

FIRST LIGHT

JULY 2024

.....

First United Methodist Church

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



The Bible is full of beautiful passages, comforting poetry, and inspiring teaching. And a few stories that are surprising, unusual, and even bizarre! Join us for a summer trip through some of the creepier corners of the Bible as we explore “Ghost Stories.”

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

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WELCOME TO FIRST CHURCH!



July 1 we welcome new staff, Associate Pastor, Jeff Graber, and Organist, YJ Lee!

Please offer these two families a warm greeting to Wichita and First Church!

SUMMER TIME!



BY REV. AMY LIPPOLDT

Dear First Church,

A few weeks ago, during Vacation Bible School, I took a moment to walk through the classrooms and say hey. We had so many wonderful volunteers and our tremendous director, Amy Remington, so my only responsibility was to cheer them on! When I stopped into the “storytime” room the littlest ones, preschoolers, had just finished learning about Jesus calming the storm. Ann Baker, their capable teacher said, “children, tell Pastor Amy, who laid down to rest in the boat?”

“Jesus!” they answered!

“And what did he do when he woke up?” Ann asked.

“He stopped the storm!”

Exactly! I told them I thought they did a great job listening and remembering. One little camper said, “I know all the Jesus stories!”

I love his confidence! And also, his witness. What a good, good thing we are doing in helping our children know, love, and celebrate the stories of scripture. Their key learning for the week was about trusting in God. Thank goodness they can, and we can too.

Thanks for the way you support all of our ministries, those that help the 4 year olds, the 44 year olds, and the 94 year olds grow in faith. I hope you are having a good summer, getting time with your family, some travel, and lots of ice cream! I’m looking forward to moving into a new season of ministry with Pastor Jeff Graber coming on board in July. Make sure to join us for a celebration potluck on July 14th to welcome him, his family, and our new organist, YJ Lee!

Amy



Great Plains Conference Lay Leader Report

By Alan Ebright

Steve Rogers and I enjoyed sharing a room during this year's annual conference in Kearny, NE at the exclusive Motel 6. We sent some



of our local dollars home one meal by eating at the local Freddy's. In truth, we had a GREAT time! The Annual Conference made us proud to be a United Methodist. Two memorable impressions from the conference: The youth stole the show! They presented the best music and the best message. One of my principal take-aways from the Conference was how important removing the damaging language on LGBTQ rights was to youth. As part of the "Spectrum Generation" that has learned almost nothing is black and white, the old language which excluded based on sexual definitions was completely uninviting to them. Removal of that language allows them to move freely, invite widely, and enjoy worshipping together a Jesus who welcomes everyone. Pastor Amy who so ably leads us at First Church is also an inspirational leader at both General and Annual Conferences. Steve and I enjoyed watching Pastor Amy take the mic and move the Conference forward on issues of finance and episcopacy. It was fun to know that was OUR pastor providing leadership. The mood was so inspirational and celebratory that we actually finished early! The Church has new energy and passion.

OUR GIFTS

GENERAL BUDGET

MAY 2024 INCOME
\$46,442.40

RECEIVED YEAR-TO-DATE
\$559,046.03

BUDGET YEAR-TO-DATE
\$387,466.93

EXPENSES YEAR-TO-DATE
\$369,175.90

TELEVISION MINISTRY

MAY 2024
\$13,570.00

RECEIVED YEAR-TO-DATE
\$127,816.50

BUDGET YEAR-TO-DATE
\$140,653.51

EXPENSES YEAR-TO-DATE
\$116,278.05

OUR FAMILY

We welcome new members:

Larry, Crystal (Philip) Dodge

Joyce Kent

James Rogers

Abigail Wolfe

We celebrate the baptism of:

Gwendolyn Ruth Aldrich,
daughter of Shawn & Samantha Aldrich

We grieve the deaths of:

Cynthia "Cindy" Marie Hull,
daughter of Heather (Larry) Baker

Joni Mitchell Davis,
daughter of Rev. Jim & Jean Matthews

William "Bill" Bell,
husband of Pat Bell

MISSION COLLECTION: EMBERHOPE YOUTHVILLE

EmberHope Youthville needs our help, so during July and August, we will be collecting supplies for youth in foster and residential care. Below is a list of needed items. Donations can be brought to the AB Entrance. For monetary donations, select "EmberHope supplies" in our [online giving](#) or indicate in the memo of your donation. For more information, please call Carolyn Vosburg (316-258-1860).





Amazon Wishlist



WE NEED SCHOOL SUPPLIES FOR OUR FOSTER & RESIDENTIAL YOUTH!!

- Pink erasers
- Yellow highlighters
- Black dry erase markers
- Safety scissors
- Crayola 24 pack crayons
- Crayola 8-10 pack thick washable markers
- Crayola watercolors
- Rulers
- Glue (sticks & bottles)
- Kleenex
- Sanitizing wipes
- Hand sanitizer
- Flash drives
- Headphones
- Index cards
- Trapper keepers
- Backpacks
- 24 count Ticonderoga yellow #2 pencils

- Graphing & Scientific calculators
- Pencil Boxes & Pouches
- Copy paper
- Loose leaf paper
- Composition notebooks
- Spiral-bound notebooks
- Pocket folders (multiple colors, 3-hole, & prong)
- 3 ring binders (2 & 3 inch)
- Pens (red, blue, black)
- Crayola 24 count, colored pencils
- Sharpies
- Kleenex
- Hand Sanitizer
- Antibacterial Wipes
- Water bottles
- Gift Cards for specialty items, school uniforms

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

We are excited to welcome in these new faces! Please take the opportunity to meet and greet First Church's newest members!



ABIGAIL WOLFE



JAMES ROGERS



LARRY, CRYSTAL &
PHILIP DODGE



JOYCE KENT



BAPTIZED IN THE FAITH

GWENDOLYN RUTH ALDRICH,
DAUGHTER OF
SHAWN AND SAMANTHA ALDRICH,
WAS BAPTIZED ON SUNDAY, MAY 26



UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH: Mission u

While the United Women in Faith at First Church will not hold meetings in July and August, there is an opportunity to participate in Mission u on July 26 at the Emporia First UMC in Emporia, Kansas.

Each session includes scripture study, discussion, music, artistic expression, and opportunities to participate. Study leaders, Deans and Assistant Deans have been trained to bring this educational experience to locations all over the United States in various conferences of the United Methodist Church by United Women in Faith.

The curriculum being utilized is, "Welcome Home" and explores how we can know God as an intimate friend who welcomes us. Abiding in God's safety and dwelling in God's provision, allows us to open our hearts to a fuller embrace of the power and

presence of God so that we may find our home in God. Participants are invited to dig deeper into what it means to live in the kin-dom of God and how this helps us to develop practices for building and existing in healthier communities.

If you are interested in attending Mission u, contact Nancy Dinell (316-258-0295). Registration is due by July 7.



United
Women
in Faith

- 1 Monday**
- 2 Tuesday**
- 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
 6:00 PM RNC Activities - Meredith Hall
- 4 Thursday**
BUILDING CLOSED FOR HOLIDAY
- 5 Friday**
- 6 Saturday**
- 7 Sunday**
 9:00 AM Religious Nurture Center- 100D
 9:30 AM Adult Sunday School- Church Wide
 9:30 AM K-5th & 6th-12th Sunday School - 206B, 301B
 9:30 AM Nursery - 204B
 11:00 AM 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
 11:00 AM Quilters at First (Machine Work) - 300D
 5:30 PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal - Choir Room
- 11 Thursday**
- 12 Friday**
- 13 Saturday**
- 14 Sunday**
 9:00 AM Religious Nurture Center - 100D
 9:30 AM Adult Sunday School- Church Wide
 9:30 AM K-5th & 6th-12th Sunday School - 206B, 301B
 9:30 AM Nursery - 204B
 11:00 AM Morning Worship - Sanctuary
 12:00 PM All Church Potluck - 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 Missions Meeting - 308B
- 18 Thursday**
- 19 Friday**
- 20 Saturday**
- 21 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 - 206B, 301B
 9:30 AM Nursery - 204B
 11:00 AM Morning Worship - Sanctuary
 12:15 PM The Gathering/Small Talk - 103B
- 22 Monday**
- 23 Tuesday**
 6:30 PM Stephen Ministry Supervision-302B Library
- 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 Chancel Choir Rehearsal - Choir Room
- 25 Thursday**
- 26 Friday**
 10:00 AM Veteran Providers' Coalition- MH
- 27 Saturday**
- 28 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 - 206B, 301B
 9:30 AM Nursery - 204B
 11:00 AM Sunday Morning Worship - Sanctuary
 12:15 PM The Gathering/Small Talk - 103B
 12:30 PM Leadership Board Meeting - 101B
- 29 Monday**
- 30 Tuesday**
- 31 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

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL 2024: CAMP FIRELIGHT!

Thank you to everyone that helped make Vacation Bible School, Camp Firelight a success!
We had 33 children participate and 33 total volunteers! And a special thanks to our director, Amy Remington!



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.

