

FIRST LIGHT

AUGUST 2024

.....

First United Methodist Church

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



Trust in God! Easy to say, harder to do. Join us for “In God we Trust” as we explore what it means to anchor our lives, our hopes, and our futures in the unchanging character of God. Series begins August 18

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

PAGE 3

Open Door

PAGE 4

Mission Collection

PAGE 5

Volunteer Spotlight

PAGE 7

Calendar

PAGE 8

Religious Nurture Center

BLESSING OF THE BACKPACKS

Sunday, August 18 | 11 a.m. Worship

Attention Students! Be sure you bring your backpack with you to worship on Sunday, August 18, for a special blessing as you head back to school!





BUILDING UPDATE

Dear First Church,

At their July 28 meeting, your Leadership Board took an important next step in our building use plan by voting on a list price for the C and D buildings. Earlier in the year we decided to have realtors from JP Weigand & Sons represent us as we look for the best way to handle having more building than we need for our ministry.

If you attended the “building utilization meeting” in February, you will remember we talked about different possibilities related to the C and D building. Options included leasing part or all of it, selling part or all of it, tearing down part or all of it. Our congregational conversation did not reveal a unified preference for one of those options and the Leadership Board has decided to continue moving forward with all three as a possibility. Listing the property for sale or lease is the next step in that process and will allow us to see who might be interested in what parts of the building.

Our sales price (totaling \$2.8 million for both C and D and the adjacent parking) is based on a commercial appraisal we received a few weeks ago. Church properties are unique and ultimately the building is worth what someone will pay for it. Time will tell what that ends up being. Even with this big step of listing, there are many questions still to be answered. If you hear friends or others talking about “First Church being for sale” feel free to let them know that it is only the C and D buildings, we will be keeping A and B! We are not moving from downtown. And listing it for sale does not preclude leasing the space instead if the right partner comes along. We also have a list of deed restrictions we will attach to make sure we don’t end up with a neighbor that would be at cross-purposes with our church’s mission.

I ask you to continue to pray for this process. Pray that a great partner or buyer will come and use the space in a way that builds up downtown Wichita. Pray for our wisdom and discernment as a congregation. Feel free to email or call me with any questions!

Amy

Connect

INTERESTED IN
LEARNING MORE
ABOUT
FIRST CHURCH?

Join Pastor Amy for a
6 WEEK CLASS
Begins **August 18**
9:30 a.m. | Library
(302B)

WICHITA FREE

First Church Volunteers at



Did you know...Every week approximately 20 persons from First Church, “go on a mission trip”. They travel to the Open Door Community Food Ministry on 2130 E. 21st Street. Some work at the front desk answering the



phone and distributing intake forms—in three different languages. Others interview clients to keep their files updated. The distribution room workers load grocery carts and help clients to their cars with their food. Many of the First Church team work in the warehouse, filling boxes for the senior commodity programs or the Emergency Food Assistance Program boxes. Volunteers work a variety of shifts. Most work every week but help is especially needed the third week of each month for the Senior program.

Volunteers keep this vital program alive in Wichita, and members and friends of First have answered the call. If you would like to be a member of this “mission trip” in our hometown, contact anyone of the following people or call Erin at 316-267-4201 and tell them First United Methodist Church sent you!

FIRST CHURCH OPEN DOOR “MISSION TEAM”

| | | | | |
|-----------------|------------------|------------------|----------------|---------------|
| Artz, Jean | Ebright, Alan | Malcolm, Janet | Oswald, Judith | Trask, Diane |
| Beadle, LaVonne | Hampton, Kathy | McDavitt, Billie | Ramsey, Wendy | Valliant, Jim |
| Connell, Harold | Hartman, Delaine | McKaig, Patrick | Ream, Jennifer | |
| Donham, Lorrie | Hollowell, Nonie | McKaig, Suzanne | Sherard, Brad | |

OUR GIFTS

GENERAL BUDGET

JUNE 2024 INCOME
\$45,679.25

RECEIVED YEAR-TO-DATE
\$604,725.28

BUDGET YEAR-TO-DATE
\$464,999.94

EXPENSES YEAR-TO-DATE
\$473,953.44

TELEVISION MINISTRY

JUNE 2024
\$14,141.00

RECEIVED YEAR-TO-DATE
\$141,957.50

BUDGET YEAR-TO-DATE
\$166,433.98

EXPENSES YEAR-TO-DATE
\$136,182.61

OUR FAMILY

We grieve the death of:

Joyce Kent

COME CHECK OUT CHOIR!

August 28 | 5:45 p.m. | Sanctuary

Come...join to sing (and ring)! As the days of Summer come to an end we look ahead to the cool days of Fall/Winter bringing the liturgical celebrations of World Communion Sunday, All Saints' Day, Christ the King Sunday, Thanksgiving, Advent, Christmas, and Epiphany. These celebrations encourage us to lift our voices in songs of praise and thanksgiving, in anticipation and awe, and in celebration of God's gifts to us. We invite you to join the Chancel Choir on

Wednesday evening, August 28 at 5:45 p.m. in the Sanctuary as we begin the Fall semester. Following rehearsal we will enjoy homemade root beer floats in the Parlor. We also invite you to try your hand(s) at ringing in the Bell Choir which meets at 7 p.m. each Wednesday in the Choir Library (305 A). If you have questions, contact Don Gray, Choir Director at donaldg@firstwichita.org regarding the choir and Jan Carduff,

Bell Choir Director at frostytheyetii@aol.com regarding bell choir. No auditions are necessary for either group, just a love of music and a desire to serve God through music.



EmberHope

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

MISSION COLLECTION: EMBERHOPE

EmberHope Youthville needs our help, so during August, we will be collecting supplies for youth in foster and residential care. Attached 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).

VOLUNTEERS EXTRODINARE!

THANK YOU!

We wish to recognize the incredible volunteer work of Brian Hopper and Danny White! They help the church every week in remarkable ways! They have helped hang TVs and refurbished the Bingo machine for the RNC. They repaired water damage, moved equipment and helped clean out the Media Suite. This dynamic duo also helps with church mailings AND assists with ushering and security each Sunday!

They are always thinking of ways to improve the facility and other tasks. Recently the hospitality committee requested the ushers put flags out on Broadway. However, the stands can be difficult to move. Brian suggested putting pipes in the flower bed so the flags can easily be inserted on Sunday mornings, making the task much easier! If you see these two around the building (you most definitely will!) share your appreciation for their tireless committment to First Church!



Thank you for recognizing these two highly talented men I call friends. Periodically I will stop by First Church to go to lunch with Brian and Danny. Sometimes before we leave for lunch I get a glimpse of their current work-in-progress. I'm always in awe of their project and enjoy hearing all about what lies ahead for the rest of their afternoon. First Church is so richly blessed to have two such dedicated and skilled craftsmen taking care of our beautiful & historical building week after week!

Sincerely,

Marty Gasser

I've known both Brian Hopper and Danny White for a very long time, but when they retired, they were transformed! They became the best handymen anyone could hope for. They repaired damage and wear of many years like the best professionals, patching, plastering, and painting the church from Meredith Hall to the 3rd floor. Our doors were in sad shape, showing the wear of 50 plus years. I thought they could never be restored. It took many months of hard, skillful work to save the wood while removing years of damage, and restoring their original beauty. It reminded me of the restoration of Rembrandt's "Night Watch", which looked dark until skillful restorers removed layers of dirt, revealing the much brighter painting. We owe these two gentlemen a huge vote of thanks. Their devotion and craftsmanship were Amazing.

--Charles Eby



United Women in Faith

by Nancy Dinell, UWF Unit President

I attended the SCJ Quadrennial Conference in St. Louis in June with 35 others from the Great Plains Conference. In total 300 people attended. The theme of our conference was "Get Together".

We were welcomed by UWFaith CEO, Sally Vonner! Sally spoke about how diligently the 2020-2024 UWFaith Board of Directors had worked. We also heard about the wonderful work the 2021-2024 SCJ Officers had done. Nineteen UWFaith proposals were presented at the recent Church Conference with 18 approved.

UWFaith has always focused on women, children and youth, we act for justice and transform communities. We provide opportunities for any Christian woman to grow spiritually.

During the conference, we engaged in seminars on Racial Justice and Climate Justice. I attended a seminar on Advocacy. I networked with amazing women from all over our conference, passionate about UWFaith and the work they are doing in their Units and Districts.



Sally Vonner asked each of us to go home and tell our story! Talk about our history and our future. Ask women to help create our future at First Church! Please let me know you are ready to get involved. Carolyn Vosburg is our Vice President and our Circle Leaders are Donna Fisher and Annette Van Blaricum. Betty Hodson is asking us to continue the wonderful work she and so many of you helped with

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

- **UWFaith Board Meeting**

August 14 | 10 a.m. | First Church Parlor

- **UWF Circles POTLUCK**

September 11 | 12:15 p.m. | First Church

- **UWFaith Annual Meeting**

September 13 & 14 | York, Nebraska

Sally Vonner speaking September 13

<https://www.greatplainsumc.org/uwf>

AUGUST 2024

4 Sunday

9:00 AM Religious Nurture Center - 100D
 9:30 AM Adult Sunday School- Church Wide
 9:30 AM K-5th & 6-12th 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

7 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 Sunday

9:00 AM Religious Nurture Center - 100D
 9:30 AM Adult Sunday School- Church Wide
 9:30 AM K-5th & 6-12th Sunday School - 206B, 301B
 9:30 AM Nursery - 204B
 11:00 AM Morning Worship - Sanctuary
 12:15 PM The Gathering/Small Talk - 103B

14 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

18 Sunday

9:00 AM Religious Nurture Center - 100D

9:30 AM Adult Sunday School- Church Wide
 9:30 AM K-5th & 6-12th Sunday School - 206B, 301B
 9:30 AM Nursery - 204B
 11:00 AM Sunday Morning Worship - Sanctuary
 12:15 PM The Gathering/Small Talk - 103B

21 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 Chancel Choir Rehearsal - Choir Room

25 Sunday

9:00 AM Religious Nurture Center - 100D
 9:30 AM Adult Sunday School- Church Wide
 9:30 AM K-5th & 6-12th 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

27 Tuesday

6:30 PM Stephen Ministry Supervision-302B Library

28 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

PIANOS AVAILABLE

After taking inventory of the pianos in the building, it has been determined that there are several that the church no longer needs. If you are interested in claiming a piano, we will be offering the excess pianos for a donation. It will be your responsibility to have the piano moved out by September 1. Contact Noah for more information, noahn@firstwichita.org.



RNC/People's Bible Study Annual Summer Party

People's Bible Study celebrated 21 years of hosting the annual Summer Party for members of the Religious Nurture Center. With the Wilke activity center full of inviting Fourth of July theme decorations, the generous members of the People's Bible Study hosted an evening of non-stop entertainment.

RNC members enjoyed grilled hot dogs with ice cream for dessert. All enjoyed Bingo, complete with a mountain of prizes to win. Special musical guest, Matt Bauer entertained numerous song requests to create a memorable concert. We finished the evening with a live firework show set to the

backdrop of patriotic music. Thank you to the People's Bible Study for your continued support of the Religious Nurture Center!



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.

Copyright 2024 by the First United Methodist Church, Wichita Kansas. All Rights Reserved



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

FIRST CHURCH ATTENDS PRIDE FESTIVAL

