

THIS SUNDAY

Join us in worship as we begin a new year and a new series, "Restart: Finding a New Way Forward". Worship in person at 10:50 a.m. in the Sanctuary or at 11:00 a.m. LIVE on KAKE, Facebook Live and on YouTube livestream.

INSIDE

Flower Ministry

Scholarship Application

Confirmation

Justice Together

Class News and Notes

Calendar

Chili/Soup Luncheon

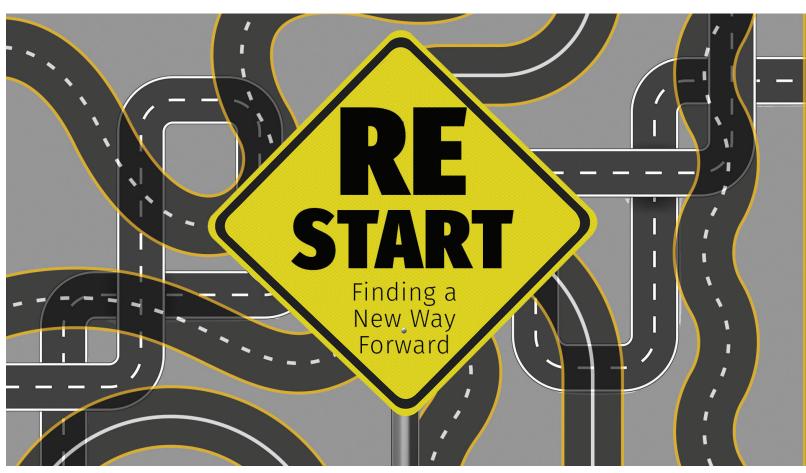
FEED THE HUNGRY

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

January food collection: Beans

FIRS†
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
Life. Downtown.

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



RESTART: Finding a New Way Forward

Life never takes a predictable, straight forth path. It's full of twists and turns, starts and restarts. Join us in January as we consider moments when life takes a hard turn and we ask God to help us start again.



Holiday Food Collection

Saturday, January 6 | 10 a.m.- Noon

It's almost time to return the food you've been collecting during Advent! Stop by the church at our drive-thru donation event, Saturday, January 6 from 10 a.m. – Noon at the D-entrance. These non-perishable items will help restock the shelves at the Open Door for the new year!

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 pray for the recovery of 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 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 Television 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 Jan. 15, by 9 a.m. 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

Changes Coming to First Light

Dear First Church,

Happy New Year! I'll admit I sometimes find myself absent-mindedly writing 2012 or something as a date, it's hard for me to always hold on to the fact that time keeps marching on! But the calendar does move forward and so do we. I have a lot of hope for what will happen at First Church in the year ahead. There will be changes but I am praying that whatever change comes it will help us grow into the church God is calling us to be in this day and age.

One change that I and the Leadership Board decided on at the end of last year is to stop the printing and mailing of the *First Light* newsletter. The *First Light* will still exist as a monthly communication tool, but it will now be an on-line only product, something you can get over email or access from the church website. I know this is a big change, as a newsletter on newsprint has long been a feature of First Church communications. But as the world is ever more digital, it is time for us to spend elsewhere the \$14,000 it takes each year to produce and mail a printed version.



We realize that some of you reading this don't regularly use email or a computer. We don't want to lose touch with you! We are more than happy to print and mail a paper version of the electronic *First Light* to you each month. All you need to do is call the church office (316-267-6244) and let us know you cannot receive it by email. We will send you a paper copy each month with all the same news and information you are used to getting from the church

For those of you who do use email, expect to receive the *First Light* just like you do the weekly e-news. If for some reason we don't have your email address, please update us! You can email our director of communications at erind@firstwichita.org to be on both the weekly e-news and monthly *First Light* distribution list. Make sure to also like our Facebook page and check the website, firstwichita.org, for all the latest news and info from the church!

We want to stay connected to each and everyone of you, we just need to shift the methods we use. Thanks for making this change with us, if you have questions feel free to connect with me at amyl@firstwichita.org.

I'm grateful for you, congregation, for your prayers, your generosity, your love of this church. May God bless us with adventure, opportunity, and grace in the year to come!

Amy

Flower Ministry Donations

Honor First Church Friends and Loved Ones

Thank you to everyone who donated toward the purchase of poinsettias that were delivered this

year. Below is a list of individuals who contributed to the flower ministry and the names of those

who are being honored or memorialized:



In Honor of

Donor Name(s) In Memory of

Mary Beals & family Carole Campbell Paulette Dibbern

Charles & Jean Eby
Beth Elliott

C. Bickley Foster Tom & Deborah Gdisis

Mary Havey Wayne & Dorothy Holt

Karen Hudson Doug & Vicki Hye

Connie Lee
Betty Lygrisse

Virginia McCoskey Barbara Novotny

Judith & John Oswald Mary Lou Roedell

Kenneth & Bonnie Rupe Marilyn & Bill Schmidt

Lois Short Ronda Snyder Celia Turner Cindi Ubben Gerald Beals

Charles R. Campbell; Jim & Eunice McClure

Dieter Dibbern

Harlan, Bea & David Casper; Martin & Pauline Eby

Willis Elliott

Gloria Valerie Foster

Peter & Mary Gdisis; Ercil Phillips; LeeNell Phillips

Todd Havey; Helen Halstead

Arthur & Nalva Shastid; J.R. & Naomi Holt

George "Bud" Hudson; Margaret Deubner

Our parents, Harry & Connie Hye; Ruth & Harley Messmer

Dwight Lee; Wanda Lay V.E. "Gene" Lygrisse Robert McCoskey

Robert Novotny

Paul & Irene Relf; Ralph & Myrtle Oswald

Floyd J. Roedell; Peggy Ediger

Mr. & Mrs. H. A. Rupe; Mr. & Mrs. Alden Rupe; Rev. & Mrs. Robert B. Brown

Don & Jane Clark Ken Short; Matt Seely Vinola Moore; Karen Swarts

Bill Turner

David Ubben; Blossom & George Kirkendall; Keely Popejoy

Crystal Collinsworth

OUR GIFTS

NOVEMBER 2023 OFFERING

\$95,003.02

RECEIVED YEAR-TO-DATE

\$857,885.22

BUDGET YEAR-TO-DATE

\$969,045.97

EXPENSES YEAR-TO-DATE

\$994,656.43

OTHER CONTRIBUTIONS

MISSIONS

\$1,110.00

RECEIVED YEAR-TO-DATE

\$17,569.00

CAPITAL FUNDS

\$115.00

RECEIVED YEAR-TO-DATE

\$3,018.75

ORGAN MAINTENANCE FUND

\$50.00

RECEIVED YEAR-TO-DATE

\$1,859.00

TELEVISION MINISTRY

\$37,664.00

RECEIVED YEAR-TO-DATE

\$257,281.54

BUDGET YEAR-TO-DATE

\$295,087.33

EXPENSES YEAR-TO-DATE

\$270,854.70

TOTAL CONTRIBUTIONS

\$133,942.02

RECEIVED YEAR-TO-DATE

\$1,137,613.51

OUR FAMILY

We grieve the deaths of

Glen Sandbulte, father of Matthew Sandbulte, father-in-law of Rev. Amy Lippoldt

Rosemary Lowry



2024-25 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, other adults returning to 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 2024-25 Scholarship Application packets are due at the church by Friday, January 19 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 Donna Fisher, Scholarship Committee chairperson, by phone at 316-393-6486 or e-mail at dhypse@cox.net.



United Women in Faith Happy New Year!

UWF Expanded Executive Committee Wednesday, January 10 10:30 a.m. Room 101B.

Ruth and Elizabeth Circles Wednesday, January 10 2:00 p.m.

First Church Parlor

Our presentation will be from our program guide, Donna Fisher, titled "How Does Generosity Nourish My Relationship with Jesus?" She will also be leading our Annual Pledge Service.

Ruth Circle will be in charge of the meeting. Let's start the New Year off by everyone attend. You might want to put the following dates on your new calendar: January, March, and May combined circles will meet on the second Wednesday of the month at 2:00 p.m. in the Parlor. February and April will be our Unit meetings and will also meet on the second Wednesday in the Parlor and will start at 12:15 because we will be having our potluck luncheon.

We were happy to welcome two visitors from St. Paul UMC to our meeting in December. We also have some new members from First Church, so come and get acquainted. If you would like more info, call Nancy Dinell (316-258-0495) or Carolyn Vosburg(316-258-1860)



The United Women in Faith enjoyed a festive gathering during December, complete with wassail, goodies and Christmas Carol singing, with Dr. Bryan Mock accompanying on the piano!





On November 9, 2023 over 500 people gathered in the Sanctuary at First Church to launch a new justice ministry called, "Justice Together!" During the inaugural covenant assembly, the top two priorities were decided on ballots, they are homelessness and mental health.

On December 12, 2023, participants across different faiths and denominations gathered to kickoff the research process. First Church has eight people participating in the research teams. They are: Cyd Gilman, Sam Schrepel, Joseph Schumock, Deborah Gdisis, Tom Gdisis, Bonnie Beuning, Emilie Petersen, and Pastor Rebecca.

The first phase of research is all about understanding the problem. Through interviewing people who are already working closely with the topics selected, the research committee will begin to form an analysis of what the problem is. The research committee participants are involved in listening at any number of interviews with people like; the United Way of the Plains continuum of care coordinator, the homeless task force manager for the Sedgwick Co. government, the Sedgwick

County public defender, and the police department, and the list goes on.

First Church will host a panel discussion on Tuesday, January 16 from 1:45-3:45 p.m. in Meredith Hall. This panel discussion will feature homeless service providers. During this discussion the research committee will listen to ways the various organizations provide services and where gaps remain in resources. This will also be an opportunity to see how the homeless service provider committee works together. If you are interested in helping with hospitality or greeting that afternoon, please contact Pastor Rebecca, rebeccam@firstwichita. org.

There will continue to be updates on Justice Together as more research is done. Your Justice Team Leader will be in touch with you in the future about the spring rallies in April. Continue to pray for the research team and all who are impacted by the issues of homelessness and mental health. As Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. said, "The arc of the moral universe is long, but it bends toward justice." Might this be so.



Once again you have come together to show people you care. Our Ember Hope Youthville Christmas Connection Project was a HUGE success! Our total donations were estimated at \$10,000. Thank you very much.

- Carolyn Vosburg



Help Keep Neighborhood Children **Warm this Winter**

Many of our neighborhood students at Park and Washington lack heavy clothing, warm coats and gloves. Families in transition are challenged by many financial needs. During January and February, we will collect and deliver kid's coats for our neighborhood youngsters. Gently used coats are welcome but need to be clean.

Both schools accommodate children from pre-school age through 5th grade, though some older students wear adult sizes. Gloves do not need to be fancy. In fact, the knit ones which often come in packages of 3 or 4 pair, are welcomed. Sweatshirts and pants are always needed also.

To donate to the School Partnership Fund, simply note your intention in the memo line of your check. If you wish to donate items, bring them to the AB entrance at church.

Double Ring

On November 19, class member Wayne Howdeshell taught our class, because our regular teacher, Jack Focht was unable to attend. Wayne discussed the reason for Thanksgiving, its history, and biblical references to celebrations of thanksgiving. One of the Bible's most beautiful references:

"Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth! Serve the Lord with gladness! Come into his presence with singing! Know that the Lord, he is God! It is he who made us, and we are his; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture. Enter his gates with thanksgiving, and his courts with praise! Give thanks to him; bless his name! For the Lord is goo; his steadfast love endures forever, and his faithfulness to all generations." Psalm 100

The Double Ring Class thanks Darlene Snyder for her years of serving as our class pianist! Every Sunday morning, we start by singing a hymn, accompanied by the piano. We cannot thank Darlene enough for this gift she has given our class for years! We also greatly appreciate that Barbara Novotny has assumed this role, which helps us all stay on key!

After 50 years of teaching Double Ring Sunday School Classes, Jack Focht will retire from his position at the end of December. On October 8, the class held a celebration honoring his remarkable contributions to our class. Class members told Jack what his spiritual guidance has meant to them, told fun stories involving Jack over the years, and displayed boards containing photographs of Jack and class members over many years. It's difficult to imagine anyone surpassing the longevity, creativity, or dedication that Jack Focht has dedicated to our class. Jack holds a special place in our hearts forever!

Hand in Hand with 50-50

We did indeed have a wonderful Christmas gathering at the Klaassen's club house. Sandwiches, and soup were served along with desserts, coffee, and water. The tables were decorated with some of Sawny's treasured Christmas figurines and ornaments. Eliana Martinez Norbach, and her mother, Ruth Martinez, came from Augusta and Eliana once again led us in singing. The best part was listening to Eliana sing several solos. We missed Bruce Q., Ken Holmes, as they are recovering from accidents. Tris and Amy Felix, Sawny's daughter and her husband, were co-hosts and it was so nice to see some of our "children". Vic Klaassen was able to make it!

January 7 will be the next chapter of "Triumph of Christianity". On Jan. 7 and 21 and 28 we will also have lessons from this very informative book. On Jan. 14, we will have a lesson about one of John Wesley's favorite hymns (We could use a pianist that day.)!

On December 13, some of us enjoyed the Women in Faith Christmas gathering. Annette is the leader of the Ruth Circle and Donna Fisher the leader of the Elizabeth Circle. Jean E., Jean G. and Maralee were all present. Annette brought many cookies, meat and cheese, and wassail. Dr. Bryan Mock played our favorite Christmas songs as we sang. Good thing we had several choir members present! It was an enjoyable afternoon!

We will continue to collect food for Open Door through Epiphany. If individuals can collect 42 cans that would be great, but any addition to the church wide donation would be most helpful. Especially needed are Mac and Cheese, fruits, vegetables, and ramen noodles.

We pray for those in our class and who are dealing with falls, and other medical problems. Of course, we pray for those far away fighting and dying from gunfire, starvation, and medical needs.

Inspire

Exciting news! We are now meeting in Room 204A, a cozy space just outside the Sanctuary! Join us for a heartfelt exploration of faith and community every Sunday at 9:45 a.m. We follow along with the weekly scripture reading and use the Serendipity Bible to lead our discussion. Come as you are—everyone is welcome! Let's grow together in the warmth of shared wisdom and love. Blessings!

People's Open Door

People's Open Door journeyed through an Advent Study with a daily devotion leading us to the birth of Jesus on December 25. It has been a great way to take time daily to prepare our hearts and minds for the real meaning of Christmas. We sent gifts off for two EmberHope kids, supported the food drive for Open Door and will be giving gifts to other United Methodist agencies as year-end giving time approaches. Our Christmas Brunch was celebrated by many on December 11. As we look to the New Year we will be settling back into our study of Luke. Join us for coffee, conversation and a good Bible study if you'd like in 101B.

Pneuma

It is hard to believe that we are at the end of another year. With the year's end comes a new beginning for Pneuma, as our classroom has moved from the D building to the Parlor. Of course, we plan to be good stewards of this beautiful space that is so important in the life of the church. We appreciate that it is being shared with us.

Connie Bishop was our hostess in December for Pneuma Ladies. We will be meeting at the home of Peggy Baldwin in January. We had a large group enjoy our annual progressive dinner. Jennifer Ream hosted appetizers and Linda and Alan Ebright hosted desserts and the traditional carol singing. Special guests were Pastor Amy and Matt, as well as members of the Inspire class. We are so grateful for this special night of food and fellowship. We wish our church family a very Happy New Year filled with His many blessings!

Seekers

Can you believe it? A new year, and the Seekers are excited to start a new Bible Study with Dave Brant studying the book of Ephesians. We also have some fun socials planned and lots of service opportunities. It is going to be a great year to be part of the Seekers Class.

We attended the Prairie Pines Dinner Theater for our Christmas party. There was Christmas songs, good food and lots of laughs. The Seekers women and ROMEOS skipped meals out in December but have plans for January. Watch for emails with specific information.

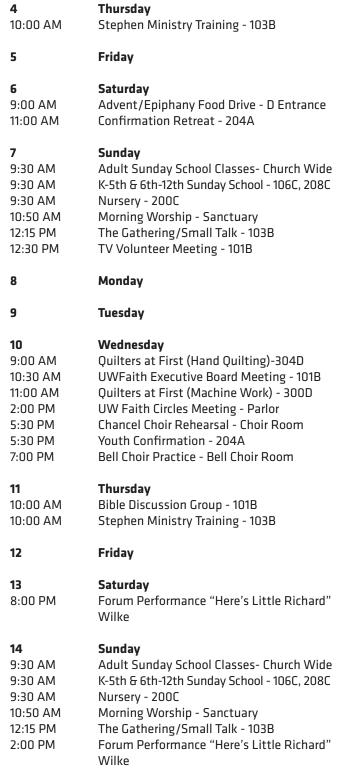
Several Seekers will be helping with the Holiday Food Collection Drive on January 6. We are hoping to fill the church's trailer!

On January 7 before the kickoff of the Ephesians Study, we will be sharing quick reviews of books we have enjoyed, or thought was an important read. Contact David Dinell if you have a book you would like to share.

We hope you will join us this year for some great discussions, good laughs, and fresh coffee as part of the Seekers Class.

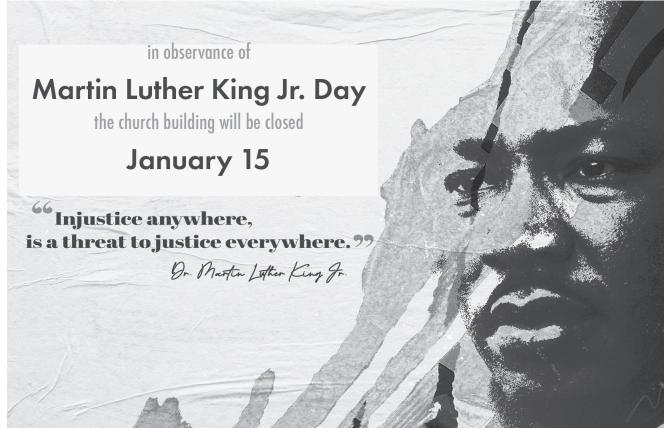
CALENDAR January @ First Church

1	Monday- New Year's Day	16	Tuesday	24	Wednesday
	BUILDING CLOSED	1:45 PM	Justice Together Research Open House -	9:00 AM	Quilters at First (Hand Quilting)-304D
			MH, B Building	11:00 AM	Quilters at First (Machine Work) - 300D
2	Tuesday		, <u>, , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , </u>	2:00 PM	Missions Meeting - 308B
		17	Wednesday	5:30 PM	Chancel Choir Rehearsal - Choir Room
3	Wednesday	9:00 AM	Quilters at First (Hand Quilting)-304D	5:30 PM	Youth Confirmation - 204A
9:00 AM	Quilters at First (Hand Quilting)-304D	11:00 AM	Quilters at First (Machine Work) - 300D	7:00 PM	Bell Choir Practice - Bell Choir Room
11:00 AM	Quilters at First (Machine Work) - 300D	5:30 PM	Chancel Choir Rehearsal - Choir Room		
4:00 PM	Hospitality Committee - 302B	5:30 PM	Youth Confirmation - 204A	25	Thursday
5:30 PM 5:30 PM	Chancel Choir Rehearsal - Choir Room Youth Confirmation - 204A	7:00 PM	Bell Choir Practice - Bell Choir Room	10:00 AM	Stephen Ministry Training - 103B
7:00 PM	Bell Choir Practice - Bell Choir Room	18	Thursday	26	Friday
		10:00 AM	Stephen Ministry Training - 103B		•
4	Thursday		, , ,	27	Saturday
10:00 AM	Stephen Ministry Training - 103B	19	Friday		•
				28	Sunday
5	Friday	20	Saturday	9:30 AM	Adult Sunday School Classes- Church Wide
				9:30 AM	K-5th & 6th-12th Sunday School - 106C, 208C
6	Saturday	21	Sunday	9:30 AM	Nursery - 200C
9:00 AM	Advent/Epiphany Food Drive - D Entrance	9:30 AM	Adult Sunday School Classes- Church	10:50 AM	Morning Worship - Sanctuary
11:00 AM	Confirmation Retreat - 204A		Wide	12:15 PM	The Gathering/Small Talk - 103B
		9:30 AM	K-5th & 6th-12th Sunday School - 106C,		
7	Sunday		208C	29	Monday
9:30 AM	Adult Sunday School Classes- Church Wide	9:30 AM	Nursery - 200C		
9:30 AM	K-5th & 6th-12th Sunday School - 106C, 208C	10:50 AM	Sunday Morning Worship - Sanctuary	30	Tuesday
9:30 AM	Nursery - 200C	12:15 PM	The Gathering/Small Talk - 103B		
10:50 AM	Morning Worship - Sanctuary			31	Wednesday
12:15 PM	The Gathering/Small Talk - 103B	22	Monday	9:00 AM	Quilters at First (Hand Quilting)-304D
12:30 PM	TV Volunteer Meeting - 101B			11:00 AM	Quilters at First (Machine Work) - 300D
		23	Tuesday	5:30 PM	Chancel Choir Rehearsal - Choir Room
8	Monday	6:30 PM	Stephen Ministry Supervision-302B	5:30 PM	Youth Confirmation - 204A
			Library	7:00 PM	Bell Choir Practice - Bell Choir Room
9	Tuesday				
10	Wednesday				
9:00 AM	Quilters at First (Hand Quilting)-304D				
10:30 AM	UWFaith Executive Board Meeting - 101B				
11:00 AM	Quilters at First (Machine Work) - 300D				
2·∩∩ PM	UW Faith Circles Meeting - Parlor		in absorvance of		



Monday- Martin Luther King Jr. Day

BUILDING CLOSED



COMING IN WORSHIP January 7 Epiphany "Restart" Week 1 Matthew 2: 1-12 Rev. Amy Lippoldt

January 14 "Restart" Week 2 Genesis 37: 18-34 Rev. Amy Lippoldt

January 21 "Restart" Week 3 Ruth 1: 1-18 Rev. Amy Lippoldt

January 28 "Restart" Week 4 Luke 19:10 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

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when submitting material.





United Methodist Men Chili/Soup Luncheon

It's cold outside, so it must be time for the men of First Church to host our annual Chili/Soup Feed. Join us on February 4, 2024 for a delicious bowl of warm soup. Serving starts in Meredith Hall at 12:00 p.m. and runs through 2:00 p.m. We are also offering take home options.

Your donation will help support various ministries at First Church. Please join us and enjoy a wonderful bowl of soup and donate to the United Methodist Men! We are always looking for more men to help and get involved! If you are interested, please contact Pat McKaig.





Left to Right: Judith Oswald, presenting a check to RNC representative, Delaine Hartman and Rev. Amy Lippoldt receiving a check on behalf of the TV Ministry from Paulette Dibbern. Each check was \$9,250!

First Church Quilters Celebrate Successful Sale

At a Christmas luncheon this December, the quilters presented checks from the proceeds of their Quilts, Etc. Sale to the Religious Nurture Center and Television Ministry, totaling \$18,500! Thank you to everyone that helped make this event a success. And a special thank you to the First Church Quilters for using their creativity and talents to support the ministries of First Church! Check out their blog at https://quiltersatfirst.com for items that can be purchased all year long!



First Church Quilters gathered together for a luncheon to celebrate another successful Quilts, Etc. Sale.

Lessons and Carols

Thank you to the Chancel Choir and Handbell Choir for a lovely, Lessons and Carols service! The scripture and musical selections helped prepare our hearts for Christmas. If you missed the service or would like to go back and enjoy it again, you can find it on the First Church Youtube page!



