

FIRST LIGHT

December 2020
Vol. 165 No. 93

THIS SUNDAY

This December in worship we continue our Advent sermon series, "Counted". With the return to remote worship, we hope you will continue to worship with us on Sundays at 11:00 a.m. on KAKE TV or live on the web at firstwichita.org or at 5:00 p.m. on livestream or [facebook.com/thegatheringworshipservice](https://www.facebook.com/thegatheringworshipservice).

INSIDE

2

Blue Christmas

3

Pneuma Lends a Hand

4

Website Christmas Eve Service

5

December Mission Project

6

Class News and Notes

7

Small Groups forming

8

Reverse Advent Calendar

FEED THE HUNGRY

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

**December food collection:
Macaroni & Cheese**

FIRST
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
Life. Downtown.

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



Advent calendars have been all the rage for a long time. Each day, a little window was opened beginning on December 1 through December 24. There are all kinds of versions, but all of these calendars are about counting down to Christmas. The church has done that for hundreds of years through the season of Advent. Four candles, one light each week

in preparation to light the Christ Candle on Christmas Eve.

This year has been filled with lots of numbers and opportunities to be counted. The census, the presidential election, Covid-19 numbers, and many are just counting the days for this year to be over!

In the stories around the birth of Jesus, there was also a lot of

counting going on. Elizabeth counted the days to make sure she was pregnant in her old age, Mary counted her blessings and Joseph probably counted sheep as he struggled to make a decision about his relationship to Mary. Mary and Joseph went to Bethlehem to be counted in Rome's census.

We could go on and on, "counting" is an important part

■ **November 29**
"Counting on Hope"
Isaiah 40: 1-11, Luke 1: 5-25

■ **December 6**
"Counting on Peace"
Isaiah 2: 1-5, Luke 1: 57-80

■ **December 13**
"Counting on Joy"
Isaiah 11: 1-10, Luke 1: 26-56

■ **December 20**
"Counting on Love"
Isaiah 35: 1-10, Matthew 1: 18-25

■ **December 27**
Christmas Sunday
Luke 2: 21-40

of the Christmas story. This Advent/Christmas season we will focus on being "counted" and lighting the candles of hope, peace, joy and love. With many Advent opportunities for devotion, fellowship and mission, won't you be counted as we walk this journey to Bethlehem together.

Connect this Advent at First Church

Advent is a time to prepare for the birth of Jesus. This year will no doubt look different than any we've had before. Despite the pandemic, the staff has been busy preparing creative opportunities for us to connect and celebrate this season in unique ways! Mark your calendars and join us this Advent!

SUNDAYS

Worship • 11 a.m. & 5 p.m.
Advent Fellowship • 6:30 p.m. • Zoom

MONDAYS

Video Devotionals from Staff
Check Facebook & our website each Monday for a new message.

WEDNESDAYS

Activities for Children • 6:00 p.m. • Zoom
Activities for Youth • 7:00 p.m. • Zoom
Contact Brad Remington
bradr@firstwichita.org

MONTH-LONG ACTIVITIES

Reverse Advent Calendar:
firstwichita.org/reverse-advent

Family Advent Wreath:
firstwichita.org/advent-wreath

Advent Devotional Booklets

The Gathering Advent Sign-Off
Follow The Gathering on Facebook

SPECIAL DATES

Dec. 16: Drive thru candle pick up • 3:00-6:00 p.m.

Dec. 22: Blue Christmas • 7:00 p.m.

Dec. 24:
Family Christmas Eve • 2:00 p.m.
Livestream, Facebook Live

Candlelight Christmas Eve • 11:00 p.m.
LIVE on KAKE-TV, Livestream, Facebook Live

Dec. 26: Boxing Day • 10:00 a.m.-Noon
Return Reverse Advent food items to the church

PLEASE PRAY FOR

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

Articles for the next edition of *First Light* are due Dec. 15, by 9 a.m. Material should be submitted to the appropriate ministry director for approval. Questions can be directed to Erin Davis, 267-6244 ext. 300.

Prayers

Email prayer@firstwichita.org to ask for prayer from the people of First United Methodist Church.

Email pastoralcare@firstwichita.org to ask for a visit, call, or private prayer from the congregational care team.

The Congregational Care Team,
Rev. Cindy Watson,
Rev. Dr. Tal Tittsworth,
Rev. Rebecca Goltry Mohr,
Leslie Coates

Dr. Tal Tittsworth Announces Retirement

We cannot celebrate with Pastor Tal in person at present, so please honor him and his service in the Lord's name by sending cards and love offerings to the church.

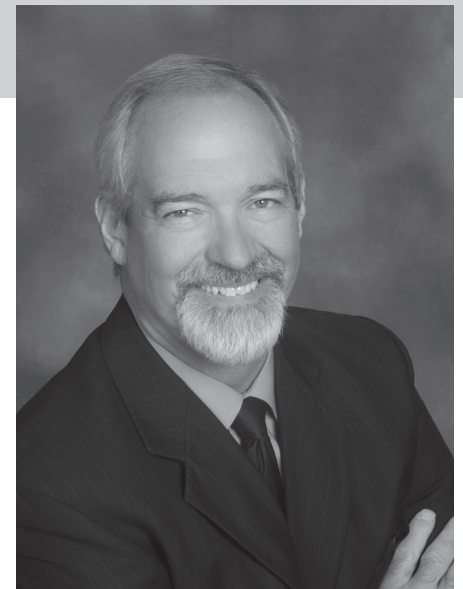
We at First Church have been depending on the loving, compassionate care of our friend, the Reverend Doctor Tal Tittsworth, during the past 9 ½ years. He will be retiring officially as Director of Congregational Care on December 31. We will all miss his calm, comforting voice in the hospital and long-term care facilities, through his notes and telephone calls, and his pastoral prayers during worship.

Tal is a native of Wichita; raised in Riverside and educated at North High and Friends University. He graduated from Asbury Theological Seminary and received his Doctorate of Ministry from Drew University. For 22 years, he has served as a United Methodist pastor in Abilene, Kiowa, and Valley Center. He has been active in hospice care for 20 years and is currently

a Chaplain with Good Shepherd Hospice here in Wichita. In a recent conversation, Pastor Tal shared that it has been an honor to walk alongside people and families in our congregation, particularly at life's end. One of his favorite celebrations is All Saints' Sunday when the names of those who passed on during the year are read, and we can remember how their lives touched ours and our church. He has been instrumental in facilitating our Stephen's Ministries through education and supervision of those volunteers.

He will continue with hospice, but Tal intends to enjoy more free time with Deb, his wife, their three adult children, and their six grandchildren who live in the community.

Although we, as a congregation have been more remote during this pandemic, life's journey



continues and the need for spiritual care is even greater. Thank you, Pastor Tal.

BLUE
Christmas
December 22 • 7:00 p.m. • online at firstwichita.org

**Blue Christmas
December 22**

Blue Christmas will be streamed through our Livestream and Facebook Live service on December 22 at 7 p.m. It will be a collaboration with Forum Theatre Company including special guests Cameo and Kingdom Culture. There will be an opportunity for one-on-one prayer with a pastor through break-out rooms in a Zoom meeting.

Zoom link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84131114792>

In the times of darkness God often gives us a ray of light to remind us of His eternal presence with us. The Board of Trustees gladly accepted an anonymous gift of \$30,000. It is a designated gift for replacing the 32 east-facing windows in the A and B buildings and the cost of the lift. Please thank God for the graces He gives us and add blessings to our gracious donor!

— JoLyne Campbell, Board of Trustees

**New Windows
Gifted to
First Church**



OUR GIFTS

OCTOBER 2020 OFFERING
\$52,645.31

RECEIVED YEAR-TO-DATE
\$831,838.43

BUDGET YEAR-TO-DATE
\$899,042.64

EXPENSES YEAR-TO-DATE
\$917,828.75

OTHER CONTRIBUTIONS

MISSIONS

\$1,550.00

RECEIVED YEAR-TO-DATE

\$5,849.00

CAPITAL FUNDS

\$120.00

RECEIVED YEAR-TO-DATE

\$33,040.00

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

\$16,402.67

RECEIVED YEAR-TO-DATE

\$252,941.41

BUDGET YEAR-TO-DATE

\$201,292.48

EXPENSES YEAR-TO-DATE

\$228,882.95

TOTAL CONTRIBUTIONS

\$70,717.98

RECEIVED YEAR-TO-DATE

\$1,134,403.84

Pneuma Class Lends a Hand to Raise My Head Foundation



Alan Ebright, Stuart Mack, Jack Bond, Penn Hughes, Doug Hye

During these COVID-19 times Pneuma was happy to have two opportunities to be in mission for Raise My Head Foundation.

One team, led by Stuart Mack, our paint expert, power washed and painted the deck and the side entrance of the RMH house. The second team, led by Sandra Rogers, helped clean the New Cottage Industry Building, wash windows,

and re-organize the storage shed. While wearing masks and maintaining social distancing our teams had a great time being able to help, work, and be the church together. We are thankful for this time of service, that our small acts of Christian hope and love will bring hope and healing to the women residents of RMH.



Suzanne McKaig, Rhonda Willome, Sandra Rogers, Connie Green

You too can help support the women of RMH by visiting raisemyhead.org/ to see all the products being made in their new Cottage Industry Building. All the products are created and produced by the women in the program and all purchases help employ the women and support the program.

Year-End Contributions

Any money received by the church after December 31, must be reported as 2021 giving for tax purposes. This is true even if the check is dated in 2020. The only exception is for checks that are mailed and bear a 2020 postmark. Please contact the Business Office if you have any questions about year-end contributions.

Tax News for 2020

The Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES) provides for a new charitable deduction for some individual taxpayers who do not itemize their deductions. This new benefit allows for a charitable deduction of up to \$300 per individual for cash or cash-equivalent contributions.

The contribution would be treated as an above-the-line contribution deducted from the individual taxpayer's income prior to calculation of adjusted gross income. The new charitable giving benefit will extend beyond the 2020 tax year.

Individuals who wish to take advantage of this new charitable contribution should contact their individual tax advisors for advice.

2021-22 Scholarship Applications now available

Each year, the Scholarship Committee of First United Methodist Church awards scholarships to church members who wish to pursue a post-secondary education. This includes, but is not limited to, graduating high school seniors, students already attending college, and seminary students.

Scholarships are funded through named endowments and other gifts to the church specified for scholarships. Students are eligible to receive a scholarship from the church for up to five years, provided they meet the scholarship requirements. A new application is required each year.

Scholarship Application forms are available at firstwichita.org.

Completed 2021-22 Scholarship Application packets are due at the church by Friday, January 15 at noon.

The application due date is in January in order to help students who are applying for other matching United Methodist scholarships. Earlier scholarship award decisions and announcements will also facilitate spring recognitions of First Church's high school seniors.

If you have any questions regarding the scholarship process, please contact Dr. Mike Willome, Scholarship Committee chairperson, at 943-9306.

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.

OUR FAMILY

We grieve the deaths of:
Claire Runft,
Eloise Reece
mother of Dennis Reece

We celebrate the baptism of:
Molly Jo Spacil,
Zachary Joseph Spacil,
Matthew James Spacil

We welcome new members:
Louise Orndoff
Karen Orndoff
Jerry Rochelle

Family Christmas Eve Service at First Church

Join us for this service especially geared towards families! The service will be available on Christmas Eve starting at 2 p.m. on our website, but will be available to view at any time. We will tell the Christmas Story with some of the families of the church and there will be plenty of music by organ, violin, cello, and vocal. This will be a great service and we hope you can worship with us online!



Children and Youth Ministries Return to Remote Worship in December

With the COVID numbers in Sedgwick County spiking to an all-time high, we have decided to transition back to remote meeting for children and youth. This will last at least through the end of year, December 2020. We are looking at maybe an outside event for Christmas if the numbers start to decline. Watch for more information as it becomes available. We will reevaluate in and decide if we meet remotely on Zoom or if we can meet in person outside. Thank you all for your understanding and please stay safe and healthy!



Wednesday Nights in December for Children

6:00 p.m. on ZOOM

- December 2
Have you ever Holiday Style
- December 9
Virtual Holiday Bingo
- December 16
Christmas Party on Zoom!
- December 23
No Children's Activities
- December 30
No Children's Activities



Wednesday Nights in December for Youth

7:00 p.m. on ZOOM

- December 2
Have you ever Holiday Style
- December 9
Virtual Holiday Bingo
- December 16
Christmas Party on Zoom!
- December 23
No Youth Activities
- December 30
No Youth Activities

Thank you from the Religious Nurture Center

Thank you to all the members of First United Methodist Church that once again made our annual Pecan Fundraiser a success to benefit the ministry of the Religious Nurture Center through the purchase of a variety of pecan products and cash donations. Special thanks to the members of the Religious Nurture Center Advisory Council for adapting our sales collection and delivery efforts to make a great experience for our customers and raise as much money as we did last year. Sharon, Kathy, Delaine and Nonie went above and beyond to meet the challenges we faced with going forward with this fundraiser. Our RNC members will greatly benefit with the events and special guests we will be able to provide them to enjoy in 2021.

December and January Mission Project **Winter Wear**

The First Church mission project for December and January is designed to keep the children in our neighborhood warm during the wintry weather. We will be providing winter coats and jackets, hats, gloves, and scarves for both girls and boys ages 5 to 12. These items will be distributed through the social workers at both Park and Washington Schools.

The School Ministries Task Force will purchase needed items for the children. Thus,

financial gifts to cover these expenses may be sent to the church marked, "School Ministries winter wear". Our neighborhood families are very grateful to the congregation for winter items given to their children.

Depending on the future of the pandemic, the church may open for you to bring donations, new or gently used. Watch the First Church weekly notes for information about donation opportunities.



January- Feed the Homeless

This January we will be collecting funds to feed the homeless. With the funds provided, we will order food from Sam's and Costco, and deliver it to HumanKind (formerly known as Inter-Faith) to provide breakfast to the homeless.

How can you help? Make your donation via check made payable to "FUMC" and mark on the Memo line: Feeding the Homeless, or give a donation through the church app. Members of the church will shop and deliver the food to HumanKind. Thank you for your assistance.

O, What a Beautiful Day!

November 14, was a beautiful fall day! Church volunteers were waiting in the church alley as members dropped off non-perishable food for the "Drive-Thru for Open Door – Thanksgiving". Money was also collected to purchase perishable items. Volunteers also handed out EmberHope Christmas Connection ornaments and received donations. Additionally, pledge cards were dropped off. It was a beautiful day and lots of gifts and love. We loved seeing friends and the chance to interact with others safely. Merry Christmas and thank you for helping others.



Class News & Notes

Double Ring

Double Ring Sunday school class is not going to let the pandemic keep us from meeting. Double Ring Sunday school class has met continuously since November 14, 1954 when a small number of couples got together to start a new married couple's class. We have continued to meet and share fellowship via Zoom, since we aren't able to meet in person. In the last few weeks, we have discussed hymns: "Amazing Grace" and "Blessed Assurance". We have even tried to sing together but discovered that the technology created problems that were more than we could get over. Since our class began 66 years ago, we've lost over 100 members to death and recently lost another 11 whose memories we celebrated during All Saints Day.

We plan to learn a little bit more about Timothy as written by Paul in the New Testament in our next class sessions.

For anyone who doesn't attend a class and would like to be blessed by joining Double Ring, please let us know. We'd love to have you.

Hand in Hand with 50-50

Ken Van Blaricum will continue teaching from "The Magnificent Story" by James Bryan Smith through December 6. Diane Quantic will have Christmas lessons December 13 and 20 all on Zoom at 10 a.m. If you care to participate send your e-mail address to Ken. No plans for December 27 at this time, perhaps a Zoom Christmas fellowship time.

In January we will start a new book with Ken leading. His thought is "Unafraid: Living with Courage and Hope in an Uncertain Time" by Adam Hamilton. It certainly is an appropriate study as we begin 2021! Some books are available at the church.

We will not be having our traditional Christmas dinner and gift exchange this year but are trying to think of ways to come together with courage and hope. Stay tuned! If you have an idea, please let the Eby's or the Van Blaricum's know.

We participated in the Thanksgiving food drive and are encouraging members to choose an ornament from Ember Hope with their wants and wishes for Christmas. Yes, it is all different from our usual way of doing things.

With many of us not gathering with family for Thanksgiving and maybe Christmas as well, we are given time to reach out to members of not only our class, but to others as well. A phone call, card, e-mail, or text can certainly brighten a person's day. Let us be in prayer for those in need, for our pastors, the leaders of our country and the world.

Koinonia

Several Koinonia class members have enjoyed meeting "face-to-face" with masks and social distancing twice a month at the church. However, we have decided to pause our small group meetings due to the increasing COVID-19 positivity rate for Sedgwick County. We will continue to remain in contact with each other through phone calls and e-mail until the numbers decline sufficiently for us to safely resume our small group meetings.

People's Open Door

Cooler weather outside hasn't dampened our spirits as we continue with Zoom for our Sunday School Class meetings. We enjoy seeing each other and sharing a biblical lesson prepared by Barbara Simons. We often have a lively interchange of ideas and if not, Barbara challenges us with yet another thought to ponder. EmberHope shared their vision with us on November 22.

We participated with a cash donation to the Drive-thru donation event and have adopted 2 Christmas Connection kids. Kathy volunteered to be our shopper. As the giving season

continues, we will be making decisions as to where to give the balance of our 2020 monetary gifts.

As we approach the Christmas Season 2020, we know that it will be different from any Christmas we have had before. We will be remembering families who will set one less place at the table this year and families that are usually traveling this time of year who have decided to stay home. We will remember that GOD IS GOOD, ALL THE TIME, GOD IS GOOD. Join us for our Advent series beginning November 29 to study, "Unwrapping the Names of Jesus" a daily devotional book for Advent. If you'd like to visit our class e-mail Barbara at bsimons707@cox.net and she will send you the link for Zoom.

Have a MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR! LETTING THE LIGHT OF A CHRIST CENTERED CHRISTMAS SHINE THROUGH YOUR ACTIONS!

Pneuma

During this past month, Pneuma has had lessons helping us to continue to walk in the Wesleyan way to do good, do no harm, and to stay in love with God. Living by those principles is especially important during these difficult times. The challenge is to learn from the things that do not go well or as planned. These are the times when we are encouraged to "be still" and listen to God's plan. We were given a quote to consider from Viktor Frankl: "When we can no longer change a situation the challenge is to change ourselves." That change may include taking more aggressive steps to protect ourselves and others as we continue to strive to do good and do no harm within our community. As we take those steps, our love for God will continue to shine.

We were blessed one Sunday to have Stuart Mack, chair of the Stewardship Committee, share what stewardship means to him. We are grateful for the leadership Stuart has provided to the church in this endeavor. He pointed out that First Church has always been a missional church. Without funds to support those missions, First Church as we know it, would not exist.

Pneuma found a sense of normalcy in sponsoring the wishes listed on EmberHope ornaments. We "adopted" twenty children to help provide a happier Christmas than what they might have had. Our children ranged in age from a newborn baby boy to a seventeen-year-old boy about to age out of the program. God bless the foster families who are trying to give these precious children some sense of what family is all about.

We continue to be concerned for our class members who have been diagnosed with COVID 19, as well as family members and friends who are or have been battling the virus. Our Pneuma family shares the great joy that we will be growing with the upcoming births of four grandchildren this spring. As Paul Harvey would say, "Stand by for news".

Pneuma continues to lift up our First Church family with prayers that you are all staying safe and well.

Seekers

Seekers played Bingo via Zoom in November with some very creative prizes! Thanks to Kathy Strattman for putting this together with the help of the social committee. Seekers have also been busy helping with the drive thru food collection and with gifts for Ember Hope.

In December we will have our December Christmas party — with Zoom in our Christmas Sweaters and with our White Elephant gifts. So, search your closets and garages for the best gifts you can send to your fellow Seekers. Check e-mails for details.

We have been studying Hebrews under the leadership of David Brant—who now has his Master of Divinity from Asbury Seminary. We are very proud of you, Dave!

We keep all our members, their extended families, and friends in our prayers for their physical and mental health during this very different holiday season. We will keep foremost in our thoughts, the reason we celebrate Christmas, the birth of our Lord.

Small GROUPS

STARTING IN JANUARY

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

SPRING SMALL GROUPS AT FIRST CHURCH

All groups will be meeting on Zoom. Please sign up by emailing Pastor Rebecca rebeccam@firstwichita.org or call/text 316.708.4274. Class facilitators will email you a link to attend your weekly small group as well as provide other information that is needed for participation. If you have not found a group you are interested in reach out to Pastor Rebecca and she can share about other groups already happening.

■ **Disciple Fast Track: Letters of Paul**

This 12-week study immerses you in the books of Pauline Epistles. The study is ideal for busy people who want to fit an in-depth Bible study into their schedule. Each week you will encounter three spiritual disciplines, learn what they are, and how you can engage those disciplines. Preparation is manageable, with 3–5 chapters of the Bible to read each day. Online videos will provide 3-5 minute video insights related to the week's session. Participation materials are \$15 and can be delivered or mailed to your home.

Meeting time: Wednesday at time TBA on Zoom beginning January 6

Facilitators: Ernestine Krehbiel and David Dinell

■ **God and the Gay Christian**

In 2019, First United Methodist Church adopted a welcoming statement and within that statement is the charge to be inclusive of all people regardless of gender identity and sexual orientation. This small

group will read Matthew Vine's book, "God and the Gay Christian," as well as learn about various definitions used within the LGBTQ+ community and learn how to become better allies. Books are available at local bookstores or online, please purchase your own copy prior to the first meeting.

Meeting time: Wednesday at 7 p.m. on Zoom beginning January 6

Facilitators: Nancy Dinell & Deb Seely

■ **Whites and Racism**

This group will be studying the book, "So You Want to Talk About Race" by Ijeoma Oluo. The book, along with our discussion, will make you stop and think about your comments, attitudes, jokes, relationships dealing with racism. We will be exploring whether we are willing to make the necessary changes to improve our relationships with all races. Can we control our defensive reactions when our comments, attitudes, etc. are brought to our attention? If this sounds like the right fit for you, purchase book on Amazon, or consider buying local to support our local bookstores.

Meeting time: Thursday at 5:30 p.m. on Zoom beginning January 7, 2021

Facilitators: Connie Barnum & Diane Quantic

■ **Covenant Bible Study**

Covenant is an in-depth group Bible study in which participants read and discuss the Bible together, learning how to love God- and each other- better. This 24 week study is broken into three 8 week segments: creating, living, and trusting. Each lesson has a video component with an interview with a current biblical scholar. Participant books are available for \$25. Please send payment to church with "covenant study" in the memo line. Pastor Rebecca will mail or deliver book to you. It is recommended that have a study Bible, CEB or NRSV are encouraged.

Meeting time: Thursday at 5:30 p.m. on Zoom Beginning January 7, 2021

Facilitators: Pastor Rebecca

■ **Young Adult Small Group**

20s and 30s year olds are encouraged to attend this small group where faith meets the working world. "Adulting" can be a challenge but it is better when you have friends who pray for you weekly and share in Bible lessons together! Each gathering includes a Bible lesson or video study, discussion, fellowship and prayer.

Meeting time: Monday at 7:30 p.m. on Zoom Beginning January 11, 2021

Facilitators: Joseph Schumock and Catherine Boatright

COMING IN WORSHIP

November 29
 First Sunday of Advent
 "Counting on Hope"
 Isaiah 40: 1-11
 Luke 1:5-25

December 6
 Second Sunday of Advent
 "Counting on Peace"
 Isaiah 2: 1-5
 Luke 1: 57-80

December 13
 Third Sunday of Advent
 "Counting on Joy"
 Isaiah 11: 1-10
 Luke 1: 26-56

December 20
 Fourth Sunday of Advent
 "Counting on Love"
 Isaiah 35: 1-10
 Matthew 1: 18-25

December 27
 Christmas Sunday
 Luke 2: 21-40

FIRST LIGHT

First Light is published monthly by the First United Methodist Church of Wichita, Kansas. It is produced by First Impressions, the Production and Creative Arts Team at First Church, and is provided at no cost to our members and friends.

ARTICLES FOR FIRST LIGHT

We welcome content and story ideas for First Light. They can be submitted to First Impressions at firstlight@firstwichita.org. Please include your name, phone number and e-mail address when submitting material.

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FIRST
 UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
 Life. Downtown.

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



Instead of or in addition to a traditional Advent calendar, this year we are encouraging everyone to create a reverse Advent calendar! Find a box, and decorate it if you wish, then each day of Advent, place the suggested food item, or a similar item can be substituted in the box. Then on December 26, when Pastor Cindy would typically have her Boxing Day Open House, she will be at the church from 10 a.m.-Noon, to receive the items you have collected. This is a practical way to connect and help Open Door restock their pantry after the holidays.



Adult Ministries Advent Fellowship Events

Advent is a time to prepare for the birth of Jesus Christ. Typically the church has opportunities like open houses and Sunday School class parties. Due to the pandemic, this year will look different. But we can still have fun! **Each Sunday at 6:30 p.m. during Advent** join other adults from First Church on Zoom for a holiday themed weekly fellowship event.
 Zoom link: (<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83654582801>)

November 29: Reindeer Games

Christmas Trivia and Christmas Scategories, all game materials will be uploaded to the church website and briefly screen shared on Zoom.

December 6: Gingerbread House Building

RSVP to Pastor Rebecca to receive a kit, to be delivered or picked up at the church prior to the event.

December 13: Christmas Open Houses

In your own home! Be sure to find the most festive part of your house to share in our virtual Open Houses!

December 20: Christmas Carol Sing-Along

Pull out your hymnal and song books for a good ole carol sing along!