Inside This Issue:
- Congregational Care  Page 2
- Birthday List  Page 2
- Pastor Letter  Page 3
- Celebration  Page 4
- Parish Nurse News  Page 5
- Children's Ministry  Page 6
- Youth Activities  Page 7
- Economy Corner  Page 8
- Archives  Page 9
- Upcoming Events  Page 10
- Calendar  Page 11

Mission Statement
In response to the love and grace of God, First Presbyterian Church of Wichita, Kansas, is a fellowship of believers bound together to glorify God and to proclaim the good news of Jesus Christ through worship, spiritual nurturing, education and mission to all people.

FPC Information:
525 N. Broadway
Wichita, KS 67214
(316) 263-0248
info@firstchurchwichita.org
www.firstchurchwichita.org

Sunday Worship Schedule
Coffee Fellowship 9:00 a.m.
(The Well)
Worship 9:30 a.m.
(Sanctuary)

Community Back-to-School Bash
Saturday, August 10, 2019
10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.
FPC - Dining Rooms

The Back-to-School Backpack Bash is rapidly approaching. It's hard to believe it's been a year! Last year, your generosity provided school supplies—not only for the refugee kids who had already arrived, but for all of the new refugee students who arrived during the school year! We hope to repeat that success with enough supplies for at least 500 refugee students.

On August 10th, we will once again provide a school supply ‘store’ for refugee families who need help getting ready for the coming school year, along with a casual lunch and special activities. Before you know it, August will be here. So, plan early to participate in the fun!

We can’t do this without you!
We need supplies and volunteers!

You can sign up to volunteer or make a donation toward the many school supplies and backpacks that will be needed.

SUPPLIES: Please see the list below and leave your donations in the box by the office in July or early August. We appreciate monetary donations for school supplies as well—be sure to note the designation for the school supply drive.

School supplies needed:
- Elmer’s Glue Sticks  700
- Erasers  500
- Rulers  350
- 2-Pocket Folders (plain covers)  575
- Colored Pencils  325

Volunteers needed:
- A ‘shopping buddy’ for each family during the Bash
- Help with set-up on Friday afternoon, August 9th
- Help with clean-up on Saturday, August 10th
- Help serving lunch & with activities for the children

Transportation—we need a few volunteers who can transport families to our event. If you would like to volunteer, please contact Patrice Cummings at pcummings066@gmail.com or 316-841-6553.

Let’s create a truly wonderful back-to-school experience!
Let Us Focus Our Prayers on These Members:
Jared Kite, Carol Haltom and family, Chris & J Kubik, Seth Kite, Myrna McClure, Kyle & Lorena Kite, Jill & Eric Coldwater and family, Bill DeVore, Jack & Mary Hollowell, Judy Bogart, Katie Waddell-Ritz and family, Bob Moore, Donovan McCall, Kathy McVey, Carol Orr, Shirley Pankratz, David & Becky Deckard, Glen & Janet Shurtz, Kelly & Christina Hibarger and family, Terry McManis, David Miller and Mary & Steve Specht.

Sympathy: Sympathy to the families of Harry Alexander and Anne Watson. Please keep these families and friends in your prayers as they grieve the recent loss of their loved one.

2 Michelle Murray-Gline
3 Wade Brodin
4 John Garrison
5 Myrna McClure
6 Sierra Coldwater
7 Carissa Crittenden
8 Myrna McClure
9 Domenic Uriarte-Gascon
10 Kelly Hibarger
11 Phil Michel
12 Megan Gabrales
13 Glen Shurtz
14 Bob Moore
15 Eric Engstrom
16 Ann Gill
17 Steven Harper
18 Roger Klocke
19 Elizabeth Lang
20 Doris Liédele
21 Elt Fox
22 Brandon Jones
23 Al Staab
24 Lilly-Ann Huffman
25 Joyce Boober
26 Shatlyn Malsky
27 Georgia Boone
28 Katherine Inman
29 Francie Copeland
30 Adriana Mau
31 David Alexander
32 Warren Hellwig
33 Mary Specht
34 Stan Koehn
35 Roseann Waller
36 Janet Staab
37 Gary Boober
38 Brian Geering
39 Michelle Edwards
40 Administrative Assistant
41 publications@firstchurchwichita.org
42 Tharika Munaweera
43 Bookkeeper
44 finance@firstchurchwichita.org
45 Roy Yarbrough
46 Facilities Manager
47 facilities@firstchurchwichita.org
48 Mary Burgett
49 Economy Corner Manager
50 Phyllis Robertson
51 Economy Corner Assistant Manager
52 Dave Duncan
53 Whispering Winds Camp Manager
dbduncan@firstchurchwichita.org
54 Melinda Sears
55 Clerk of the Session
56 sj.ml.sears@att.net
Thank You to Class of 2019
A special thank you to Peggy Church, David Grisham, Mary Knecht, David Miller, and Tom Winters for your faithful service as ruling elder. And to... Gerry Winters for her faithful service as deacon. As a token of our appreciation, I gave them a book entitled, The Presbyterian Handbook. Everything you wanted to know and more about what it means to be Presbyterian. An informative and light-hearted read when you cannot sleep at night.

Van Driver Extraordinaire
I think I might have to reconsider what I do if (and when) I retire from ministry. Instead of teaching as an adjunct professor courses at the College, University, or Seminary level, I just might drive a school bus. After all, I am getting plenty of practice driving the Church Van picking up the Congolese for Wednesday nights Clubs, for VBS, and for Games Camp. It is amazing what they don’t teach you in seminary about being a pastor that is important for the life of the Church. And, yet, by being the Van Driver picking up the Congolese kids, I am learning their names and building relationships.

Officer Training, Examination, and Installation
(By the time this newsletter goes to print) we will have trained, examined, and installed elders and deacons to the Class of 2022 the weekend of June 22-23. All of this will have happened just in time for the Class of 2022’s first Session meeting scheduled for July 16, 2019.

Sermon Series on the Politics of Power: The Rise and Fall of David Kicks Off June 16
You have probably seen the promotional material in the newsletter and eblast about this summer sermon series on the “Politics of Power: The Rise and Fall of David.” I am looking forward to the discussion that will follow in the Well after the service. A brunch will be provided with a suggested donation of $5.00. This is my attempt to generate interest in Summer worship and provide adult education now that Sunday School is on hiatus during the summer.

Liturgists Needed Now That Judy Has Resigned as Parish Associate
On June 9, we celebrated Judy’s ministry as our Parish Associate. It was a sad and joyful time. Now that Judy will not be my liturgist when I preach, I am in need of liturgists from week to week. If you would like to be a liturgist, please let me know by email. My email is pastor@firstchurchwichita.org.

Coaching with Joyce McEwen Crane of KLC
I had lunch with Joyce McEwen Crane on Tuesday, June 11, to discuss what a coaching arrangement might look like to help our Session identify and engage our congregation on the adaptive challenges facing us. Dr. Crane’s bio indicates an extensive experience in the field of coaching and organizational transformation. The process questions she would like for us to address are the following:

1) What are your expectations of a coach at this time?
2) What are your expectations of yourselves?
3) What are your aspirations for the church?
4) What do you know about what is keeping you from making progress is in the way you want?
5) What choices are off the table at this time?

Answering these questions will lay the foundation for her work with us as we write a transformational grant to Kansas Leadership Center. Please be in prayer for the Spirit’s guidance throughout this process.
On Sunday, June 9, 2019, a reception was held in the Well for Judy Michel to honor her for her service to the church, and wish her well in her retirement. Below are a few pictures from the celebration. Farewell and best wishes to Judy!
Prayer is ALWAYS Good Medicine

"Don't worry about anything; instead, PRAY about everything; tell God your needs and don't forget to thank Him for His answers. If you do this, you will experience God's peace. Philippians 4; 6-7

When I read this passage, it has a profound calming effect on me, especially in times of trouble, anxiety, and illness, because I am reminded that prayer changes things; it brings about peace. Praying and spiritual meditation is a proactive approach that has many positive physical, emotional, and spiritual benefits. Researcher Dr. Harold Koenig M.D., Director of Duke’s Center for Spirituality, Theology and Health, reported in 2015 that an analysis of more than 1500 reputable medical studies "indicates people who are more religious and pray more have better mental and physical health." “Studies have shown prayer can prevent people from getting sick-and when they do get sick, prayer can help them get better.” He says that prayer and meditation may reduce blood pressure thus lowering the risk of heart disease, protects against chronic stress which improves overall immune function, and lowers the risk of depression. Praying not only helps us to cope physically with the stressors in life but spiritually connects us with the Divine. We can lift our concerns, thanksgivings, and requests to our God who promises to listen and respond. As we keep our eyes, ears, and hearts open to God's answer to our healing prayer, we can trust that God helps us to heal in the way that is best for us. We hope for good medical care but certainly can expect God's compassion, love, peace, mercy, support and power to surround and bless us in our quest for healing.

Here at FPC there are many "pray-ers" who pray daily for persons with special requests. This prayer chain consists of many members who pray boldly and confidently believing in the power of prayer through Jesus Christ. If you or your loved one would like to experience the power of prayer or you would feel called to be a daily "pray-er," please contact Pastor Brent Johnston at pastor@firstchurchwichita.org, or Joan Aldrich, Parish Nurse, at aldrich@firstchurchwichita.org. Also, please know that our "pray-ers" pray daily for our hospitalized church members. Please let the church office know if you have an upcoming scheduled hospital admission (or an out-patient procedure/surgery) or have a loved one call if there is an emergency admission so that you can be included on our prayer chain and lifted up in prayer.

Prayer is always good medicine; it draws us closer to one another and to God. Let us pray about everything and always thank Him for His answers.

Blessings,

Joan Aldrich
Thank you for all the support through camps. This year camps were a little different, but we are grateful for support of our family of faith. This year we had a lot to coordinate with our “All Ages VBS” the support for that was appreciated and we hope if you attended our camps you had a great time and will join us for future events. The children love spending time with their church family. Wednesday nights, and special events (VBS, Summer camps) offer a great opportunity to nurture our littles of the church.

The children of FPC thank you all for your love and support for our Summer camp programs.

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

PLAYGROUP COORDINATOR NEEDED!
Starting this summer, First Church will have a program for parents or caregivers with young children (0-5 years of age). This playgroup is designed to meet once a month and allow great enrichment opportunities, socialization, and involvement in the life of the church for both children and adults. FPC is looking for a parent who is interested in being a Playgroup Coordinator to facilitate the development, organization, and engagement of parents and their young children (ages 0-5) in a monthly, playgroup program. Position receives a small stipend. Contact Michelle Murray-Cline 316-794-1195 for more information.

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 June 2019

July 2 (Tuesday) – CE Commission meeting 5:30-7 p.m. in The Well.

July 4 (Thursday) – Have a safe and fun Fourth of July!

July 6 (Saturday) – Community breakfast

July 7 (Sunday) – (1) worship service at 9:30 a.m. followed by **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.)

July 13 (Saturday) – **Summer Splash for Young Adults** 2-6 p.m. at Whispering Winds Camp. (For young adults who have completed high school.)

July 14 (YOUTH Commissioning) – All Triennium trip participants should be present. Commissioning helps to build a bridge connecting the congregation to youth and adults who are going on this trip. Together we are the body of Christ! (1) worship service at 9:30 a.m. in the sanctuary followed by **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.)

July 15 (Monday) – Leave for Triennium (Meet at Covenant Presbyterian Church in the evening, ask Geri for time.)

July 20 (Saturday) – Return from Triennium (Pick up will be at Covenant Presbyterian Church, very late, around midnight.)

July 21 (Sunday) – (1) worship service at 9:30 a.m.

July 27 (Saturday) – **Summer Splash for Young Adults** 2-6 p.m. at Whispering Winds Camp. (For young adults who have completed high school.)

July 28 (Sunday) - (1) worship service at 9:30 a.m. followed by **working on Youth Sunday** from 11-1 p.m. followed by **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.)

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

May’s total sales were $10,561.35. This is an increase of $686.45 over May 2018 sales. FPC’s share was $9,292.25 and Grace’s was $1,224.11. We filled 101 vouchers in May for basic clothing necessities which were equivalent to $1,471.35. FPC’s portion of the vouchers equaled $986.10 and Grace’s was $485.25.

Just how do you transport a 3 1/2-foot stuffed panda? We hadn’t really thought about that when we got the donation. Until the rainy weather in June, when a gentleman purchased the panda and his only transportation available was his bicycle. So, a large trash bag covered the bottom portion of the toy and the owner’s coat protected the top half. After almost an hour the bear was ready and strapped down. We hoped and prayed that both the rider and the panda made it to their designation without difficulty.

We truly appreciate all your donations which allow us to assist our urban community in meeting their daily needs.

-Economy Corner Board

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**Thank You Alice Price!**

On May 7, the Deacons recognized Alice Price for her service as Condolence Reception Chairman. The following statement was read in appreciation:

The calling of a Deacon is to be the hands and feet of Christ in our community of faith. We all aspire to do that as we continue along our journey. Alice has filled, and continues to fill, many roles in our church. I can’t begin to name them all, but I want to especially recognize her this evening for 6 years of providing comfort and hospitality to grieving families through our condolence reception following each service. Deaths are not usually predictable, so that meant that very often Alice would have short notice to come up to the church and serve those who grieve. Often this included weekends, but she came and she served.

Thank you, Alice.

—Moderator, Gerry Winters

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**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!
Variation on a Celtic Cross

Artist: Karen E. Bove
Medium: Stained glass and concrete (2018)
Subject: Celtic cross using variegated blues and greens representing Ireland and Scotland; purple representing the reformation; and gold representing G-d’s love

A Brief history of the Celtic Cross (from Wikipedia): A form of Christian Cross having a ring representing the intersection of the arms and the stem. Scholars think the Celtic Cross developed in the 9th through the 12th centuries by Irish missionaries. During the Celtic Revival in the 19th century, the popularity of the Celtic Cross increased and spread to countries beyond the Celtic Isles.

As a child, sitting in the sanctuary listening to what seemed at times, long winded sermons, I would gaze at the stained-glass windows, wondering how they were made. First Presbyterian Church is blessed with many beautiful stained-glass windows. The large one on the south wall, donated by the Lawrence family, is done in the Tiffany style: “Go ye, and teach all the nations…” This one was my favorite when I was young. The rich colors seemed to have fared well through the years. The large window on the north wall, donated by the Mead family, also done in the Tiffany style, has held my interest as an adult, not only for its beauty but also for its verse: “Lo, I am with you always…” I often say that verse to myself when we’re getting ready to sing a difficult song in choir, if I find myself a new situation or just feeling sad.

One Sunday, while listening to the sermons leading up to Heritage Sunday, I was trying to make up my mind about an upcoming art class I was planning to take at the Derby Recreation Center, “Garden Stepping Stones.” I had taken the class the year before and made a stepping stone with stained glass cardinals sitting among the pink blossoms on a dogwood tree. If I say so myself, it turned out pretty well. Especially for a newbie. My brother and sister-in-law made a fairy garden with that stone as its centerpiece. Anyway, I was trying to decide between a humming bird or a dragonfly or perhaps a sunflower with ladybugs, when suddenly the idea of making a Celtic Cross came into my mind. And that idea would not leave me alone. For a couple of days, all I could think about were Celtic crosses. Even in my dreams, there were Celtic Crosses.

After an extensive internet search, I settled on the pattern by Judy Kiesel (2005). The pattern is available on Pinterest. Then, I went to Rayer’s Bearden Stained Glass Studio off of West Kellogg to search for glass in the colors I wanted. I also sought their advice on cutting curves, not easy with glass. Because the glass is set in concrete, I needed opaque glass, not the usual see-through glass one associates with stained glass. I knew exactly what style of colors to look for because my dreams were so vivid. I was looking for a variegated color scheme in blues and greens.

Looking at the sky in the north window, one sees bright and light blues and greens. At the top of the arch, one sees the colors of the reformation: purples, gold, reds and greens, representing St. James’s plaid. Funny, I never really noticed that before these particular sermons. I knew I had to incorporate those colors into my “stepping stone” because that is what my thoughts told me to do. Note: the term stepping stone is really a misnomer. It’s not really supposed to be stepped upon. I also knew, that there was only one place for this stone to dwell and that was in the Shirley Tilford Memorial Garden. While not perfect, it was made with love and freely donated to the church to use as it would seem fit. With the help of Gary Huffman, I think the perfect place has been found; at the back, and under the tree.

Many thanks to the Gary Huffman for his help with my project and for risking his life taking pictures of the stained-glass windows in the dome, and to Mark Durfee and Laine Pike of the Derby (KS) Recreation Center for their class and help.
FAITH, FAMILY, AND SAFETY

PROTECT WHAT MATTERS.

Saturday July 27, 2019 First Presbyterian Church
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.

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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.
Tuesday, July 2
4:30 Camp Committee Mtg (WDR)
5:30 CE Commission Mtg (The Well)
5:30 Facilities/Stewardship Mtg. (WDR)
6:00 Deacons Meeting (C109)

Wednesday, July 3
9:00 Dorcas (C105)

Thursday, July 4
Closed for Independence Day

Friday, July 5
12:00 Lectionary Bible Study (WDR)

Saturday, July 6
8:00 Community Breakfast (EDR/WDR)
8:00 Guadalupe Clinic (EDR)
11:00 Brent's Bible Study w/WRCC (Hobbs)

Sunday, July 7
Communion
9:00 Coffee Fellowship (The Well)
9:30 Youth C.R.E.W. (Sanctuary/The Well)
9:30 Worship (Sanctuary)
10:30 The Conversation Continues (The Well)
10:45 Refugee Worship (Parlor)
1:30 Summer Splash Camp

Monday, July 8
4:30 Personnel Meeting (Hobbs)

Tuesday, July 9
10:00 Pastoral Staff Mtg (Hobbs)
11:00 Staff Mtg (Hobbs)
5:30 Finance Meeting (Hobbs)

Wednesday, July 10
9:00 Dorcas (C105)

Thursday, July 11
5:00 Mission Commission Mtg (Hobbs)

Friday, July 12
12:00 Lectionary Bible Study (WDR)

Saturday, July 13
9:30 Transportation Meeting (C109)
11:00 Brent's Bible Study w/WRCC (Hobbs)
2:00 Summer Splash Young Adults (Camp)

Sunday, July 14
9:00 Coffee Fellowship (The Well)
9:30 Stephen Ministry Supervision (C103)
9:30 Youth C.R.E.W. (Sanctuary/The Well)
9:30 Worship (Sanctuary)
10:30 The Conversation Continues (The Well)
10:45 Refugee Worship (Parlor)
11:45 Worship & Music Comm Mtg (McComb)
2:00 Summer Splash (Camp)

Tuesday, July 16
9:00 Dorcas Circle (C105)
10:00 Pastoral Staff Meeting (Hobbs)
11:00 Staff Meeting (Hobbs)
5:30 Session (Parlor)

Wednesday, July 17
11:45 Book Chat (RR)

Thursday, July 18
12:00 Lectionary Bible Study (WDR)

Friday, July 19
11:00 Brent's Bible Study w/WRCC (Hobbs)

Saturday, July 20
11:00 Brent's Bible Study w/WRCC (Hobbs)

Sunday, July 21
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, July 23
10:00 Pastoral Staff Mtg (Hobbs)
11:00 Staff Meeting (Hobbs)

Wednesday, July 24
9:00 Dorcas (C105)

Friday, July 26
12:00 Lectionary Bible Study (WDR)

Saturday, July 27
8:00 Safety Training (Sanctuary)

Sunday, July 28
9:00 Coffee Fellowship (The Well)
9:30 Youth C.R.E.W. (Sanctuary/The Well)
9:30 Worship (Sanctuary)
10:30 The Conversation Continues (The Well)
10:45 Refugee Worship (Parlor)
1:30 Summer Splash (Camp)

Tuesday, July 30
10:00 Pastoral Staff Meeting (Hobbs)
11:00 Staff Meeting (Hobbs)

Wednesday, July 31
9:00 Dorcas (C105)
Happy 4th of July!

The office will be closed on July 4th in honor of the holiday.