

FIRST LIGHT

JUNE 2024

.....

First United Methodist Church

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



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL



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!

REGISTER ONLINE AT FIRSTWICHITA.ORG/VBS

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

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Confirmation

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 through June. Monetary donations will also be accepted by cash, check, or via the church app.



JUSTICE TOGETHER NEHEMIAH ACTION



BY REV. AMY LIPPOLDT

Dear First Church,

A few weeks ago dozens of members of First Church gathered at Century II to take part in Justice Together's first Nehemiah action. You have likely heard and seen a lot about Justice Together in the last seven months, we are proud to have been a part of this inaugural year of community organizing action.

Over 1300 people came to the Nehemiah action and it was powerful to be in a room with that many people who were all asking questions about the needs of Wichita's most vulnerable. Hundreds and hundreds of hours of research

and conversation went into gathering next step solutions that would be doable and productive in addressing our mental health and homelessness crises.

Together we asked for a renewed commitment to staff 24/7/365 ComCare's mobile mental health crisis units. And for the city to pursue a municipal ID card that would help unhoused people who often find themselves stuck without a valid ID.

At the end of the night our city, county, and state officials were able to say yes to the Justice Together requests and there was a great air of celebration in the room! Most of what the group asked for aligned with goals the city and county had been working on already, so we did not ask for a major shift in course. Rather the Nehemiah action was a way to help leaders prioritize and put emphasis on next steps to support those who are suffering most. It's not very often that civic leaders see so many people gathered together asking for help for the vulnerable and everyone is in agreement!

I'm grateful for the leaders from First Church who have been so involved in the process, Rev. Rebecca Mohr, Rev. Evelyn Fisher, Ernie Krehbiel and so many more. I look forward to the way we can continue to advocate so that our public policies and investments align with our values. I pray we all continue to move a little closer to justice, together!

Amy

ALTAR GUILD FORMATION

Do you enjoy decorating for the holidays (Advent/Christmas, Lent/Easter)? Would you like to share your creative talents with others in the church setting? The worship team is seeking creative people with gifts in decor to become part of an Altar Guild that would assist with planning and decorating the chancel for the Advent and Lenten seasons as well as changing paraments during the church year. If you are interested, please contact Rev. Amy, amyl@firstwichita.org or Don Gray, donaldeg@firstwichita.org.



Thank you, First Church, for your commitment to showing up for the Nehemiah Assembly! Here is an update from Lead Organizer Louis Goseland.

Here's what we achieved on mental health:

- KS Department of Aging and Disability Services (KDADS) Deputy Secretary Andy Brown and COMCARE Exec. Dir. Joan Tammany agreed to work together to achieve fully staffed and operational 24/7/365 mobile crisis teams throughout Sedgwick County by Oct. 1, 2024.
- Deputy Secretary Brown also committed to working to secure enhanced funding for weekend on-call psychiatric services by Jan. 1, 2025.
- Deputy Secretary Brown agreed to allocate \$200,000 for expansion of the Substance Abuse Center of KS Intensive Care Coordination program by June 2024. This will grow the program, which pairs caseworkers, peer support mentors, and a transportation voucher to people recovering from addiction and mental illness, from serving 15 people currently, to 300 people!
- COMCARE and KDADS agreed to meet with Justice Together each month between June and September to keep us abreast of their/ goals/accomplishments in the pursuit of these agreements!

Here's what we achieved on homelessness:

- Wichita Mayor Lily Wu, County Commissioner Ryan Baty, City Manager Robert Layton, and County Manager Tom Stolz agreed to work together to create a low barrier local ID program that is eligible for employment, housing, and local services to be implemented in 2025, and to agree to meet with Justice Together on a monthly basis during the first year to monitor progress.
- All officials present agreed to hold a meeting between representatives of the City of Wichita, SG County, COMCARE, KDADS, and Justice

Together in to determine the funds necessary and work towards a sustainable budget plan using a braided funding approach to fill the gap in the budget for operations and supportive services for the Multi-Agency Center.

This is huge! A local ID and a one-stop-shop for housing and supportive services will change lives and bring us closer to ending homelessness in our community! A mental health crisis response system with 24-7 psychiatric care and a fully staffed mobile component to relieve police officers as first responders to mental health emergencies will save lives and help heal our struggling neighbors! There is still much to be done. We also know that it will take much more than these changes to fix these broken systems. Still, we celebrate this step forward, and we ready ourselves to continue doing justice together! First Church will continue to be involved with Justice Together. Please reach out to Rev. Evelyn Fisher and Ernestine Krehbiel, our First Church team leads if you are looking to become more involved.



FAREWELL FIRST CHURCH

By Rev. Rebecca Goltry Mohr

As I prepare for a new chapter in my journey, I invite you to reflect on why you love First Church and what keeps you engaged and grounded in this faith community. Though I'll no longer be actively involved or worshiping at First Church, I'm excited for the leadership of Pastor Amy and Pastor Jeff as they guide First Church into its next phase of growth and service.

While I'll be remaining in Wichita, please feel free to say "hello" if you happen to see me around. However, please understand that during this time, I'll be maintaining boundaries around matters of congregational care. I encourage you to continue reaching out to Pastor Amy and Jeff for pastoral support and care visits.

Leaving this role is bittersweet, but I'm filled with excitement about the future and the opportunity to deepen my understanding of chaplaincy. Your faithfulness and the relationships we've formed will remain close to my heart as I embark on this new adventure. Thank you for the love, support, and memories we've shared. I'm grateful for each of you and the ways in which you've touched my life. As I move forward, I carry the spirit of First Church with me, knowing that our bond remains strong and enduring, regardless of the paths we tread.

TOP 11 Memories of Being Your Pastor: *(in no particular order)*

1. Mead's Corner: Fond memories of Joe working at Mead's while we lived across the street at Eaton Place. The countless cups of coffee shared, especially cherished were the moments I could grab my cold brew on the way to church.

2. El Mesias: Gathering for fiestas, particularly the Family Christmas Eve service with Posole. The El Mesias community holds a special place in my heart, and I'm grateful for the continued engagement of many children and youth at First Church.

3. Covid-19: Reflecting on the hours on Zoom during the pandemic. Despite the challenges, we found community through studies, games, and even meetings.

4. The Quilt Sale: Memories of our first sale, running between my office on C3 and Meredith Hall taking turns with Joe as we cared for our new miniature dachshund, Susanna that we got the day before. Also, the joy of purchasing Mia's first quilt, while I was pregnant but nobody knew yet. The quilt sale is so special and the proceeds go to two amazing ministries RNC, and TV ministry.

5. Pastoral Care: The privilege of presiding at funerals and memorial services, walking alongside families in their grief and offering the hope and healing of Christ during their most vulnerable times.

6. Sacraments: Meaningful moments presiding at the Communion Table and baptizing confirmation students and children. Particularly powerful was an immersion baptism at the Gathering in Delano on Pentecost Sunday.

7. Teaching: Building connections through Confirmation and long-term Bible studies, especially welcoming newcomers into the church family through these studies.

8. Mission Lunches: Enjoying delicious meals and fellowship. There is no such thing as too much Pumpkin Pie Crunch! Yum! Mia and Lottie still inquire almost every Sunday if it's a basement lunch day.

9. Staff Camaraderie: Grateful for the kindness and collaboration of the compassionate staff at First Church, who are true rockstars.

10. Worship: Cherished memories of Palm Sunday with children joyfully waving palm branches after enduring years of social distancing. Prayer Stations and communion at Botanica. Hours of putting Heritage liturgy together. Blue Christmas, All Saints Day, Good Friday, Easter Sunday- and Candlelight Christmas Eve services, finding light and goodness in everyone.

11. Your love for my family: The love and generosity you shared with my family when we welcomed both girls into the world. Mia's baby shower was at the Ebright's home on March 15, 2020. Worship had been shut down already. But the women of Seekers and Pneuma continued on with the party. That was the last time anyone saw people outside of their pod for a long time. When Charlotte was born my family was blown away by the meals prepared and delivered to our home. My girls love First Church so much, and we will cherish their baptisms into your community. Thank you for loving them, and for being a church they want to come to every week.



Farewell Reception



Honoring the ministry of
Rev. Rebecca Goltry Mohr

SUNDAY, JUNE 2, 2024

*Cookies & punch will be served following worship.
A basket will be available for cards & love offerings.*

FAMILY MINISTRIES IS ON THE MOVE!

The youth have landed in their new meeting space in Room 301B, the children's Sunday school will soon begin meeting in 206B and nursery will be relocated to 204B. These moves and changes will help our church family feel close to each other and will also make a difference in our building use imprint. Thank you to Noah and his team of helpers who make these transitions possible.



*Left:
Mauro
Rodriguez
enjoying the
new children's
Sunday school
class room,
206B.*

*Below:
The youth have
begun meeting
in their new
room in 301B.*



OUR GIFTS

GENERAL BUDGET

APRIL 2024 INCOME
\$67,161.20

RECEIVED YEAR-TO-DATE
\$512,603.63

BUDGET YEAR-TO-DATE
\$309,999.92

EXPENSES YEAR-TO-DATE
\$303,525.34

TELEVISION MINISTRY

APRIL 2024
\$13,398.00

RECEIVED YEAR-TO-DATE
\$114,246.50

BUDGET YEAR-TO-DATE
\$114,872.64

EXPENSES YEAR-TO-DATE
\$91,306.84

OUR FAMILY

We grieve the death of:

Edward T. Geiger,
father of Marie Geiger

We celebrate the birth of:

Brooks Alan Divelbess,
son of Carly & Jarrod Divelbess,
grandson of Brad & Vickie McArthur,

We celebrate the baptisms of:

Mila Lucille Shebshayevich,
daughter of Euguen & Kayla
Shebshayevich

Gwendolyn Ruth Aldrich,
daughter of Shawn & Samantha
Aldrich

2	Sunday	2:00 PM	Missons Meeting - 308B
9:00 AM	Religious Nurture Center - 100D	5:45 PM	Chancel Choir Rehearsal - Choir Room
9:30 AM	Adult Sunday School- Church Wide	6:00 PM	RNC Activities - Offsite
9:30 AM	K-5th & 6th-12th SS - 106C,208C		
9:30 AM	Nursery - 200C		
10:00 AM	Reception Pastor Rebecca - Narthex	20	Thursday
11:00 AM	Morning Worship - Sanctuary	9:00 AM	VBS-Wilke, C Building
12:15 PM	The Gathering/Small Talk - 103B	21	Friday
12:30 PM	TV Volunteer Meeting - 101B	9:00 AM	VBS-Wilke, C Building
5	Wednesday	22	Saturday
9:00 AM	Quilters at First (Hand Quilting)-304D	23	Sunday
10:00 AM	Apple Core - Zoom or 302B	9:00 AM	Religious Nurture Center - 100D
11:00 AM	Quilters at First (Machine Work) - 300D	9:30 AM	Adult Sunday School- Church Wide
5:45 PM	Chancel Choir Rehearsal - Choir Room	9:30 AM	K-5th & 6th-12th SS - 106C,208C
		9:30 AM	Nursery - 200C
		11:00 AM	Sunday Morning Worship - Sanctuary
9	Sunday	12:15 PM	The Gathering/Small Talk - 103B
9:00 AM	Religious Nurture Center - 100D	12:30 PM	Leadership Board-101B
9:30 AM	Adult Sunday School- Church Wide		
9:30 AM	K-5th & 6th-12th SS - 106C,208C	26	Wednesday
9:30 AM	Nursery - 200C	9:00 AM	Quilters at First (Hand Quilting)-304D
11:00 AM	Morning Worship - Sanctuary	10:00 AM	Apple Core - Zoom or 302B
12:15 PM	The Gathering/Small Talk - 103B	11:00 AM	Quilters at First (Machine Work) - 300D
2:00 PM	Brass Quintet Recital - Sanctuary	5:45 PM	Chancel Choir Rehearsal - Choir Room
12	Wednesday	27	Thursday
9:00 AM	Quilters at First (Hand Quilting)-304D	10:00 AM	Bible Discussion Group - 101B
10:00 AM	Apple Core - Zoom or 302B	29	Saturday
11:00 AM	Quilters at First (Machine Work) - 300D	30	Sunday
5:45 PM	Chancel Choir Rehearsal - Choir Room	9:00 AM	Religious Nurture Center - 100D
		9:30 AM	Adult Sunday School- Church Wide
13	Thursday	9:30 AM	K-5th & 6th-12th SS - 106C,208C
10:00 AM	Bible Discussion Group - 101B	9:30 AM	Nursery - 200C
16	Sunday	11:00 AM	Sunday Morning Worship - Sanctuary
9:00 AM	Religious Nurture Center - 100D	12:15 PM	The Gathering/Small Talk - 103B
9:30 AM	Adult Sunday School- Church Wide		
9:30 AM	K-5th & 6th-12th SS - 106C,208C		
9:30 AM	Nursery - 200C		
11:00 AM	Morning Worship - Sanctuary		
12:15 PM	The Gathering/Small Talk - 103B		
17	Monday		
9:00 AM	VBS-Wilke, C Building		
18	Tuesday		
9:00 AM	VBS-Wilke, C Building		
19	Wednesday		
9:00 AM	Quilters at First (Hand Quilting)-304D		
9:00 AM	VBS-Wilke, C Building		
10:00 AM	Apple Core - Zoom or 302B		
11:00 AM	Quilters at First (Machine) - 300D		

United Women in Faith

*UWF will not meet in June, July or August.
 July 26, 2024, Mission U is going to be held in
 Emporia First UMC in Emporia, Ks. Registration
 coming soon. If interested, please contact Nancy
 Dinell (316-258-0295). Plans will soon underway
 for our church to host Wichita East District Annual
 Meeting on Oct. 26. 2024.*

CONGRATULATIONS CONFIRMANDS!



Welcome new members!
Thank you for choosing
First Church to be your
faith community!

Left to Right:
Abigail Lopez
Zander Stegner
Seth Hayhurst
Erick Rodriguez
Lupita Mijares
Rev. Rebecca Goltry Mohr
Rev. Amy Lippoldt

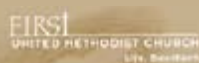
FIRST LIGHT

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.

Intrepid Brass Quintet
Our Favorite Things
Arnold - Lutoslawski - Juhake - Hampton - Nigle - Calvert

FREE and FAMILY FRIENDLY!

Sponsored by:

Friday, June 7th at 6pm
Eastminster Presbyterian

Saturday, June 8th at 6pm
LifeChange Church Wichita

Sunday, June 9th at 2pm
First United Methodist Church of Wichita

EASTMINSTER
LIFECCHANGE CHURCH WICHITA
FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Intrepid Brass Quintet Recital

Sunday, June 9
2:00 p.m. | First Church Sanctuary

*Join us for this free, family friendly event!
This quintet has played at First Church on
Easter Sunday for the past several years!*

Volunteer in Mission WorkTeam Opportunities

The following teams are being sent out by the Great Plains Conference.
For more information, contact Linda Buchmueller - Great Plains Coordinator
620-770-0411 or clbuch@hotmail.com

EmberHope
Lake Afton Site
June 17-21

Buckhorn
Bellevue, CO
August 4-15

Camp Norwesca
Chadron, NE
September 1-6

Camp Lakeside
Scott City, KS
September 22-27

Alpha Christian Children's Home
Perry, KS
October 13-24