

# FIRST LIGHT

October 2020  
Vol. 165 No. 91

## THIS SUNDAY

Looking for some good news? Join us in October for worship as we continue our sermon series, "Good News... You Can Use". Later in the month we will kick-off, "Still" our 2021 stewardship series. 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.

**October food collection:  
Canned Vegetables**

**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.



This month we continue our series "Good News You Can Use", based in part on the book, "True Story, A Christianity Worth Believing In", by James Choung. We continue to explore ways for new Christians and old Christians to understand the gospel in 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 for worship as we revisit the basics of our faith and commitment to Christ and fall in love with God and with this true story.

■ **October 4**  
"Restored for Better"  
Philippians 2: 12-18,  
Matthew 25: 31-46

■ **October 11**  
"Sent to Heal"  
Philippians 2: 19-30,  
Luke 6: 27-38

## Stewardship 2021

Our annual opportunities for stewardship will begin Sunday, October 18. The theme for this year's stewardship season will be the word "still" as expressed so eloquently in the Psalm: "Be still and know that I am God." Psalms 46:10

To understand the impact and implications of this pandemic, we must be still and listen intently for God's call to His Church to work in time-tested ways and in new ways, ministering to the needy from Third Street and Broadway, both virtually and in person. We continue to enjoy the gifts of those who have gone before, but we must assure that those who follow will have resources available to work with whatever the future may hold. Our gifts, tithes, and offerings, even when we are not meeting in person, will enhance our ministry now and transform it into the future. The church's ministries are more critical now than ever before. We don't see each other in church these days, but as faithful members of First Church Wichita we hope you will join us beginning October 18 as we take time to be still and listen for God's call to us.



## 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, 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](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



## God is Faithful, Generous, Grace-Filled

We have been in ministry in Downtown Wichita for 150 years, in good times and bad times, in war and in peace, in prosperity and recessions, in literally, health and sickness. 2020 started out as a year full of possibilities, with ideas swirling around “perfect” vision. It has moved into a year of global pandemic, and in the United States deep partisan divisions and racial and social unrest. However, in the everlasting reign of God, none of these things are new, not even new in the last 150 years. God is faithful throughout history, and grace filled for every time and place.

During this series we will focus on how we trust in God’s faithfulness, God’s grace, God’s love, God’s generosity and God’s presence in our lives, “Still”.

*“Be still and know that I am God”*  
-Psalm 46:10

**October 18, 2020**

**“Be STILL and Know God”**

1 Thessalonians 1: 1-10

Matthew 22: 15-22

**October 25, 2020**

**“STILL: Present and Accounted For”**

1 Thessalonians 2: 1-13

Matthew 20: 1-16

**November 1, 2020 All Saints Sunday**

**“STILL: Past, Present, and Future”**

Jeremiah 29: 4-7

1 Thessalonians 2: 17- 3:13

### “Still” Weekly Challenge

Throughout the stewardship sermon series, “Still” you will be given weekly challenges based around the five membership vows; prayers, presence, service, gifts, and witness. Each week during the offering the challenge will be revealed and a text message will be sent out with the challenge and a mid-week voicemail check-in will happen on Wednesdays. There are 5 challenge cards, that are available to be mailed if you request them through your online attendance registration or by calling the church office. All challenges cards will be made available on the church app, Facebook page and website as well.

## COVID 19 Update

As has been shared previously, the task force has set a metric as to what level of risk we think is appropriate for in person worship to resume. We do not anticipate zero percent positive cases in Sedgwick County any time soon. So, the task force has set a 7 day rolling average of positive cases in Sedgwick County at 4%. We think that is a reasonable number of cases and one that we can live with when the time comes, to having in person worship. The 14 day rolling average changes each day,

and is being monitored by the task force. In addition to guidelines for reopening, we have also set some parameters in case we would need to make the decision to shut down again. If after reopening there is a Covid positive rate of 10% in Sedgwick County or more following a steady increase in the rolling seven day COVID average, or if there is cluster of 5 or more positive cases within the church, the church will shut down. We will comply with any executive orders issued

from the State of Kansas, Sedgwick County or City of Wichita limiting the attendance in a gathering. We will also track the trend around USD259 and CDC red line. We will continue to communicate any updates through our website, [firstwichita.org](http://firstwichita.org), the First Church app, and Facebook page. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the church. The safety of our congregation and staff continues to be our utmost concern. Thank you for your continued prayers!

## OUR GIFTS

AUGUST 2020 OFFERING  
\$45,509.04

RECEIVED YEAR-TO-DATE  
\$740,284.33

BUDGET YEAR-TO-DATE  
\$781,499.28

EXPENSES YEAR-TO-DATE  
\$743,056.35

OTHER CONTRIBUTIONS  
MISSIONS  
\$200.00

RECEIVED YEAR-TO-DATE  
\$2,704.00

CAPITAL FUNDS  
\$30,120.00

RECEIVED YEAR-TO-DATE  
\$32,820.00

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  
\$41,688.17

RECEIVED YEAR-TO-DATE  
\$217,916.77

BUDGET YEAR-TO-DATE  
\$162,433.96

EXPENSES YEAR-TO-DATE  
\$186,345.98

TOTAL CONTRIBUTIONS  
\$117,517.21

RECEIVED YEAR-TO-DATE  
\$1,004,460.10

# Charity Harmon Rejoins TV Ministry Staff

The First Church TV Ministry is pleased to welcome back Charity Harmon in the position of Production Specialist. Charity has previously served as Director of Media and has continued to volunteer for the TV Ministry for several years. Charity is very talented and knowledgeable in so many areas of media production we just couldn't let her get away. She will be working part-time, but will be a full partner in every aspect of the TV Ministry. Having Charity working along-side us will allow the TV Ministry to help all the ministries and programs of First Church connect with our members and those in need during this unique time of a pandemic.

We are excited to welcome Charity back to our staff at First Church! Please send your welcomes by e-mail [charityh@firstwichita.org](mailto:charityh@firstwichita.org), since we are not yet meeting in person!



## Pneuma Class Members Volunteer At Raise My Head Foundation

Raise My Head Foundation Founder Vickie Bond desperately needed a great crew to tackle the tall weeds and clear debris in the backyard of the RMH home where the new cottage industry is being built. This summer Wichita Area Builders (donated materials and labor) began building this new space for crafting their products for the cottage industry. The plan is to have it completed by October 2020. They should have VIP tours scheduled soon after it opens. Cynthia a current resident enjoyed working alongside the Pneuma "Power-5" work team and said she didn't know what was being transformed more the yard or her soul!

For more information go to: [raisemyhead.org](http://raisemyhead.org)

## OUR FAMILY

### We grieve the deaths of:

Tom Fox,  
husband of Carol Fox

Grace Brooks

Jerry Newby,  
father of Judy Nystrom

Nora Vaughn

June Crabtree and  
Nell Kilpatrick,  
sisters of Jean Matthews

Avis Yakel  
sister of James Harvey Childers

Sandra Nance

### We celebrate presentation of 3rd grade Bibles to:

Guillermo Lopez  
Lilly Spacil

### We celebrate the baptism of:

Amelia Josephine Mohr,  
daughter of  
Rebecca and Joe Mohr

### We welcome new members:

Sharon Achziger  
Tom and Patty Gnefkow  
Paula McAllaster  
Doris Rush  
Ronald Rush

### 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.



### Children and Youth Ministries Meeting in Person Beginning October 7

Join the Children, Youth and Religious Nurture Center (RNC) as we kick off our fall programming on Wednesday, October 7 from 6-7:30 p.m. We will meet together with social distancing and masks in Wilke Family Life Center. We have lots of fun planned over the next several times. We hope to see you in October!

**October 7 - Bible Trivia**

**October 14 - Bingo**

**October 21 - Devotion Night**

**October 28 - Halloween Party**

*Wear your Costume and we will trick-R-Treat around the church*



### Zoom Sunday School

Zoom for children Sunday School will continue as it has been on Sundays at 10 a.m. The Youth will continue to meet at 4 p.m. on Sunday afternoons through ZOOM. If you have any questions about activities for children and youth, contact Brad Remington, Director of Family Ministries, [bradr@firstwichita.org](mailto:bradr@firstwichita.org).

# School Partnership Thank You

*The following note was sent from the technology teacher at Park:*

*We just want to say THANK YOU for always helping our students get what they need to have a successful school year. When asked what we needed in the technology area, we didn't expect to receive all that we requested! Ear buds and headphones for all our students, selected for their appropriate needs. Our teachers, parents, and students appreciate all your generosity and care throughout the years. We could not do this year without you!*



## And from Washington:

*Thank you for your gifts of support. With all the changes this year, it is good to know that some things are staying steady. Your church is amazing!*

## 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.





## DRIVE THRU DONATION EVENT

TO BENEFIT OPEN DOOR

FIRST CHURCH PARKING LOT

**OCTOBER 24, 2020**  
**NOVEMBER 14, 2020**

**| 10 a.m.-12 p.m.**

**FIRST**  
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
firstwchita.org Life. Downtown.  
330 N. Broadway, Wichita KS 316-267-6244

the united methodist  
**open door**  
Food • Clothing • Shelter

Do you look forward to Thanksgiving and all the food? Many in Wichita are not able to have a Thanksgiving meal like most of us enjoy and this year, because of COVID-19, it is even worse. Normally, USD 259 holds a food drive for ingredients for

a Thanksgiving meal. This year, however, they will not be having the food drive. PLEASE HELP!

We will be hosting a “Drive-Thru Event for Open Door” on Saturday, October 24, 10 a.m. - 12 p.m. in our parking lot. Think about what

you eat at your Thanksgiving meal and provide non-perishable ingredients at the Drive-Thru Event. All donations will be given to United Methodist Open Door to be distributed to families in need.

Monetary donations are also greatly appreciated. Open Door will be able to use these funds to purchase turkeys, hams and other perishable items. Monetary donations may be given at the Drive-Thru Event or on the church app. Thank you, in advance,

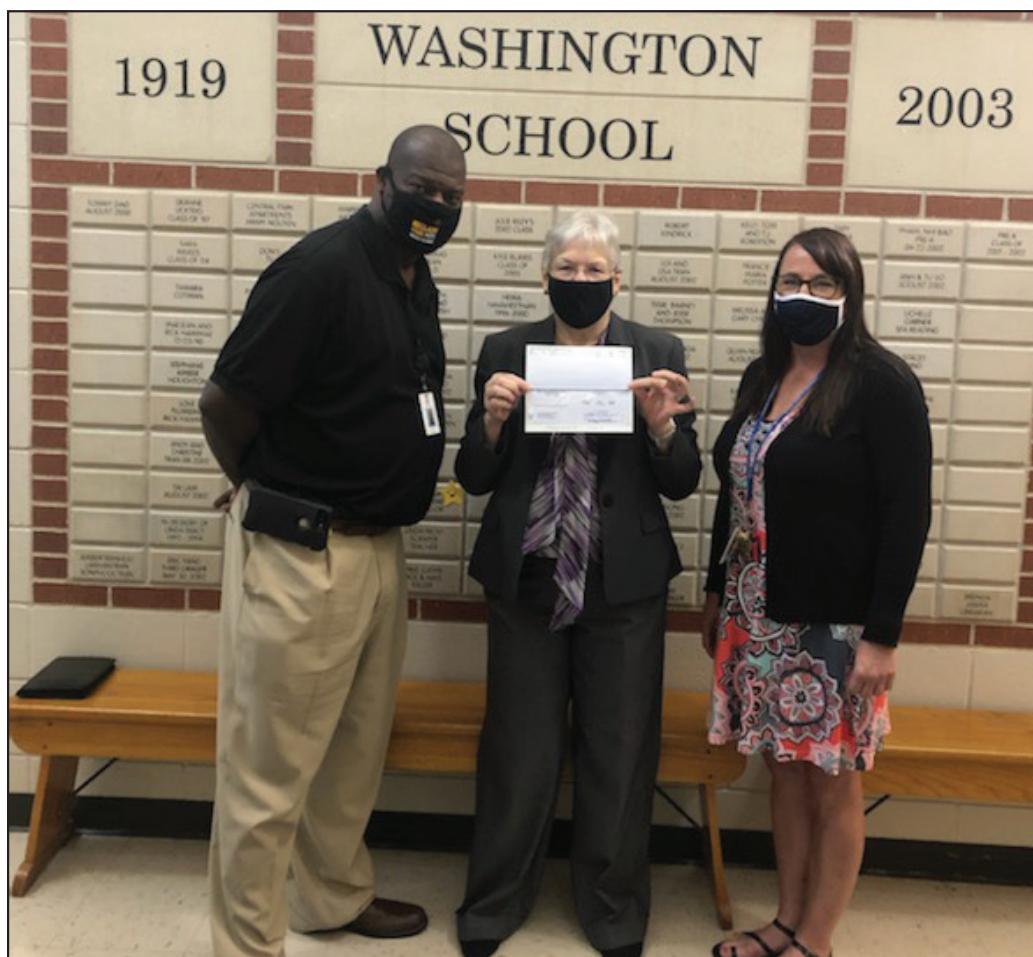
Suggested items include, but are not limited to:

- Stuffing
- Instant mashed potatoes
- Gravy mix
- Green beans
- Corn
- Jell-O
- Pumpkin
- Cranberries, cranberry sauce



Would you like to go to Argentina without leaving your home? Join a Virtual Mission Work Team through U.M.V.I.M. (United Methodist Volunteers in Mission)

Are you interested in experiencing a mission journey to Argentina? U.M.V.I.M. is hosting a virtual mission opportunity with Doug Williams, GBGM Missionary to Argentina. Explore the ministries across Argentina, interact with community members, and learn about volunteer opportunities. All sessions will be held online and will meet October 13-15. For more information, visit [www.umvim.org/vmargentina](http://www.umvim.org/vmargentina).



## School Partnerships

Director of Missions, Annette Schmidt recently presented checks to both Washington and Park Elementary, in support of our support of “Close the Gap”, a program that provides internet access to families in need.



## Thank You

In July our Mission Project was Toilet Paper for Open Door. We donated 1,039 rolls of toilet paper and received over \$750.00 to purchase more toilet paper! Open Door is very thankful for your generosity.

# Class News & Notes

## **Double Ring**

Thirty-five wonderful members of Double Ring class gathered together by Zoom on September 6, 2020 for a lesson led by Jack Focht on Paul's epistle to the Galatians. The class has been meeting faithfully every Sunday since early June by Zoom. We recognize birthdays and anniversaries each month. We pray for those who are suffering illnesses, hospitalizations and we recognize the deaths of several class members during the period of time we have been unable worship together in person. We rejoice in the good news of our various families. We are especially happy to have one of our founding members, Rosemary Lowry, join our Zoom classes from Arkansas. We plan to continue to meet weekly and invite you to join us if you need a Sunday School class. Contact Gloria Flentje at ggflentje@cox.net to get the link to join in on Sunday mornings. Our President, Rocky Janes, is planning a class picnic when we can gather together safely.

## **Hand in Hand with 50-50**

Our class decided to study "The Magnificent Story" by James Bryan Smith in the month of October. Books can be purchased or are available on Kindle. Ken Van Blaricum will continue teaching and hosting us on Zoom. The lessons on John Wesley have been very informative and interesting. If you haven't joined us on Zoom yet, it's certainly not too late. We meet at 10 AM on Sunday and all you need to do is to call or e-mail Ken and give him your e-mail address. His email is: kenvanb@hotmail.com or 316-665-1399.

Our members are contributing to the School Ministries fund with cash donations this year. Please send checks to the church with School Ministries marked in the memo line or give online. This year each child is required to have their own set of supplies.

Bruce and Diane Quantic have been in Colorado, and fully participating on Zoom with both First Church in Wichita and with Deer Park UMC in Colorado. Because of COVID 19 concerns, the 26 consecutive year mission trip from Wichita to Bailey sadly, had to be cancelled

\*We are planning to have an October outdoor gathering at Glen and Celia Goering's on a date yet to be determined. We are thinking it will be an afternoon event on a Sat. or Sun. Stay tuned!

Many in our class have September and October birthdays and we hope you are able to enjoy some fine fall weather. We wish Brian and Linda Hopper a very happy 25th wedding anniversary! They are planning a socially distanced birthday/anniversary gathering in their garage! Tom and Carol Fox have moved to Plaza West. If you know others who have moved, please contact Linda Hopper.

## **Koinonia**

Several members of the Koinonia class have been meeting in the church on the first and third Mondays at 2 PM. We are grateful for the opportunity to support each other and have found we can enjoy meaningful conversations even while we wear our masks and practice social distancing. We hope more class members will be able to join us and ask that you contact Lois Stewart a couple of days before the next planned meeting so we will know how many to expect.

## **People's Open Door**

We averaged 15 in our Zoom class on Sunday mornings during September and since several have been out of town, that is a good attendance. We enjoy catching up with everyone about what is happening in their lives during this unprecedented time. We talk about if and when we will be back at First Church together in our classroom again. Seems like we were just getting acquainted with our new room when the virus hit. Barbara brings us an uplifting lesson each Sunday and Crystal leads us in an inspirational hymn. We have members who are experiencing health challenges, but they are working hard to overcome these challenges. We are always looking for new persons who want to open the scriptures and study their relationship to life today. Please join us if you are open to friendly discussion about our Bible and life.

## **Pneuma**

In the past month, Pneuma has addressed a number of topics. We have discussed the issue of individual rights and the community greater good, with the focus on the current health care crisis. We were tasked with answering the following question: In today's context, how will faith guide my personal use of my own individual power to act and the impact it has on those around me? On another Sunday, we were blessed to have Jack Bond share his story, from the impact of his chemistry teacher in Argonia to his recent retirement following a 44-year career as a pharmacist at Wesley. Jack talked about a number of the changes he has seen in his field over the years and also touched on the work being done to develop a vaccine for COVID-19. Pneuma is currently delving into a number of lessons on the topic Faith and Resilience.

We celebrate with Peg and Phil Baldwin in the arrival of their grandson, Dexter Jacob. We are grateful that Peggy Valliant is recovering well from her knee replacement surgery. Our thoughts continue to be with both students and teachers who have returned to classrooms in whatever forms those may be, as well as parents who may be taking on new roles in their child's education. Hoping this finds our First Church family safe and able to enjoy the blessing of the wonderful fall weather.

## **Seekers**

After a three-week break from Dave Brant's great study of the Minor Prophets, on October 4 we are beginning a study on the Book of Hebrews. Join us on Zoom at 9:45 for our class updates and then Bible study at 10.

The ROMEOS enjoyed breakfast together for the first time since March at George Stover's home. George cooked and put out a donation jar collecting \$80 for Open Door in Susan's memory.

October 16 and 17 Seeker's quilters will be helping with Fall Festival Quilt etc. Sale in Wilke Family Center. Come shop and finish your Christmas list early. On October 24, several Seekers will be helping with an all Church Food Drive. Thanksgiving food items are especially needed by Open Door.

If the Seeker's breakfast in the Park is a success, look for more outdoor get-togethers before the snow blows!

We include in our prayers, hopes and petitions for our members, our church, our extended family and friends, our country and for a safe vaccine so someday we may again meet together in person.



## American Red Cross

The need is constant.  
The gratification is instant.  
Give blood.™

redcrossblood.org | 1-800-RED CROSS

# SUNDAY, OCTOBER 11

## 12 P.M.- 6 P.M.

**FIRST CHURCH PARKING LOT  
3RD & TOPEKA**

**SIGN UP ONLINE @  
REDCROSSBLOOD.ORG  
1-800-RED CROSS**

### American Red Cross Blood Drive

First Church is hosting a mobile blood drive on October 11, 2020 from Noon-6pm. All blood donations will be tested for COVID-19 antibodies. We have 29 slots to fill and hope you will consider signing up using this link: <https://www.redcrossblood.org/give.html/donation-time>.



# BACK ALLEY GATHERING

*Family worship experience*

**OCTOBER 11  
5 P.M.**

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
PARKING LOT @  
3RD & TOPEKA

- MISSIONAL FOCUS
- PANEL DISCUSSION WITH NEIGHBORING MISSIONS
- HOLY COMMUNION

*\* bring your Bible • bring a lawn chair*

### Wichita CROP Hunger Walk October 4

Join with Wichita CROP Hunger Walk in raising funds to help neighbors near and far get the meals they need this year. Sign-up to walk and raise funds as an individual or part of a group or donate, online at [crophungerwalk.org/wichitaks](http://crophungerwalk.org/wichitaks). For more information on this year's Crop Hunger Walk, visit [wichitacropwalk.org](http://wichitacropwalk.org).

### Wichita CROP Hunger Walk



## Hospitality Committee Update

Our Hospitality Committee has been delving into exactly what their role is within our congregation. They believe it is the purpose of the Hospitality Team to lead First Church in the work of welcoming, loving, and valuing all who walk through our doors, so they might find a place to become completely committed followers of Jesus Christ. They are working on some new guidelines and would like to invite others to join them in this critical mission of the church!

Here's a little sample of what they propose as a new plan.

- Pray as we come to church each Sunday for the message, music, ministries of teaching, all that goes on in the hallways, at the front door, and behind the welcome desk.
- Greeters present outside, inside and in the parking lot
- Knowledgeable people who can shepherd guest to appropriate area
- Spaces should feel clean, safe and properly staffed with consistent volunteers who love and engage others.

We believe hospitality is both deeply biblical and spiritual and should be a mission for all members of the community. If you are interested in joining us in this mission please contact Leslie Coates, Director of First Connections, [lesliec@firstwichita.org](mailto:lesliec@firstwichita.org), 316-267-6244 ext. 303.

*Accept one another, then, just as Christ accepted you, in order to bring praise to God.*

- Romans 15:7

COMING IN WORSHIP

**October 4**  
 "Restored for Better"  
 Philippians 2: 12-18  
 Matthew 25: 31-46

**October 11**  
 "Sent to Heal"  
 Philippians 2: 12-18  
 Matthew 25: 31-46

**October 18**  
 "Be STILL and  
 Know God"  
 1 Thessalonians 1: 1-10  
 Matthew 22: 15-22

**October 25**  
 "Present and  
 Accounted For"  
 1 Thessalonians 2: 1-13  
 Matthew 20: 1-16



This year our Quilt Auction will look a little different! We will be opening a Quilt Store in Wilke Family Life Center by appointment only, October 16 and 17 from noon – 6 p.m. All items will have a set price. Items for sale include many handmade items including: baby quilts, table runners, aprons, pillows, placemats, lap quilts, stocking stuffers, potholders, table toppers, bags and much more! In addition to the in person store, watch the First Church Facebook page for a selection of items for sale online. If you would like to make an appointment to shop in person, please call the church (316-267-6244). 20 appointment spots are available per hour. Face masks and social distancing will be required.

All money from the sale supports the Television Ministry and Religious Nurture Center.

**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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