



FIRST LIGHT

AUGUST 2023

THIS SUNDAY
Join us in August for worship
as we begin the series
“Social Skills:
Relearning Togetherness”.
Worship in person at 10:50 a.m.
in the Sanctuary or at 11:00 a.m.
LIVE on KAKE TV, Facebook Live
and on YouTube livestream.
The Gathering meets at 5:00 p.m.
in the Student Center (2D).

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FEED THE HUNGRY
Food collected in the
A/B entrance goes to
United Methodist Open Door.
August food collection:
Peanut Butter

FIRST
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
Life. Downtown.

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

Social Skills

Sermon Series Begins in August

How are your social skills? This August as students are heading back to class, we will be brushing up on our “Social Skills” and relearning what togetherness looks like! We hope you will join us for worship this month!



August 6
“Communication”
Rev. Amy Lippoldt

August 13
“Conflict Resolution”
Rev. Amy Lippoldt

August 20
“Listening”
Rev. Amy Lippoldt

August 27
“Empathy”
Rev. Amy Lippoldt

September 3
“Respect”
Rev. Rebecca
Goltry Mohr



Coffee with Amy, small group gatherings have been scheduled throughout August. These meetings will give Pastor Amy a chance to learn about you and your family and hear your hopes and dreams for First Church. Families have graciously agreed to host these in their homes and one will be a session on ZOOM and there are also a couple of options meeting at the church. We hope to have no more than 15 at each meeting. Sign-up sheets are available at the AB desk or you can call the church, 316-267-6244 to sign-up!

PLEASE PRAY FOR

the hospitalized, our members and attenders with long-term and terminal illness and their care-givers, the homebound, and those who are in long-term care facilities and nursing homes. Please pray for those grieving the loss of a loved one. Please continue to pray for doctors, nurses and medical personnel caring every day for the medical needs of their patients. Please pray for the recovery of those individuals experiencing illness, and for our hospital workers. Please pray for the health and well-being of our teachers, school workers and administrators, and for the health and safety of all the children and students in our schools. Pray for our Stephen Ministers and the pastoral care staff who continue to care for the spiritual well-being of individuals. Finally, we thank God for his continued provision and care, and are thankful for the opportunity to worship together in person, and are grateful for the Downtown Alive TV Ministry and online option which makes it possible for individuals across Kansas and beyond to worship with us as well.

Articles for the next edition of *First Light* are due Aug. 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. Amy Lippoldt, Rev. Rebecca Goltry Mohr, David Brant



Social Skills Workshop
August 27 at 12:30 p.m.

On Sunday, August 27, beginning at 12:30 p.m., you are encouraged to attend the Social Skills Workshop. This workshop is facilitated by our Friends University Marriage and Family Student Therapists, Alexis Sherwood and Kendra Collier. They will help participants to understand the social skills Pastor Amy preaches about throughout the August series by using the framework of marriage and family therapy. There will be breakout sessions, as well as topical discussions based around communication, conflict resolution, listening, empathy, and respect. This workshop is especially designed for persons living in the same household, but individuals are welcome to attend as well. Please RSVP on the church website and reach out to Pastor Rebecca with any questions.

Chapel Window Repair
and Protection

Last November, First Church facilities discovered that one of the Chapel windows had been broken and required extensive repair.

In May, this repair was completed by Rayer’s Bearden Stained Glass Supply, who specialize in this type of work. Luckily, they had in stock some of the original German fired glass that was used in the window. The cost of this repair was \$6,500 and paid for by generous members, Sunday school classes, and Memorial funds.

In addition to repairing the damaged window, we received a quote of an additional \$6,500, to add protection to the exterior of these windows to prevent further damage. The project has been approved and plans are underway for Rayer’s to install custom cut protective Lexan for each of the

6 lower windows. Before the installation, they will also clean and polish the exterior of each window to return them like new condition.

The Chapel is a very dear and special place for many in our church. While we have received some funds for this project, we are seeking additional donations to help with this cost as it is not in the current budget. Any excess funds received will go into the facilities budget to help with future projects. We feel this is an important and necessary step to complete as soon as possible in order to protect these beautiful windows! If you would like to make a donation, please designate, “Chapel Windows” on your gift.

For more information, please contact Noah Naughton, Director of Facilities, noahn@firstwichita.org or 316-267-6244 ext. 106.



Blessing of
the Backpacks

Attention Students! Be sure you bring your backpack with you to worship on Sunday, August 13, for a special blessing before you head back to school!

OUR GIFTS

JUNE 2023 OFFERING
\$50,019.27

RECEIVED YEAR-TO-DATE
\$516,919.14

BUDGET YEAR-TO-DATE
\$569,675.96

EXPENSES YEAR-TO-DATE
\$587,426.19

OTHER CONTRIBUTIONS

MISSIONS
\$845.00

RECEIVED YEAR-TO-DATE
\$10,249.40

CAPITAL FUNDS
\$100.00

RECEIVED YEAR-TO-DATE
\$2,428.75

VAN MAINTENANCE FUND
\$0.00

RECEIVED YEAR-TO-DATE
\$0.00

ORGAN MAINTENANCE FUND
\$0.00

RECEIVED YEAR-TO-DATE
\$1,020.00

TELEVISION MINISTRY
\$17,204.67

RECEIVED YEAR-TO-DATE
\$151,938.02

BUDGET YEAR-TO-DATE
\$157,183.98

EXPENSES YEAR-TO-DATE
\$172,446.97

TOTAL CONTRIBUTIONS
\$68,168.94

RECEIVED YEAR-TO-DATE
\$682,555.31





Park tutors

In March 2006, First Church established a partnership with Park School, a pre-kindergarten through fifth grade elementary school located nearby at 1025 N. Main. One of our original goals was to raise student achievement and self-esteem. To this end, First Church congregants are encouraged to participate in tutoring students once a week for about an hour at Park. During this time, tutors usually meet with two small groups of two or three students in a room designated for tutoring. Students are selected by their teachers because they need help in academics and relationships.

Volunteer tutors can choose a grade level and a time which works well with their schedules. Students may need help recognizing letters and simple spelling to reading chapter books together, discussing plot and vocabulary as it appears in the stories.

Tutors from this past year were asked about their tutoring experience. They said:

It was rewarding to watch the children make progress in their reading.

I have no children at home, so it was fun to have this relationship with kids.

We had a really good time together. There's nothing like laughing with children!

All tutors must be current on their Safe Gatherings. In addition, a one-time training will be provided for new tutors and held at the church in late August. Also, USD 259 requires a yearly online background check for volunteers but at no cost to the tutors.

If you would like to be a Park tutor or wish more information, contact Libby Eaton at 316-258-5157 or email firstchurchlady1@gmail.com.



Alondra Ponce, Andrea Ponce, Guillermo Lopez and Zander Stegner all attended Camp Horizon July 10-17.

Alondra and Andrea shared reflections from their week at camp!

Going to camp with my sister I was able to learn more about her, and I was able to communicate with her more than when we are at home.

I learned new songs- the fruit of the spirit- love, joy, peace, joyful, self control, kindness and gentleness.

I had a great time hanging out with my counselors and nurse they helped me feel calmed when I missed home.

I felt inspired and learned about God.

-Alondra

I felt happy learning things about God for example that we are all brothers and sisters in Christ.

I learned new songs like, "I Want to Be a Sheep".

Every time we went to sleep I was next to my sister Alondra and she helped me not be afraid.

I learned about other kids, what their favorite color is and stuff.

I liked the prayer garden because it calmed me down.

It was a very hot week but we cooled down at the pool.

-Andrea



Open Door Urgent Need for Food Donations

MOST NEEDED
CANNED VEGETABLES
CANNED FRUIT
MAC & CHEESE
RAMEN NOODLES
CANNED SOUP
PEANUT BUTTER & JELLY



Open Door Urgent Need

Our neighbors at Open Door have reached out to us with an urgent need for non-perishable food for their food boxes. This time of year, need increases with school out of session causing families to have more mouths to feed.

Non-perishable food items most needed:
canned vegetables
canned fruit
macaroni & cheese
ramen noodles/canned soup peanut butter & jelly

Please consider picking up some of these items and bringing them to church so we can help with this need in our community!



Deer Park Work Team

Once again, First Church is sending a work team to Deer Park UMC in Bailey, Colorado September 21 to 25. The team will be working on various church upkeep tasks with people from the Deer Park congregation. For over twenty-five years, members of First Church have traveled to Colorado in the fall to work with this small congregation. For more information contact Diane Quantic at dianequantic@gmail.com or call her at 316-619-9536.

MISSION LUNCH

MENU

Taco Bar
Taco Salad
Homemade
Desserts

Sunday, August 27
11:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.
Meredith Hall

Our next Mission Lunch will be held Sunday, August 27 from 11 a.m.-1:00 p.m. in Meredith Hall. On the menu this month will be Taco Salad and a Taco Bar with delicious homemade desserts! Donations support our work team to Deer Park UMC in Bailey, Colorado.



class News & Notes

Hand in Hand with 50-50

We will continue studying “The Triumph of Christianity” through August. It has been an interesting study about the spread of Christianity. The videos are rather long so sometimes the discussion is carried forth to the following week.

Our class has long supported the supplying of school supplies for Park and Washington schools. Top of the list are black EXPO markers and CRAYOLA colored pencils along with backpacks. If shopping in this heat seems daunting, monetary donations can be given by designating “School Partnership” on your check. Another method is to order a bunch online and have them delivered to you. Clothing items most needed are jeans and sweatpants.

Surprise—we have a social scheduled at the Holmes new residence at Reflection Ridge. It will be on August 12 and tentatively we will meet at 4 p.m. for a social time, 5 p.m. for dinner and 6 p.m. for a movie. More details will be given in class or in the notes/emails that Linda sends out.

We welcome Pastor Amy and her husband Matthew! We were out of town for the first Sunday and the potluck but are back now and ready to get acquainted. We were able to watch her first service in Colorado as do the Quantic’s every Sunday during their summer retreat to the mountains. Bless the TV ministry!

Inspire

Inspire invites you to join us for an open conversation surrounding the scripture being read in each week’s sermon. We invite you to read, discuss, and ask questions with us as we join together on this journey, we call life. We are geared towards younger adults, but age is just a number, so feel free to join us if you want to, we’d love to welcome you this Sunday!

People’s Open Door

People’s Open Door had a very busy July with a Breakfast Brunch, RNC Beach Party and helping with various activities revolving around our new pastor Amy Lippoldt. We are now preparing for August thinking about serving lunch on August 4 to our homeless neighbors at Open Door and supporting the Back-to-School Mission Ministry for our local schools. Several of our members are in the Bible Study, reading the Bible in 365 days, and have found that to be a rewarding experience. Look for new studies in the coming weeks to kick off your “fall learning experience” about the Jesus we love and follow. Get involved with us as we study Galatians and see Jesus through the Bible, our study guide, class discussions and Barbara’s leadership. There are so many ways our church offers to serve, worship, and praise the Risen Lord! Join us in 101B for coffee and fellowship on Sunday.

Pneuma

This month, Evelyn and Dan have introduced us to the work of a group called Mainstream UMC to help us consider what this means for the Wesleyan denomination we share. Mainstream

UMC is a United Methodist advocacy group working for unity in the Body of Christ. Dan provided us with a handout from Mainstream UMC’s website to help guide conversation in class. We will be taking a closer look at their ten stated foundational theological points. We were blessed to have Pastor Amy and Matt accept our invitation to join us in class. We enjoyed getting to know them a little better and look forward to having them join us for future Pneuma events.

Pneuma Ladies met at the home of Karen Orndoff in June. We enjoyed her beautiful gardens on a very pleasant June evening. Our hostess in July is Tammy Bigelow and we will be at the home of Laura Sherard in August. As usual, the men meet at Ziggy’s on those evenings. Linda Ebright organized another time for food and fellowship, as we met for lunch at Meddy’s following worship on July 16. A number of Pneuma members helped with the cookout and potluck to welcome Pastor Amy and Matt.

Our Pneuma family has been sharing in the grief of Deb and Dave Seely, in the death of his stepfather; with Christine and Gary LeRock, in the death of her mother; and with Becca and Bob Tinker, in the death of his mother. We ask that you remember and support these families with your thoughts and prayers in the days ahead.

It was a joy to have Libby Eaton back in class on July 16. She had not been able to attend since her surgery on March 20. It was also a joy to have Jeanne and Gary Brooks in class, the week following Gary’s retirement from Aldersgate UMC.

Seekers

It isn’t too late to join the study Dave Brant and Elise Crickard are co-teaching on Catechism for Adults! The study is designed to help us answer “what does it mean to be a Christian?” If you would like to receive the lesson notes prior to our Sunday class, please contact Phyllis Schanbacher or David Brant and put them on our mailing list.

ROMEOS met in July and decided who ever told the worst joke would be responsible for the bill! They will gather for breakfast again in September. Watch for details.

The Seeker’s women enjoyed dinner at the Mediterranean Grill. They can report on the restaurant’s latest remodel. Ice cream with the all the toppings and delicious baked goodies were enjoyed by a great group on July 21. Seekers tried to match class members with the baby photos displayed. Prizes were given to the baby photo voted “the cutest” and to the Seeker that correctly identified the most members.

In August we will be meeting for dinner at an area restaurant. When and where will be shared later.

We were pleased to welcome Rev. Amy to our class on July 23. It was great to get better acquainted.

A “cool” place to be during the Kansan August heat is at First Church and the Seekers is a very “cool” place to be. Come join us!

Calendar August @ First Church

1 9:30 AM 7:00 PM	Tuesday 12-Bell Handbell Ensemble - 305A Stephen Leader Meeting - Zoom	13 9:00 AM 9:30 AM 9:30 AM 9:30 AM 9:30 AM 9:30 AM 10:50 AM 5:00 PM 7:00 PM	Sunday Religious Nurture Center Ministry - 100D Adult Sunday School Classes- Church Wide High School Sunday School - 200D, 201D K-5th & Middle School SS - 106C, 311C Nursery and Pre-K - 200C, 201C Downtown Alive Worship - Sanctuary The Gathering - 201D - Youth Center The Gathering Potluck - 201D	22 9:30 AM 6:30 PM	Tuesday 12-Bell Handbell Ensemble - 305A Stephen Ministry Supervision - 302B Library
2 9:00 AM 10:00 AM 11:00 AM 6:00 PM	Wednesday Quilters at First (Hand Quilting)-304D Apple Core - Zoom or 302B Quilters at First (Machine Work) - 300D RNC Activities - 100D	14 10:30 AM 10:30 AM	Monday DTA 12 Bell Practice - Bell Choir Room Prayer Phonenumber - Offsite	23 9:00 AM 10:00 AM 11:00 AM 2:00 PM 5:00 PM 6:00 PM	Wednesday Quilters at First (Hand Quilting)-304D Apple Core - Zoom or 302B Quilters at First (Machine Work) - 300D Missions Meeting - 308B Downtown Alive Choir Rehearsal - Choir Room, Sanctuary RNC Activities - 100D
3 10:00 AM 5:00 PM 7:30 PM	Thursday Bible Year-A, 101B Family Promise Class - 103B, Parlor, 200C, Nursery Bible Year-B; ZOOM			24 9:00 AM 10:00 AM 7:30 PM	Thursday The Gathering Staff Working-Youth Center Bible Year-A, 101B Bible Year-B; ZOOM
4	Friday			25	Friday
5	Saturday	15 9:30 AM 5:30 PM	Tuesday 12-Bell Handbell Ensemble - 305A DTA Committee Meeting - 101B	26	Saturday
6 9:00 AM 9:30 AM 9:30 AM 9:30 AM 9:30 AM 10:50 AM 11:00 AM 5:00 PM	Sunday Religious Nurture Center Ministry - 100D Adult Sunday School Classes- Church Wide High School Sunday School - 200D, 201D K-5th & Middle School SS - 106C, 311C Nursery and Pre K - 200C, 201C Downtown Alive Worship - Sanctuary Newcomer Meet & Greet - Parlor The Gathering - 201D - Youth Center	16 9:00 AM 10:00 AM 11:00 AM 6:00 PM	Wednesday Quilters at First (Hand Quilting)-304D Apple Core - Zoom or 302B Quilters at First (Machine Work) - 300D RNC Activities - 100D	27 9:00 AM 9:30 AM 9:30 AM 9:30 AM 9:30 AM 10:50 AM 12:30 PM 5:00 PM	Sunday Religious Nurture Center Ministry - 100D Adult Sunday School Classes- Church Wide High School Sunday School - 200D, 201D K-5th Grade & Middle School SS - 106C,311C Nursery and Pre K - 200C, 201C Downtown Alive Worship - Sanctuary Leadership Board Meeting - 101B The Gathering - 201D - Youth Center
7 10:30 AM 10:30 AM	Monday DTA 12 Bell Practice - Bell Choir Room Prayer Phonenumber - Offsite	17 10:00 AM 5:00 PM 7:30 PM	Thursday Bible Year-A, 101B Family Promise Class - 103B, Parlor, 200C, Nursery Bible Year-B; ZOOM	28 10:30 AM 10:30 AM 5:30 PM	Monday DTA 12 Bell Practice - Bell Choir Room Prayer Phonenumber - Offsite Hospitality Team - 302B
8 9:30 AM	Tuesday 12-Bell Handbell Ensemble - 305A	18	Friday	29 9:30 AM	Tuesday 12-Bell Handbell Ensemble - 305A
9 9:00 AM 10:00 AM 11:00 AM 5:00 PM 6:00 PM	Wednesday Quilters at First (Hand Quilting)-304D Apple Core - Zoom or 302B Quilters at First (Machine Work) - 300D Downtown Alive Choir Rehearsal - Choir Room, Sanctuary RNC Activities - 100D	19 20 9:00 AM 9:30 AM 9:30 AM 9:30 AM 9:30 AM 9:30 AM 10:50 AM 5:00 PM	Saturday Sunday Religious Nurture Center Ministry - 100D Adult Sunday School Classes- Church Wide High School Sunday School - 200D, 201D K-5th Grade & Middle School SS - 106C, 311C Nursery and Pre-K - 200C, 201C Downtown Alive Worship - Sanctuary The Gathering - 201D - Youth Center	30 9:00 AM 10:00 AM 11:00 AM 5:45 PM 6:00 PM	Wednesday Quilters at First (Hand Quilting)-304D Apple Core - Zoom or 302B Quilters at First (Machine Work) - 300D DTA Choir Practice- Sanctuary RNC Activities - 100D
10 10:00 AM 7:30 PM	Thursday Bible Year-A, 101B Bible Year-B; ZOOM	21 10:30 AM 10:30 AM	Monday DTA 12 Bell Practice - Bell Choir Room Prayer Phonenumber - Offsite	31 10:00 AM 7:30 PM	Thursday Bible Year-A, 101B Bible Year-B; ZOOM
11	Friday				
12	Saturday				

COMING IN WORSHIP

August 6
"Social Skills:
Communication"
Proverbs selections
Rev. Amy Lippoldt

August 13
"Social Skills:
Conflict Resolution"
Romans 12: 9-21
Rev. Amy Lippoldt

August 20
"Social Skills:
Listening"
Ephesians 4: 1-6
Rev. Amy Lippoldt

August 27
"Social Skills:
Empathy"
Matthew 7: 7-12
Rev. Amy Lippoldt

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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Camp Horizon Work Team and Retreat

Join your First Church family for a day of fun at Camp Horizon in Arkansas City. There will be an opportunity for mission work projects, worship, meals and fellowship together! Camp work projects and activities begin at 9 a.m. on Saturday, September 9. There will be lunch in the dining hall at noon. At 5 p.m. we will gather for a worship service followed by a bonfire with hot dogs and smores! Lunch is \$15, please register on the church website by September 1. Folks who are interested in staying the night can make arrangements with Camp Horizon directly. Contact Stuart Mack or Pastor Rebecca for more information

The Bible Year is Nearly Complete

For 11 months 25 participants have been reading the entire Bible from cover to cover. We have been meeting weekly to discuss daily readings and have grown together as a group. Congratulations to all who have committed to this great challenge, your dedication and drive to complete this task is inspiring to many!



Come...join to sing (and ring)!

As the days of Summer come to an end (and hopefully the heat comes to an end, too), we look ahead to the cool days of Fall/Winter bringing the liturgical celebrations of World Communion Sunday, All Saints' Day, Christ the King Sunday, Thanksgiving, Advent, Christmas, and Epiphany. These celebrations encourage us to lift our voices in songs of praise and thanksgiving, in anticipation and awe, and in celebration of God's gifts to us. We invite you to join the Downtown Alive Choir on Wednesday evening, August 30 at 5:45 p.m. in the Sanctuary as we begin the Fall semester. Following rehearsal that evening we will have homemade root beer floats in the Parlor (it's been said that Don's root beer is better than NuWay!).

We also invite you to try your hand(s) at ringing in the Bell Choir which meets at 7:00 p.m. each Wednesday in the Choir Library (305 A). If you have questions or need



additional information, contact Don Gray, Choir Director at dong@firstwichita.org regarding the choir and Jan Carduff, Bell Choir Director at frostytheyeti@aol.com

regarding bell choir. No auditions are necessary for either group, just a love of music and a desire to serve God through music.