

FIRST LIGHT

NOVEMBER 2024

.....

First United Methodist Church

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



Invite your family and friends and join us for a delicious Thanksgiving Mission Lunch, Sunday, November 24! We will be serving from 12:00-1:30 p.m. and featuring your Thanksgiving favorites! Choose to eat in Meredith Hall or take your meals to go. You could also take meals

to go to share with someone special. Just be sure to make reservations for all your meals. Forms are available at the AB desk and in Sunday School classes. Please have RSVP's in by Nov. 17. All proceeds from the luncheon will benefit our School Partnership Ministry.

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

PAGE 3

New Members

PAGE 4

Christmas Connection

PAGE 5

Thanksgiving Food Drive

PAGE 7

Calendar

PAGE 8

Quilt Sale Thank You

MENU: Roasted Turkey, Gravy, Stuffing, Mashed Potatoes, Green Beans, Cranberry Salad, Homemade Rolls, Pumpkin Pie Crunch



FOCUS ON THE SMALL STUFF

November Sermon Series

We often hear, "don't sweat the small stuff" as a way to help us let go of anxiety. But what if the small stuff is really the best stuff? God gives us daily grace, sometimes in the smallest things. How might our lives be changed by focusing on the small stuff?

IT'S "ALMOST CHRISTMAS"



Dear First Church,

I know it is only the first of November, and the weather is stubbornly refusing to turn completely to fall, but here at the church we are busy planning for Advent and Christmas! There are several special events happening in the month of December. Look through this edition of *First Light* and take note of what will help you prepare for the gift of Christmas.

For those who don't have a regular Sunday School class, I want to invite you to join me and Pastor Jeff for a 4 week study starting Dec. 1 at

9:30 a.m. on Sunday mornings. We will be reading through a short book

that is the basis of our worship themes for the month, "Almost Christmas" by a quartet of United Methodist Pastors. If you'd like to take part in this small group experience, please sign up at the A/B entrance or by calling the church office. It will be a meaningful time of conversation and reflection!

I have a special invitation for all of our broadcast viewers. If you usually watch on KAKE or Facebook or YouTube, I hope you will come enjoy a special reception for broadcast viewers on Sunday, Dec. 1, at 9:45 a.m. in Meredith Hall. You will have time to meet the pastors and staff, meet other broadcast viewers and enjoy refreshments before attending worship at 11 a.m. I love meeting people who regularly watch via our TV ministry and hope to celebrate the start of Advent with you in person!

Finally, thanks so very much to everyone who returned an estimate of giving card for 2025 last Sunday. Your generous support means so much. I'm excited about what the year ahead will bring and am so glad to be your pastor. If you haven't yet turned in your card, feel free to drop in in the mail! It helps us plan for the year ahead.

Amy

**SUNDAY MORNING
ADVENT STUDY**

"Almost Christmas"
Advent Small Group Study
Sundays of Advent | 9:30 a.m. (Begins Dec. 1)
Led by Rev. Amy Lippoldt and Pastor Jeff Graber

Sign up at the AB Information Desk or by calling the church, 316-267-6244

**Broadcast Viewer
Reception**

**Sunday, December 1
9:45 a.m. | Meredith Hall**

Come meet the pastors, staff,
and other broadcast viewers,
enjoy refreshments and attend
worship in person!

NEW MEMBERS!



Please help us in welcoming the newest members of First Church! (Left to Right): *Lisa Cookson, Lisa Gray, Brent Cookson, Parker Tauer, Chelsea Graber, Kathy Keith*



United
Women
in Faith

- **UWFaith Executive Committee**

November 13 | 10 a.m. | First Church Parlor

- **UWF Unit Meeting**

November 13 | 12:15 p.m. | Parlor

This will be our potluck luncheon. The program will be from the resource guide and will be given by Martha Stroot. We will also be taking a World Thank Offering. Bring food and money.

OUR FAMILY

We celebrate the birth of:

Gabriel Abraham Thomas,
Shajan & Abby Thomas, parents
Jim & Susie Brewer, grandparents

We grieve the death of:

Rev. Charles "Jim" Matthews,
husband of Jean Matthews

Carol Fox

OUR GIFTS

GENERAL BUDGET

SEPTEMBER 2024 INCOME
\$76,849.59

RECEIVED YEAR-TO-DATE
\$790,427.92

BUDGET YEAR-TO-DATE
\$697,499.97

EXPENSES YEAR-TO-DATE
\$718,443.96

TELEVISION MINISTRY

SEPTEMBER 2024
\$15,118.00

RECEIVED YEAR-TO-DATE
\$193,972.50

BUDGET YEAR-TO-DATE
\$245,275.99

EXPENSES YEAR-TO-DATE
\$192,812.29

Christmas Connection: EmberHope/ Youthville

This year we will again be participating in Christmas Connection. This project provides EmberHope foster children with something they want, something they need, something to wear and something to read. In November, Christmas trees will be displayed in the A-B entrance with ornaments to choose with children's names. Please select ornaments and

then shop for the listed items. Please return unwrapped gifts to the A-B entrance by Dec. 1, with your ornament attached so the presents get to the correct child. Contact the [church receptionist](#), if you would like an ornament mailed to you. Monetary donations will also be accepted. Please help us share the joy of Christmas with the children of EmberHope.



Poinsettia FLOWER MINISTRY FUNDRAISER

The season of Advent is the perfect time of year to reflect upon our many blessings, and the special people who have blessed us. One of the First Church traditions is to deliver poinsettias to our homebound at Christmas time. For our homebound members, this ministry is a way to express how much we care for them, and strengthens their connection to First Church.

If you would like to make a donation to our Flower Ministry Fund, please complete the form below and return it with your check to the church business office by Dec. 15. Donors along with honorees/ memorials will be acknowledged in the *January First Light*.



Enclosed is \$ _____ towards the Flower Ministry Fund.

Donor Name _____

Address _____ Zip Code _____

Phone Number _____

In Memory of _____

In Honor of _____

Please complete the form along with your donation and return to First UMC, 330 N. Broadway, Wichita, Kansas 67202. Make your check payable to F.U.M.C. with Flower Ministry Fund' in the memo.

Thanksgiving Food Drive November 16 | 9 a.m.-Noon

Have you started shopping for your Thanksgiving feast? Many of our Wichita neighbors are hoping the groceries they receive from Open Door will be enough to have a holiday meal for their families. Open Door Community Food Ministry endeavors to provide each household that comes either Nov. 25-27 with a frozen turkey and the fixings. This once-a-year give-away depends on the community generosity.



First Church will be collecting food, Saturday, November 16 from 9 a.m. to noon. Drive up to D Entrance and volunteers will help you unload your groceries. Items will be sorted and delivered to Open Door as soon as possible. If you prefer to give money, please specify Open Door Food Ministry on your gift. Your generosity is helping families celebrate Thanksgiving!



The following items are especially need:

- Stuffing mix**
- Mac & Cheese**
- Cake mix**
- Jello**
- Canned green beans, corn, peas, sweet potatoes**
- Instant potatoes**
- Canned Fruit**
- Pie shells & pie filling**
- Mini Marshmallows**



Annual Church Conference
Saturday, November 16, 2024
9:15 a.m.

Chapel Hill UMC
 1500 N. Chapel Hill Street
 Wichita, KS, 67206



WICHITA FIRST
 UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

DON'T FORGET

DAYLIGHT SAVING ENDS NOV. 3

TURN YOUR CLOCKS BACK ONE HOUR



Remembering the Saints

All Saints Sunday | November 3

All Saints Day is celebrated on the first Sunday in November in United Methodist Churches. This day invites us to remember those members who have died in the past year. We remember the following members and give thanks for their ministry and witness and service. We also give thanks for all of those saints who have gone before us and provide us a legacy of faith at First Church.

Jim Aronis

William (Bill) Bell

Roger Cusack

Peggy Ediger

C. Bickley Foster

Carol Fox

Paul Hodson

Kenneth Holmes

Paul Jones

Rev. Ray Keller

Joyce Kent

Rosemary Lowry

Rev. Charles "Jim" Matthews

Bruce Quantic

Billie Jean Remington

Richard Reynolds

Kenneth Rupe

The memory of a good person is a blessing

Memorial Gifts

Our Thanks for Your Gifts of Faith

Between October 15, 2023 and October 15, 2024, memorial donations were made to honor the lives of loved ones. Those gifts were directed to a variety of church needs, representing interests of those who died or unique needs of the church:

Jim Aronis

Peggy Brown

C. Bickley Foster

Kenneth Holmes

Rev. Ray Keller

Rosemary Lowry

Rev. Charles "Jim" Matthews

Bruce Quantic

Arden Ratzliff

Kenneth Rupe

TV Ministry

TV Ministry

General Fund

Undesignated

Undesignated

Advent Candles

Undesignated

Music & Education Scholarships

TV Ministries

General Fund

*To give a gift in another's memory is to express
the respect & love that continues beyond death.*

NOVEMBER 2024



- 2 Saturday**
4:00 PM First Under 40 - Norton's Brewing Co.
- 3 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 Sunday Morning Worship - Sanctuary
12:15 PM The Gathering/Small Talk - 103B
12:30 PM TV Volunteer Meeting - 101B
- 6 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 - 305A
- 7 Thursday**
6:00 PM Justice Together Assembly - Sanctuary
10:00 AM Bible Discussion Group - 101B
- 10 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 Sunday Morning Worship - Sanctuary
12:15 PM The Gathering/Small Talk - 103B
- 13 Wednesday**
9:00 AM Quilters at First (Hand Quilting)-304D
10:00 AM Apple Core - Zoom or 302B
10:00 AM UWFaith Board Meeting - Parlor
11:00 AM Quilters at First (Machine Work) - 300D
12:15 PM UWFaith Meeting
5:45 PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal - Choir Room
6:00 PM RNC Activities - 100D
7:00 PM Bell Choir Practice - 305A
- 14 Thursday**
9:00 AM Justice Together Training - 1B
- 15 Friday**
9:00 AM Justice Together Training - 1B
- 16 Saturday**
9:00 AM Thanksgiving Food Drive - D Entrance
9:15 AM Church Conference-Chapel Hill UMC
- 17 Sunday**
9:00 AM Religious Nurture Center - 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 Sunday Morning Worship - Sanctuary
12:15 PM The Gathering/Small Talk - 103B
12:30 PM Leadership Board Meeting - 101B
- 20 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
6:00 PM RNC Activities - 100D
7:00 PM Bell Choir Practice - 305A
- 21 Thursday**
10:00 AM Bible Discussion Group - 101B
- 24 Sunday**
9:00 AM Religious Nurture Center - 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 Sunday Morning Worship - Sanctuary
12:15 PM The Gathering/Small Talk - 103B
- 26 Tuesday**
6:30 PM Stephen Ministry Supervision-302B Library
- 27 Wednesday**
9:00 AM Quilters at First (Hand Quilting)-304D
10:00 AM Apple Core - Zoom or 302B
5:45 PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal - Choir Room
7:00 PM Bell Choir Practice - 305A
- 28 Thursday**
Happy Thanksgiving! BUILDING CLOSED
- 29 Friday**
BUILDING CLOSED
- 30 Saturday**
8:30 AM Wichita Choral Society Practice- Sanctuary



Messiah's Greatest and Christmas Favorites

Sunday December 1, 2024
at 2pm - Tickets \$15

First United Methodist Church
330 N Broadway St, Wichita, KS 67202

For information: wichitachoralsociety@gmail.com



FIRST under 40
DRINKS, DEVOTION & A BARN GOOD TIME!

Attention to our under 40 crowd!

Saturday, November 2
4:00 p.m.
Norton's Brewing Company
125 S. St. Francis Wichita, KS

First United Methodist Church
Wichita, Kansas

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.

Quilt Sale Thank You!

A huge thank you to our First Church family and friends from the Quilters at First! The Quilts Etc. Sale 2024 is history. We don't have totals yet, but are confident the numbers surpassed 2023! This success is due to all the support we received from you. Thank you, Seeker men for assembling the show items in Wilke FLC. Thank you, Erin Davis, for the great graphics and help advertising. Thank you, Coffee Shop women, for the tempting goodies. Thank you, Rev. Amy and Pastor Jeff, for shout-outs on TV. Thank you, Noah, for working with the Forum so Wilke could be used as a market. But most of all, thank each of you that purchased a tea towel or a table runner or a quilt! Every single purchased was important!

We will present the 2024 checks to the TV Ministry and the Religious Nurture Center representatives in December, so "stay tuned".

