

# FIRST LIGHT

FEBRUARY 2024

.....

First United Methodist Church

[www.firstwichita.org](http://www.firstwichita.org) | 330 North Broadway | Wichita, Kansas | 316-267-6244



## Join us in worship for our Lenten series, "Following Jesus"

Jesus first and most basic instruction to his disciples was "Follow Me." This Lent we take a closer look at what it

means to be a follower of Jesus, how it changes what we do, how it shapes the very way we live.



## WEDNESDAYS OF LENT 12:15 P.M. SANCTUARY

FEBRUARY 21 - MARCH 20

Join us for our Word & Song series this Lent for a time to pause and reflect midweek. Each Wednesday we will hear from either a musician or a guest speaker.

➔ Check out what's happening this month at First Church!

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Lenten Study

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Flower Ministry

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Religious Nurture Center

### PAGE 8

Chili/Soup Lunch

## Ash Wednesday Services

February 14

12:15 p.m. | Chapel

7:00 p.m. | Sanctuary

*livestream available*



# PRAYING FOR OUR CITY

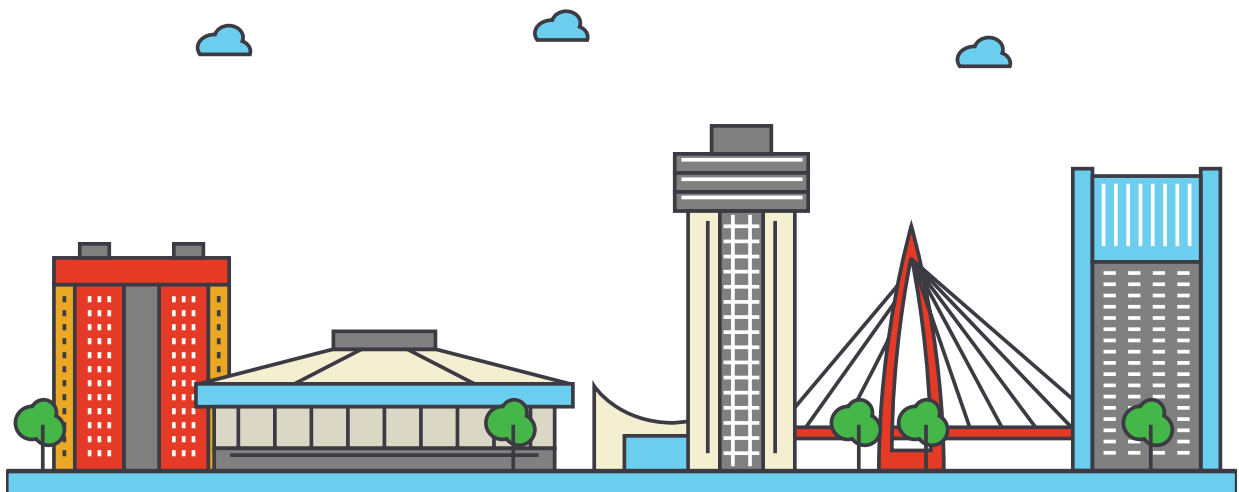


Dear First Church,

A few weeks ago, I went to the swearing in ceremony of our new city council and mayor. I'm a little embarrassed to admit that I've lived in Wichita a total of 25 years of my life and I had never been inside the City Hall Building. Matt was kind enough to go with me, a little "civics field trip" for the both of us. We hurried quickly to the building to get out of the rain and were surprised to find a long line for security winding through the lobby. When we go to the council chambers, we snagged two of the few remaining seats. Soon people were lined up against the wall all around the room.

I went primarily to support Dalton Glasscock, newly elected councilman for District 4, and an active member of First Church. It's fun to be a pastor in moments like that, showing up to cheer someone on in their professional life. Along with seeing Dalton sworn in, I received a bonus of getting to hear speeches from every council member, those exiting, those entering, those remaining. I heard outgoing Mayor Brandon Whipple give his farewell speech. I heard incoming Mayor Lily Wu give her first speech as mayor. Over the course of the evening I learned a lot about these city leaders, who they are, what they are like, what they are focused on for the city of Wichita.

I left that night feeling encouraged by the whole experience. I am sure the council will make decisions with which I do not agree. I am sure they will spend money I would rather see spent elsewhere. But I do believe they have sincere love for Wichita and want to see it thrive. I want that too. I am praying for them in their leadership. I hope you are too. We are the United Methodist Church closest to the City Hall building. Our councilmembers come to work everyday in our neighborhood. Part of us being attentive to our context is to pay attention to what city leaders are doing and to make sure they hear the voice of faithful disciples as they make decisions. Being at City Hall at Jan 8 reminded me to pray daily for the good of our city. Pray with me, church.



# LENTEN STUDY:

## TUESDAYS IN LENT BEGINNING FEB. 20

*God is often at work through the ordinary: ordinary people, ordinary objects, ordinary grace. Through the ordinary, God communicates epiphanies, salvation, revelation, and reconciliation. It is through the mundane that we hear Gods quiet voice.*

**10AM- PASTOR REBECCA FACILITATING**

**6PM- PASTOR AMY FACILITATING**

*Please sign up at the receptionist's desk. Books are available for purchase at the AB entrance for \$11, or you can purchase your own online.*

## LENT IN PLAIN SIGHT

A DEVOTION  
THROUGH  
TEN OBJECTS

JILL J.  
DUFFIELD



*Thank you for your support!*



Thank you to everyone that supported our food collection event!  
We collected 1,437 pounds of food to restock the shelves of Open Door!



## FEBRUARY MISSION COLLECTION

It's not too late to help! We are especially in need of hats, gloves and scarves. Please bring items to the AB entrance or you may donate to the School Partnership fund through online giving or by noting on your contribution.



## United Women in Faith

### UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH JANUARY GATHERING

United Women in Faith Unit Meeting will gather on Wednesday, February 14 at 12:15 p.m. in the Parlor. This will be our potluck lunch, so bring a meat dish, salad, or dessert.

Our program will be "Living Water" from our own UWF program book. Nancy Dinell will be our presenter.

Last month, one of our exercises during our study, was to write down a special recipe and why it was special to us. You are invited to bring a copy of that recipe to share! If appropriate, you might also bring that dish prepared for our potluck meal too!

Elizabeth Circle will be in charge. Emphasis this month is the Legacy Fund. Checks can be made to: United Women in Faith with "The Legacy Fund" in the memo.

### PLANNING AHEAD

The South Central Jurisdiction Conference of United Women in Faith will be held June 21-23 in St. Louis, MO. Sally Vonner, General Secretary/CEO will be present as well as Bishop Wilson. There will be scholarships available. More info to come.



## FLOWER MINISTRY

In celebration of Easter, our Congregational Care Team ministry participants will be delivering Easter lilies to our homebound church members. This long standing tradition and ministry is a special way to express care for our church family who are no longer able to come to church and it also strengthens their connection to First Church.

If you would like to make a donation to our Flower Ministry Fund, please complete the form below and return it with your check to the church by March 15. We will acknowledge all donors along with honorees/memorials in the April edition of the *First Light*.

Enclosed is \$\_\_\_\_\_towards the Flower Ministry Fund.

Donor Name\_\_\_\_\_

Address\_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code\_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number\_\_\_\_\_

In Memory of\_\_\_\_\_

In Honor of\_\_\_\_\_

*Please complete the form and return with your donation to the First United Methodist Church, 330 N. Broadway, Wichita, Kansas 67202. Make your check payable to F.U.M.C. with 'Flower Ministry Fund' in the memo.*

# COME...SING UNTO THE LORD



As the Lenten season draws upon us, many Christians “give up” something for Lent – chocolate, caffeine, red meat, etc. – as a sign of penitence (“the action of showing sorrow and regret for having done wrong”). Instead of “giving up” something, why not “take up” something? Jesus, himself, encourages us to “take up your cross” and follow Him. Perhaps you could volunteer at the local food bank or The Lord’s Diner, volunteer or substitute at a local school, take a meal or treats to a neighbor or shut-in, etc. Perhaps you could “take up” an activity at the church: contact visitors, help with sound or media production, usher or be a greeter for Sunday services. I would like to

encourage you to come join the Chancel Choir for the Lenten/Easter season as we prepare ourselves to travel to Jerusalem and wave palm branches on Palm Sunday, gather around the Lord’s Table on Maundy Thursday, stand at the foot of the cross on Good Friday and celebrate at the empty tomb on Resurrection/Easter Sunday. We welcome you to join us on Wednesday evenings at 5:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary for rehearsals and on Sunday mornings in the Choir Room at 10:20 a.m. as we prepare to worship our risen Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. If you have questions or need additional information, contact Don Gray, Director of Music at [donalddg@firstwichita.org](mailto:donalddg@firstwichita.org).



## WHAT’S HAPPENING IN THE RNC

The Religious Nurture Center recently enjoyed a trip to Wichita Bowlero for an evening of cosmic bowling, pizza buffet and unlimited soda. Special thanks to the First Church Quilters whose donation from their annual Quilt Etc. Sale made it possible for this activity to be FREE to the 40 members who participated!

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT  
MATTHEW SCHROCK, [MATTS@FIRSTWICHITA.ORG](mailto:MATTS@FIRSTWICHITA.ORG)



IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN SUBMITTING A STORY FOR FIRST LIGHT, PLEASE EMAIL, [FIRSTLIGHT@FIRSTWICHITA.ORG](mailto:FIRSTLIGHT@FIRSTWICHITA.ORG)!



## TAXAIDE APPOINTMENTS FEBRUARY 6-MARCH 27

First Church will host appointments this year on Mondays, Tuesdays, and Wednesdays for free AARP TaxAide income tax preparation from February 6 -March 27.

You must make an appointment by calling Libby at 316-258-5157. Leave a message and you will receive a call back. There is no fee for this service.

## COMING IN MARCH...

**March 10: Special Sunday Offering**  
*UMCOR Sunday*

**March 16: Church Work Day**  
*Help us tidy up the building for Easter!*

**March 24: Passion/Palm Sunday**  
*Palm Procession & Passion Week Picnic*

**March 28: Maundy Thursday**  
*Prayer in the Garden- Botanica*

**March 29: Good Friday**

**March 30: Easter Sunday**  
*Family Ministries Easter Egg Hunt*

## PRAYER

Email [prayer@firstwichita.org](mailto:prayer@firstwichita.org) with prayer requests. Email [pastoralcare@firstwichita.org](mailto:pastoralcare@firstwichita.org) to ask for a visit, call or private prayer from the Congregational Care Team:  
Rev. Amy Lippoldt, Rev. Rebecca Goltry Mohr, David Brant

## OUR GIFTS

### GENERAL BUDGET

DECEMBER 2023 INCOME  
\$83,180.14

RECEIVED YEAR-TO-DATE  
\$1,032,681.00

BUDGET YEAR-TO-DATE  
\$1,278,534.00

EXPENSES YEAR-TO-DATE  
\$1,108,115.00

### TELEVISION MINISTRY

DECEMBER 2023  
\$38,130.00

RECEIVED YEAR-TO-DATE  
\$317,815.82

BUDGET YEAR-TO-DATE  
\$325,120.00

EXPENSES YEAR-TO-DATE  
\$297,966.00

## OUR FAMILY

### We celebrate the birth of:

Mila Lucille Shebshayevich,  
daughter of  
Euguen and Kayla Shebshayevich,  
sister to Rollo John  
and great granddaughter of  
Carolyn Vosburg

### We grieve the deaths of:

Paul Jones

Bickley Foster

Jim Aronis,  
husband of Sydney Aronis

Ken Holmes,  
husband of Bonnie Jo Holmes

# FEBRUARY 2024 @ FIRST CHURCH

<b>1</b> 10:00 AM	<b>Thursday</b> Stephen Ministry Training - 103B	<b>15</b>	<b>Thursday</b>
<b>2</b> 9:00 AM	<b>Friday</b> First Friday Lunch - Meredith Hall	<b>16</b>	<b>Friday</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>Saturday</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>Saturday</b>
<b>4</b> 9:00 AM 9:30 AM 9:30 AM  9:30 AM 10:50 AM 12:00 PM 12:15 PM 12:30 PM	<b>Sunday</b> Religious Nurture Center - 100D Adult Sunday School- Church Wide K-5th & 6th-12th Sunday School - 106C,208C Nursery - 200C Morning Worship - Sanctuary UMM Chili/Soup Feed - Meredith Hall The Gathering/Small Talk - 103B TV Volunteer Meeting - 101B	<b>18</b> 9:00 AM 9:30 AM 9:30 AM 9:30 AM 10:50 AM 12:15 PM	<b>Sunday</b> Religious Nurture Center Ministry - 100D Adult Sunday School- Church Wide K-5th & 6th-12th Sunday School - 106C,208C Nursery - 200C Morning Worship - Sanctuary The Gathering/Small Talk - 103B
<b>5</b> 8:30 AM	<b>Monday</b> AARP Tax Aide - D Entrance	<b>19</b> 8:30 AM	<b>Monday</b> AARP Tax Aide - D Entrance
<b>6</b> 8:30 AM 7:00 PM	<b>Tuesday</b> AARP Tax Aide - D Entrance Stephen Leader Meeting - Zoom	<b>20</b> 8:30 AM 10:00 AM 6:30 PM	<b>Tuesday</b> AARP Tax Aide - D Entrance Lenten Study With Rev. Rebecca-304B Lenten Study With Rev. Amy
<b>7</b> 8:30 AM 9:00 AM 11:00 AM 5:30 PM 5:45 PM 6:00 PM 7:00 PM	<b>Wednesday</b> AARP Tax Aide - D Entrance Quilters at First (Hand Quilting)-304D Quilters at First (Machine Work) - 300D Youth Confirmation Meeting - 204A Chancel Choir Rehearsal - Choir Room Religious Nurture Center - 100D Bell Choir Practice - Bell Choir Room	<b>21</b> 8:30 AM 9:00 AM 11:00 AM 12:15 PM 2:00 PM 5:30 PM 5:30 PM 6:00 PM 7:00 PM	<b>Wednesday</b> AARP Tax Aide - D Entrance Quilters at First (Hand Quilting)-304D Quilters at First (Machine Work) - 300D Words & Music - Sanctuary Missions Meeting - 308B Chancel Choir Rehearsal - Choir Room Youth Confirmation Meeting - 204A Religious Nurture Center Ministry - 100D Bell Choir Practice - Bell Choir Room
<b>8</b> 10:00 AM 10:00 AM	<b>Thursday</b> Bible Discussion Group - 101B Stephen Ministry Training - 103B	<b>22</b> 8:00 PM	<b>Thursday</b> Forum Performance "Harvey" - Wilke
<b>9</b>	<b>Friday</b>	<b>23</b> 8:00 PM	<b>Friday</b> Forum Performance "Harvey" - Wilke
<b>10</b> 11:00 AM 2:00 PM	<b>Saturday</b> People's Open Door Class Social - 106B Ken Holmes Memorial Service-Sanctuary	<b>24</b> 8:00 PM	<b>Saturday</b> Forum Performance "Harvey" - Wilke
<b>11</b> 9:00 AM 9:30 AM 9:30 AM  9:30 AM 10:50 AM 12:15 PM	<b>Sunday</b> Religious Nurture Center Ministry - 100D Adult Sunday School- Church Wide K-5th & 6th-12th Grade Sunday School - 106C,208C Nursery - 200C Morning Worship - Sanctuary The Gathering/Small Talk - 103B	<b>25</b> 9:00 AM 9:30 AM 9:30 AM 9:30 AM 10:50 AM 12:15 PM 2:00 PM	<b>Sunday</b> Religious Nurture Center Ministry - 100D Adult Sunday School Classes- Church Wide K-5th & 6th-12th Sunday School - 106C,208C Nursery - 200C Morning Worship - Sanctuary The Gathering/Small Talk - 103B Forum Performance "Harvey" - Wilke
<b>12</b> 8:30 AM	<b>Monday</b> AARP Tax Aide - D Entrance	<b>26</b> 8:30 AM	<b>Monday</b> AARP Tax Aide - D Entrance
<b>13</b> 8:30 AM	<b>Tuesday</b> AARP Tax Aide - D Entrance	<b>27</b> 8:30 AM 10:00 AM 6:30 PM 6:30 PM	<b>Tuesday</b> AARP Tax Aide - D Entrance Lenten Study With Rev. Rebecca-302B Lenten Study With Rev. Amy-309B Stephen Ministry Supervision-302B Library
<b>14</b> 8:30 AM 9:00 AM 10:30 AM 11:00 AM 12:15 PM 12:15 PM 5:30 PM 5:30 PM 6:00 PM 7:00 PM 7:00 PM	<b>Wednesday</b> AARP Tax Aide - D Entrance Quilters at First (Hand Quilting)-304D UW Faith Executive Board Meeting - 101B Quilters at First (Machine Work) - 300D Ash Wednesday Service - Chapel UW Faith Unit Meeting - Meredith Hall Youth Confirmation Meeting - 204A Chancel Choir Rehearsal - Choir Room Religious Nurture Center Ministry - 100D Ash Wednesday Service - Sanctuary Bell Choir Practice - Bell Choir Room	<b>28</b> 8:30 AM 9:00 AM 11:00 AM 12:15 PM 5:30 PM 5:30 PM 6:00 PM 7:00 PM	<b>Wednesday</b> AARP Tax Aide - D Entrance Quilters at First (Hand Quilting)-304D Quilters at First (Machine Work) - 300D Words & Music - Sanctuary Chancel Choir Rehearsal - Choir Room Youth Confirmation Meeting - 204A Religious Nurture Center Ministry - 100D Bell Choir Practice - Bell Choir Room
		<b>29</b> 8:00 PM	<b>Thursday</b> Forum Performance "Harvey" - Wilke



## THANK YOU JACK!

### Over 50 years Teaching Double Ring Class

Jack Focht recently retired as the teacher of the Double Ring Sunday School Class, a position he has filled for over 50 years! Pictured above with his wife, Gloria Farha Flentje, who was in charge of Zoom technology for the class. Thank you, Jack for your faithful service to the Double Ring class and First Church!

#### FIRST LIGHT

First Light is published monthly by the First United Methodist Church of Wichita, Kansas. It is produced by the Communications Department 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 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**  
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
Life. Downtown.

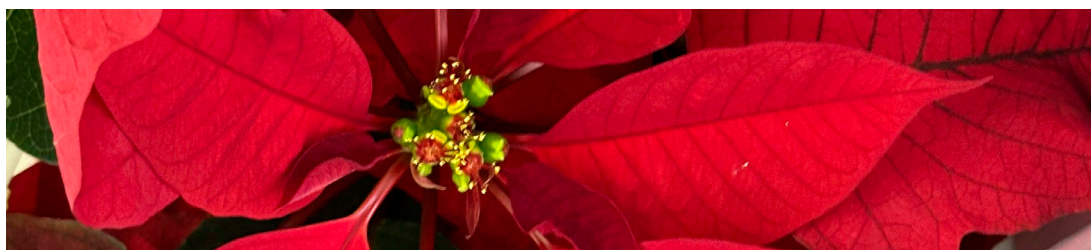
[www.firstwichita.org](http://www.firstwichita.org)  
330 N. Broadway • 316-267-6244  
On Broadway between  
2nd & 3rd Streets  
in downtown Wichita.



UNITED METHODIST MEN  
**Chili/Soup Luncheon**

February 4, 2024  
12:00 p.m.-2:00 p.m.  
Meredith Hall

The United Methodist Men invite you to enjoy a delicious bowl of warm soup on February 4, from 12 p.m. to 2 p.m. in Meredith Hall. Take home options available. Get out of the cold and share a wonderful bowl of soup with us and donate to the United Methodist Men! We are always looking for more men to get involved! Contact Pat McKaig for more information.



## Flower Ministry Donations

### *Honor First Church Friends and Loved Ones*

Listed below is an additional donor and memorial not recognized in the January *First Light*.

*Donor Name*

*In Memory of*

David & Peggy Brant

Stephanie Brant