

# FIRST LIGHT

JUNE 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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School Partnership Recap





BY REV. AMY LIPPOLDT

# CELEBRATING 155 YEARS!

Dear First Church,

At the end of May we are making another big transition so that the north half of our property will be ready for a new use. We are saying goodbye to the Forum Theatre and expect them to be moved out by the first week of June. For the last seven or so years the Forum Theater has occupied the largest part of building D, the gym/auditorium space. They have created high quality productions, providing space for talented Wichitans to share

their gifts with the world. I know many of you have enjoyed their shows and I'm glad we could be a home for them for this long.

With the C and D building up for sale or lease, it made the most sense for us to end our space sharing agreement at the end of May when our three-year contract with the Forum was up for renewal. Though we have been in communication with them about our real estate plans for over a year, I'm glad we were able to reach the end of the contract and not ask them to leave early. I don't know the details, but I believe they have secured another space for next season. Sign up for their emails to stay up to date on the latest!

The Building Use Task Force continues to have interesting conversations with parties who might have use of the C and D building. We don't have anything concrete to report yet and we are always ready to start a new conversation with a prospective buyer or leaser. Please keep praying that the right partner will come along to use that part of our building for the good of Wichita!

Amy



*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! Join us in worship this month for "Why Do We Do That?"*



The Heartland Men's Chorus Kansas City is kicking off their 40th anniversary in Wichita, KS, with a joyful and moving concert rooted in music that celebrates identity, love, and resilience. Experience songs of social justice, love, and the LGBTQ+ experience, performed by one of the country's most dynamic LGBTQIA+ choral ensembles!

Tickets are \$25 and available to those who can purchase and pick up in advance at the church office - cash only, online at <http://www.firstwichita.org>, on the First Church app, or admission can also be paid at the door the day of the show -cash or card. Contact the church office at (316) 267-6244 for more details.

## 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.



## OUR FAMILY

We grieve with the family of  
Dan Hoch  
in his death on  
April 17, 2025.

We grieve with the family of  
Victor Klaassen  
in his death on  
May 17, 2025.

## OUR GIFTS

### GENERAL BUDGET

APRIL 2025 INCOME  
\$78,460.66

RECEIVED YEAR-TO-DATE  
\$458,964.36

BUDGET YEAR-TO-DATE  
\$417,993.68

EXPENSES YEAR-TO-DATE  
\$341,362.09

### TELEVISION MINISTRY

APRIL 2025  
\$21,973.34

RECEIVED YEAR-TO-DATE  
\$123,905.36

BUDGET YEAR-TO-DATE  
\$136,591.04

EXPENSES YEAR-TO-DATE  
\$85,822.24



# CELEBRATING 155 YEARS OF FAITH AND SERVICE IN WICHITA!

On Sunday May 25th, members and friends of First United Methodist Church gathered in joyful celebration of the church's 155th anniversary in downtown Wichita. A legacy that began so long ago continues to thrive as a beacon of faith, community, and service.

The celebration was marked with heartfelt reflections, warm fellowship, and, of course, birthday cake. Two photos captured the spirit of the day—one featuring a beautifully decorated cake honoring the church's milestone, and another showing smiling volunteers serving slices to attendees.

This day reminds us that our story is still being written. Each person who walks through our doors, joins us online, or on KAKE TV for worship is part of that story. Over the years, First Church has carried on with its mission to be a place of hope and hospitality in the heart of the city.

As the church looks toward the future, the congregation remains committed to the values that have sustained it for over a century and a half: Here's to many more years of community and ministry in Wichita and beyond!



Photo Courtesy of David Dinell

## 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 25 years of Dedication:* **THANK YOU ERIN DAVIS!**



After 25 years of service at First Church, we celebrate and give thanks for Erin Davis. Her compassion, dedication, and quiet strength have left a lasting impact on our congregation and community. As Erin transitions into a new chapter as a marriage & family therapist, we bless her journey and trust that the same gifts she shared with us will now bring healing and hope to others.



# Ask Amy

Who was the first Member of FUMC?  
Great question, as we celebrate our 155th anniversary this year. According to an “historical sketch” written in 1923, “The first Class Leader was C.C. Fees and on the roll were Mr. and Mrs. J.P. Allen, Judge H.C. Sluss, Mrs. E.P. Watterman, Mrs. Rachel Duncan and her son Edward, and Mrs. Sturgis.” These were the eight who first gathered in the room above the stable at 3rd and main. Thousands since have called First Church home!

What is your favorite hymn to sing? Which song have you enjoyed most singing in choir?  
There are so many hymns I adore, I cannot choose an absolute favorite. An unusual one that I really love is “Of the Father’s Love Begotten.” UMH #184. It’s in a beautiful minor key and the music is from the 11th century. The hymn tune is “Divinum Mysterium” or Divine Mystery, how great is that?

As to choir anthems, again there are far too many wonderful ones to pick a #1 favorite. One we sang a few weeks ago is in my top ten, “Instrument of Grace” by Joseph Martin. It is a musical setting of Colossians 3:15-17.

If you could have any pet (real or fictional), what would it be and why?  
For this I do have a clear favorite—Dogs! Just give me a dog and I will be happy. I have loved dogs since I was a little bitty kid and have a hard time imaging my home without one. I’ve had two dogs as an adult, both lab-mixes of 60-70lbs, both rescues, both perfect. Our current canine companion is Ma-bel (pictured below), who is almost 7 years old. She has a little bit of stranger danger so I haven’t ever brought her to

Thanks for the questions, keep them coming! <https://forms.gle/mQ9utcYfoT3KbA8x6>



## PRAYER REQUESTS

Email [prayer@firstwichita.org](mailto:prayer@firstwichita.org) with prayer requests. Email [pastoralcare@firstwichita.org](mailto:pastoralcare@firstwichita.org) to ask for a visit, call or private prayer from the Congregational Care Team:  
Rev. Amy Lippoldt,  
Pastor Jeff Graber, David Brant.

# JUNE 2025



**1**  
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 & 6th-12th SS - 206B, 301B  
Nursery - 204B  
Morning Worship - Sanctuary  
The Gathering/Small Talk - 103B  
TV Volunteer Meeting - 101B

**4**  
9:00 AM  
10:00 AM  
11:00 AM

**Wednesday**  
Quilters (Hand Quilting)-308B  
Apple Core - Zoom or 302B  
Quilters (Machine Work) - 304B

**5**  
2:00 PM

**Thursday**  
Grief Support Group - 302B

**8**  
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 SS- 206B, 301B  
Nursery - 200C  
Morning Worship - Sanctuary  
The Gathering/Small Talk - 103B

**11**  
9:00 AM  
10:00 AM  
11:00 AM  
5:30 PM

**Wednesday**  
Quilters (Hand Quilting)-308B  
Apple Core - Zoom or 302B  
Quilters (Machine Work) - 304B  
Chancel Choir - Choir Room

**12**  
9:30 AM  
2:00 PM

**Thursday**  
Bible Discussion Group - 101B  
Grief Support Group - 302B

**15**  
9:00 AM  
9:30 AM  
9:30 AM  
9:30 AM  
11:00 AM  
12:15 PM  
12:15 PM

**Sunday**  
Religious Nurture Center - 100D  
Adult Sunday School- Church Wide  
K-5th & 6-12th SS - 206B, 301B  
Nursery - 200C  
Morning Worship - Sanctuary  
Family Ministry Council - 302B  
The Gathering/Small Talk - 103B

**18**  
9:00 AM  
10:00 AM  
11:00 AM

**Wednesday**  
Quilters at First (Hand Quilting)-308B  
Apple Core - Zoom or 302B  
Quilters at First (Machine Work) - 304B

**19**  
2:00 PM

**Thursday**  
Grief Support Group - 302B

**22**  
9:00 AM  
9:30 AM  
9:30 AM  
9:30 AM  
11:00 AM  
12:15 PM  
2:00 PM

**Sunday**  
Religious Nurture Center Ministry - 100D  
Adult Sunday School- Church Wide  
K-5th & 6-12th Sunday School - 206B, 301B  
Nursery - 200C  
Morning Worship - Sanctuary  
The Gathering/Small Talk - 103B  
Heartland Men’s Chorus - Sanctuary

**24**  
6:30 PM

**Tuesday**  
Stephen Ministry Supervision - 302B

**25**  
9:00 AM  
10:00 AM  
11:00 AM  
5:30 PM

**Wednesday**  
Quilters at First (Hand Quilting)-308B  
Apple Core - Zoom or 302B  
Quilters at First (Machine Work) - 304B  
Chancel Choir Rehearsal - Choir Room

**26**  
9:30 AM  
9:30 AM  
2:00 PM

**Thursday**  
Bible Discussion Group - 101B  
Stephen Ministry Leadership - 302B  
Grief Support Group - 302B

**29**  
9:00 AM  
9:30 AM  
9:30 AM  
9:30 AM  
11:00 AM  
12:15 PM  
12:15 PM

**Sunday**  
Religious Nurture Center Ministry - 100D  
Double Ring Sunday School - 106B, Zoom  
K-5th & 6-12th Sunday School - 206B, 301B  
Nursery - 200C  
Sunday Morning Worship - Sanctuary  
Leadership Board - 101B  
The Gathering/Small Talk - 103B



**Donna Munguya**

Student Therapist  
Marriage & Family Therapy  
Friends University

## Counseling & Mental Health Care services of all kinds available at no charge

*In partnership with Friends University  
Marriage & Family Therapy Program*

**To schedule an appointment**

316-202-8479

[donnam@firstwichita.org](mailto:donnam@firstwichita.org)

### 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.

## Celebrating a Year of School Partnership!

This school year, our School Partnership Ministry made a meaningful difference in the lives of students and staff at Irving and Washington Elementary. We supported teachers during their transition from Park to Irving, provided meals during report weeks and conferences, and met practical needs with school supplies and 129 winter coats.

Our holiday outreach included Thanksgiving treat bags for staff and 361 Christmas gifts for Irving's Santa's Workshop—wrapped and delivered with love by 17 volunteers. We also supplied 400 perfect attendance rewards and capped off the year by serving a hotdog lunch to 90 preschoolers during their field day.

Hopefully, this recap of the ways that we have helped serve over 1,000 students and staff at Irving and Washington will encourage you to continue to support the School Partnership Ministry as we work to meet the needs of our downtown neighborhood children and their families.

