First Presbyterian Church
“God is Still at Work and So Are We”
Thursday, September 17, 2020
Sunday, September 20, 2020 – 10:30 a.m. – Live Stream
16th Sunday after Pentecost

Prelude: 
"Beach Spring"  
Wilbur Held

Hymns:  
“O Worship the King, All Glorious Above!” (vs. 1, 2, 4)  No. 476
“God Whose Giving Knows No Ending” (vs. 1, 2, 3)  No. 422

First Reading:  
Jonah 3:10-4:11
Second Reading:  
Matthew 20:1-16

Anthem:  
“I Will Give Thanks”  
Joseph Martin

Sermon:  
“God’s Graciousness: Overturns Our Sense of Fairness”  
Rev. Dr. Brent O. Johnston

Offertory:  
“Close Every Door”  
Andrew Lloyd Webber
(from Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat)
Asher Isaac, Bass

Postlude:  
“Fantasia”  
Johann Pachelbel

ANNOUNCEMENTS & REMINDERS

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: Kayeli Rekoske and family, E. Rogene Glenn, Ken Gabrielson, Richard Forwalder, and Gerald & Jolynn Blood.

CHURCH ACCESS & SESSION MOTIONS APPROVED
• September 20, 2020 through May 2021, there will only be one Worship service. It will begin at 10:30 a.m.
• The church will re-open for in person Worship services on October 4, 2020 with the following protocols/requirements: face masks required, maintain social distancing, only one entrance (to the building) will be open, temperatures of all participants will be taken, the collection plates will NOT be passed but instead will be placed at the doors, and there will be no congregational singing during services.
• The church is open for meetings of 15 or fewer participants. Requirements for the meetings: face masks are required in the building, practice social distancing and no shared food. In addition, due to the cleaning/sanitizing that will be necessary after a meeting, meetings must be scheduled through the office at least 2 days in advance of desired date/time.
• Members key cards are only active from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and for scheduled meetings. This will also allow the custodians to clean and disinfect all areas used prior to the next scheduled meeting.
ECONOMY CORNER HOURS!!
The Economy Corner is open for **regular purchases, donation drop-offs and vouchers.** Hours are Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday afternoons from 1 - 4:30 p.m. and Saturdays from 11 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

“Walking with Jesus on Sunday Afternoons”
On Sunday afternoons from 4 - 5:30 p.m. children of all ages and their families are invited to join us at Whispering Winds Camp for “Walking with Jesus on Sunday Afternoons”. This is an opportunity for children and families to gather in a safe environment and grow in their faith. If you plan to attend, please call Liz at 316-214-4318 or contact me via email at Norris@firstchurchwichita.org.

YOUTH CLUB TO BEGIN SEPTEMBER 16th
The Youth Club will begin meeting on Wednesdays from 6-8:00 p.m. in the Youth Lounge starting on September 16th. Masks and safety precautions will be followed as required. Call Geri Doll at 737-8855 for additional information or questions.

CROP WALK 2020 INFORMATION
Our youth are participating in the Crop Walk on October 4, 2020. If you would like to support them with a donation, please send a check payable to CWS (Church World Service) to the FPC office. Due to COVID19 restrictions, the youth are not able to collect donations in person. Thank you for your support!

Sunday Kids Connection-Kids Connection is prerecorded as part of the live stream worship service at 9:30 a.m. on Sundays. We hope to move to in person activities soon. We continue to monitor the health situation and will follow local guidelines to insure the health and well-being of all our family members. If you have questions on how to join or find the group, please call Liz at 316-214-4318 or contact me via email at Norris@firstchurchwichita.org.

Please join us in October as we start a new round of JOURNEYS CLASSES!
First, I am saddened to announce that Pat Welker has suffered an unfortunate fall and will not be able to lead the Journeys class in the first semester as originally planned. Her class on *Holy Envy* by Barbara Brown Taylor has been postponed until further notice.

**Journeys Class will begin on Sunday, October 4 at 9:00 via Zoom.** Please note the change in time. Here is our initial line up:

- **October 4-November 1** - **Canoeing the Mountains: Christian Leadership in Uncharted Territory**
  Jeff Van Sickle will lead this session on Tod Bolsinger’s book excellent 2015 book. In it, he outlines a strategy for addressing the issues facing our church as well as other mainline denominations. Bolsinger compares our current situation to the expedition of Lewis and Clark. These explorers, expecting to find a waterway to the Pacific Ocean, instead encountered the Rocky Mountains. That was a real game changer! Canoes wouldn’t work. They had to find other ways to complete their journey. But they persevered, continued their mission of discovery, and completed the treacherous journey over the mountains to the ocean. We, too, need to embrace that spirit of discovery. **Books are available at no cost in the church office.** Come join us as we all learn how to canoe the mountains!

- **November 8-29** - **Trouble I’ve Seen: Changing the Way the Church Views Racism** by Drew I.G. Hart
  Called “A savvy and balanced blend of topics that should serve as a useful introduction for Christians of all races,” Hart covers subjects that will make us all more attuned to what it means to be black in a white-dominated world. Hart is a theologian, blogger, and activist. His blog is hosted by *Christian Century,* and he speaks regularly at churches, universities, and seminaries. **Books are available at your favorite bookstore.**
FALL SMALL GROUP STUDIES TO BEGIN IN SEPTEMBER-JOIN US AS WE CANOE THE MOUNTAINS!
As we pass through our 150th year, First Presbyterian Church can be proud of its rich history. And our church continues to provide its ministry through strong worship and numerous mission projects such as the Economy Corner, the backpack project, and the community breakfast. But our church, like so many mainline churches, faces challenges. Christians are becoming a minority. Many people do not claim, and do not want, church membership. Our downtown neighborhood is changing. Our congregation is getting smaller. To thrive and survive, what will our church do? An excellent book, Canoeing the Mountains: Christian Leadership in Uncharted Territory by Presbyterian pastor Tod Bolsinger, outlines a strategy for addressing these issues. Several small study groups are being organized this fall to read and discuss this book. Please consider joining us! Out of courtesy to the leaders, please call or email the leader of the group that you would like to attend. You may also call the church office at 263-0248 and leave a message. Many of these will be virtual meetings via Zoom. The groups are as follows:

• Sundays- Oct. 4-25 from 9:00-10:00 a.m. Led by Jeff Van Sickle via Zoom. Contact jtvansickle@hotmail.com or ph. 680-0344. **NOTE THIS CHANGE FROM MONDAY NIGHTS**
• Tuesdays-Sept. 29-Nov. 3rd from 2-3:00 p.m. Led by Alice Price at 807 N. Nims. Contact amariep7819@att.net or ph. 841-7942.
• Wednesdays-Oct.7-28th from 10:30-11:30 a.m. Led by Cynthia Berner via Zoom. Contact ictbooks@gmail.com or ph. 641-7587.
• Wednesdays-Oct. 7-Nov. 4th from 6:30-7:30 p.m. Led by Brent Johnston in The Well & Zoom. Contact pastor@firstchurchwichita.org or ph. 263-0248.
• Thursdays-Oct. 1-29th from 6:30-7:30 p.m. Led by Melinda Sears via Zoom. Contact sj.ml.sears@att.net or ph. 993-2763.
• Thursdays-Oct. 8-29th from 7-8:00 p.m. Led by Stephanie Hutchison via Zoom. Contact stevie.bird2@gmail.com or ph. 409-4529.

LEADERSHIP CLASSES OFFERED AT KANSAS LEADERSHIP CENTER
Background-As we pass through our 150th year, First Presbyterian Church can be proud of its rich history. Our church continues to provide its ministry through strong worship and numerous mission projects such as Economy Corner, the backpack project, and the community breakfast. But we, like so many mainline churches, face challenges. Many people, while claiming to be spiritual, have no interest in church membership. Christians are becoming a minority. Our downtown neighborhood is changing. Our congregation is getting smaller. **To thrive and survive, what will our church members do?**

Take a Leadership Class!
Through arrangement with the Kansas Leadership Center, we invite you to enroll in an excellent class called Your Leadership Edge. **These classes will outline the skills needed as the church faces the challenges and opportunities for the future.**

Here is what you do to enroll in a class:

• First, you will need a code: Contact Cynthia Berner, Chair of the Core Transformation Team, at ictbooks@gmail.com, 641-7587. You may also call the church office at 263-0248.
• Then, go to the KLC website kansasleadershipcenter.org and follow the instructions. You will need the code number, as noted above. Future classes are scheduled for October 7-8 and November 11-12.
• Finally, pick up your books in the church office. These are Your Leadership Edge: Lead Anytime, Anywhere and a spiral-bound notebook “KLC Guidebook.” There is no charge for these.

Please consider joining us for these very informative classes!
CAMP NEWS!!
Good News!!!! We have decided to allow limited use of the Camp. Buildings are closed, trails are open but limited. We are also offering 50-amp camper hookups (limited). These are limited to small groups, family groups, day use, picnics and over nights. Please contact Dave for availability and limits of use. We can only hope and pray that COVID19 will subside so we can get back in the business of camp life. Please call Dave to set up your visit at (316) 371-1050. Please Note Buildings are closed until future notice.

COVID-19 Fund- A COVID-19 Fund has been set up to help those who are financially impacted by this pandemic. You may help by sending your monetary contributions to the church office. Please indicate that your donation is to be used for the COVID-19 Fund. Priority will be given to members and Staff of First Presbyterian Church and members. If you need help, please call Pastor Brent or Joan Aldrich with your concerns. Please note that if you are purchasing supplies to donate for our Pandemic Pantry and need to be reimbursed, keep your receipts, and send them to Nancy Bishop. She will issue a check to reimburse you for the supplies provided. Thank you for your help in reaching out in these difficult times.

DILLON'S COMMUNITY REWARDS-Did you know that by participating in the Dillon's Community Rewards program, you can help fund the programs at Whispering Winds Camp? It is easy to participate. At the bottom of your receipt from Dillon's, it should say “First Presbyterian Church.” If not, please enroll on-line at www.dillons.com and identify Organization BF935. Once you are enrolled, you will not need to enroll again. Thank you for your support!!!

OFFICE HOURS
The church office will be open Monday through Thursday from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Both Nancy Bishop, Bookkeeper and Michelle Edwards, Administrative Assistant will be in the office from 9 to 1 until further notice. Thank you.

CALENDAR

Sunday, September 20
10:30 Worship-Live Stream and Facebook Live (Sanctuary)
10:45 Refugee Worship (Whispering Winds Camp)
3:00 Fellowship Group (Whispering Winds Camp)
4:00 “Walking with Jesus on Sundays” – Children & Families (Whispering Winds Camp)

Tuesday, September 22
10:00 Pastoral Staff Mtg (The Well/MS Teams)
11:00 Staff Mtg (The Well/MS Teams)

Wednesday, September 23
9:00 Dorcas (C105)
6:00 Youth Club (Youth Lounge)

Sunday, September 27
10:30 Worship-Live Stream and Facebook Live (Sanctuary)
10:45 Refugee Worship (Whispering Winds Camp)
4:00 “Walking with Jesus on Sundays”- Children & Families (Whispering Winds Camp)

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