Community Back-to-School Bash

Saturday, August 10, 2019
10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.
FPC - Dining Rooms

It's hard to believe that the 4th of July is already over. But the good news is...

SCHOOL SUPPLIES ARE NOW ON SALE!

On August 10th, we will provide a school supply ‘store’ for refugee families who need help getting ready for the school year, along with a casual lunch and special activities. Your help is needed—we can't do this without you! **We need supplies and volunteers!**

**School supplies needed:**

- Wide Ruled Notebook Paper (150-200 sheets) 1000
- CRAYOLA (only) 24 count Crayons 120
- Elmer’s Glue Sticks 700
- Erasers 500
- Rulers 350
- 2-Pocket Folders (plain covers) 575
- Colored Pencils 325

August 10th will be here before you know it. So, plan now to participate in the fun! You can sign up to volunteer, bring in supply items listed above or make a monetary donation toward the many school supplies and backpacks that will be needed.

- Make **checks** payable to: First Presbyterian Church (memo: Refugee School Supplies)
- Drop off **supply donations** in the bin in the hall across from the office by August 4th
- To **volunteer**, please contact Patrice Cummings at pcummings066@gmail.com or 316-841-6553.

“OUR LIVES BEGIN TO END THE DAY WE BECOME SILENT ABOUT THINGS THAT MATTER.”

Martin Luther King
Let Us Focus Our Prayers on These Members:
From Brent’s Desk

Update on our Session with Dr. Joyce McEwen Crane—Our KLC Coach:
Last month, on June 20, we met with Dr. Joyce McEwen Crane of the Kansas Leadership Center with extensive background in organization transformation and coaching for 90 minutes with the identified leaders of our church, elders, deacons, and staff. Approximately 25 were in attendance. Dr. Crane asked those gathered what their expectations were of her and the process. She also asked them how they would diagnose the situation at First Church. What keeps us from growing? Hearing many diagnoses of the present situation, she asked those gathered what the vision of the Church was? To which everyone there said is lacking. Dr. Crane then informed us that unless we have a higher purpose to sign off on, we will not be able to manage the loss. One participant summed it best by saying, “I know that I will have to let go of some things for the sake of a higher purpose but unless I know what the higher purpose is, I do not know if the pain of change is worth it.” This is why we need a consultant like Dr. Crane to help us discern a higher purpose to navigate the loss in realizing God’s vision for First Presbyterian Church. Our next meeting with Dr. Crane is scheduled for July 25th at 5:30 p.m. in the Well.

Sermon Series on the Politics of Power: The Rise and Fall of David:
The sermon series on the “Politics of Power: The Rise and Fall of David” is coming to end on July 28. I want to thank Alice Price and Daryl Ott for preparing a wonderful brunch as we discuss the biblical text and the text of my sermon. Truly, the sermon which began as monologue by the work of the Spirit becomes a dialogue. And before we leave, I ask, “Among the many words spoken today, where did you hear the Word? And how will you respond? For it is my aim throughout this series to see how we use and abuse power that we might pattern our life after the Lord’s Anointed who came not to be served but to serve and give his life as a ransom for many. I am not interested in helping participants think sociologically but theologically. How can we use power that we have to liberate and build up rather than tear down and destroy? I look forward to doing a different sermon series next summer with a discussion to follow in The Well.

Staycation to Write Chapter 2 of My Dissertation—July 17-21:
I will be taking a vacation to finish writing my literature review of my dissertation, “How the Theology of Karl Barth and Paul Tillich Help Interpret and Critique Dietrich Bonhoeffer’s Prison Theology.” To be honest, I do not expect to finish writing the Literature Review but hope to make progress in completing it. To date my Bibliography is approximately 150 books, which I have read approximately 120 of them. I suspect it will be around 300 books by the time it is all over. But my advisor expects me to read and write throughout this process. So hopefully my vacation will give me the time to write. I appreciate the support you have given me and covet your prayers in making the most of the time I have set aside to write.

The City Project to redirect the sewer line running underneath the Case Building can begin any day:
The contracts have been signed, the easements, permanent and temporary, have been granted. The bids have gone out and accepted. Construction has begun. The Sports Court will be dug up to replace and redirect the existing sewer line to then run along the West parking lot that buttress against the building. Parking in the South lot, Broadway street will be limited and parking in the West lot during the week will be non-existent. We will need to park in the 11 spaces allocated for us across from the 20th Century building. And other places like Envision on Sunday or metered or possibly lot across from Economy Corner that the Catholic Church owns when we have a funeral. We will let you know with weekday updates how to access the building and where to park during this time of Construction.

New Steps Out Front Thanks to Dick and Margaret Wieland:
A big thank you to Dick and Margaret Wieland for their generous gift that came from the estate of Dick’s mother. With the money we have been able to replace the deteriorating steps out front and replenish reserves for the outstanding balance to the elevator fund. It is generosity like this that enables the building and grounds to be kept up for the glory of God and for the benefit of our community. Hopefully, this gift will inspire other examples of generosity for the ministry and mission of First Presbyterian Church.

Grace and Peace,
The Freedom Festival was attended by an estimated 100 people on June 30. The festival included free swimming, live music courtesy of Brent Duncan, a children’s rodeo courtesy of Amanda Mayflower, tours by Dave and JD, freedom themed Vespers service by Pastor Brent Johnston, free swimming, a great dinner including a variety of meats smoked by Dave, a mesmerizing fire dancing performance by Tyler Duncan and Phlox Kansas, and some final fireworks by Greg Brown and family. Thanks to all the many volunteers who helped make the Festival a success, those named and those unnamed.
What is Joy?

We all want joy in our lives but somedays it seems that we just can’t find it or don’t know how to get it.  What is joy anyway?  Joy is a feeling as a result of happy circumstances; we often find joy in pleasurable experiences and when we are emotionally connected in our relationships.  But joy is deeper than just the result or by-product of happy experiences, achieving accomplishments, or even the sense of joy in serving others.  Joy is innate and is always ours.  Joy is the experience of our deepest spiritual nature and becomes a spiritual principle and practice in our lives.  We can use this spiritual principle called joy all the time, whether our circumstances are favorable as we would like them to be, or not.  If our circumstances are not what we wish, we must make our own joy and let that act upon our circumstances.  We can improve things by practicing and expressing the principle of spiritual joy.  Actions like positive thoughts, pleasant words, a smile, and having a sense of humor and laughter all are good influences to manifest spiritual joy.  To cultivate even more joy, love, or creativity, we must use joy.  We must let joy well up within ourselves and be expressed through thought, word and action in all circumstances.  But we first must realize that God is the source of our joy.  He commands us to be joyful always.  As we reflect on God’s goodness, the love that He has shown us, and the promises He gives us, our humble hearts respond with joy.  Even Paul the Apostle, in his unfortunate situation as a prisoner in Rome, finds innate joy in the knowledge and presence of God.  None of his circumstances contributed to his joy, yet he writes to his Christian friends in Philippi (Philippians 4:4-5) “Always be full of joy in the Lord; I say it again, rejoice!  Let everyone see that you are unselfish and considerate in all you do.  Remember that the Lord is coming soon.”  Paul was certainly centered on God and believed that He would always love him, never go back on His promises, and would be ever present to him.  We, too, believe that God is still working all things for good even on our hardest pain filled days.

Another way to experience joy is to choose where we focus our attention.  We can stop turning our attention inward on ourselves and our own problems, or we can turn outward instead to think about others and what we can do for them.  We can truly bring joy to others which helps with our own joy, especially as we model Christ’s love and compassion.

Expressing a grateful heart also brings joy in our lives.  Gratitude evokes feelings of gratefulness, appreciation, love, and joy, and creates a powerful state of happiness.  We are then able to notice or focus what is right in our lives instead of what’s wrong.  By exercising an attitude of gratitude, we will not only find joy but also simplicity, order, harmony and beauty.  As we practice gratitude, we notice the good things that come our way through grace, or luck or the goodness of others.

Let us give our sincere thanks to God for all our blessings and may we all choose Joy today and always!

Joan Aldrich
**Children’s Ministry News**

We encourage all of our volunteers, and Wednesday night helpers to attend the Faith, Family, and Safety training on August the 17th. Please RSVP to the office 3 days prior to the event.

**Mark your calendars:**
- Wednesday night clubs resume September the 11th at 5:30 p.m.
- September 22nd Open streets ICT
- Fall is fast approaching and there will be plenty to do to get ready for fall semester. If you have time to give, please contact Liz Norris 316-214-4318 for more information on what you can do to help us prepare for our fall kick off.

For information on upcoming events, please contact Liz Norris at (316) 214-4318.

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**Finish out the Summer with great adventures with the FPC Playgroup!!**

First Church invites all youngsters (age infant to 5.5 years old) and their parents to join in the fellowship and fun we have designed for you! Mark your calendars and meet us at the following events. Siblings are welcomed! Contact Michelle Murray-Cline for questions at 794-1195.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
<th>Time</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>August 3rd</td>
<td>Swimming at Whispering Winds Camp</td>
<td>3-5 PM</td>
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<tr>
<td>September 14th</td>
<td>Great Plains Nature Center 6232 East 29th St N</td>
<td>10 AM</td>
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**LOCK IN COMING SOON....**

Back by popular demand we are going to try to host a lock-in for 3rd-5th grade children. The date for this event is still to be determined. We will let our families know and send out information as soon as we finalize our plans.
Youth Activities for August 2019

Summer is almost over and back to school time is creeping closer and closer! In August, you will notice that we don’t have youth Sunday school classes. We still hope to see our youth at Sunday worship whenever possible! Enjoy your last little bit of time out of school and continue to enjoy the summer youth activities in August including our last Summer Splash on Sunday, August 4, from 1:30-5:30 p.m. and Youth Sunday on August 11!

August 3 (Saturday) – Community Breakfast 7:30 a.m. and Youth Council Old/New Meeting 7:30 a.m. - 5 p.m.
August 4 (Sunday) – July 28 (Sunday) - (1) worship service at 9:30 a.m. followed by working on Youth Sunday from 11-1 p.m. followed by our LAST Summer Splash 1:30-5:30 p.m. The church van leaves the church at 1:30 p.m. and returns at 5:30 p.m. (Summer Splash is for youth who have just finished 6th grade through 12th grade.)
August 6 (Tuesday) – CE Commission meeting 5:30-7 p.m. in The Well.
August 10 (Saturday) – Refugee backpack distribution 10-3. (Youth will eat lunch and leave at 1 p.m. to go to rehearsal) Youth Sunday rehearsal 1-3 p.m. in the Sanctuary.
August 11 (Youth Sunday) – Youth Sunday! Youth meet at the church by 8:30 a.m. Youth hosting coffee fellowship before and after the worship service.
August 18 (Sunday) – (1) worship service at 9:30 a.m.
August 25 (Sunday) - (1) worship service at 9:30 a.m.

Questions? E-mail Geri Doll doll@firstchurchwichita.org, call or text 316-737-8855. We are happy to give you a ride if needed.

The Presbytery of Southern Kansas Delegation to Triennium is on the road to Purdue!!!

![Image of youth group]
Economy Corner

News from the Economy Corner

Economy Corner’s June 2019 total sales were $11,005.37. This is $7.58 less than June 2018 sales. FPC’s share was $9,763.01 and Grace’s was $1142.36. We filled 128 vouchers in June for basic clothing necessities which were equivalent to $1,873.75. FPC’s portion of the vouchers equaled $1,332.15 and Grace’s was $535.10. The beginning of school is near, and families will need children’s and teen’s items for back to school during this financially stressful time. We donated $750.00 to the Mission Committee for backpacks to be distributed to the Refugee Students in August. We are blessed to have the support, donations, and volunteer help from our Congregations which assist us in meeting the needs of those we serve in our Urban Community.

Thank You!

Thank you to all those who serve the church by volunteering your time efforts and resources to assist with regular upkeep of the grounds, building, communications, and coordinating special events. You are appreciated.

Whispering Winds Camp

The pools open at 2 p.m. and close at 8 p.m. Friday through Sunday weather permitting. Cost is $4 at the gate. Come enjoy family fun all day long, bring friends, family and snacks.

Has Your Address, phone or e-mail information changed?

Please remember to inform the church office if your home address, phone number or e-mail address changes. Thanks for your help!
The Book Chat book club meets on the third Thursday of the month at 1:30 p.m. in the Reception Room at FPC. The books will be checked out from the Wichita Public Library and available at our meeting each month. The first meeting for this fall will be September 19, 2019.

SEP  Never Enough Flamingos  Janelle Diller
OCT  Sometimes I Lie  Alice Feeney
NOV  The Sun Also Rises  Ernest Hemingway
DEC  Class Mom  Laurie Gelman
JAN  Hero of the Empire: The Boer War, a Daring Escape, and the Making of Winston Churchill  Candice Millard
FEB  Born A Crime: Stories From a South African Childhood  Trevor Noah
MAR  The Boys in the Boat: Nine Americans and Daniel James Brown Their Epic Quest for Gold at the 1936 Berlin Olympics
APR  A Tree Grows in Brooklyn  Betty Smith
MAY  Where the Crawdads Sing  Delia Owens
JUN  The Coming  Daniel Black

We will also talk about Wichita’s Big Read Book this fall: Lab Girl by Hope Johren.

Everyone is welcome, even if you haven't had a chance to read the selected book! If you have questions, please contact Judy Weber at 734-8444 or Eleanor Hall at 617-9982.
FAITH, FAMILY, AND SAFETY
PROTECT WHAT MATTERS.

Saturday August 17, 2019
525 N. Broadway
8am-2pm Wichita, Ks 67214
316-263-0248

Coffee, juice, and donuts will be available at 7:30 a.m. Light lunch will also be provided. Please RSVP to FPC church office 3 days prior to the event date that you are attending.

With the recent tragedies in Pittsburgh and now more than ever, The FPC Facilities Commission is offering FREE training workshop for your place of worship. This is a highly valuable event, whether your place of worship already has a safety team or you are thinking of developing a new one, this is a workshop you cannot afford to miss. This course will provide guidelines, suggestions and reasonable best practices to follow for anyone thinking of having a safety team. The training is designed to assist in facilitating a safe and secure environment that is not only responsive and proactive, but also synergizes a strong foundation within the operational framework of your mission.

MAKE SURE YOUR FAMILY AND PLACE OF WORSHIP IS SAFE. IF YOU’RE UNPREPARED DURING A CRITICAL SITUATION. IT’S ALREADY TOO LATE.

Invite Your Friends and Neighbors to FPCI
Great things are happening at First Presbyterian Church! Encourage visitors to sign the Friendship pad when they are here for worship and follow up with them after they visit. When they visit, introduce them to the pastors, officers, ambassadors and staff so that we may follow up.

Stephen Ministers are the After People.
Stephen Ministers are there:

after the divorce,

after the funeral,

after the doctor says, “I’m sorry,”

after the baby arrives

If you have questions or need to talk, please contact Louise Farmer at lfarmer4164@gmail.com.
Friday, August 2
12:00 Lectionary Bible Study (WDR)

Saturday, August 3
7:30 Youth Council Mtg (YL)
8:00 Community Breakfast (EDR/WDR)
8:00 Guadalupe Clinic (EDR)
11:00 Brent’s Bible Study w/WRCC (Hobbs)

Sunday, August 4
Communion
9:00 Coffee Fellowship (The Well)
9:30 Youth C.R.E.W. (Sanctuary/The Well)
9:30 Worship (Sanctuary)
10:45 Refugee Worship (Parlor)
11:00 Youth Sunday Planning (YL)
1:30 Summer Splash Camp

Tuesday, August 6
10:00 Pastoral Staff Mtg (Hobbs)
11:00 Staff Mtg (Hobbs)
4:30 Camp Committee Mtg (WDR)
5:30 CE Commission Mtg (The Well)

Wednesday, August 7
9:00 Dorcas (C105)

Thursday, August 8
9:00 Economy Corner Bd Mtg (EC)
5:00 Mission Commission Mtg (Hobbs)

Friday, August 9
12:00 Lectionary Bible Study (WDR)

Saturday, August 10
8:00 Backpack Bash (EDR/WDR)
9:30 Transportation Meeting (C109)
1:00 Youth Sunday Rehearsal (YL)
2:00 Summer Splash-Young Adults (Camp)

Sunday, August 11
9:00 Coffee Fellowship (The Well)
9:30 Stephen Ministry Supervision (C103)
9:30 Worship-Youth Sunday (Sanctuary)
10:45 Refugee Worship (Parlor)
10:45 Worship & Music Comm Mtg (McComb)

Monday, August 12
4:30 Personnel Mtg (Hobbs)

Tuesday, August 13
10:00 Pastoral Staff Meeting (Hobbs)
11:00 Staff Meeting (Hobbs)
5:30 Finance Mtg (Hobbs)

Wednesday, August 14
9:00 Dorcas Circle (C105)

Thursday, August 15
11:45 Book Chat (RR)

Friday, August 16
12:00 Lectionary Bible Study (WDR)

Saturday, August 17
8:00 Safety Training (Sanctuary)
11:00 Brent’s Bible Study w/WRCC (Hobbs)

Sunday, August 18
9:00 Coffee Fellowship (The Well)
9:00 Blood Pressure Check (The Well)
9:30 Youth C.R.E.W. (Sanctuary/The Well)
9:30 Worship (Sanctuary)
9:30 Camp Whispers (The Well)
10:45 Refugee Worship (Parlor)

Tuesday, August 20
10:00 Pastoral Staff Mtg (Hobbs)
11:00 Staff Meeting (Hobbs)
5:30 Session (Parlor)

Wednesday, August 21
9:00 Dorcas (C105)

Friday, August 23
12:00 Lectionary Bible Study (WDR)

Saturday, August 24
11:00 Brent’s Bible Study w/WRCC (Hobbs)
2:00 Summer Splash-Young Adults (Camp)

Sunday, August 25
9:00 Coffee Fellowship (The Well)
9:30 Youth C.R.E.W. (Sanctuary/The Well)
9:30 Worship (Sanctuary)
10:45 Refugee Worship (Parlor)

Tuesday, August 27
10:00 Pastoral Staff Meeting (Hobbs)
11:00 Staff Meeting (Hobbs)

Wednesday, August 28
9:00 Dorcas (C105)

Friday, August 30
12:00 Lectionary Bible Study (WDR)

Saturday, August 31
11:00 Brent’s Bible Study w/WRCC (Hobbs)
NEWSLETTER DEADLINE
Bulletin and e-news submissions for September’s Presby News are due
Wednesday, July 15 at noon.

The editor reserves the right to edit submitted information for content and space availability.

Questions? Contact Michelle Edwards at publications@firstchurchwichita.org or call 263-