

**First Reading: Acts 8:26-40**

Then an angel of the Lord said to Philip, "Get up and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza." (This is a wilderness road.) So he got up and went. Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of the Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire treasury. He had come to Jerusalem to worship and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. Then the Spirit said to Philip, "Go over to this chariot and join it." So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, "Do you understand what you are reading?" He replied, "How can I, unless someone guides me?" And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. Now the passage of the scripture that he was reading was this: "Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter, and like a lamb silent before its shearer, so he does not open his mouth. In his humiliation justice was denied him. Who can describe his generation? For his life is taken away from the earth." The eunuch asked Philip, "About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?" Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. As they were going along the road, they came to some water; and the eunuch said, "Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptized?" He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he was passing through the region, he proclaimed the good news to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

**Second Reading: 1 John 4:7-21**

Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us. By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Savior of the world. God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. So we have known and believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them. Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness on the day of judgment, because as he is, so are we in this world. There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear; for fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not reached perfection in love. We love because he first loved us. Those who say, "I love God," and hate their brothers or sisters, are liars; for those who do not love a brother or sister whom they have seen, cannot love God whom they have not seen. The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also.

## Calendar

### Sunday, April 29

- 8:30 Worship (Chapel)
- 9:15 Coffee Fellowship (*The Well*)
- 9:30 Sunday School & Luccock Class (C109)
- 9:30 Journeys Class (WDR)
- 10:15 Choir Rehearsal (Choir Room)
- 10:30 Worship (Sanctuary)

### Tuesday, May 1

- 1:00 Staff Meeting (Hobbs)
- 5:30 All commissions meeting
- 6:00 Deacons

### Wednesday, May 2

- 9:00 Dorcas Circle (C105)
- 6:00 Faith in Films (*The Well*)

### Thursday, May 3

- 8:30 Sr. Men's Breakfast (WDR)
- 5:00 Mission Meeting (Hobbs)

### Friday, May 4

- 12:00 Lectionary Bible Study (WDR)
- 7:00 Kell First Friday (Phil Michel)

### Saturday, May 5

- 8:00 Community Breakfast (EDR)
- 8:00 Guadalupe Clinic (EDR)
- 11:00 Brent's Bible Study (Hobbs)

### Sunday, May 6

- 8:30 Worship (Chapel)
- 9:15 Coffee Fellowship (*The Well*)
- 9:30 Sunday School(C109)
- 9:30 Journeys Class (WDR)
- 10:15 Choir Rehearsal (Choir Room)
- 10:30 Worship (Sanctuary)
- 12:00 Camp Counselor Training (*The Well*)

### JOURNEYS CLASS – West Dining Room- 9:30 Sunday mornings

Join us as we continue on our journey of asking questions to grow in our faith, develop and advance our spirituality. Each Sunday we look deeply into doctrines of the Church in the light of 21<sup>st</sup> century knowledge and experience. We seek to understand who we are and what we are to be within this grand experiment we call life. Facilitated by Pat

### Please welcome the new employee

Personnel committee recently contracted with LSI employment services. As a result, you will notice a new face in the main office. Amanda Burk has joined us through LSI as a temp employee with an option to become a regular employee of the church. She is working as our administrative assistant/publications person.

Assurance of Pardon

You have already been cleansed by the word that God has spoken to you. In baptism God claimed you and joined you to Christ, as branches to a vine. Believe the promise given to you: in Jesus Christ, you are forgiven. **Amen.**

\*Song of Thanksgiving

Gloria Patri

No. 579

\*The Peace

Leader: Since God has forgiven us in Christ, let us forgive one another. The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

**People: And also with you.**

\*\*Time with the Children

First Reading

Acts 8:26-40

Anthem

*Amazing Love, How Can it Be!*

Mary McDonald

*And can it be that I should gain an interest in the Savior's blood?*

*Died He for me; who caused His pain? For me, who Him to death pursued?*

*Chorus: Amazing love! How can it be that Thou, my god, should die for me?*

*Amazing grace. Chorus. Amazing love!*

Second Reading

1<sup>st</sup> John 4:7-21

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

Sermon "Interpreting Scripture Through the Lens of Christ and the Rule of Love"

The Rev. Dr. Brent O. Johnston

\*Affirmation of Faith

adapted from 1<sup>st</sup> John 4:16-17, 19-21

God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them.

Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness on the day of Judgment. . . .

**We love because he first loved us. Those who say, "I love God," and hate their brothers or sisters, are liars; for those who do not love a brother or sister whom they have seen, cannot love God whom they have not seen. The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also.**

Call to Stewardship

Offertory

*I Then Shall Live*  
(based on the *Finlandia* melody)

arr. Lari Goss

Justin Petersen, tenor

*I then shall live as one who's been forgiven; I'll walk with joy to know my debts are paid. I know my name is clear before my Father; I am his child, and I am not afraid. So greatly pardoned, I'll forgive my brother; The law of love I gladly will obey. I then shall live as one who's learned compassion; I've been so loved that I'll risk loving, too. I know how fear builds walls instead of bridges; I'll dare to see another's point of view. And when relationships demand commitment, Then I'll be there to care and follow through. Your Kingdom come around and through and in me; Your power and glory, let them shine through me; Your Hallowed Name, O may I bear with honor, And may Your living Kingdom come in me. The bread of life, O may I share with honor, And may You feed a hungry world through me. Amen.*

\*Doxology

No. 592

\*Prayer of Dedication

\*Hymn

*Song of Hope*

No. 432

\*Charge and Benediction

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

\*\*Recessional

\*Postlude

\*signifies congregation standing (for those able)

\*\*denotes 10:45 service

**Worship Leaders**

Senior Pastor

Brent O. Johnston

Director of Music

Steve Bixler

Organist

Mark Sweeney

Liturgist

Taylor Gill-8:30

Jane Rhoads-10:45

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## Activities & Announcements

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### Yellow Bag Project

The Mission Commission is asking that future donations that would have gone for food in the yellow bag project now be redirected to helping our eighteen refugee families (87 individuals). They are always especially in need of detergent for clothes and dishes, toilet and facial tissue, shampoo, toothpaste, bar and hand soap. Your continuing support of the "new" yellow bag project is a tremendous blessing to those who are trying to survive on very limited income.

### Faith in Films Presents: *Guardians of the Galaxy Vol. 2*

May 2, 9, & 16 from 6-7:30 p.m. in *The Well*

Join Pastor Brent & Geri Doll for movie viewing and discussion. Bring your own dinner. Snacks will be available. Movie is rated PG13.

There will be choir, recreation, and other fun activities for the children

All ages are welcome!

### Reservations needed for PW brunch May 9

Ladies wanting to attend the Wednesday, May 9 brunch and lesson, 9:30 a.m., West Dining Room, should make a reservation with [knechtmary@hotmail.com](mailto:knechtmary@hotmail.com) or 942-8068 by noon on Friday, May 4. The \$6.00 cost for food will be collected at the door. Rev. Dawn Flippin, pastor of the Kingman church, will present the final lesson from Hebrews.

### As we celebrate our grads!

The congregation is invited to celebrate the graduation of Christopher Gales, Zach Blessant, Khyah Van Es, Sailor Sulier, and Samantha Gales Saturday, May 19 1:00 4:00 p.m. *The Well*

### Cookies for *The Well*

I hope you all have been enjoying the delicious cookies and treats in *The Well* each Sunday during the Coffee Hour. You may wonder where these great treats come from! We have a group of about 15 people who bring treats on a rotating schedule. Some people have needed to retire from their cookie baking and some have moved. So, we are in need of additional individuals to bring cookies for *The Well*. You can bake or you can buy treats! You would be asked to bring treats once every six weeks or so. We ask you to bring 3 dozen cookies or treats or some loaves of sweet bread. I send out a schedule as well as reminders. If you would be available to assist in this ministry of welcoming, please let me know ([pattycole21@gmail.com](mailto:pattycole21@gmail.com) or 316-250-4577) and I would be happy to schedule you in the next rotation. Patty Cole

# First Presbyterian Church Wichita, Kansas



April 29, 2018  
8:30 & 10:45 a.m.

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April 29, 2018

5th Sunday of Easter

8:30 & 10:45 a.m.

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Prelude *Festive Prelude* James Pethel

\*\*Processional Brandon Bowles & Meryt Ediger

Greetings

\*Call to Worship adapted from 1<sup>st</sup> John 4:7-8

Leader: Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God;

**People: everyone who loves is born of God and knows God.**

Leader: Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love.

God's love was revealed among us in this way:

**People: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him.**

Leader: Let us worship God.

\*Prayer of the Day

We behold your glory, O God, in the love shown by your Son, lifted up on the cross and exalted on high. Be glorified anew in the love we have for one another as disciples of the risen Lord Jesus, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen.

\*Hymn *Love Divine, All Loves Excelling* No. 376

Call to Confession

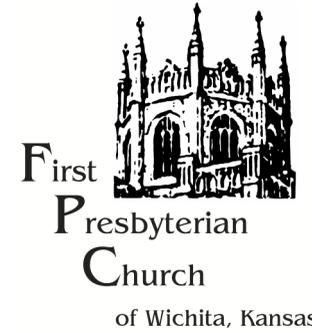
Trusting in the mercy of God, let us confess to God and to one another our failure to love our neighbor.

Prayer of Confession

**God of mercy, we confess that we have not borne the fruit of the Spirit. We have not loved others as you have loved us. We have denied the promises of baptism and cut ourselves off from you. Forgive us, restore us, that we may abide in your love and live out your mercy, for the sake of Jesus Christ, in whose name we pray. Amen.**

Silence

Choral Response



### Welcome, Visitors!

We extend a special welcome to those who are visiting First Presbyterian Church this morning. We are glad you are here!

**Large print bulletins and hymnals are available from an usher. Transistor hearing aids are also available for your use.** Please ask any usher for one and feel free to sit wherever you wish in the Sanctuary while using one.

All persons are encouraged to sign the Ritual of Friendship Pads as they are passed to you in the pews. Please include your address, email address, and telephone number. **Please remember to turn off your cell phone before worship this morning.**

**Children's Information:** God put the wiggle in children; don't feel you have to suppress those wiggles in God's house. Children are welcome in worship. We offer children's busy bags located just outside the Sanctuary doors. But if you feel that your child is having a difficult time sitting through church, you are welcome to worship in *The Well*. We ask that you please be respectful of others who might be worshipping in *The Well*. We also have a nursery located at the south end of the Case Building with trained staff to engage and attend children 0-5 years of age. Remember that the way we welcome children in the church directly affects the way they respond to the church, God, and to one another. Let them know they are at home in this house of Worship. \*On EPIC Sundays the Nursery is closed. (Liz Norris—Director of Children's Ministry)

**A quick reminder:** Under the Child Protection Policy, children are not allowed to leave the sanctuary without an adult escort. Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

**Praying for the Church Family**—As a congregation we weekly focus our personal and corporate prayers upon a selection of church members and friends. Let us remember in prayer this week the following: Julia Feagan and family, Steven Harper, Sigmond Jacob, Roger Klocke, and Pat Mah. Please pray for these members that we are aware of that are in the hospital or have been in the hospital, St. Joseph-Don Hutchison & Medical Lodge-Richard Coldwater.

**Sympathy**— Please pray for Robin Gales and her family as they mourn the death of Robin's father.

**Flowers**—The flowers for our services this morning are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Malcolm Greene by Joyce Greene and family.

**If you need a Stephen Minister**, or would like more information about the Stephen Ministry, please contact Dr. Brent Johnston at 263-0248 or Louise Farmer at lfarmer4164@gmail.com.