



Volume 26, Issue #10

November, 2022

The Connexion



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

2022 continues to fly by! We are less than a month away from Thanksgiving Day and less than two months from Christmas Day. This year will be fairly unusual in that both Christmas Day and New Year's Day 2023 will fall on Sundays. We will have services at 10:30am on both of those Sundays and I hope, as I do every Sunday, that what we do here will help connect you more deeply to Christ and our neighbors in love.

The gift of hope has arrived.



Our Advent services will draw on dual themes – proclaiming that “The Gift of Hope Has Arrived” to our community and challenging us to “Reflect the Sacred” so that others will know that truth! We will journey with the magi, letting our lives and our paths be transformed by Christ birth. It is about searching for, recognizing, and responding to God’s presence - not just in the special times but at all times; encountering the sacred in others, and through our words and actions, helping others see that light as well. I’m looking forward to the series – yet I am not rushing into it.



First, we have the sacred events of November to center ourselves in. On the 6th we will celebrate All Saints Sunday and focus on remembering and celebrating those who helped shape our path and have gone before us. It can be a



bittersweet day and an important day, giving us space, collectively, to grieve and to celebrate “our great cloud of witnesses.” On the 13th we will focus on how that remembrance helps shape us now with a theme of “A Time to Live.” We who remain in this life, whatever stage of life we are at, have a call to live! We’ll consider a message from Ecclesiastes (although perhaps a different reading than you’d expect) and a hear anew a challenge from Jesus as recorded in Matthew 25. Then on the 20th we will celebrate Thanksgiving Sunday and recognize the transition in our Christian calendar. November 20th is the last Sunday of the Christian Year – after that we enter into Advent, which is the first season of our liturgical year. I like that it is slightly offset from both our calendar year and the natural seasons. This helps me to focus on meaning, on response, and on being intentional about living out my Christian life. We will talk more about our calendars and how we orient and organize our lives in the weeks to come. I am glad to be walking this journey with you.

**Hosting Kiwanis Chili Feed
Thursday, Nov, 10th**



The Kiwanis Club of Fort Scott Pioneers will hold their 34th annual Chili Feed on Thursday, November 10 as a drive through under the portico. A meal of the Pioneers’ signature chili with crackers and a homemade cinnamon roll will be served from 11:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. and 4:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. for a free will donation (suggested minimum \$7.00 donation per meal) to be collected at the door. Deliveries will be available for orders of ten or more by calling 620-224-0563 during serving hours. Please take care not to block private driveways as you are waiting in line for service.

November Committee Meetings

Mon. Nov. 7 – SPRC – 7m – Parlor

Tue. Nov. 8 – Trustees – 7pm - Parlor

Wed. Nov 9 – HOCROC - 7pm - Parlor

Wed. Nov 16 – Memorials 6pm - Parlor
-Administrative Board 7pm – Parlor

2023 Lay Leadership Report

Focusing on positions required by our Discipline, here are some highlights from the 2023 Lay Leadership report that was voted on by Administrative Board and affirmed at our Charge Conference on October 23. We are thankful for each person who has agreed to help lead and do the work needed to sustain and guide our congregation. If you have questions or input about various aspects of our congregational life together, here are some folks you can share your input with.

Lay Leader and Lay Member to Annual Conference: Jan Hedges.

Administrative Board Chair: Mike Carnes.

Staff Parish Relations Committee Chair: Susan Carnes. *SPRC Members:* Dee Ann Davis, Lisa Ward, Kristin Bishop, Gayla Croan, Ken Anderson, Randy Nichols, Becky Tourtillott.

Finance Chair: Ron Woods, *Finance Members:* Carol Majors, Lisa Ward, Will Bishop, *Treasurer:* Marlene Braker, *Counters:* Charlene Sipe, Debra Wood (assisted as needed by Jackie Warren and Linda Leachner).

Memorials Treasurer Linda Hessong, *Memorials Members:* Karen Nichols, Leslie Reynolds, Patty Smilie, Sheryl Bloomfield, Barbara Gibson, Charlene Sipe. *Endowments:* Zach Reynolds.

Trustees: Robert Wilson, Ron Sharp, Jim Covey, Mike Leachner, Carol Majors, Bonnie Milburn and Mathew Morris. *Nominations:* Leslie Reynolds, Virginia Myers and Tom Braker.

In future newsletters we'll share more about what each committee does, as well as some of the other standing committees and ministries of our congregation that help us to know, grow in, serve, and share Christ!

Shepherd's Center / Adventures in Learning Report



shepherd'scenter

OF FORT SCOTT

October 14th was a great day. Our first session had 32 participants attend, with 6 who registered not ultimately able to make it. It was a wonderful start to building a local resource to combat loneliness and social isolation while encouraging lifelong learning among senior adults.

We are very thankful to our presenters, Patty LaRoche, Larry Shead, and Ronda Hassig as well as Megan Felt and Karen Weltering from the Lowen Milken Center who supported the program.

Our next event is March 10, 2023 and we'll be applying what we learned from the first one to make it even better publicized and attended!

New Bishop Starts January 1, 2023

In the United Methodist Church, Bishops are selected from among the ordained Elders to be consecrated to a special role of leadership. They are the executive officers of each of our Conferences, which organize the connectional mission and ministry of United Methodist congregations in a geographic area.

We here at First UMC are part of the Great Plains Conference, which, in turn, is part of the South-Central Jurisdiction. This past week, 3 new Bishops were elected for our Jurisdiction and one of them, Rev. Dr. David Wilson, was appointed to be the new Bishop of the Great Plains, with our current Bishop, Rueben Saenze, being appointed to Central and North Texas.



A member of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma, Bishop Wilson is the first Native American ever elected Bishop in the UMC. He has served as a pastor and in a variety of conference roles for the Oklahoma Conference and Oklahoma Indian

Mission Conference. David is a 1990 graduate of Oklahoma City University, with a B.A. in Mass Communications. He received his Masters of Divinity from Phillips Theological Seminary in Tulsa, Oklahoma in 1994. He was the first clergy person from OIMC to graduate from Phillips Theological Seminary. He was named the Phillips Distinguished Alumni for 2007. He received honorary doctorates of Humane Letters from Bacone College in 2009 and in 2012, he received the Excellence in Teaching Award for Adjunct Faculty at OCU. We welcome Bishop Wilson!

An Idea for Advent

A graphic for a Reverse Advent Calendar. The title "REVERSE ADVENT CALENDAR" is at the top in large, bold letters, with "REVERSE" in black and "ADVENT CALENDAR" in red. Below the title, it says "EACH DAY ADD AN ITEM TO A BOX. ON CHRISTMAS EVE DONATE THE CONTENTS TO A FOOD BANK." A list of 24 items follows, each corresponding to a day in December. The items include various food items like cereal, peanut butter, stuffing mix, potatoes, macaroni and cheese, canned fruit, tomatoes, tuna, dessert mix, applesauce, sweet potatoes, cranberry sauce, beans, crackers, rice, oatmeal, pasta, spaghetti sauce, chicken noodle soup, tomato soup, corn, mixed vegetables, carrots, and green beans. The graphic also features a small image of a gift box with a sprig of greenery and the website "PASSIONATEPENNYPINCHER.COM" at the bottom.

Looking for a way to get in the Christmas Spirit that's different from your usual? A member shared the idea of a "Reverse Advent Calendar" with Pastor Christopher recently. Each day of December, you gather a different item for donation to the Beacon or a similar program.

See the list on this page, try it this year and see how it works for you! You might challenge friends and family to do this as well and then plan phone calls or zoom contacts to share what you've found and contributed each day as we journey towards Christmas!

Beacon Angel Tree

We don't have any specific details yet but we will again be participating in the Beacon's Angel Tree program to support local families. We will share further information as soon as it becomes available.

Christmas Parade Float

We've had so much fun in the last two parades that we are doing another. The Fort Scott Christmas Parade will be Thursday, December 1st at 6pm. The theme is "It's a Gingerbread Christmas in the Fort." We plan to decorate to the theme and we'll have red pinwheels to hand out to the kids (*because the Spirit is moving at First UMC.*)

Mark your calendars and plan to join in the fun riding or walking along. More info on when we will decorate will be in future bulletins.

November Birthdays: 1- Dale Smilie, 2-Cricket Jenkinson, Pam Brown, 3-Sheryl Bloomfield, 4-Joan Hembree, Billy Webster, 5-Dean West, Debbie Stevens, 6-Travis Majors, Trevor Majors, 7-Kalee Ballou, 8-Jane Williams, 9-Cindy Foxx, 10-Susan Carnes, Chris Comstock, 11-Danette Popp, 12-Hilary Berry Grant, Patricia Magee, 13-Donnie Stapleton, 14-Karley Stark, 15-Debra Wood, 20-Christopher Brown, De Covey, 21- Joe Tourtillott, Ty Post, 22-Hayden Blair, Bryan Davis, 24-Lindsay Majors, Gary Brown, 25-Richard Magee, Hannah Hughes, Jennifer Carnes, 28-Scott Stoughton, 30-Kelley Sprague



November Anniversary: 19-Austin and Sylvia Stapleton

Thank You for the cards and prayers – Dorothy Kivett

Steak Dinner Fundraiser

for Mary, Queen of Angels Fire Fund.

Saturday, November 12, 6:30 pm - 8:00 pm at the ELKS LODGE 111 W. 19th St in Fort Scott.

\$30.00 per meal for Filet, Baked Potato, Green Beans, Roll, Dessert. *Dine in or Carry-out*

Tickets may be purchased from the Mary, Queen of Angels Parish Office (620) 223-4340 or Cathy Bishop (620) 224-8289.

Kansas Methodist

Foundation Webinar: Putting Your House in Order.

10am Tuesday, November 8th. For Christians, end of life planning is an act of stewardship. Join Dustin Petz and Tyler Curtis from the Foundation as they share the kinds of decisions you need to think through, the documents you need to have in place, and other considerations to ensure your house is in order regardless of your age and stage of life. Register today at <https://bit.ly/3hz4V9q> to receive the Zoom li



We had 175 Trunk or Treaters visit this year! Thanks to all who contributed.

Get Involved in a Small Group! Here are some options:

Book Discussion Group meets 1pm on Wednesdays in the Library. We are currently reading Jon Meacham's *His Truth Is Marching On: John Lewis and the Power of Hope*. Discussion of this book will end before Thanksgiving. They will recess until January 4th, 2023 and the next books to be discussed then will be *The Dictionary of Lost Words* by Pip Williams and *A Lineage of Grace* by Francine Rivers.

Faith Builders in November: We will spend the first three Sundays in November in the Old Testament, reviewing and discussing "From Slavery to Nationhood," focusing on Moses and Gideon. The fourth Sunday begins Advent, and we will begin a four-session multimedia study "Prepare the Way for the Lord," by Adam Hamilton, and we will continue the study in December. We would love to have you join us in discussion and fellowship. And we always end our discussion in time to enjoy Fellowship Cafe. ~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

Ebb and Flow Class is studying Timothy. We will be discussing practices for spiritual leadership, caring for God's family, Thanksgiving, and the importance of good conscience and faith. The class is taught by Don Tucker and meets 9:30am in the Parlor (down the hall from office.)

Sewing Group meets Tuesdays at 9am in the Parlor

Mahjong group plays Tuesdays at Noon in the Parlor

United Methodist Women / (soon to be known as United Women in Faith) is setting their 2023 calendar and meets several times throughout the year – contact Jan Hedges for information!

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

Return Service Requested

Here is your November 2022

Newsletter from:



Visit us online:

www.firstumcfsks.org

Links to Facebook,
YouTube, Instagram