

Volume 28, Issue #3  
**March 2024**

# The Connexion



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

**Knowing, Growing, Serving, Sharing**

Please consider joining me at the annual Healthy Congregations retreat. This year we are meeting in Salina on Thursday and Friday, April 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup>. The organization pays for hotel rooms for us, we just have to cover the travel. It's a great way to learn about opportunities for grants, other congregation's ministry ideas, conference advocacy efforts for community health and to do some self-care. Attendance, especially by laity, helps us stay current as registered members of the Healthy Congregations initiative which provides our congregation with \$1000 grant each year. This grant has thus far underwritten the

development of the Labyrinth and launched our Shepherd's Center program.

I hope you will be a part of this retreat and enable us to create the next great idea to improve the social, mental, physical and spiritual health of First UMC and our Fort Scott mission



field. Let me know you are interested today!

## **FEEDING FAMILIES IN HIS NAME**

received a \$4000 grant provided by the Elks! One of their members, Cathy Bishop, took it upon herself to apply on behalf of FFiHN and the Beacon to an Elks program and surprised us with this blessing! Thank you, Cathy, and everyone who supports Feeding Families in His Name!



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## **ONE A PENNY OR TWO A PENNY, HOT CROSS BUNS!**



A new / old tradition! On Palm Sunday, March 24<sup>th</sup>, Kristin and several helpers she has recruited will be offering fresh baked Hot Cross Buns. They will be for sale in packs and proceeds this year will go to our HVAC fund!

A Hot Cross bun is a spiced bun usually made with a fruit and marked with a cross on the top, traditionally eaten on Good Friday around the world, especially in places the United Kingdom once ruled. Different traditions exist around the symbolism, but the buns evoke Christ's cross and the burial spices, but also the end of the Lenten season and anticipation of Easter and resurrection.



**ALL DAY SEW – Saturday, March 2<sup>nd</sup> from 9-4 in Fellowship Hall.** open to anybody, people bring handwork, machine work. They will have baked potatoes and fixings for lunch and attendees are encouraged to bring snacks to share. In Fellowship Hall – contact Nancy Swanwick for more

information (620) 224-0478. You can also get information about the Tuesday morning sewing group and the First Thursday stitchers who meet here at the church!



**DEDICATE EASTER LILLIES:** As we celebrate the Resurrection it is a great time to remember our great cloud of witnesses and honor our loved ones. If you'd like to dedicate one of our silk Easter Lillies, please fill out one of the forms found near the entrances or call the church office to be added to the list.

Donations are **not** required, but any received towards lillie dedication will be split between our HVAC fund to repair and upgrade our heating and air units and our Good Sam Fund to be a blessing to those in need in the community.

**BEACON SUNDAYS – “MARCH MADNESS” EVENT**



We do a great job of supporting the Beacon year-round, with a special emphasis on our challenge with 1<sup>st</sup> Presbyterian in September/October each year, and recently being a part of back-to-back wins with the Bishop's "Big Game" Sunday "Sacking Hunger" challenges. March is one of our 2 assigned months locally for the Beacon where they rely on us to make a big push and so in the coming

weeks, we will feature a "March Madness" theme with these head to head challenges to help spark our giving. Make a note of each challenge, watch for designated collection spots and add the following to your shopping lists!

*Sunday, March 10<sup>th</sup> – **Breakfast vs Dinner** – bring items to reflect your favorite meal of the day!*

*Sunday, March 17<sup>th</sup> – **Fruits vs Vegetables** – which is First UMC's favorite canned good?*

*Sunday, March 24<sup>th</sup> – **Canned Meat vs. Cereal** – which do you make sure you always have stocked?*

*Sunday, March 31<sup>st</sup> - **Soup or Spaghetti?** What's cooking at your place? (any canned "heat and serve meal" or pasta counts!)*

And last, but not least - Sunday, April 7<sup>th</sup> – **Jayhawks, Wildcats or Other** (*Pastor says: "Go Shocks!"*). As "March Madness" comes to a close on the basketball courts, we hope our favorite team(s) will still be playing, we will vote with food donations to see which school(s) are our favorite. Wear your favorite team's jersey and bring a donation to cast your vote!

**Upcoming  
KMDO Radio  
Schedule:**



A recording of our services will run every other week at 1pm on 103.9 (or occasionally 98.3 if there's a Chiefs or Royals game conflict).

Our upcoming dates are:

- Mar. 10<sup>th</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup>
- Apr. 7<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup>
- May 5<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup>
- June 2<sup>nd</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup>, and 30<sup>th</sup>
- July 14<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup>
- August 11<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup>
- September 8<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup>
- October 6<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>
- November 3<sup>rd</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup>
- December 1<sup>st</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup>  
& 29<sup>th</sup>

**Tell a Friend!**



**A REMINDER – DON'T GIVE SCAMMERS A GIFT.** ne'er-do-wells continue to impersonate area pastors - sending texts and emails asking for "discreet" gift cards for an emergency. These are scams. Gift cards should never be used as a form of payment and all giving should go through the church. Always doublecheck that info is from a real and legitimate phone or email as well.





# United Women in Faith

## United Women in Faith - Winter 2024

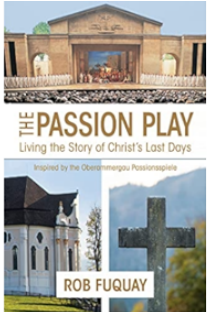
Friday, March 15, our group will host a baked potato feed from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. Baked potatoes with various toppings, along with homemade pie, will be on the menu. Everyone is invited and Free will donations are appreciated for



this fundraiser. Our group has also invited the group's "Big Sister", Donna Grigsby.

Near the coffee shop table area, UWFaith has set up an information table.

Please stop by and enjoy learning a bit about UWFaith. All women of the church and community are invited to come to United Women in Faith meetings and there will be a schedule of the dates and times on the information table.



### FAITH BUILDERS IN MARCH!

In March, we will continue our Lenten study of "The Passion Play" by Rob Fuquay. This is the passion play that has been performed for over 400 years in the small Bavarian village of Oberammergau. Topics include "The Role of Ritual," "Living the Story", "Telling a Better Story," and "The Power of the Cross." Lessons from this oft-repeated story are still timely and meaningful today. Come join us and make this a kickoff to your Sunday worship.

*~Ron Wood, Faith Builders Class leader*

### WOMEN'S WEDNESDAY READING GROUP

Our groups next book Richard Osman's The Thursday Murder Club, a humorous novel about residents in a retirement home who like to solve murders. Women of the Church and community are encouraged to get a copy and join us Wednesday's at 1:30pm for discussion and fellowship. The Devil's Half Acre by Kristen Green will follow.

*Submitted by Dorothy Kivett*



**MARCH BIRTHDAYS:** Ryan Hunziker- 7, Curtis Shankel- 10, Morgan Regan- 14, Chris Allen- 15, Christa Chaplain-Vaughn- 17, Amber Hunziker- 17, Jill Fritter- 18, Noah Wolf- 20, Shannon Fletcher- 20, Don Tucker- 22, Charlotte Swaim -23, Steve Denton- 25, Chuck Russell- 25, Pat Galan- 26, Janet Braun- 28, Susan Foster- 28, Ron Sharp-29, Charlie Springer-29, Lisa Ward- 30

**MARCH ANNIVERSARIES:** Christopher and Robin Eshelman- 7, Steve and Stephanie Denton- 9, Doug and Tracy Altic- 13, Perry and Peggy Bloesser- 27

*Barbara Gibson says:*  
"Thank you everyone all so much for the lovely cards. Your thoughts and your prayers are greatly appreciated."

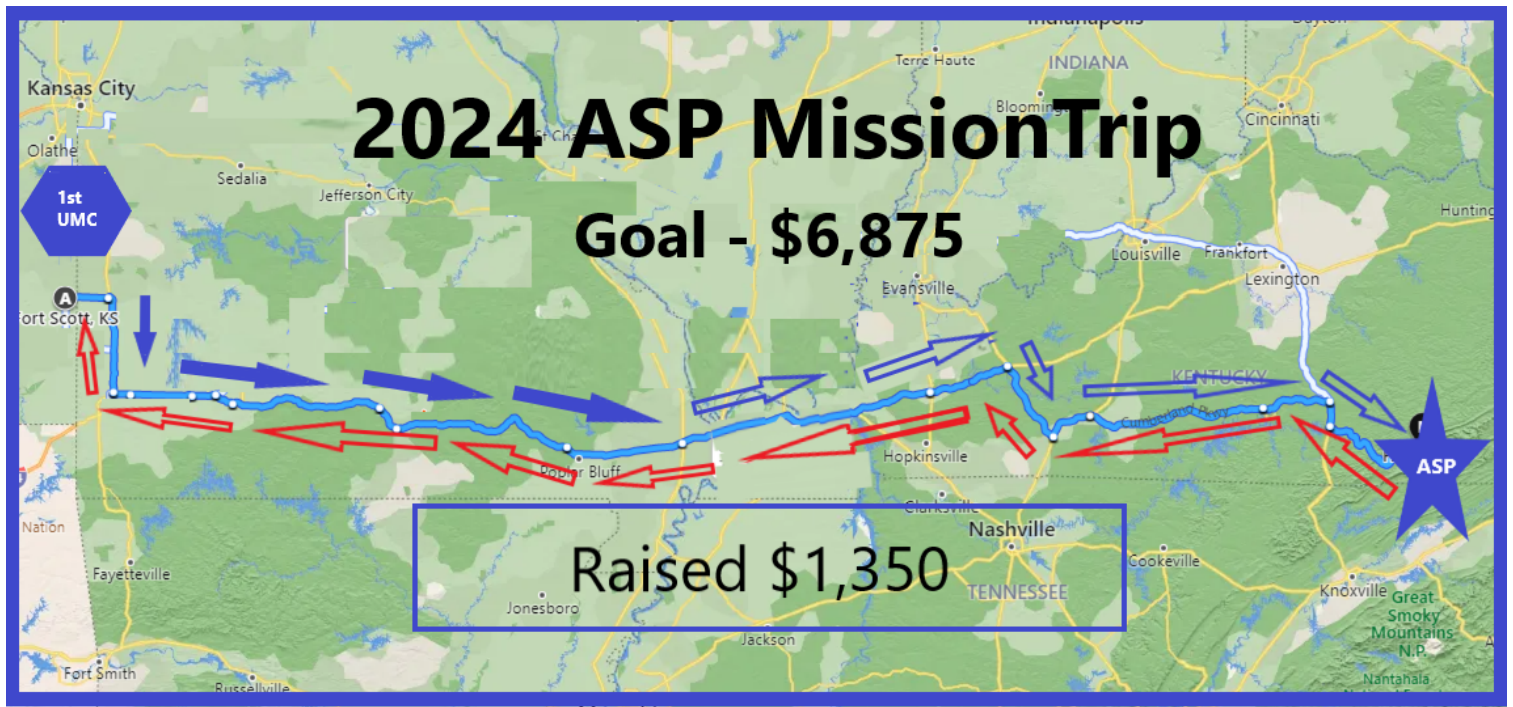
*Thank you!*

### FAITH'S JOURNEY RETURNS! Saturday, March 23rd



Join us Saturday before Holy Week for another great evening of Absolute Country, Definitely Gospel with Faith's Journey! Branson's 2021 Gospel Show and Group of the Year will be here for another freewill offering show!

If you were here last year you'll want to hear them again, and if you missed it here is your chance to see them! Invite your friends and neighbors!



Thank you for your generosity. We are off to a great start covering the costs for our 21<sup>st</sup> trip to support the Appalachian Service Project! We anticipate 13 people making the trip this year! ~Tom Braker and Doug Altie

**HOLY WEEK SERVICES 7pm: Maundy Thursday, March 28<sup>th</sup> and Good Friday, March 29<sup>th</sup>**

First United Methodist Church  
 301 S National  
 Fort Scott, KS 66701-1397

Return Service Requested

Here is your MARCH 2024  
 Newsletter from:



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