

Volume 26, Issue #9
October, 2022

The Connexion



Our Fall 2022 Stewardship
Campaign theme is:



Sunday, October 2nd, our lay leader Ron Wood will speak in the service and throughout the month of October we will share letters from different members about why they give to this congregation.

We will also be kicking things off with the fish fry at 6pm that night and Pastor Christopher will share some "fish stories" from the Bible throughout our series as well.

Psalm 50:14 will be our focus verse for the stewardship campaign:

**"Sacrifice thank offerings to God,
fulfill your vows to the Most High."**

As members of the United Methodist Church we pledge our prayers, presence, gifts, witness and service. Be in prayer about who God is calling you to share your faith and invitation with, this month and throughout the year!

**On the Christian Journey...
with Pastor Christopher**

One of my foundational approaches to ministry is "Find Your Path... Share Your Journey!" That motto is on my business cards and helps remind me that each of us is on our own personal journey of faith. We are necessarily in different places - intellectually, emotionally, physically, and spiritually - and our paths are not intended to be identical. As Jesus says to Peter in John 21, when asked about another disciple: "What is it to you?... follow me." We are uniquely called and gifted AND we are called to journey together. Christianity is done communally. Jesus called fishermen and tax collectors together. Even the great monastics living in solitude had support networks that made their monasteries and hermitages possible, and they, in turn, guided the church community with writings, practices and shared insight.

Paul's analogy in 1 Corinthians is correct. We truly are the body of Christ together. One of the things I have been thinking about as we enter this new season with a change in weather, an uptick in activity, and the various holidays of fall, is how we work together as a body. Eyes, ears, feet, hands, heart - each of us have different tasks and calls. One way that plays out is our giving.

We ask a lot of our congregation - it seems every week there is some new great thing we are fundraising or asking for donations for. Sometimes it's an emergency for friends here in Fort Scott, sometimes it's ongoing work like our support of the Beacon, maybe it's helping UMCOR respond to the latest disaster, and, of course, each week we take an offering for the work of First UMC. It's a lot - and each of us can and will be moved by different appeals. Few, if any of us, can give to everything - but we can all do something. In this season of appeals - from the church and beyond - I encourage you to spend time in prayer about how, when and where you are called to generously share your time, talents and treasure and then do so joyfully in the places and ways you are led. I hope that will include regular giving to the First UMC budget and a few of our shared ministries - and I hope it will include giving beyond the church as well - but mostly I hope you will see God's abundance in your life and have joyful clarity on how you are called to share it with others. Peace be with you!



**Shepherd's Center /
Adventures in Learning starts
Friday, October 14, 11:30am to 3pm.**

**October 14, 2022
Registration**

More info at
www.firstumcfsks.org/shepherdscenteroffortscott

Name: First _____

Last _____

Email: _____

Phone: _____

Street Address : _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Will you want a lunch from Marsha's Deli? Yes!

No, I will not need a lunch

Which afternoon session do you plan to attend?

_____ Larry Shead - Technology Talk – Keeping in Touch

_____ Ronda Hassig – “The Greatest Test of Courage”

_____ *To Be Determined*

Do you have any questions or comments for us? Submit them here!

Using funds from our Healthy Congregations grants, First UMC is partnering with the national network of Shepherd's Centers to provide educational and social opportunities that bring older adults together. You are encouraged to invite friends to be a part of this event!

This first session will be free of charge and includes lunch from Marsha's Deli. Use the form to the left to register or share it with friends. Copies are fine or you can use the web site and register there.

Our keynote speaker will be Patty LaRoche presenting a talk entitled “Aged to Perfection.” The small group sessions led by Larry Shead on technology and Ronda Hassig on her book “The Greatest Test of Courage” will happen in the afternoon. (*Cathy Werling from the Lowen Milken Center has had to bow out due to a family situation but will join us at a future event and we are working on a 3rd group for this session*).

Shepherd's Centers counteract the negative effects of loneliness and isolation by connecting older adults to empowering programs that foster friendships.” Our signature Adventures in Learning program supports personal growth and discovery with courses, cultural enrichment workshops, hobby and recreational opportunities. Subjects cover a wide range of topics: computer and technology, finance, literature, music and art appreciation, world religion, “how-to,” politics, current events, historical events and figures, foreign languages, hobbies, and so much more. Most class instructors are retired older adults, with a number of special interests presented by community experts.

In 2023 we plan on having several more with the goal of forming a steering committee and making it a regular and recurring event hosted here at First UMC to serve our community and help people become engaged with our congregation.

FAITH BUILDERS IN OCTOBER:

We will do the multimedia study, "You Were Made for this Moment," by Max Lucado. In this study of the Book of Esther, we once again meet Esther, Mordacai, Xerxes, and Haman, and discuss how this story from long ago involves correcting an injustice, and reveals that God will call us at times to step forward in faith and act.

We invite you to join us for this experience. Come add your voice and your perspectives to our discussion. We will appreciate some new voices and some new ideas. This would be a good time to begin a Sunday School program. Please come share in our fellowship and discussion. We would appreciate some new voices and some new perspectives. Please come join us in fellowship and discussion.

~Ron Wood



MATTHEW STUDY
The "new Sunday School Class," which meets in the Library in the Educational wing continues to work through the Gospel of Matthew each week. There are chairs available for anyone who would like to join us!

~Tom Braker

Trunk or Treat – Plan to Decorate your car, van, or truck and hand out treats with us 5:30-7pm on Monday, October 31st. If you're not up to that, you are also welcome to donate candy for others to give out – last year about 250 kids came by.



Parent's Day Out Volunteers needed!

We've got a good group but the more the merrier. At our Trunk or Treat event we are going to invite those who attend to visit us again by hosting a "Parents Day Out" event on Saturday, Nov 12th. This act of service will help busy parents and let us get to know a few families better. We will form small groups of not more than 4-6 kids per adult and we must have at least 2 Safe Gatherings certified volunteer staff overseeing activities at all times. Talk to Pastor Christopher if you'd like to be added to the list. Thanks!



Please Save Icing Tubs for HOCROC craft at the November Parent's Day Out event

Contact Pat Hartford with questions about these. You can drop them off at the church office 9am to Noon Mon-Thursday or on Sundays.

Save Best Choice Labels for UMW Contact Jackie Warren with questions – you can leave them in the glass jars by each entrance. Thank you!



Great Fun Was Had.... at the UMC Ice Cream Social and the Pioneer Harvest Parade – thanks to everyone who made these events possible!



October Birthdays: 7-Linda Leachner, 9-Jaeston Grant, 10-Missy Davis, 11-Hannah Tourtillott, 12-Janet Fancher, 13-Patty Smilie, Charles Hoffmeyer, 13-Tim Heiser 14-Amanda Widder, Carlyle Dunshee, 15-Nicholas Davis, Doug Altic, 16-Theron Fancher, 19-Dru Nichols, 24-Minnie Lou Allen, 26-Gloria Shankel, Kaylie Dinneen, 28-Camrie Hunziker,



October Anniversary: 18-Dave and Debra Wood



More information about Advance Numbers

Put UMCOR and an Advance Number on the memo line to direct your giving!



UMCOR is perhaps the best thing we do as United Methodists. Together our little creates a lot. UMCOR works with local partners around the world and is often among the first in and the last out – committed to providing immediate response through trained Disaster Response coordinators and Early Response Teams in each UMC Conference **Hollie Tapley** (pictured right) serves in that role for the Great Plains Annual Conference we are a part of.

US Disaster Relief #901670 This would include Hurricane Ian in Florida and the east coast, recently flooding in Kentucky and Alaska, last year’s tornado in Andover, KS (pictured above), etc. in the United States. You can add that number to specify your gifts are used domestically.

International Disaster Relief is #982450.



This includes natural and humanitarian disasters overseas. Some current examples are drought in East Africa, flooding in the Philippines; food and shelter for those fleeing battles in Ukraine – and now UMCOR is providing assistance with landmine detection there as many refugees return home.



Members of the Great Plains Conference early response team clear flood damaged items from a home in North Loup, NE in 2019.

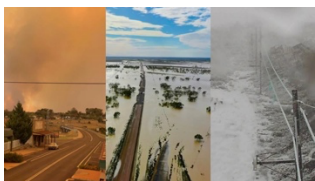
Some specific incidents/regions also still have their own advance number, for example **Puerto Rico’s** recovery from Hurricane Maria 5 years ago and Fiona just last week is Advance #00352A.

OR if you want to specify your giving go to “**the greatest need**” as decided by UMCOR staff, you can list Advance #999895.

You can also designate ongoing projects under the UMC Global Ministries umbrella such as assistance with migration/refugee projects #3022144 or Global Health initiatives #3021770.



Rev. Herbert Coe of St. Daniels UMC, Delaware and a homeowner in Puerto Rico celebrate repairs after Hurricane Maria in 2017



Finally – you can confidently share with friends that **100% of gifts given to disaster relief goes to disaster relief!** UMCOR’s administrative costs are funded by the denomination as part of our apportionment process and by special giving on **UMCOR Sunday** (held on the 4th Sunday in Lent) each year. It is one of six annual special giving Sundays on the UMC Calendar.

Contact Pastor Christopher for more information if you have a specific area the Spirit is leading you to direct giving towards. Thank you for helping the United Methodist Church make a real, immediate, and ongoing difference for our neighbors near and far.

You can give through the church or online at UMCOR.org.

CHARGE CONFERENCE

Sunday, October 23rd at 6pm we will host the Charge Conference for the Three Rivers Network (*which is most of the UMCs in Bourbon, Allen, and Linn counties*). Charge Conference is an annual business meeting mandated by the Discipline. Our Administrative Council has already done the work to prepare, so the meeting itself is largely a formality, but we will share worship with folks from other churches and certify reports to the conference, set Pastor's salary, and adopt the lay leadership slate for the coming year.



We would like some cookies donated and folks to host the hospitality table before, during and after the meeting. Talk to Pastor Christopher if you're willing to help host.

The list below does not limit the ideas we can have and the things we can do, but the official goals which the Administrative Board approved for next year to be listed on Charge Conference Form 1 - Vision and Goals include:

Replace demolished sign with new, perhaps digital, signboard using the insurance settlement, memorials, and any needed fundraising. Trustees is gathering bids and information now.

If approved by congregational vote currently underway: Complete mural project on front exterior facing National.

Continue the Appalachian Service Project, joint VBS with First Presbyterian and other engagements beyond the local congregation.

Build on the [about to be] launched Shepherd's Center and grow to a successful quarterly or seasonal program. Continue to identify Healthy Congregations projects and qualify for renewed grant into 2023.

Complete labyrinth build and find a way to add permanent signage (*cooperative project with 1st Presbyterian*)

Engage with the Kansas Methodist Foundation to improve our planned giving and endowment programs / related – begin making plans for HVAC replacement needs (units are all 20-40 years old).

And we will continue to work to grow our congregational engagement with and service to the Fort Scott mission field.

In the next Newsletter, we'll share the names of those serving in lay leadership on our various committees. Pastor Christopher and the Nominations team are thankful for the any people who have said yes, including several new faces. This service strengthens our church and our witness.

UPDATE ON COORDINATOR:

One thing that is not listed above but is still an ongoing project is our effort to hire a new 15 hour a week "Church and Community Engagement Coordinator." Pastor Christopher is continuing to talk with Saint Paul School of Theology and their incoming students about this possibility. We might open the search wider at some point, but Pastor is presently convinced that the right person ought to be someone pursuing ordination, likely as a Deacon, who will have the Wesleyan theological training and a good support network for the kind of tasks and difficult community building this position will entail. The right person might enroll in the spring semester, but it will likely be next fall until a suitable candidate is available. In the meantime, we'll keep it in the budget but benefit from not spending those funds.

FORT SCOTT COMMUNITY FOUNDATION GRANTS RECEIVED

Our Feeding Families in His Name ministry was awarded a \$2500 grant from the Fort Scott Community Foundation. We are most appreciative of this community support for a vital service.

Pastor Christopher is also working with Jerry Witt of the Riverfront Park Board to help enact a grant they received from FSCF to expand the walking path there with a couple simple 3-circuit labyrinths, which will expand awareness of that practice and help introduce people to the more complex design we are building with the Presbyterians on the former Whiteside grocery lot.



Fort Scott Area
Community Foundation

**The Beacon Challenge Runs Through
Sunday October 9th**
(final count due noon Monday, October 10th)

This year the Presbyterians are in the lead and we have a lot of ground to make up! Through September 25th, they had food or cash donations totaling 1735.20 items. We had only raised 1050 items!

Our hold on the “Coveted Can Count Award” is tenuous and we need to rally!



Bring your non-perishable food, personal hygiene, or monetary donation to the church on Sunday mornings or during office hours Mon-Thursday 9am to Noon (other times by appointment). And of course, the real winner is the Beacon and our neighbors in need. Thank you for your generosity!

Then join us Sunday, October 16th for a celebration potluck to be held at First Presbyterian after worship and see if Seth Needham or Pastor Christopher accepts the winner’s trophy (or winds up washing the dishes ☺).

First United Methodist Church
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Fort Scott, KS 66701-1397

Return Service Requested

*Here is your October 2022
Newsletter from:*



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YouTube, Instagram