

# FIRST LIGHT

MARCH 2024

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First United Methodist Church

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



**MARCH 24**

*Passion/Palm Sunday*

Procession of Palms  
Chancel Choir- Cantata

**MARCH 29**

*Good Friday Service*

7 p.m.- Sanctuary

**MARCH 28**

*Maundy Thursday Service*

Prayer in the Garden  
6 p.m. - Botanica

**MARCH 31**

*Easter Sunday*

10:30 a.m.-Egg Hunt  
10:55 a.m.-Worship



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

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Palm Sunday

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United Women in Faith

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Word & Song

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UMCOR Sunday

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New Organist

## PRAYER IN THE GARDEN: MAUNDY THURSDAY SERVICE

March 28, 6 p.m., Botanica, 701 Amidon



Join us for an evening in the beautiful gardens of Botanica as we gather for a Maundy Thursday Taize service and opportunity to stroll around the gardens. Admission is free and you are encourage to invite family and friends!

# BUILDING UTILIZATION UPDATE



BY REV. AMY LIPPOLDT

Dear First Church,

A huge thank you to everyone that came out to our meeting about “building utilization” last week. We had 90 people present! I know many others wanted to attend but had conflicts. I am grateful to see such investment in our future as a church, and such willingness to make change as our mission directs.

We started the meeting thinking about First Church in 2054. That’s only 30 years from now! If you can easily remember 1994, then 2054 doesn’t actually seem that far away. We contemplated, what will First Church be like 30 years from now? Who will be here? What will they need? We talked about all the redevelopment energy in downtown now and more that is coming. We want

to be an essential part of a revitalized downtown. We talked about how we believe God wants churches in downtown, healthy, vital churches that share God’s love and speak to people’s needs. We are in downtown for a reason, we want to be here!

After that hopeful conversation I shared some sobering facts about our financial situation. Our income from giving has been on a slow but steady downward trend for more than 15 years. Last year 55% of our giving was from people who are age 75 or older. The cost to maintain our building accounted for 32% of our budget last year. In 2009 building cost was only 15% of our budget. With each passing year, our building is taking up more and more of our diminishing resources. It is a trend we have to change. And it will take a major new approach to do so.

In small groups we explored various scenarios for how to increase revenue from the building and/or decrease cost. We talked about sharing the building with other entities that would pay usage fees. We talked about what we would gain or lose if we sold part of the building. We talked about what we would gain or lose if we demolished part of the building.

At the end of the night, I handed out a survey that asked people for comments and to rate from 1 to 5 a general sense of the three major options. On that scale from 1 being disagree to 5 being agree, the results were: Share part of the building 3.24, Sell part of the building 3.15, Demolish part of the building 3.09. I laughed very hard when I saw the averages, we are right in the Methodist middle!

Mostly I take those results to mean that we, as a congregation, are open to all the possibilities for what will best serve the mission of the church now and into the future. I’m so glad for that. Of course, some people lean strongly toward one or another option but as a whole, we are open to whatever path will serve the mission best.

The Leadership Board will continue to explore the options in earnest. I cannot predict what the path will be. But I am praying that God shows us clearly the way forward and removes any obstacles as we try to take the best, most faithful steps. I do promise to keep you, the congregation, well informed as we go forward. We will need more input and, in some scenarios, we will need a charge conference vote before we act.

I know the options can seem daunting; these are not small decisions. The options also bring sadness. So much good ministry has happened in the C and D building and we might long for the days when they were full and bustling. Thinking of how things would look and feel different is scary. I feel all those things right along side you. I also really believe that God has a purpose and a plan for First Church and work for us to do in downtown. I am so glad to be alongside you in this ministry and am waiting with you for what the Spirit will reveal. I trust we will have the courage to act when the time is right.

If you missed the meeting and want to give feedback, you can do so on a [google form here](#). If you have questions, feel free to connect with me or a member of the Leadership Board.

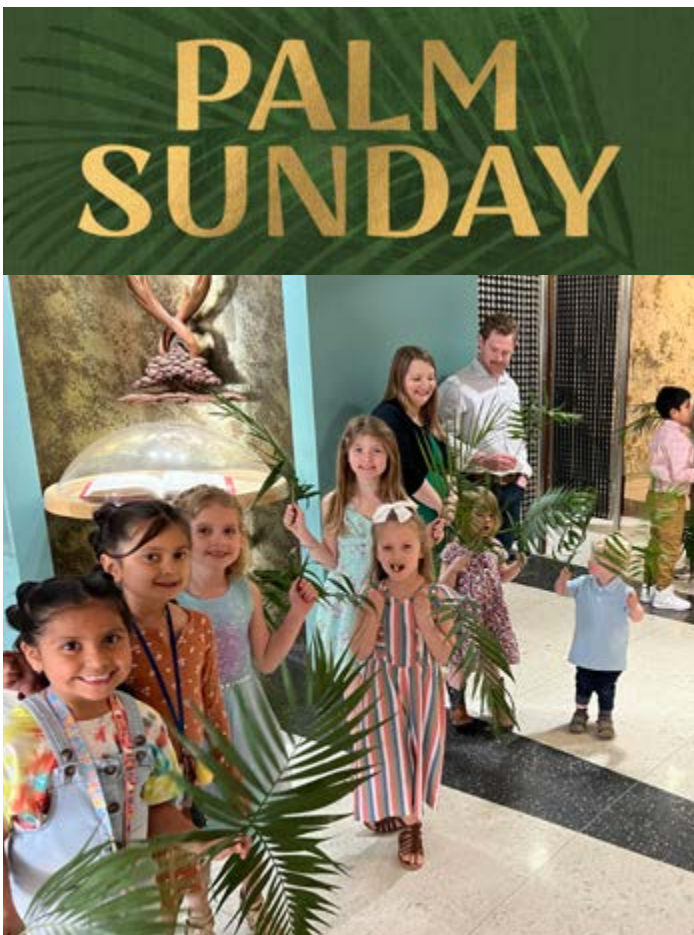
Thanks!  
Amy

# PALM SUNDAY CANTATA

## "THE LENTEN SKETCHES"

They say, "a picture is worth a thousand words," and that may be so, especially as we visualize memories of past family events, reminisce on our childhood moments in school, or relive that special winning score from a favorite sport activity. Photographs, famous works of art in a gallery, or even selfies on our cell phones remind us of past events that have shaped us and our world. Music is also a media that draws on our memories and our emotions as we allow the melodies and lyrics to speak to our hearts and our souls – reliving precious moments in our lives or challenging us as we look to our future. This Lenten season, music can draw us close to the cross of Christ, remind us of our own mortality and

sin, and help us pause to remember God's ultimate gift and sacrifice for our salvation. The Chancel Choir will offer Joseph Martin's cantata, "The Lenten Sketches", on Palm Sunday, March 24 during the 11:00 morning worship service combining music and narration to paint the pictures of Christ's Passion and last week on earth. Allow the words and music to sketch pictures in your mind as you reflect on Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem, as he gathers with his disciples around the table at the Last Supper, as he prays in the darkness of Gethsemane, as he is led to the cross of Calvary and as darkness falls and we wait with anticipation to celebrate the glorious resurrection of Easter morning.



## PASSION WEEK PICNIC

### FAMILY MINISTRIES

### MARCH 24 | NOON

Families with children and youth are invited to a "Passion Week Picnic" on **Sunday, March 24 at Noon in Meredith Hall**. This event is on Palm Sunday, so we will all wave palm branches together in worship, then once worship concludes we will head downstairs for a time to remember the events of Holy Week. This is a great event to invite grandchildren, extended family, or neighbor children! There will be a Bible story, crafts and games for children and youth to enjoy. A potluck style picnic lunch will be provided. RSVP to Pastor Rebecca, [rebeccam@firstwichita.org](mailto:rebeccam@firstwichita.org).





United  
Women  
in Faith

## UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH MARCH GATHERING

United Women in Faith Extended Executive Committee will meet Wednesday, March 13 at 10:00 a.m. in the Parlor.

Ruth and Elizabeth Circles will meet Wednesday, March 13 at 2:00 p.m. in the Parlor. Ruth Circle will host.

The program will be "Living Water" from the UWF Program Resource Guide. Nancy Dinell will be the presenter.

## UWF READING PROGRAM

The reading cart will soon be moved back to the library. West Heights UWF has researched some information on our UWF Reading List and has shared the [website](#) with us. Hopefully this will help us to start reading again!

## Community Resource Tour

Watch for a sign-up sheet at the front desk for a Community Resource Tour to the Wichita Public Library to learn about all the resources it has to offer. This tour will be open church-wide.

## HAPPENING THIS MONTH

- **NEWCOMER MEET & GREET**  
**SUNDAY, MARCH 10**  
**12 P.M. | PARLOR**

Learn more about membership at First Church!  
*Lunch provided: RSVP at 316-267-6244*

- **FIRST CHURCH WORK DAY**  
**SATURDAY, MARCH 16**  
**9 A.M.-- NOON**

Help us get the building ready for Holy Week!

*We'll start the morning in Meredith Hall  
with coffee and donuts*

- **LEADERSHIP BOARD MEETING**  
**SUNDAY, MARCH 24**  
**12:30 P.M. | 101B**



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



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

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.

**MARCH 6:**  
Camille Burrow, Cello

**MARCH 13:**  
Jane Hyde, Harp

**MARCH 20:**  
Greer Cowley,  
Humankind Ministries



## JOIN US FOR WORSHIP THIS LENT!

*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.*

## FLOWER MINISTRY



In celebration of Easter, our Congregational Care Team ministry participants will be delivering Gerbera daisy plants to our homebound church members. This 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*.

Donor Name \_\_\_\_\_ Enclosed is \$ \_\_\_\_\_ towards the Flower Ministry Fund.

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.*



## SPECIAL OFFERING: MARCH 10 UMCOR SUNDAY

Responding globally to persons in need. Your gifts ensure that UMCOR can respond quickly and in compassion to disaster and devastation. You support the daily business allowing

UMCOR to keep the promise that 100% of any gift will go toward that project. You can give on the church app or by check with "UMCOR Sunday" in the memo line.



## TAXAIDE APPOINTMENTS THROUGH MARCH 27

Appointments are available at First Church for free AARP TaxAide income tax preparation on Mondays, Tuesdays, and Wednesdays

through March 27.

Make an appointment by calling Libby at 316-258-5157. Leave a message and you will receive a call back.

## 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

JANUARY 2024 INCOME  
\$277,170.38

RECEIVED YEAR-TO-DATE  
\$277,170.38

BUDGET YEAR-TO-DATE  
\$77,499.89

EXPENSES YEAR-TO-DATE  
\$79,814.67

### TELEVISION MINISTRY

JANUARY 2024  
\$54,067.00

RECEIVED YEAR-TO-DATE  
\$54,067.00

BUDGET YEAR-TO-DATE  
\$35,020.63

EXPENSES YEAR-TO-DATE  
\$26,620.25

## OUR FAMILY

We grieve the deaths of:

Evelyn Simons,  
mother of Barbara Simons

Roger Cusack,  
husband of Sandra Cusack

Kenneth Rupe,  
husband of Bonnie Rupe

Bruce Quantic,  
husband of Diane Quantic



**1 Friday**

9:00 AM First Friday Lunch - Meredith Hall

**3 Sunday**

9:00 AM Religious Nurture Center Ministry - 100D  
 9:30 AM Adult Sunday School Classes- Church Wide  
 9:30 AM K-5th & 6th-12th Sunday School - 106C,208C  
 9:30 AM Nursery - 200C  
 10:50 AM Morning Worship - Sanctuary  
 12:15 PM The Gathering/Small Talk - 103B  
 12:30 PM TV Volunteer Meeting - 101B

**4 Monday**

8:30 AM AARP Tax Aide - D Entrance  
 5:30 PM Justice Together Network Meeting- 101B

**5 Tuesday**

8:30 AM AARP Tax Aide - D Entrance  
 10:00 AM Lenten Study With Rev. Rebecca- 101B  
 6:30 PM Lenten Study With Rev. Amy - 106B

**6 Wednesday**

8:30 AM AARP Tax Aide - D Entrance  
 9:00 AM Quilters at First (Hand Quilting)-304D  
 10:00 AM Apple Core - Zoom or 302B  
 11:00 AM Quilters at First (Machine Work) - 300D  
 12:15 PM Word & Song - Sanctuary  
 5:30 PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal - Choir Room  
 5:30 PM Youth Confirmation Meeting - 204A  
 6:00 PM RNC Magic Show - 101D  
 7:00 PM Bell Choir Practice - Bell Choir Room

**8 Friday**

11:00 AM Roger Cusack Memorial Gathering-Sanctuary

**10 Sunday**

9:00 AM Religious Nurture Center Ministry - 100D  
 9:30 AM Adult Sunday School Classes- Church Wide  
 9:30 AM K-5th & 6th-12th Sunday School - 106C,208C  
 9:30 AM Nursery - 200C  
 10:50 AM Morning Worship - Sanctuary  
 12:00 PM Newcomer Meet and Greet- Parlor  
 12:15 PM The Gathering/Small Talk - 103B

**11 Monday**

8:30 AM AARP Tax Aide - D Entrance

**12 Tuesday**

8:30 AM AARP Tax Aide - D Entrance  
 10:00 AM Lenten Study With Rev. Rebecca-101B  
 6:30 PM Lenten Study With Rev. Amy - 106B

**13 Wednesday**

8:30 AM AARP Tax Aide - D Entrance  
 9:00 AM Quilters at First (Hand Quilting)-304D  
 10:00 AM Apple Core - Zoom or 302B  
 10:30 AM UWFaith Executive Board Meeting - Parlor  
 11:00 AM Quilters at First (Machine Work) - 300D  
 12:00 PM Youth Confirmation Meeting - 204A  
 12:15 PM Word & Song - Sanctuary  
 1:00 PM UWFaith Circles Meeting - Parlor  
 5:30 PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal - Choir Room  
 7:00 PM Bell Choir Practice - Bell Choir Room

**14 Thursday**

10:00 AM Bible Discussion Group - 101B

**15 Friday**

2:00 PM Bruce Quantic Memorial Service- Sanctuary

**16 Saturday**

9:00 AM Church Work Day - Church Wide

**17 Sunday**

9:00 AM Religious Nurture Center Ministry - 100D  
 9:30 AM Adult Sunday School Classes- Church Wide  
 9:30 AM K-5th & 6th-12th Sunday School - 106C,208C  
 9:30 AM Nursery - 200C  
 10:50 AM Morning Worship - Sanctuary  
 12:15 PM The Gathering/Small Talk - 103B

**18 Monday**

8:30 AM AARP Tax Aide - D Entrance

**19 Tuesday**

8:30 AM AARP Tax Aide - D Entrance  
 10:00 AM Lenten Study With Rev. Rebecca-101B  
 6:30 PM Lenten Study With Rev. Amy - 106B

**20 Wednesday**

8:30 AM AARP Tax Aide - D Entrance  
 9:00 AM Quilters at First (Hand Quilting)-304D  
 10:00 AM Apple Core - Zoom or 302B  
 11:00 AM Quilters at First (Machine Work) - 300D  
 12:15 PM Word & Song - Sanctuary  
 2:00 PM Missons Meeting - 308B  
 5:30 PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal - Choir Room  
 5:30 PM Youth Confirmation Meeting - 204A  
 6:00 PM RNC Ministry - 101D  
 7:00 PM Bell Choir Practice - Bell Choir Room

**23 Saturday**

8:00 PM Forum: "Don't Rock the Jukebox" - Wilke

**24 Passion/ Palm Sunday**

9:00 AM Religious Nurture Center Ministry - 100D  
 9:30 AM Adult Sunday School Classes- Church Wide  
 9:30 AM K-5th & 6th-12th Sunday School - 106C,208C  
 9:30 AM Nursery - 200C  
 10:50 AM Morning Worship - Sanctuary  
 12:00 PM Passion Week Picnic - Meredith Hall  
 12:15 PM The Gathering/Small Talk - 103B  
 12:30 PM Leadership Board - 101B  
 2:00 PM Forum: "Don't Rock the Jukebox" - Wilke

**25 Monday**

8:30 AM AARP Tax Aide - D Entrance

**26 Tuesday**

8:30 AM AARP Tax Aide - D Entrance  
 10:00 AM Lenten Study With Rev. Rebecca-101B  
 6:30 PM Lenten Study With Rev. Amy - 106B

**27 Wednesday**

8:30 AM AARP Tax Aide - D Entrance  
 9:00 AM Quilters at First (Hand Quilting)-304D  
 10:00 AM Apple Core - Zoom or 302B  
 11:00 AM Quilters at First (Machine Work) - 300D  
 5:30 PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal - Choir Room  
 5:30 PM Youth Confirmation Meeting - 204A  
 7:00 PM Bell Choir Practice - Bell Choir Room

**28 Maundy Thursday**

10:00 AM Bible Discussion Group - 101B  
 6:00 PM Prayers in the Garden - Botanica Gardens

**29 Good Friday**

7:00 PM Good Friday Worship - Sanctuary

**31 Easter Sunday**

9:00 AM Religious Nurture Center Ministry - 100D  
 9:30 AM Adult Sunday School Classes- Church Wide  
 9:30 AM K-5th & 6th-12th Sunday School - 106C,208C  
 9:30 AM Nursery - 200C  
 10:30 AM Easter Egg Hunt - Front Lawn  
 10:50 AM Morning Worship - Sanctuary  
 12:15 PM The Gathering/Small Talk - 103B

# NEW ORGANIST NAMED



Yunjung Lee (YJ)

We are pleased to share that we have hired Yunjung Lee, an accomplished and extremely talented organist. YJ is a native of South Korea who currently lives in Kearney, NE with her husband, Rev. Seungli You, and their 9 month old baby, Teo. Seungli is being appointed to pastor Winfield First UMC starting July 1. YJ will start with us around that same time. She has a bachelor's of music with organ major and church music emphasis from Yonsei University in Seoul and a master of music, organ major, along with a performer's diploma from Southern Methodist University in Dallas. She has won numerous organ competitions in the US and Asia and played for several churches in Dallas while in school. She loves God, has a deep faith, and wants to make worship a beautiful and meaningful experience for all. We are excited to have YJ as a part of our worship team. Please pray for her and her family as they prepare to move to Kansas!

## 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. Community.

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

## EASTER EGG HUNT

**March 31 | 10:30 a.m.**

Join the children on the front lawn on Easter Sunday at 10:30 a.m. for a fun Easter Egg Hunt! Please bring your own Easter basket. We will gather in the Narthex before the hunt begins! Contact Pastor Rebecca with any questions.



# Spring Forward

SET YOUR CLOCKS AHEAD

SUNDAY, MARCH 10, 2023

