

# FIRST LIGHT

MAY 2025

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First United Methodist Church

[www.firstwichita.org](http://www.firstwichita.org) | 330 North Broadway | Wichita, Kansas | 316-267-6244

Connected | Authentic | Historic | Faithful

## Celebrating 155 years of Ministry! 1870-2025

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

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BY REV. AMY LIPPOLDT

# CELEBRATING 155 YEARS!

Dear First Church,

May is full of lots of exciting milestones like graduations and weddings. Please add one more to your calendar as we celebrate the 155th anniversary of First Church on May 18th. We will have fun mementos of the past. We will recognize our lifetime members. We will have t-shirts (pre-order now) we will eat cake! It will be a fun day to remember the strong legacy of this congregation and look forward to decades to come.

If you know someone who used to be a part of the congregation, from near or far, reach out to invite them to join you for worship on May 18. We'd love to celebrate with everyone who has made First Church strong over the years.

A few weeks ago, someone suggested that I should have an "Ask Amy" section of *First Light*. I thought, "why not?" So here is a google form where you can ask burning questions—theological, biblical, about the church or whatever! I'll take time to answer in each month's *First Light*. You can submit anonymously, but no promises that all questions will be answered.

<https://forms.gle/mQ9utcYfoT3KbA8x6>

Amy

## New Sermon Series: **Why Do We Do That?**

*Ever wonder why worship is the way it is? Why do we do all the things we do, in the way we do them? We will explore the biblical and theological foundations of our Sunday morning gatherings and explore how they help us draw closer to God!*

**Ask Amy-First UMC Wichita**

A chance to ask any question—Theological, Biblical, Ecclesial (related to the church local or global). You can ask other things too, but I do not guarantee accurate answers. Questions will be answered in weekly e-news or monthly "First Light." No promise that all questions will be answered!

firstwichtaumc@gmail.com [Switch account](#)

Not shared

Submit your question here!

Your answer

**Submit** [Clear form](#)

## New First Church T-shirts Available for Order

The newly designed First Church t-shirts are \$20 each and can be pre-ordered at the AB desk or by contacting the [front desk receptionist](#). Please have orders in to the church by May 6.



United  
Women  
in Faith

### • UWFaith Executive Committee Meeting

May 14 | 10:00 a.m. | First Church Parlor

### • UWF Circle - Dorcas

May 14 | 2:00 p.m. | First Church Parlor

Our fabulous organist, YJ Lee, will be our program. We will get to learn about her background and her journey that led her to First Church.

Martha Stroot and Donna Salzwedel will provide refreshments.

## OUR FAMILY

We grieve with the family of  
Bishop Richard Wilke  
in his death on  
April 20, 2025.

## OUR GIFTS

### GENERAL BUDGET

MARCH 2025 INCOME  
\$61,008.33

RECEIVED YEAR-TO-DATE  
\$380,503.70

BUDGET YEAR-TO-DATE  
\$350,881.64

EXPENSES YEAR-TO-DATE  
\$266,811.19

### TELEVISION MINISTRY

MARCH 2025  
\$27,503.34

RECEIVED YEAR-TO-DATE  
\$111,932.02

BUDGET YEAR-TO-DATE  
\$115,227.42

EXPENSES YEAR-TO-DATE  
\$55,243.68

# WELCOME TO FIRST CHURCH KANE MCENTIRE!

We are excited to welcome Kane McEntire to the staff of First Church! Kane will take on the role of Church Administrator for Membership and Pastoral Care. Kane comes to us from West Heights UMC where he has had more programmatic responsibilities. He is looking forward to a transition to the administrative side of ministry and being a part of First Church. He will work Monday through Friday with us but continue his Sunday involvement at West Heights. Be sure to stop by and say hello or drop him an e-mail at [kanem@firstwichita.org](mailto:kanem@firstwichita.org) and welcome him to First Church!

## GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP THURSDAYS | 2 P.M.

A new grief support group at First Church will begin meeting, May 1, 2025. Connie Barnum will lead the weekly sessions each Thursday at 2 p.m. in the First Church Library (302B). All are welcome.



### ***A little more about Kane:***

Kane McEntire, a native of Valley Center, KS, has been actively working and serving in churches in the Wichita area for 20 years, and on staff or in pastoral ministry in the Great Plains Conference for more than a decade. Kane is married to Leslie, who is a renowned teacher in Maize Public Schools. Between them they have three children, Talan, Kole and Ella Mercy. In his free time Kane enjoys music, playing ukulele, shopping, singing, listening to music, collecting vinyl records, fitness, pickleball, home theater, reading, and video games. If you connect with Kane on social media, you'll be blessed by a daily pun! He is looking forward to meeting you and thrilled to be a part of wonderful staff at First UMC!

# MISSION COLLECTION: Baby Diapers and Baby Wipes

In honor of Mother's Day and Father's Day, we will be collecting baby diapers and baby wipes for Open Door. There is especially need for sizes 5-6 and pull ups. You may bring your donations to the A-B Entrance during May and June. Monetary donations will also be accepted by cash, check, or through [online giving](#).



## *Celebrating 13 years of Dedication:* **TERESA FIELDS RETIRES**



First Church members and staff gathered on April 16 to celebrate Teresa Fields on her last day of employment with the church.

We thank her for her faithful dedication to First Church, and wish her all the best in retirement!

# FLOWER MINISTRY

## *Donations Honor First Church Friends and Loved Ones*

Thank you to everyone who donated toward the purchase of the Easter plants delivered to our homebound members, our senior members over the age of 90, and our church family who recently lost a spouse. It is a tremendous blessing to our recipients, and a truly meaningful First Church tradition.

Our Congregational Care team sponsors this important ministry every year and appreciates the church members, staff and friends who assisted with this year's deliveries. Below is a list of individuals who contributed to the flower ministry and the names of those who are being honored or memorialized:



*Residents of Presbyterian Manor enjoyed Easter flower deliveries from Pastor Jeff Graber and Rev. Amy Lippoldt.*



### **Donor Name(s)**

Paulette Dibbern

Beth Elliott

Trudy Kittelson & Lee Moats

Betty Lygrisse

John & Judith Oswald

Ronda Snyder

Bonnie Rupe

Gloria Summers

Sharon Thompson

### **In Memory of**

Dieter Dibbern

Willis Elliott

Mr & Mrs. Walter Britton

Betty Moats

V.E. "Gene" Lygrisse

our parents

Vinola Moore; Karen Swarts

Kenneth Dale Rupe

Herbert & Carmen Rupe

Alden & Frances Rupe

Rev. Robert & Mrs. Orphana Brown

David Snyder

My sister, Carol

My uncle, Bill

### **In Honor of**

Mary Alice Stephens

Glenna Snyder

# MAY 2025



<b>1</b> 2:00 PM	<b>Thursday</b> Grief Support Group- 302B	9:30 AM 9:30 AM 9:30 AM 11:00 AM 12:15 PM 12:15 PM	K-5th Sunday School- 206B 6th-12th Sunday School - 301B Nursery - 204B Morning Worship - Sanctuary Family Ministry Council - 302B The Gathering/Small Talk - 103B
<b>4</b> 9:00 AM 9:30 AM 9:30 AM 9:30 AM 9:30 AM 11:00 AM 12:00 PM 12:15 PM 12:30 PM	<b>Sunday</b> Religious Nurture Center - 100D Adult Sunday School- Church Wide K-5th Sunday School - 206B 6th-12th Sunday School- 301B Nursery - 204B Morning Worship - Sanctuary Mission Lunch - Meredith Hall The Gathering/Small Talk - 103B TV Volunteer Meeting - 101B	<b>21</b> 9:00 AM 10:00 AM 11:00 AM 5:45 PM	<b>Wednesday</b> Quilters (Hand Quilting)-308B Apple Core - Zoom or 302B Quilters (Machine Work) - 304B Chancel Choir Rehearsal - Choir Room
<b>7</b> 9:00 AM 10:00 AM 11:00 AM 5:45 PM	<b>Wednesday</b> Quilters (Hand Quilting)-308B Apple Core - Zoom or 302B Quilters (Machine Work) - 304B Chancel Choir Rehearsal - Choir Room	<b>22</b> 9:30 AM 9:30 AM 2:00 PM	<b>Thursday</b> Bible Discussion Group - 101B Stephen Ministry Leadership - 302B Grief Support Group- 302B
<b>8</b> 9:30 AM 2:00 PM	<b>Thursday</b> Bible Discussion Group - 101B Grief Support Group- 302B	<b>25</b> 9:00 AM 9:30 AM 9:30 AM 9:30 AM 9:30 AM 11:00 AM 12:15 PM 12:15 PM	<b>Sunday</b> Religious Nurture Center Ministry - 100D Adult Sunday School- Church Wide K-5th Sunday School - 206B 6th-12th Sunday School - 301B Nursery - 204B Sunday Morning Worship - Sanctuary Leadership Board - 101B The Gathering/Small Talk - 103B
<b>11</b> 9:00 AM 9:30 AM 9:30 AM 9:30 AM 9:30 AM 11:00 AM 12:00 PM 12:15 PM 12:30 PM	<b>Sunday</b> Religious Nurture Center - 100D Adult Sunday School- Church Wide K-5th Sunday School - 206B 6th-12th Sunday School- 301B Nursery - 204B Morning Worship - Sanctuary Mission Lunch - Meredith Hall The Gathering/Small Talk - 103B TV Volunteer Meeting - 101B	<b>26</b>	<b>Monday Memorial Day</b> <b>BUILDING CLOSED</b>
<b>14</b> 9:00 AM 10:00 AM 11:00 AM 12:30 PM 5:45 PM	<b>Wednesday</b> Quilters (Hand Quilting)-308B Apple Core - Zoom or 302B Quilters (Machine Work) - 304B UW Faith Board Meeting - Parlor Chancel Choir Rehearsal - Choir Room	<b>27</b> 6:30 PM	<b>Tuesday</b> Stephen Ministry Supervision - 302B
<b>15</b> 2:00 PM	<b>Thursday</b> Grief Support Group- 302B	<b>28</b> 9:00 AM 10:00 AM 11:00 AM 5:30 PM	<b>Wednesday</b> Quilters (Hand Quilting)-308B Apple Core - Zoom or 302B Quilters (Machine Work) - 304B Chancel Choir Rehearsal - Choir Room
<b>18</b> 9:00 AM 9:30 AM	<b>Sunday</b> Religious Nurture Center - 100D Adult Sunday School- Church Wide	<b>29</b> 2:00 PM	<b>Thursday</b> Grief Support Group- 302B



# Mission Lunch



## May 4, 2025

### 12 P.M. | MEREDITH HALL

Menu: Sloppy Joes

*Proceeds benefit:*  
*International Rescue Committee*



#### 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](mailto:firstlight@firstwichita.org)

Please include your name, phone number and e-mail address when submitting material.

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[www.firstwichita.org](http://www.firstwichita.org)  
330 N. Broadway • 316-267-6244  
On Broadway between  
2nd & 3rd Streets  
in downtown Wichita.



WSU HUGHES METROPLEX  
5015 E. 29TH ST. N.

## NEHEMIAH ASSEMBLY

**MAY 8, 2025**  
**6 P.M.**



On May 11 we will celebrate the achievements of our graduates and scholarship recipients, acknowledging their dedication and hard work. Let's offer our prayers and support as they embark on new journeys, carrying the values of our faith with them into the future.