

FIRST LIGHT

SEPTEMBER 2024

.....

First United Methodist Church

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



MARK MILLER EVENT |

Sept 27-29

First Church will play host for a weekend of music and learning with worship leader and composer Mark Miller. There will be workshops as well as a concert Saturday evening with a mass choir. Miller will also be with us Sunday morning for worship. See page 2 for more information.

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

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Quilt Sale



THIRD GRADE BIBLE SUNDAY

Sunday, September 8 | 11 a.m. Worship

Calling all 3rd graders! We will be presenting Bibles in worship and we want to be sure to include you! Please reach out to Pastor Jeff, jeffg@firstwichita.org if you have not already heard from him about receiving a Bible.



SEASONS OF CHANGE

Dear First Church,

For the last few weeks, I have enjoyed leading the “Connect” Class with some of our newest folks at First Church. We are learning about each other, reflecting on our spiritual autobiographies, learning about the United Methodist Church, and learning about the history of First Church. To do that last part, I have spent time reading through the booklets prepared for the church’s 50th, 100th, and 125th anniversaries. A major part of all of those booklets is the building! It’s fun to try to piece together exactly where each previous building sat on our property, imagine what it looked like and what downtown Wichita looked like around it.

Over our 154 years, First Church has constantly been involved in buying and selling property to fit the mission and needs of the moment. We have built and torn down and built again several times over. Every season of the church’s life has brought new opportunities and challenges and adapting our space has always been a key part of our stewardship.

You likely know we are in a season of adaptation again, looking to adjust the size of our building to our current congregational needs and our future hopes. I hope you are continuing to pray for our sale or lease of the D building, C building and Chapel. It will likely take time for the right partner to emerge, but I am convinced that God will provide in this and in all other ways that we need as we move forward.

I suspect it’s been some time since some members of First Church have even been in the C or D buildings, or even the Chapel, as we now use it just a few times a year. To help us all understand exactly what it up for sale and to help imagine what the property might look like in years ahead, we will be organizing some building tours after worship in September. Watch the e-news for details on date and time.

Thank you for your faithful support of First Church and your openness to where the Holy Spirit is leading us. Downtown Wichita continues to change and grow and having the strong light of God’s love shining from Broadway is essential to our city!

Amy



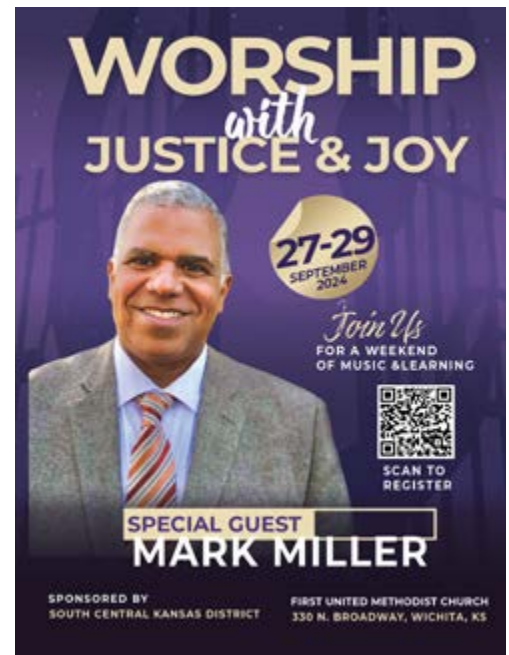
WORSHIP WITH JUSTICE & JOY

September 27-29

Organist/composer and worship leader Mark Miller is coming to First United Methodist Church, Wichita, the weekend of September 27-29 to present workshops for pastors, music directors, worship leaders, etc. and work with a mass choir composed of area choir members. The weekend will culminate with a concert/worship service featuring Mark and the mass choir on Saturday evening at 7:00 p.m. and Mr. Miller will be featured in the morning worship service at First Church on Sunday, September 29.

Mark has written several choral selections and music collections with themes of social justice and unity. Miller is a lecturer in sacred music at Yale's Institute of Sacred Music and Divinity School and is professor of church music, director of chapel, and composer-in-residence at Drew University. His hymns are included in several publications and sung by faith communities throughout the world.

The link for registration for the event is <https://gp-reg.brtaapp.com/MarkMillerEvent2024>. For more information check out the Wichita East and West Districts UMC Facebook page or the [Great Plains Conference website](#).



OUR GIFTS

GENERAL BUDGET

JULY 2024 INCOME
\$57,805.40

RECEIVED YEAR-TO-DATE
\$662,530.68

BUDGET YEAR-TO-DATE
\$542,499.95

EXPENSES YEAR-TO-DATE
\$546,615.49

TELEVISION MINISTRY

JULY 2024
\$15,190.00

RECEIVED YEAR-TO-DATE
\$157,147.50

BUDGET YEAR-TO-DATE
\$192,214.65

EXPENSES YEAR-TO-DATE
\$158,267.47



STRIKE! THE RELIGIOUS NURTURE CENTER GOES BOWLING

The Religious Nurture Center visited Wichita Bowlero on August 7, 2024 for an evening of cosmic bowling, go carts, arcade games, pizza buffet and unlimited soda. Special thanks to the First Place Quilters whose donation from their annual Quilt Auction made this event FREE to the 38 members who participated.



COMMUNION SERVERS NEEDED INFO MEETING | SEPT. 8

We are looking for people willing to serve communion on the first Sunday of each month. There are no special qualifications required, simply a desire to serve the church, and a reverence for this holy meal we share together. Join Pastor Amy, September 8 for an informational meeting immediately following church in the Sanctuary at 12:15.



BIBLE DISCUSSION GROUP RESUMES SEPTEMBER 12 & 26

After a two-month break, the Bible Discussion Group will resume meeting this September. Meetings will be September 12 and 26 at 10 a.m. in Room 101B. We will be finishing our discussion dealing with Pastor Josh Scott on "Bible Stories for Grown-Ups" and then move on to another series. All are welcome to join our informal group centered around a Bible topic with lively discussion.

First Church Forms New School Partnership with Irving Elementary

In March, 2006, First United Methodist established a partnership with Park Elementary, our neighborhood school. We worked with the students and staff and created a wonderful bond with the community. In the spring of 2024, the decision was made by USD 259 to close the school and disperse the students.

About ¼ of the students were assigned to Washington School, where we already have a partnership. Another ¼ were assigned to Cloud for intense English As a Second Language instruction. The remaining students were assigned to Irving, 1642 N. Market. This summer, a partnership was established between Irving and First Church. The principal, social worker, and staff are thrilled to have us on board.

In August, several First Church volunteers spent a few hours sorting clothing which our church had purchased for Park students and had been sent on to Irving. Clothes are organized by size and season and are ready for the social worker



Washington Elementary, 424 N. Pennsylvania



Irving Elementary, 1642 N. Market

to distribute to children in need. Another First Church volunteer spent several afternoons helping the music teacher unpack and store her vast collection of musical instruments. The music teacher is one of 7 Park staff who moved to Irving. The school has a total of 16 staff new to that building.

A welcome breakfast for the Irving staff was prepared by their custodian, who is also a caterer. First Church School Partnership fund paid for this delicious meal. On a different morning, donuts were provided for the Washington staff. A few needed supplies were purchased for both Irving and Washington as principals requested. First Church will continue to be a supportive presence at both schools this year. Your gifts to the School Partnership Fund at church help underwrite needs as they arise. This fund is not supported by the church budget, but is totally funded by donation.



Mission Lunch

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 22
12 P.M. | MEREDITH HALL

Proceeds benefit:
JUSTICE TOGETHER
Bringing faith into action

September Mission Collection: Hygiene Products

Every day 50 homeless people shower at the Open Door Shelter on Topeka Street across from our church. First United Methodist Church helps to provide the supplies listed below. If you prefer to make a monetary donation, the Mission Ministry team can purchase in bulk.

Most immediate needs:

- Toothbrushes
- Disposable razors
- Bath towels, gently used are fine
- Small size deodorant

May be donated in larger containers:

Open Door staff divides into individual portions

- Shampoo for a variety of hair types
- Conditioner
- Liquid body soap



United
Women
in Faith

- **UWFaith Executive Committee**

September 11 | 10 a.m. | First Church Parlor

- **UWF Circles POTLUCK**

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

Nancy Dinell will speak on the Quadrennial Meeting & we hope to hear from Pastor Jeff Graber

- **UWFaith Annual Meeting**

September 13 & 14 | York, Nebraska

Sally Vonner speaking September 13

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

UWFaith CEO, Sally Vonner will be the guest speaker at Saint Mark UMC on Sunday, September 15, 2024 at the Women's Day Worship Day Service at 10 a.m. All are inviting to attend.

SEPTEMBER 2024

- 1 Sunday**
 9:00 AM Religious Nurture Center Ministry - 100D
 9:30 AM Adult Sunday School Classes- Church Wide
 9:30 AM Connect Bible Study - 302B
 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
- 2 Monday**
LABOR DAY BUILDING CLOSED
- 4 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
 7:00 PM Bell Choir Rehearsal-305A
- 8 Sunday**
 9:00 AM Religious Nurture Center Ministry - 100D
 9:30 AM Adult Sunday School Classes- Church Wide
 9:30 AM Connect Bible Study - 302B
 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
- 11 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
 7:00 PM Bell Choir Rehearsal-305A
- 12 Thursday**
 10:00 AM Bible Discussion Group - 101B
- 14 Saturday**
 9:00 AM Church Work Day- C & D Buildings
- 15 Sunday**
 9:00 AM Religious Nurture Center Ministry - 100D
 9:30 AM Adult Sunday School Classes- Church Wide
 9:30 AM Connect Bible Study - 302B
 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
- 18 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
 3:30 PM Missions Meeting - 308B
 5:45 PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal - Choir Room
 7:00 PM Bell Choir Rehearsal-
- 22 Sunday**
 9:00 AM Religious Nurture Center Ministry - 100D
 9:30 AM Adult Sunday School Classes- Church Wide
 9:30 AM Connect Bible Study - 302B
 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 Mission Lunch - Meredith Hall
 2:00 PM Forum Performance - Wilke
- 24 Tuesday**
 6:30 PM Stephen Ministry Supervision-302B Library
- 25 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
 7:00 PM Bell Choir Rehearsal-305A
- 26 Thursday**
 10:00 AM Bible Discussion Group - 101B
- 27 Friday**
 5:00 PM Mark Miller Music & Worship- Churchwide
- 28 Saturday**
 9:00 AM Mark Miller Music & Worship- Churchwide
 7:00 PM Mass Choir Concert w/ Mark Miller - Sanctuary
- 29 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 w/Mark Miller- Sanctuary
 12:15 PM The Gathering/Small Talk - 103B
 12:30 PM Leadership Board Meeting - 101B

Quilt Sale Party!



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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FIRST
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
Life. Boldly.

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

You are invited to a party---a Quilt Sale Party! There will be beautiful decorations, delicious goodies in which to indulge, and all your friends will be there! October 17, 18, and 19 the Quilt Etc. Sale will be happening in Wilke Family Life Center. Over sixty quilts, from baby to king size, will be displayed for your viewing and purchasing pleasure. Placemat sets, table runners, tea towels, bibs, pennants, quiet books are some of the hundreds of items also for sale.

The Coffee/Tea shop will be open with home made baked goodies and coffee from The Spice Merchant.

All proceeds support two ministries of the Church, the Religious Nurture Center for adults with disabilities and the TV Ministry. With each purchase, you will receive a well-made,



QUILT ETC. SALE October 17-19

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 17
NOON- 5:30 P.M.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 18
10 A.M.-5:00 P.M.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 19
9 A.M.-1:00 P.M.

CASH, CHECKS & CREDIT CARDS ACCEPTED

PARKING JUST OUTSIDE THE DOOR
NO STAIRS!

Check out more at:

<https://quiltersatfirst.com>

handcrafted item to take home and at the same time will be helping two very important ministries of First United Methodist Church.

Everything is quality and priced to sell. Come and bring a friend!

