

FIRST LIGHT

APRIL 2024

.....

First United Methodist Church

www.firstwichita.org | 330 North Broadway | Wichita, Kansas | 316-267-6244



GRABER APPOINTED ASSOCIATE PASTOR



Bishop David Wilson announced the appointment of Jeff Graber as Associate Pastor at First UMC Wichita, beginning July 1, 2024. Pastor Jeff Graber, a native of Hutchinson, KS, has been in ministry as a licensed local pastor since 2017 after a 9 year career in Information Technology. He served Marquette UMC and is currently pastor at Halstead UMC. Jeff is married to Chelsea, and they have two daughters, Madalynn (12) and

Evelynn (6). The family enjoys board games, ice cream, camping, and kayaking. Jeff has been completing his Master of Divinity degree at St. Paul School of Theology as a part-time student and will graduate in May of 2025. He is excited about experiencing ministry in an urban setting and being a part of the great team at First Church.

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

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General Conference Info Session

Mission Lunch & All-Church Sunday School Sunday, April 14

On Sunday, April 14 there will be an All-Church Sunday School in Meredith Hall beginning at 9:30 a.m. Emberhope will give a special presentation

about the scope of their ministries. Later that morning, following worship, there will be a Mission Lunch benefitting Emberhope. The menu: **angel chicken, glazed carrots, fresh green salad, dinner roll and southern pig-pickin' cake.** We hope many from our First Church community will come to support Emberhope at 9:30 a.m. and for lunch! Please contact JoLynne Campbell, chair of the missions committee with any questions.



BUILDING UTILIZATION UPDATE



Dear First Church,

Thank you, thank you for helping to make my first Holy Week and Easter at First Church such a beautiful and holy experience. I really love being in ministry with you and experiencing the goodness of God together.

A few weeks ago my mother told me that someone approached her at Panera and said, "I heard First Church is for sale!" All good rumors get started at Panera, don't they? She told them that wasn't true. And it's not. Except it sort of is. Or possibly is. Following our building utilization meeting in late February,

the Leadership Board has enlisted the help of Weigand Commercial Realty to help us move forward with our possible options of leasing part of our building, selling part of it, or tearing down part of it. We are gathering information about all three options and are prepared to move forward with whichever one seems to make the most sense in terms of our ministry needs and our finances. Walking down all three tracks at once seems to make the most sense for now until the actual possibilities become clearer.

I promise we won't put a sign up on the side of the building. And I promise we aren't thinking to move and we won't sell the sanctuary!! But we have much more building than we need and we must move forward with using the C and D portions of the building for other purposes. I ask that you continue to pray for the whole process. I believe that God will need to be the primary mover on this, bringing to us the right opportunity to release part of our building to do good for the community and good for the church. We won't just turn it over to the highest bidder. We have our building and land as a resource gifted by previous generations. And though we don't have the need for it in the same way they did, we have the chance to do good with it, and I intend to do just that!

Thanks for all the ways you are supporting First Church with your prayers, your presence, your gifts, your service, your witness. God continually renews my sense of hope about who we are and where we are headed together!

Peace,

Amy



APRIL SERMON SERIES

Join us in April for our next series, UMC Strong. With the upcoming General Conference, we will take some time exploring the strengths of our denomination and gifts of being United Methodists!

JUSTICE TOGETHER

APRIL 11 | 6:00 P.M. | SANCTUARY SOLUTIONS BRIEFING & RALLY

Justice Together has been working on researching problems and viable solutions for the two topics of focus, homelessness, and mental health. On Thursday, April 11 at 6 p.m. in the Sanctuary at First UMC there will be a Rally to build momentum for the upcoming Nehemiah Assembly in May. All are encouraged to attend this event to learn more about Justice Together. If you are willing to help greet, please contact [Pastor Rebecca](#).

MAY 9 | 6:00 P.M. | CENTURY II NEHEMIAH ASSEMBLY

God is doing something new in Sedgwick County. You may have heard that First Church and 34 other faith communities have come together to form a new multifaith justice organization called Justice Together. We have joined hundreds of Sedgwick County's faithful in building this new organization and have been engaging large numbers of people in researching and developing meaningful solutions to address homelessness and access to mental health supports and services.



Ernestine Krehbiel and Evelyn Fisher are First Church's team leaders for Justice Together. First Church has set the goal to have 100 participants show up for the Nehemiah Assembly, let's surprise our city with even more participants! We would like our entire congregation and broader community to do justice as part of a great assembly of 2000 people where we will seek commitments from local officials to act on our well researched proposals on homelessness and mental health. Consider this your personal invitation to save the date for the 2024 Justice Together Nehemiah Assembly on Thursday, May 9 at 6 p.m. at Century II Convention Hall located at 225 W. Douglas.

You can sign up at the church AB entrance desk or you can register your commitment to attend, using this link: tinyurl.com/greatassembly24



Over 450-people attended the first covenant assembly on Nov. 9 in the Wichita First UMC sanctuary and selected homelessness and mental health as the top two concerns of residents of Sedgwick county.



United
Women
in Faith

UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH APRIL GATHERING

UWF Extended Executive Committee
Wed., April 10 | 10:00 a.m. | Parlor

UWF Unit Meeting
Wed., April 19 | 12:15 p.m. | Parlor
Potluck Luncheon

bring a salad, meat or dessert.

Program: "Hospitality"

Presenter: Lois Stewart

Host: Elizabeth Circle

Nominations committee will work on filling offices that are empty.

Wichita East District Meeting

Saturday, April 27 | 10:00 a.m.

West Heights UMC

There will be officer training



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

BUILDING HOURS UPDATE

BUILDING OPERATING HOURS

SUNDAY: 8:00 A.M. - 2:00 P.M.

MONDAY: 8:30 A.M. - 7:00 P.M.

TUESDAY: 8:30 A.M. - 7:00 P.M.

WEDNESDAY: 8:30 A.M. - 8:00 P.M.

THURSDAY: 8:30 A.M. - 5:00 P.M.

FRIDAY: 8:30 A.M. - 12:30 P.M.

SATURDAY: 8:00 A.M. - 12:30 P.M.

Hours are subject to change

BUSINESS HOURS

MONDAY -- THURSDAY:

8:30 A.M. -- 5:00 P.M.

FRIDAY: 9:00 A.M. -- 12:00 P.M.

SATURDAY AND SUNDAY — CLOSED

Hours are subject to change

FLOWER MINISTRY

Donations Honor First Church Friends and Loved Ones

Thank you to everyone who donated toward the purchase of the Easter plants delivered to our homebound members, our senior members over the age of 90, and our church family who recently lost a spouse. It is a tremendous blessing to our recipients, and a truly meaningful First Church tradition.

Our Congregational Care Team ministry team sponsors this important ministry every year and our Pastoral Care Team truly appreciates all the church members, staff and friends who assisted with this year's deliveries. Below is a list of individuals who contributed to the flower ministry and the names of those who are being honored or memorialized:

Donor Name(s)	In Memory of	In Honor of
Beth Elliott	Willis Elliott	
Connie Lee	Wanda Lay, Dwight Lee	
Betty Lygrisse	V.E. "Gene" Lygrisse	
Polly McMillan	Calvin L. McMillan	
Barbara Novotny	Robert Novotny	Karen Luke, Robert Novotny, Jr., Sandra Novotny (My children)
Mary Lou Roedell	Floyd J. Roedell; Ken Rupe	
Bonnie Rupe	Kenneth D. Rupe; Herbert. A. Rupe & H. Carmen Rupe; Alden & Frances Rupe; Rev. & Mrs. Robert B. Brown	Mary Alice Stephens (101st birthday)
Ronda Snyder	Vinola Moore; Karen Swarts	
Sharon Thompson	Carol, Lisa, Floss, Jamie, Kathy	
Celia Turner	Bill Turner	
Mike & Rhonda Willome	Bob & Estie Hodgkinson; John & Sally Willome, Jr.	



**NATIVE AMERICAN
MINISTRIES SUNDAY**



TOGETHER
OUR REACH IS BEYOND MEASURE

The United Methodist Church's special giving structure ensures your generosity blesses as many people as possible in sustainable, strategic ways

**YOUR DONATION CHANGES
THE WORLD ONE LIFE AT A TIME**

GIVE TO YOUR CHURCH:
Make checks payable to your local church or donate online via credit/debit card at ResourceUMC.org/SSGive



TO GIVE ONLINE SCAN
QR CODE WITH YOUR
SMARTPHONE CAMERA



Open Hearts. Open Minds. Open Doors.
The people of The United Methodist Church®

**SPECIAL OFFERING:
APRIL 28- Native American Ministry Sunday**

Native American Ministries Sunday is one of six churchwide Special Sundays with offerings of The United Methodist Church. Native American Ministries Sunday serves to remind United Methodists of the gifts and contributions made by Native

Americans to our society. The special offering supports Native American outreach within annual conferences and across the United States and provides seminary scholarships for Native Americans.

OUR GIFTS

GENERAL BUDGET

FEBRUARY 2024 INCOME
\$87,643.36

RECEIVED YEAR-TO-DATE
\$364,813.74

BUDGET YEAR-TO-DATE
\$154,999.90

EXPENSES YEAR-TO-DATE
\$144,633.51

TELEVISION MINISTRY

FEBRUARY 2024
\$26,381.50

RECEIVED YEAR-TO-DATE
\$80,448.50

BUDGET YEAR-TO-DATE
\$63,894.60

EXPENSES YEAR-TO-DATE
\$43,844.71

OUR FAMILY

We celebrate the marriage of:

Jean Remington & Howard Mercer
on February 18, 2024

We grieve the deaths of:

Paul Hodson,
husband of Betty Hodson

Eugene Butler,
former First UMC Director of Music

PRAYER

Email prayer@firstwichita.org with prayer requests. Email 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

- 1 Monday**
- 2 Tuesday**
6:00 PM General Conference Info Session-MH
- 3 Wednesday**
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 Youth Confirmation Meeting - 204A
5:45 PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal - Choir Room
6:00 PM RNC Activities - Chicken N Pickle
7:00 PM Bell Choir Practice - Bell Choir Room
- 4 Thursday**
- 5 Friday**
9:00 AM First Friday Lunch - Meredith Hall
- 6 Saturday**
- 7 Sunday**
9:00 AM Religious Nurture Center Ministry - 100D
9:30 AM Adult Sunday School- Church Wide
9:30 AM K-5th & 6th-12th Sunday School - 106C, 208C
9:30 AM Nursery - 200C
11:00 AM Sunday Morning Worship - Sanctuary
12:15 PM The Gathering/Small Talk - 103B
12:30 PM TV Volunteer Meeting - 101B
- 8 Monday**
- 9 Tuesday**
- 10 Wednesday**
9:00 AM Quilters at First (Hand Quilting)-304D
10:00 AM Apple Core - Zoom or 302B
10:30 AM UWFaith Executive Board - Parlor
11:00 AM Quilters at First (Machine Work) - 300D
12:15 PM UWFaith Unit Meeting - Parlor
5:30 PM Youth Confirmation Meeting - 204A
5:45 PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal - Choir Room
6:00 PM RNC Activities - 100D
7:00 PM Bell Choir Practice - Bell Choir Room
- 11 Thursday**
10:00 AM Bible Discussion Group - 101B
6:00 PM Justice Together Rally - Sanctuary
- 12 Friday**
- 13 Saturday**
- 14 Sunday**
9:00 AM Religious Nurture Center Ministry - 100D
9:30 AM All Church Sunday School - Meredith Hall
9:30 AM K-5th & 6th-12th Sunday School - 106C, 208C
9:30 AM Nursery - 200C
11:00 AM Sunday Morning Worship - Sanctuary
12:00 PM Mission Lunch - Meredith Hall
12:15 PM The Gathering/Small Talk - 103B
- 15 Monday**
- 16 Tuesday**
- 17 Wednesday**
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
2:00 PM Missons Meeting - 308B
5:30 PM Youth Confirmation Meeting - 204A
5:45 PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal - Choir Room
6:00 PM RNC Activities - 100D
7:00 PM Bell Choir Practice - Bell Choir Room
- 18 Thursday**
- 19 Friday**
- 20 Saturday**
- 21 Sunday**
9:00 AM Religious Nurture Center Ministry - 100D
9:30 AM Adult Sunday School- Church Wide
9:30 AM K-5th & 6th-12th Sunday School - 106C, 208C
9:30 AM Nursery - 200C
11:00 AM Sunday Morning Worship - Sanctuary
12:15 PM The Gathering/Small Talk - 103B
- 22 Monday**
- 23 Tuesday**
6:30 PM Stephen Ministry Supervision-302B
- 24 Wednesday**
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 Youth Confirmation Meeting - 204A
5:45 PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal - Choir Room
6:00 PM RNC Activities - 100D
7:00 PM Bell Choir Practice - Bell Choir Room
- 25 Thursday**
10:00 AM Bible Discussion Group - 101B
8:00 PM Forum Performance - Wilke
- 26 Friday**
8:00 PM Forum Performance - Wilke
- 27 Saturday**
8:00 PM Forum Performance - Wilke
- 28 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
11:00 AM Sunday Morning Worship - Sanctuary
12:15 PM The Gathering/Small Talk - 103B
12:30 PM Leadership Board Meeting - 101B
2:00 PM Forum Performance - Wilke
- 29 Monday**
- 30 Tuesday**

REV. AMY LIPPOLDT DELEGATE TO 2024 GENERAL CONFERENCE



General Conference, a worldwide meeting of delegates from across the United Methodist Church will begin, April 22 in Charlotte, NC. Rev. Amy Lippoldt is a delegate from the Great Plains, and will be attending this, her fourth General Conference. For those that are interested in learning more, Pastor Amy will be sharing some of the biggest pieces of legislation coming before the conference. Here are two ways to get more info; Subscribe to her newsletter, crownheights.substack.com and/or attend the General Conference briefing on April 2 at 6:00 p.m. in Meredith Hall. All United Methodists are welcome, so if you have other UM friends in Wichita who might want to attend, please invite them.

2024 GENERAL CONFERENCE INFO SESSION

APRIL 2 6 P.M.

FIRST UMC WICHITA MEREDITH HALL

Rev. Amy Lippoldt, delegate



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 Please include your name, phone number and e-mail address when submitting material.

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

MCCURDY MISSION TRIP APRIL 7-12, 2024

This team to New Mexico will be led by retired pastors, Quentin Bennett and Glenn Tombaugh. The primary work will be organizing and cleaning for a large garage/estate sale of items left from when McCurdy still had a school. There will be jobs for most any skill level. Cost of the trip will be \$250 with a \$50 deposit due with registration ASAP. The form is available online at Mccurdy.org under Volunteer and should be sent to Glenn Tombaugh at University UMC, 2220 N. Yale, Wichita KS 67220. All participants must also have Safe Gathering certification. Call Glenn (316-633-0447) or email (glenntombaugh@gmail.com). They are still short on workers, so would love to have some more join the team.



**McCurdy Ministries
Community Center**

CLEANING HOUSE!

Thank you to everyone that helped with our work day to spruce up the building for the busy Easter season!

