

FIRST LIGHT

FEBRUARY 2025

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First United Methodist Church

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

Connected | Authentic | Historic | Faithful



FEBRUARY SERMON SERIES

Leadership is a complicated task. No matter what setting we are in—our family, work, civic organization, church, military, or government, good leaders help things go well, and bad leaders become an obstacle to success. The book of Judges presents to us some of the most unique leaders in all of the Bible. What do they have to teach us about faithful leadership?

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

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Lent Preview



United Methodist Men
Chili/Soup Feed
February 16, 2025
12:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.
Meredith Hall

MAKE NEW FRIENDS!



BY REV. AMY LIPPOLDT

Dear First Church,

For the last few weeks we've been talking about what it means to be "Together" as a way to combat the loneliness epidemic in our country. Being together is not just about being with other people, it's about making and keeping real, genuine connections with others in a way that helps us grow, gives us support, and allows us to enjoy one another. One of God's greatest gifts to us is friendship, God made us to make and have friends.

I am convinced that the key to making and keeping strong friendships is being able to ask good questions. A strong question leads to interesting conversation and a deeper relationship. Here's a few good ones from Dr. Heather Holleman from Penn State. Use one in the weeks ahead with someone you'd like to know better.

- **What is one item you might keep forever?**
- **What's one movie everyone should see/ What's a movie nobody should see?**
- **What's one thing you want to do before you die?**
- **When you are having a bad day, what's the best thing you can do to cheer yourself up?**
- **What was your first paid job?**
- **Do you have any daily rituals?**

These are simple questions but they go far beyond the level of "How are you?" They might unlock a beautiful conversation and a start a deeper friendship. Pray this month for God to show you how to be a good friend to someone new or to someone you've known a long time who might need a little extra support. And thank God for your friendships!

Amy





United Women in Faith

• UWFaith Executive Committee

February 12 | 10 a.m. | First Church Parlor

• UWF Unit Meeting

February 12 | 12:15 p.m. | Parlor

The Unit meeting will meet for potluck.

Due to cancelling the January meeting, Donna Fisher will present the lesson and conduct the Pledge Service planned for January. There will also be the instillation of officers. Hope to see you there.

OUR GIFTS

GENERAL BUDGET

DECEMBER 2024 INCOME
\$67,298.64

RECEIVED YEAR-TO-DATE
\$965,926.16

BUDGET YEAR-TO-DATE
\$930,000.00

EXPENSES YEAR-TO-DATE
\$1,036,343.12

TELEVISION MINISTRY

DECEMBER 2024
\$25,462.00

RECEIVED YEAR-TO-DATE
\$254,654.50

BUDGET YEAR-TO-DATE
\$323,618.00

EXPENSES YEAR-TO-DATE
\$264,055.35

OUR FAMILY

We grieve with the family of Carolyn Ann (Eby) Grier in her death on December 30, 2024.

We grieve with the family of Carol Ramsey in her death on January 11, 2025.

FIRST under 40

**Attention to our under 40 crowd!
Come hang out with Pastor Amy!**

Saturday, February 1 | 4:00 p.m.
Norton's Brewing Company | 125 S. St. Francis Wichita, KS

DRINKS, DEVOTION & A DARN GOOD TIME!

First United Methodist Church Wichita, Kansas
connected. authentic. historic. faithful.

TAX-AIDE APPOINTMENTS AVAILABLE FEBRUARY 3- APRIL 1

AARP Foundation
Tax-Aide

First Church will host appointments this year on Mondays and Tuesdays for free AARP Tax-Aide income tax preparation from February 3–April 1. Please make an appointment in one of 3 ways.

1. Call 316-444-0314 (new number). Leave a message and you will receive a call back.
2. Go online to <https://taxappointment.aarp.org/s/registration?locationId=a1r1N000000FfcB>
3. Scan this this QR Code:



AARP Foundation Tax-Aide provides tax assistance to anyone, free of charge, with a focus on taxpayers who are over 50 and have low to moderate income. **You do NOT need to be an AARP member or a senior citizen or a member of First Church to use the service.** Tax-Aide volunteers are IRS-certified every year, so they understand the latest changes and additions to the tax code.



SAVE THE DATE!

CAMP HORIZON WORK DAY
SATURDAY, APRIL 5

Be sure to mark your calendars and save the date for another fun, filled opportunity for the **WHOLE CHURCH** to spend the day at Camp Horizon! Watch for more information.
QUESTIONS? Contact Stewart Mack, 316-655-2765.



Thank You!



FIRST CHURCH!



Thank you

Handwritten note: Thank you for your help in providing Christmas presents for our Pastor Youth. Thank you for your generosity in helping you purchase the gifts. Thank you for your generosity. Tamara Knuse.

January 08, 2025

Dear First United Methodist Church,

First, thank you for donating the gifts that we gave to our families. Secondly, thank you for helping us pick out the presents. Lastly, thank you for wrapping our gifts.

In addition to thanking you, we would like to express that the gifts gave us a feeling of excitement, and our families were surprised and thankful to receive them.

Sincerely, Mrs. Menke's Class 4th Grade Irving Elementary. Includes handwritten signatures: Flur Kimberly, Alan, Alex, Sam'oa, Zuzanna, Aida, and others.

To Pastor Amy and the First JMC family

Dear Pastor Amy and the First JMC family, I am so grateful for your hard work and your faithfulness in paying your 2024 Mission share in full. I want you to know that Bishop Wilson and the whole cabinet appreciate your sacrificial contribution and your ministry.

Thank you Chali - South Central Kansas DS

Volunteer in Missions

Opportunities in 2025

United Methodist Volunteers in Mission is the short-term mission arm of the United Methodist Church. Our volunteers are lay and clergy, young and old, with differing abilities, vocations, and at different phases in life. We come together through the UMC in order that all may offer their skills and talents for Christian service.

The Great Plains Conference has an active VIM team who participates in projects in Kansas and Nebraska and one in Colorado. Most projects are one week-arriving on Sunday and working through Friday at noon. Many projects sites have places for RV's and all have places for non-RV'ers. There are no requirements except to have a willing heart to help others. Some people participate in all projects and some only one a year. There is a registration fee for each project. That money goes directly to that project. This money is used to help offset the cost of projects. Most ministries operate on a very tight budget and can hardly afford the projects that need to be done. The 2025 VIM schedule is available below.

VIM 2025 Schedule

April 6-11, 2025
Camp Horizon
Arkansas City, KS

July 27-August 7
Buckhorn Camp
Bellevue, CO

October 12-23
Alpha Christian
Children's Home
Perry, KS

May 11-16
Camp Fontanelle
Nickerson, NE

August 24-29
Camp Norwesca
Chadron, NE

June 9-13
EmberHope/Youthville
Netwon, KS

September 21-26
Camp Lakeside
Scott City, KS

For more information on any of these VIM opportunities, contact Stuart or Linda Mack, 316-655-2766 or 316-655-2765

FEBRUARY 2025



1 4:00 PM	Saturday First Under 40- Norton's Brewery	16 9:00 AM 9:00 AM 9:30 AM 9:30 AM 9:30 AM 11:00 AM 12:15 PM 12:15 PM	Sunday Chili Feed - Meredith Hall Religious Nurture Center - 100D Adult Sunday School- Church Wide K-5th & 6-12th Sunday School - 206B, 301B Nursery - 204B Morning Worship - Sanctuary Family Ministry Council - 302B The Gathering/Small Talk - 103B
2 9:00 AM 9:30 AM 9:30 AM 9:30 AM 11:00 AM 12:15 PM 12:30 PM	Sunday Religious Nurture Center - 100D Adult Sunday School- Church Wide K-5th & 6-12th Sunday School - 206B, 301B Nursery - 204B Morning Worship - Sanctuary The Gathering/Small Talk - 103B TV Volunteer Meeting - 101B	17 8:30 AM	Monday AARP Tax-Aide - 100D
3 8:30 AM	Monday AARP Tax-Aide - 100D	18 8:30 AM	Tuesday AARP Tax-Aide - 100D
4 8:30 AM	Tuesday AARP Tax-Aide - 100D	19 9:00 AM 10:00 AM 11:00 AM 3:30 PM 5:45 PM 7:00 PM	Wednesday Quilters at First (Hand Quilting)-304D Apple Core - Zoom or 302B Quilters at First (Machine Work) - 300D Missions Meeting - 308B Chancel Choir Rehearsal - Choir Room Bell Choir Practice - 305A
5 9:00 AM 10:00 AM 11:00 AM 5:45 PM 7:00 PM	Wednesday Quilters at First (Hand)-304D Apple Core - Zoom or 302B Quilters at First (Machine) - 300D Chancel Choir - Choir Room Bell Choir Practice - 305A	23 9:00 AM 9:30 AM 9:30 AM 9:30 AM 11:00 AM 12:15 PM	Sunday Religious Nurture Center - 100D Adult Sunday School- Church Wide K-5th & 6-12th Sunday School - 206B, 301B Nursery - 204B Morning Worship - Sanctuary The Gathering/Small Talk - 103B
9 9:00 AM 9:30 AM 9:30 AM 9:30 AM 11:00 AM 12:15 PM	Sunday Religious Nurture Center - 100D Adult Sunday School- Church Wide K-5th & 6th-12th Sunday School - 206B, 301B Nursery - 204B Morning Worship - Sanctuary The Gathering/Small Talk - 103B	24 8:30 AM	Monday AARP Tax-Aide - 100D
10 8:30 AM	Monday AARP Tax-Aide - 100D	25 8:30 AM 6:30 PM	Tuesday AARP Tax-Aide - 100D Stephen Ministry Supervision - 302B
11 8:30 AM	Tuesday AARP Tax-Aide - 100D	26 9:00 AM 10:00 AM 11:00 AM 5:45 PM 7:00 PM	Wednesday Quilters at First (Hand Quilting)-304D Apple Core - Zoom or 302B Quilters at First (Machine Work) - 300D Chancel Choir Rehearsal - Choir Room Bell Choir Practice - 305A
12 9:00 AM 10:00 AM 10:00 AM 11:00 AM 2:00 PM 5:45 PM 7:00 PM	Wednesday Quilters at First (Hand)-304D Apple Core - Zoom or 302B UWfaith Board Meeting - Parlor Quilters at First (Machine) - 300D UWfaith Meeting - Parlor Chancel Choir - Choir Room Bell Choir Practice - 305A	27 9:30 AM 9:30 AM	Thursday Bible Discussion Group - 101B Stephen Ministry Leadership - 302B
13 9:30 AM	Thursday Bible Discussion Group - 101B	28 10:00 AM	Friday Veteran's Luncheon - Meredith Hall

LENT PREVIEW

Mark your calendars

- **ASH WEDNESDAY**
MARCH 5 | 6 P.M. | SANCTUARY
- **PANCAKE BREAKFAST**
MARCH 9 | 8:30 A.M. | MEREDITH HALL
- **JESUS AT THE TABLE STUDY**
TUESDAYS BEGINNING MARCH 11
6 P.M. | 106B
- **LENTEN FOOD DRIVE**
MARCH 22 | PARKING LOT
- **PASSION/PALM SUNDAY**
APRIL 13 | SANCTUARY
- **MAUNDY THURSDAY**
APRIL 17 | BOTANICA
- **GOOD FRIDAY**
APRIL 18 | SANCTUARY
- **EASTER SUNDAY**
APRIL 20

FIRST LIGHT

First Light is published monthly by the First United Methodist Church of Wichita, Kansas.

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.



As the Lenten season draws upon us, many Christians “give up” something for Lent as a sign of penitence.

Instead of “giving up” something, why not “take up” something? Jesus, himself, encourages us to “take up your cross” and follow Him. Perhaps you could volunteer in the community or do something kind for a neighbor. Perhaps you could “take up” an activity at the church: help with media production, sign-up for Small Talk, Sundays following worship.

Maybe you could even come join the Chancel Choir for the Lenten/Easter season! We welcome you to join us on Wednesday evenings at 5:45 p.m. in the Sanctuary for rehearsals and on Sunday mornings in the Choir Room at 10:20 a.m. as we prepare to worship our risen Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. If you have questions or need additional information, contact Don Gray, Chancel Choir Director at donaldg@firstwichita.org.