

FIRST LIGHT

MARCH 2025

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First United Methodist Church

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

Connected | Authentic | Historic | Faithful



Dinner
With **Jesus**

LENTEN SERMON SERIES

Meals are more than just food—they're moments of connection, transformation, and grace. Jesus shared meals with all kinds of people: sinners and saints, skeptics and seekers, the hurting and the hopeful. This Lent we will sit down to dinner with Jesus, discovering what he offers in hospitality and love.



Ash Wednesday

March 5 | 6 p.m.

Sanctuary

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

PAGE 3

First Under 40

PAGE 4

Lenten Bible Study

PAGE 5

Pancake Feed

PAGE 7

Calendar

PAGE 8

Mission Lunch

Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of the season of Lent. Join us for this service offering a time to pause, repent, and reflect through music and prayer.

MARCH 5 | 6 p.m. | SANCTUARY | LIVESTREAM ON YOUTUBE AND FACEBOOK LIVE



Dear First Church,

Over the last several weeks we've had a series of funerals, all long-time members of First Church who have experienced the blessings of long and productive lives. It's a gift to me to hear families tell stories about the lives of their loved ones. It gives me a peek into the history of First Church as I think about what it was like 20, 30, 40 years ago when they were hard at work making the church go.

As I prepared for one of the funerals, I reread a prayer that I often pray at the end of the service, part of the "Prayer of Commendation" when we release the beloved to God's safe care and keeping. It's based on a prayer in our United Methodist Book of Worship. It struck me that it's a prayer worth praying far beyond a funeral. Maybe it's a prayer that speaks to your heart today like it did to mine.

If you are still looking for a Lenten discipline to take on this year, maybe you could pray this prayer every morning or evening until Easter. Thanks for all you do to be a part of First Church. See you in worship!

Amy



God of us all,
 your love never ends.
 When all else fails
 you still are God.
 We pray to you for one another in
 our need, and for all anywhere,
 who mourn with us this day.
 To those who doubt, give light;
 to those who are weak, strength;
 to all who have sinned, mercy;
 to all who sorrow, peace.
 Surround this community,
 O God, help us remember
 how important is
 the love with which
 we hold one another.
 Build it up in us and help
 us forever to trust you.





United Women in Faith

• UWFaith Executive Committee

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

• UWF Circle Meeting

March 12 | 2:00 p.m. | First Church Parlor

Because we have not yet had our pledge service for the year, we will have that as well as installation of officers. Donna Fisher will be giving the lesson and wants us to be thinking about these two questions: *What parts of your faith did you inherit from tradition and what parts from people of faith before you?*

Hope to see you on March 12.

OUR FAMILY

We grieve with
Tara Dawson and family
in the death of her grandmother,
Ruthann George,
January 6, 2025.

We grieve with the family of
Barbara Pearce
in her death on
January 29, 2025.

We grieve with
Don Gray and family
in the death of his father,
Leroy Gray,
January 30, 2025.

We grieve with
Glynna Johnson and family
in the death of her husband,
Garland Johnson,
February 3, 2025.

We grieve with the family
of Polly McMillan
in her death on
February 15, 2025.

We grieve with the family
of Judy Sunderland
in her death on
February 21, 2025.

FIRST *under*
40

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

Saturday, March 1 | 4:00 p.m.

Norton's Brewing Company | 125 S. St. Francis Wichita, KS

DRINKS, DEVOTION
& A DARN GOOD TIME!

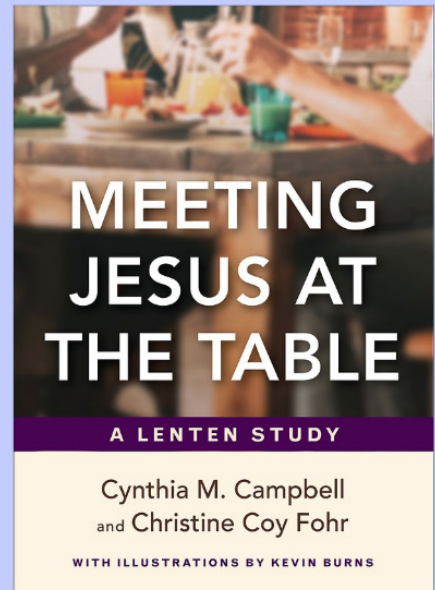


First United Methodist Church Wichita, Kansas
connected. authentic. historic. faithful.

LENTEN BIBLE STUDY

Tuesdays | 6:00 p.m. | 106B
Beginning March 11

Sign up at the AB Desk



Join us during Lent for this study from the book, "Meeting Jesus at the Table". Led by Rev. Amy Lippoldt and Pastor Jeff Graber, this class will meet on Tuesday evenings from March 11 through April 15 at 6 p.m. in Room 106B. Sign up sheets are available at the AB desk.

TAX-AIDE APPOINTMENTS AVAILABLE THROUGH 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 the QR Code below:



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.

FUNERAL LUNCH VOLUNTEERS

One of the privileges of being in ministry is honoring the lives and memories of those who have gone before us and comforting their families as they mourn. One of the ways that First Church has been faithful in this work is by serving funeral lunches to the friends and family of church members who have died. This offering is made even more special by the tradition of the Sunday School classes stepping up to coordinate, prepare, and serve the meal when the funeral is for someone on their roster. As our congregation has grown

over the past couple of years, so too has the opportunity to minister to families of loved ones who may not have attended a Sunday School class. The First Church Congregational Care Team is putting together a team of volunteers to help coordinate, prepare, and serve funeral lunches in a way that responds to this opportunity to embody God's love and comforting presence for grieving families. If you would like to be a part of this team, please contact Pastor Jeff Graber by calling the church, 316-267-6244 or by email at jeffg@firstwichita.org.

OUR GIFTS

GENERAL BUDGET

JANUARY 2025 INCOME
\$168,864.07

RECEIVED YEAR-TO-DATE
\$168,864.07

BUDGET YEAR-TO-DATE
\$79,225.00

EXPENSES YEAR-TO-DATE
\$91,044.07

TELEVISION MINISTRY

JANUARY 2025
\$59,178.34

RECEIVED YEAR-TO-DATE
\$59,178.34

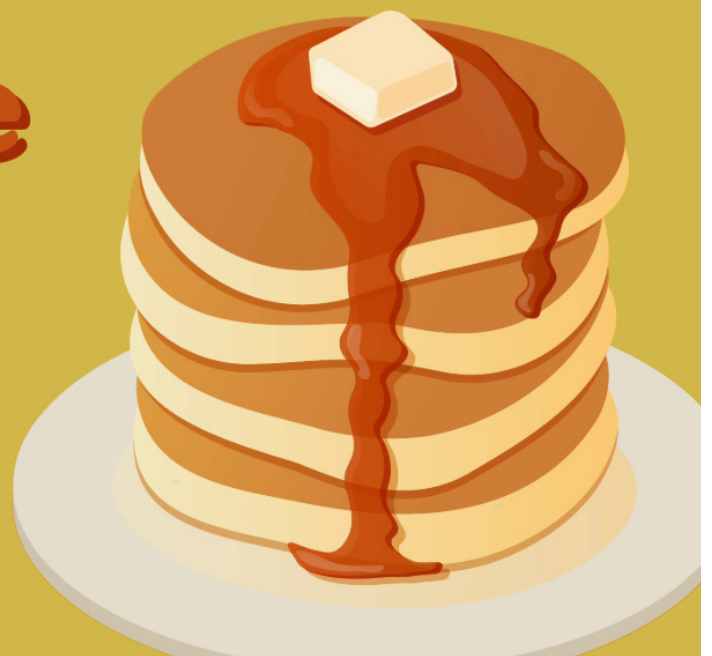
BUDGET YEAR-TO-DATE
\$34,583.37

EXPENSES YEAR-TO-DATE
\$14,045.00

Join us for breakfast!

Pancake Feed

Sunday, March 9
8:30-11 a.m.
Meredith Hall



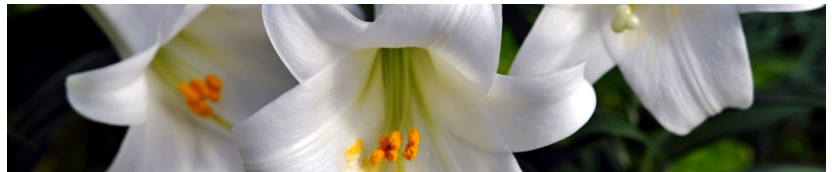
SPRING FOOD DRIVE

**MARCH 22
9 A.M.- NOON
AB ENTRANCE**

During the month of March we are collecting food items to support Open Door. You are invited to drop items off anytime throughout the month or at a special drop off day on Saturday, March 22 in the AB entrance from 9 a.m.-Noon.



FLOWER MINISTRY



In preparation and celebration of Easter (April 20, 2025), our Congregational Care Team ministry participants will be delivering plants to our homebound church members. The long-standing flower ministry is a special way to express how much we care for our church family who are no longer able to come to church, celebrate our "over the age of 90" church members and recognize those who have recently lost a loved one.

If you would like to make a donation to our Flower Ministry Fund to continue to make this ministry possible, please complete the form below and return it with your check to the church business office by April 15. We will acknowledge all donors along with honorees/memorials in the May edition of the *First Light*.

Donor Name _____ Enclosed is \$ _____ towards the Flower Ministry Fund.

Address _____ Zip Code _____ Phone Number _____

In Memory of _____

In Honor of _____

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

MARCH 2025



1 4:00 PM	Saturday First Under 40- Norton's Brewery	9:30 AM 10:50 AM 12:15 PM 12:15 PM	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 10:50 AM 12:15 PM 12:30 PM 12:30 PM	Sunday Religious Nurture Center - 100D Adult Sunday School- Church Wide K-5th & 6th-12th SS - 206B, 301B Nursery - 204B Morning Worship - Sanctuary The Gathering/Small Talk - 103B Justice Together Members Mtg - MH 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 6:00 PM	Tuesday AARP Tax-Aide - 100D Lenten Study - 106B
4 8:30 AM	Tuesday AARP Tax-Aide - 100D	19 9:00 AM 10:00 AM 11:00 AM 3:30 PM 5:30 PM 7:00 PM	Wednesday Quilters at First (Hand Quilting)-308B Apple Core - Zoom or 302B Quilters at First (Machine Work) - 304B Missions Meeting - 302B Chancel Choir Rehearsal - Choir Room Bell Choir Practice - 305A
5 9:00 AM 10:00 AM 11:00 AM 5:30 PM 6:00 PM 7:00 PM	Wednesday Quilters at First (Hand)-308B Apple Core - Zoom or 302B Quilters at First (Machine) - 304B RNC Activities - 100D Ash Wednesday - Sanctuary Bell Choir Practice - 305A	23 9:00 AM 9:30 AM 9:30 AM 9:30 AM 10:50 AM 12:15 PM	Sunday Religious Nurture Center - 100D Adult Sunday School- Church Wide K-5th & 6th-12th SS - 206B, 301B Nursery - 204B Sunday Morning Worship - Sanctuary The Gathering/Small Talk - 103B
9 8:30 AM 9:00 AM 9:30 AM 9:30 AM 9:30 AM 10:50 AM 12:15 PM	Sunday Pancake Feed - Meredith Hall Religious Nurture Center - 100D Adult Sunday School- Church Wide K-5th & 6th-12th SS - 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 6:00 PM 6:30 PM	Tuesday AARP Tax-Aide - 100D Lenten Study - 106B Stephen Ministry Supervision - 302B
11 8:30 AM 6:00 PM	Tuesday AARP Tax-Aide - 100D Lenten Study - 106B	26 9:00 AM 10:00 AM 11:00 AM 5:30 PM 6:00 PM 7:00 PM	Wednesday Quilters at First (Hand Quilting)-308B Apple Core - Zoom or 302B Quilters at First (Machine Work) - 304B Chancel Choir Rehearsal - Choir Room RNC Activities - 100D Bell Choir Practice - 305A
12 9:00 AM 10:00 AM 11:00 AM 5:30 PM 6:00 PM 7:00 PM	Wednesday Quilters at First (Hand)-308B Apple Core - Zoom or 302B Quilters at First (Machine) - 304B Chancel Choir - Choir Room RNC Activities - 100D 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	30 9:00 AM 9:30 AM 9:30 AM 9:30 AM 10:50 AM 12:15 PM	Sunday Religious Nurture Center - 100D Adult Sunday School- Church Wide K-5th & 6th-12th SS - 206B, 301B Nursery - 204B Morning Worship - Sanctuary The Gathering/Small Talk - 103B
16 9:00 AM 9:30 AM 9:30 AM	Sunday Religious Nurture Center - 100D Adult Sunday School- Church Wide K-5th & 6th-12th SS - 206B, 301B	31 8:30 AM	Monday AARP Tax-Aide - 100D

LENT EVENTS

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 | 9 A.M.-NOON | PARKING LOT
- **PASSION/PALM SUNDAY**
APRIL 13 | 11 A.M. | SANCTUARY
- **MAUNDY THURSDAY**
APRIL 17 | 6 P.M. | BOTANICA
- **GOOD FRIDAY**
APRIL 18 | 6 P.M. | SANCTUARY
- **EASTER SUNDAY**
APRIL 20 | 11 AM | SANCTUARY

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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WICHITA FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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

Mission Lunch

SUNDAY, MARCH 30
12 P.M. | MEREDITH HALL



Proceeds benefit:



UMCOR

Global Ministries | The United Methodist Church

Spring FORWARD



DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME STARTS MARCH 9