

FIRST LIGHT

MAY 2024

.....

First United Methodist Church

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



This May marks 154 years of First United Methodist Church bringing spiritual life to downtown Wichita! During our next sermon series we will explore some of the key words that describe who we are as a congregation in 2024. Join us as we discover some of the unique qualities that we possess and how we continue to provide Life.Downtown.

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

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MISSION COLLECTION: Baby Diapers and Baby Wipes

In honor of Mother's Day and Father's Day, we will be collecting baby diapers and baby wipes for Open Door. There is especially need for sizes 4-6. You may bring your donations to the A-B Entrance during May and June. Monetary donations will also be accepted by cash, check, or via the church app.



ENCOUNTERS WITH OUR UNHOUSED NEIGHBORS



BY REV. AMY LIPPODT

Dear First Church,

With the closing of the winter overnight shelter and warming temperatures, Topeka between 2nd and 3rd has once again become a busy place for unhoused neighbors to hang out, meet friends, and even camp overnight. This is a challenging reality for our city and for our block. I heard last week that the United Way point in time count revealed something like 700 homeless people in Wichita, with 150 of those being unsheltered, meaning they don't have a friend's couch, or car, or shelter bed in which to sleep. This is tragic and I pray every day that the city can continue to move forward on better shelter options and the "Multi-Agency Center" they have been dreaming about for so long.

An increase in people on Topeka also means we are having more encounters at the church with unhoused neighbors. As always, we aim to provide hospitality and welcome until we determine an individual is unable or unwilling to participate in our ministries. You all get this. I see you treat people with kindness and compassion and also have a security mindset for the building and the congregation. It is a balance that can be hard to achieve but I believe it is something God calls us to do, and helps us to do!

We have a chance, right outside our doors, to regularly encounter some of the most vulnerable people in Wichita. We see people who are struggling with incredibly heavy loads of trauma, grief, anger, mental illness, and addiction. The best we, at the church, can offer is not enough to solve their list of problems. But Jesus told us even giving a cup of cold water to someone in need gives glory to God. Thank you for the ways you are hospitable. Thank you for volunteering for Small Talk to share clean socks and bottled water on Sundays after church. Thanks for being a church in downtown, sharing the love of God in small and big ways.

Amy

GENERAL CONFERENCE WRAP UP MAY 7 | 6 P.M. | MEREDITH HALL

Following her attendance as a delegate at the General Conference in North Carolina, Rev. Amy Lippoldt will hold a session to share information about the happenings at General Conference. All United Methodists are welcome, so if you have other UM friends who might be interested in attending, please invite them.



JUSTICE TOGETHER

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

Justice Together looks to scripture for inspiration in fulfilling God's call to "do justice" and Nehemiah 5 shows us the power of great assembly of people, united to do justice together! Here in Sedgwick County, people of faith are doing justice by putting well researched solutions to problems related to mental health and homelessness services before local officials at our Justice Together 2024 Nehemiah Assembly on Thursday, May 9, at 6 p.m. at Century II Convention Hall (225 W. Douglas in Wichita). We need to show up in mass number to show our city and county officials how much we care about mental health and homelessness. There are tickets at the church AB entrance. If you have more questions contact Rev. Evelyn Fisher or Ernestine Krehbiel, our church network leaders. To confirm your participation, register using this link: <https://dojusticetogether.org/assembly/>



The Justice Together Solutions Briefing & Rally was held on April 11 at First Church in order to help build momentum for the Nehemiah Assembly to be held May 9 at Century II. All are encouraged to attend!



SCHOLARSHIP & GRADUATION SUNDAY, MAY 12

On May 12 we will celebrate the achievements of our graduates and scholarship recipients, acknowledging their dedication and hard work. Let's offer our prayers and support as they embark on new journeys, carrying the values of our faith with them into the future.



BACK TO BROADWAY AND BEYOND

PRESENTED BY THE
WICHITA CHORAL SOCIETY

MAY 5 | 2:00 P.M. | SANCTUARY

The Wichita Choral Society under the direction of Shawn Chastain will once again bring the sounds of Broadway to our Sanctuary as they perform, "Back to Broadway...and Beyond!", a concert featuring music from great MGM classic movies, Disney films and other Broadway shows. The repertoire includes music from "Fiddler on the Roof" and "Gypsy" along with "Beauty and the Beast" and "Toy Story". A medley from "Jersey Boys" and music from "Les Miserables" will also be featured. The concert will be presented on Sunday, May 5 at 2:00 p.m. in the First Church Sanctuary and tickets may be purchased at the door for \$15 per person. For more information, call (316) 258-2518.



The church will be closed, Monday, May 27 in observance of Memorial Day!



United
Women
in Faith

UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH MAY MEETINGS

UWF Extended Executive Committee

May 8 | 10:00 a.m. | Parlor

UWF Circles

May 8 | 2:00 p.m. | Parlor

Elizabeth & Ruth Circles

Program: "Community"

Presenter: Donna Salzwedel

Host: Ruth Circle

UWF Sunday

May 12

UWF participate in morning worship
& host a cookie/coffee reception.

Our first lady of UMW (now UWF) Betty Hodson, lost her wonderful husband, Paul. If you would like to give a memorial in his name to the Legacy Fund to honor Betty, please contact Donna Fisher.

We will not meet in the summer, so we will plan to see you September 11 at 12:15 p.m. in the Parlor for our Unit meeting which will be our luncheon.

VBS Camp Firelight June 17-21



Ignite your child's imagination this summer with our VBS Camp Firelight! From June 17- 21, grades Pre-K- 5th grade are invited to gather around the campfire for a week of fun, faith, and friendship. Through engaging activities, lively music, and meaningful lessons, we'll explore the light of God's love together. Volunteers are essential to make this event a success! If you're interested in lending a helping hand, contact Amy Remington, abremington@icloud.com. Don't miss out on this illuminating adventure – register your child today, firstwichita.org/vbs.



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

Park Elementary Prepares to Close

As our neighborhood school Park Elementary prepares to shutter at the end of this school year, the principal has shared the following information on how we might help with this transition. There will be a lunch for the students and families on Thursday, May 23, the last day of school. Any First Church folks who would like to visit and dine with the Park school community would be welcome to participate. The menu would be

hotdogs, chips, water, and ice cream bars.

Volunteers will be needed to prepare, serve, and clean up.

Friday, May 24, teachers will be boxing school materials for pick up by the district. Volunteers to help with this huge job would be very appreciated.

If you are interested in either of these opportunities, please contact Libby Eaton or Jo Quick.



First Church has been in partnership with Park Elementary since March 2006. Park will close at the end of this school year.

OUR GIFTS

GENERAL BUDGET

MARCH 2024 INCOME
\$80,628.69

RECEIVED YEAR-TO-DATE
\$445,442.43

BUDGET YEAR-TO-DATE
\$232,499.91

EXPENSES YEAR-TO-DATE
\$209,924.52

TELEVISION MINISTRY

MARCH 2024
\$20,400.00

RECEIVED YEAR-TO-DATE
\$100,848.50

BUDGET YEAR-TO-DATE
\$89,091.97

EXPENSES YEAR-TO-DATE
\$67,303.01

OUR FAMILY

We welcome new members:

Kent, Sara & Jenna Hayhurst

Noah Naughton



MISSION UPDATE

Thank you for supporting EmberHope on Sunday, April 14! We all learned about the exciting future and growth of EmberHope and had an excellent mission lunch raising \$1,095 for their ministry. Thank you First Church!

- 1 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 - 204A
 5:45 PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal - Choir Room
 6:00 PM RNC Activities - 100D
 7:00 PM Bell Choir Practice - Bell Choir Room
- 2 Thursday**
 8:00 PM Forum Performance - Wilke
- 3 Friday**
 8:00 PM Forum Performance - Wilke
- 4 Saturday**
 8:00 PM Forum Performance - Wilke
- 5 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 Morning Worship - Sanctuary
 12:15 PM The Gathering/Small Talk - 103B
 12:30 PM TV Volunteer Meeting - 101B
 2:00 PM Wichita Choral Society - Sanctuary
 2:00 PM Forum Performance - Wilke
- 7 Tuesday**
 6:00 PM General Conference Wrap Up - MH
- 8 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
 1:00 PM UWFaith Circles Meeting - Parlor
 5:30 PM Youth Confirmation - 204A
 5:45 PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal - Choir Room
 6:00 PM RNC Activities - Offsite
 7:00 PM Bell Choir Practice - Bell Choir Room
- 9 Thursday**
 10:00 AM Bible Discussion Group - 101B
 8:00 PM Forum Performance - Wilke
- 10 Friday**
 8:00 PM Forum Performance - Wilke
- 11 Saturday**
 8:00 PM Forum Performance - Wilke
- 12 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 Morning Worship - Sanctuary
 12:00 PM Grad/Scholarship Reception- Narthex
- 12:15 PM The Gathering/Small Talk - 103B
 2:00 PM Forum Performance - Wilke
- 15 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 Missions Meeting - 308B
 5:30 PM Youth Confirmation - 204A
 5:45 PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal - Choir Room
 6:00 PM RNC Activities - 100D
 7:00 PM Bell Choir Practice - Bell Choir Room
- 19 Sunday**
 9:00 AM Religious Nurture Center Ministry - 100D
 9:00 AM Double Ring 70th Anniversary Celebration-106B
 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 Morning Worship - Sanctuary
 12:00 PM Confirmation Reception - Parlor
 12:15 PM The Gathering/Small Talk - 103B
 12:30 PM Leadership Board Meeting - 101B
- 22 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
 5:45 PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal - Choir Room
 6:00 PM RNC Activities - Offsite
 7:00 PM Bell Choir Practice - Bell Choir Room
- 23 Thursday**
 10:00 AM Bible Discussion Group - 101B
- 25 Saturday**
 8:00 PM Forum Performance - Wilke
- 26 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 Morning Worship - Sanctuary
 12:15 PM The Gathering/Small Talk - 103B
- 27 Monday**
BUILDING CLOSED FOR HOLIDAY - Memorial Day
 6:00 PM RNC Activities - Offsite
- 28 Tuesday**
 6:30 PM Stephen Ministry Supervision-302B Library
- 29 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
 5:45 PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal - Choir Room
 6:00 PM RNC Activities - Offsite
 7:00 PM Bell Choir Practice - Bell Choir Room

CONFIRMATION SUNDAY - MAY 19

Confirmation is a sacred journey of exploration and discovery, where our youth delve into the timeless truths of our Methodist heritage, engaging with scripture, Wesleyan theology, and the vibrant spirit of our faith. Guided by compassionate mentors and pastors, they wrestle with profound questions, seeking understanding, and ultimately embrace their identity as beloved children of God.

May 19, during worship, we will gather to celebrate the faith journey of our youth and welcome them into the full communion of the Church as they confirm their baptismal vows. As a congregation, we will witness the beauty of their commitment and rejoice in the boundless possibilities that lie ahead as they continue to grow in grace and service. Together, let us lift them up in prayer and support, knowing that with God’s guiding hand, they will be shining examples of Christ’s love and compassion in our world.



Seth Hayhurst

MEET OUR 2024 CONFIRMATION CLASS



Zander Stegner



Lupita Mijares



Abigail Lopez



Erick Rodriguez

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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On Broadway between
2nd & 3rd Streets
in downtown Wichita.