shared that a high school student said she would never take school for granted again.
- Jack Bond and Brad Sherard reflected on the impact of the virus on their jobs in the medical community – Jack as the director of pharmacies for Wesley and Brad as an accountant at Grace Med.

We miss seeing our extended church family in worship but are grateful for the technology that allows us to meet as a class and to "attend" worship. Praying that it won't be long before we are in each other's presence again. Until then, be safe. Your Pneuma family.

## **Seekers 306B**

The Seekers are still enjoying seeing each other every Sunday morning at 10 a.m. via ZOOM. The average attendance is 38 with 21 household logging on. Dave Brant used the book "The Walk" by Adam Hamilton for our lessons. Nancy McKellar filled in one Sunday and did a great job. Our curriculum committee is making plans for our next study.

The Seekers mourn the death of Jim Schmidt but celebrate his rich life. He will be missed greatly, and all our love goes out to Annette. The Schmidt's are great role models.

We pray for our world, for our families and for our Church. We are trusting in the words of Nancy Allen's HYMN OF PROMISE---

" There's a dawn in every darkness, bringing hope to you and me. From the past will come the future; what it holds, a mystery, Unrevealed until its season, Something God alone can see."



## 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.

Through Easter-tide, The Gathering is hosting a Tuesday Happy Hour via Zoom. Grab a snack or beverage of your choice to join in a mid-week conversation about how Easter is finding its way to you in the middle of a pandemic. Please e-mail LeslieC@firstwichita.org for a Zoom invite or check The Gathering Worship Service Facebook page to find the Meeting ID Number.



## STAY CONNECTED STAFF E-MAIL



**CINDYW@FIRSTWICHITA.ORG**  
REV. CINDY WATSON, SR. PASTOR



**TALT@FIRSTWICHITA.ORG**  
DR. J. TAL TITTSWORTH, DIR. CONGREGATIONAL CARE



**LESLIEC@FIRSTWICHITA.ORG**  
LESLIE COATES, DIR. FIRST CONNECTIONS



**BRADR@FIRSTWICHITA.ORG**  
BRAD REMINGTON, DIR. FAMILY MINISTRIES



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

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

## Flower Ministry Donations Honor First Church Friends and Loved Ones



Thank you to everyone who donated toward the flower ministry fund. We sent Easter cards to our homebound members since we were unable to deliver Easter lilies because of restrictions in place due to the COVID 19 Coronavirus. We look forward to making deliveries of a flower arrangement this summer to our homebound, when it becomes safe to do so. A special thank you to Linda Hopper, chairperson of the Senior Saints Committee for all she does to organize these deliveries. Pastoral Care truly appreciates Linda's efforts in organizing and implementing this special ministry to our homebound. Below is a list of individuals who contributed to the flower ministry and the names of those who are being honored or memorialized:

### **Donor Name(s)**

Pansy Brown  
Beth Elliott  
Don and Terry Grabendike  
Ben and Mary Grisamore  
Mary Havey  
N. David (Dave) Johnson

Sawny Klaassen  
Betty Lygrisse  
Virginia McCoskey  
Kenneth and Bonnie Rupe  
Ronda Snyder  
Bill Thompson  
Sharon Thompson  
Celia Turner  
Cindi Ubben

### **In Memory of**

James Brown & Jamie Brown Menees  
Willis Elliott  
Norma & Verlyn Griffith  
Vi & Doug McGinness (sister & brother in law of Mary); Esther Grisamore (Ben's mother)  
Todd Havey, Helen Halstead  
Joy Shomber (sister); Chris Johnson (son), N. Russell & Rubie Johnson (parents)  
& Rev. R. Paul Johnson (brother)  
Gaillard & Betty Jo Thompson  
V.E. Gene Lygrisse  
Robert McCoskey  
Rev. & Mrs. Robert B. Brown, Mr. & Mrs. H.A. Rupe, Mr. & Mrs. Alden Rupe  
Vinola Moore; Karen Swarts  
Doris Thompson  
Carol Peterson  
Bill Turner  
David Ubben, Blossom & George Kirkendall

### **In Honor of**

Glenna Hendershot, Mary Lou Roedell

COMING IN WORSHIP

May 3

“Faith Forming Our Future”  
Acts 2: 42-47  
Luke 24: 13-35

May 10

“Following Faithful Women”  
1 Peter 2: 2-10  
John 14: 15-21

May 17

“Blessed with Hope and Faithful Witness”  
Ephesians 1: 15-23  
Luke 24: 44-53

May 24

Aldersgate Sunday

May 31



**Jim Schmidt**  
MEMORIAL  
DRIVE THRU  
DONATION EVENT  
TO BENEFIT OPEN DOOR

Cont'd from page 1

In addition to participation from First Church members and friends, first responders from several emergency response agencies throughout Butler and Sedgwick Counties, representing Jim’s friends, family and former co-workers, came out in full force! The parking lot was full of fire trucks, ambulances and police cars as well as a variety of other emergency vehicles full of donations collected for the event! Donations of food, diapers, toilet paper and other essential items filled two trailers and overflow filled the backs of the church vans!

Thank you to everyone who helped make this event a success. Open Door was overwhelmed by the quantity of donations we delivered to their warehouse following the event!



*“I have been touched deeply by the words of so many persons who worked with Jim, both professionally and as volunteers, and by our friends and neighbors. I always felt Jim was special and had a heart of gold, but to hear it from so many others is humbling. Jim loved his God and his Lord, Jesus Christ; he loved his family and friends, he loved his work (which really wasn’t work to him). I miss him so much.”*  
--Annette Schmidt



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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FIRST  
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Tom Tanner

**First Church Members Use Stay at Home Time to Build Toys**

BY GEORGE STOVER

During the 2019 Christmas season Susan and I assisted the Salvation Army with their gift distribution. There were numerous handmade toys available for families to choose from for their children. Halfway through the second of three days the toys were gone and some children were quite disappointed. A week later Tom Tanner told me of a group of men in Texas who get together to make toys to donate to various organizations. So, a group of men from First Church decided to make some toys to donate. Well, the stay at home mandate put that on hold. I decided I needed something to do during the winter at home. The result was over 100 cars, trucks, and other toys. Tom and I cut, sanded, and created all of the toys from leftover wood and donated materials. Susan was quality control and creative genius. The kids at the Salvation Army gift distribution next Christmas should have plenty of toys to choose from, and we get the satisfaction of knowing we were the hands of Christ on Earth.



George Stover