

Congrats!



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May 2026

The First Connexion



On the Christian Journey... with Pastor Christopher

As you have heard, Kristin Bishop is leaving the staff as of May 14th. I am very grateful for the joy and energy she brought to the role and her love of the church. Her excitement about giving tours, greeting people, and making connections has a direct link to several of the new members we have brought in over the last several months. She has also consistently been willing to give me feedback that has been invaluable in the work on myself and our church systems I have been doing through the Center for Pastoral Excellence and the more recent Creating a Culture of Renewal. Working in a church office is often much more difficult than one thinks it will be. Even in the church, people are, well... very human. Often rude, demanding, and hard to get along with. The Bishop family has also been through a season the last couple of years, losing Kristin's dad and Will's mom, along with other family members. Kristin has handled the challenges with grace and kindness and she will be missed in the office.

That said, we are also deeply blessed to have found a new church "air traffic controller" to help us manage our chaos, keep me somewhat organized, and grow our ministries! Many of you already know her from her various jobs in town. I'm excited to have Christy Pollock join our staff! She will shadow Kristin some next week and start regular hours beginning May 18. At that point, our new office hours will become 9am – 2pm Monday – Wednesday. The office will be closed on both Thursdays and Fridays, although Bob will still be in a few hours those days and Pastor Christopher can be available for appointments. We'll try that schedule for a few months to see how it's working – we are trying to find a balance between availability and budget needs. There may be a few days in May that Christy has to be away to finish up with Walgreens, so we ask you to bear with us as we make the transition.

Christy shared this brief introduction for us.

It is time for my new adventure and I am excited to be sharing it with you! My name is Christy Pollock and you may recognize me from Walgreens, or as the First Christian Church secretary for 11 years. I live west of town with my husband Rich, of 45 years, where we raise cows and calves, fish in our pond, and ride 4-wheelers. Our oldest daughter Becky lives in Arkansas and Cassie lives right around the corner from us. We enjoy our 5 grandchildren, ages 3 to almost 20 years old, where every day is an adventure watching football, baseball, softball, golf meets, and trap shooting. I look forward to hearing your stories, helping organize your ministries, and making new friends!

We are hoping to find time some Sunday for the congregation to both honor Kristin and welcome Christy, but plans are not finalized yet. Glad to be on the journey with you – Pastor Christopher

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Delaney, Delci & Dana Tucker
Graduation 2026

Dana, Delci, & Delaney Tucker
at 9 days old
Born December 16 2007



Future Plans:

Dana: attend FSCC to do nursing
She already has her CNA

Delci: attend Pittsburg State school of Nursing
She already has her CNA and CMA.



Congrats!

Delaney: attend FSCC and continue as assistant manager of Dollar General - working full time.

Please submit articles about your church or community group events for the June Newsletter by May 26th -and before that if possible so Christy can start laying things out. And be planning ahead for July and beyond Send them to info@firstumcfortscott.org. Thank You!



May Birthdays:

Carol Newcomer-2, Tom Braker-4, Abby Altic-11, Joyce Allen-14, Robin Eshelman-17, Ron Wood-21, Christopher Eshelman-22, Deb Anderson-25

May Anniversaries: William and Kristin Bishop-3, Jim and Susan Regan- 21



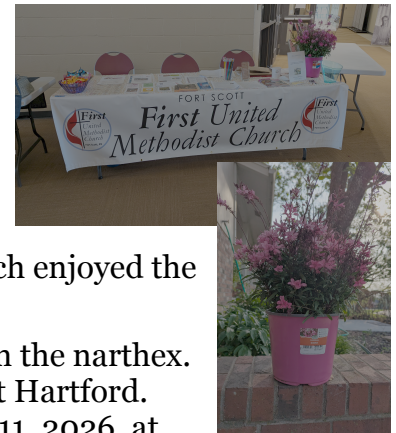
United Women in Faith

UWFaith UPDATES

In April we organized the vendor table for participation in the FSCC Women's Luncheon. Thirty vendors from the area were showcased with our booth being the only table representing an area church. Besides hosting a door prize drawing, we answered questions and shared our

church's and women's group information. There were 132 attendees and very much enjoyed the informative experience.

Look for upcoming events and new handouts on the UWFaith information table in the narthex. An updated "Make Kindness the Norm" calendar will be available – thank you Pat Hartford. Please stop by and enjoy learning a bit about UWFaith. Our next meeting is June 11, 2026, at 1:30 p.m. in the parlor. The program is to be given by Jean Tucker and friends from Redemption House.



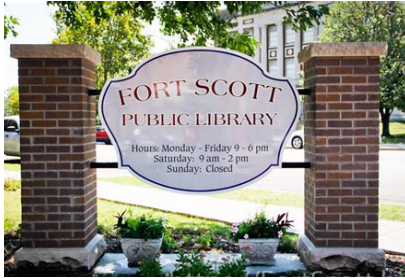
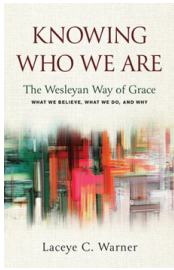
Never forget your Best Choice labels when heading to church on Sunday, meetings, or other events! Jars for those labels are available on the information table and at entrance tables. We rely on Linda Lechner to send in those labels for reimbursement. Thank you!

All women are invited to come to United Women in Faith meetings and there is a schedule of the dates and times on the information table.



Faith Builders in May

In May, we will continue our discussion, "Knowing Who We Are: A Wesleyan Way of Grace," a study of what we believe, what we do and why. This study is an overview of Wesleyan Christianity and the values, beliefs and practices that grow from it. We will then begin an in-depth study of "The Book of Jude Contending for the Faith in Today's Culture." Included are themes of being called, loved, and kept, and how to point others to Jesus in grace and truth. We hope you will join us in study and fellowship. ~Ron Wood



MAY LIBRARY EVENTS – Jennifer Carnes

Tuesdays at 10:30 is Story Time with Mackenzie and Sam.

Tuesdays at 2:00 is Unraveling the Clues with Sam.

Wednesdays at 10:00 is Golden Aces with Jennifer GF

Tuesday May 26th at 6:00 is an adult program with Jennifer C.

Spooky Book Club, we will be discussing How to Sell A Haunted House by Grady Hendrix.

Thoughts on Prayer – submitted by Jean Tucker

Prayer is a very important part of my walk with God and I have had some very interesting experiences with my students because of that. Don and I lived in Lake Havasu city for 17 years before we moved to Fort Scott in 2007. I taught English at Lake Havasu High School and he was Dean of Students at Mohave Community College at the Lake Havasu Campus. One of Don's responsibilities was to help negotiate student/ teacher conflicts.

An English 101 instructor at the college had assigned a composition. The Student was to use a theme from the book the class had just read and discussed. An adult male student who had served in Vietnam had refused to do so. The situation had escalated, and Don called to schedule a meeting for the next morning with the student. He left a message. The student returned the call and left Don a phone message saying he had a GUN and would come to the college the next day and solve the "problem" once and for all.

At Lake Havasu High School the first thing we did each morning in our first hour class was to say the Pledge of Allegiance and have a Moment of Silence. The day of Don's appointment my morning devotion made the point that God is with us, but He wants us to do what we can, not just sit back and expect God to do it all. Before I left for work, I asked Don if he had called for security to be near or in his office before the and at the time of the appointment. He said "no". Needless to say, I was upset.

That morning when the class got ready to say the Pledge of Allegiance and have the Moment of Silence, I stated that Don was in a dangerous situation and in need of prayer this morning and if they were of the mind that they offer a prayer for his safety. We went on with class, and they were dismissed. Second class started at 9. Sometime during the second hour Don knocked on my classroom door and told me that "all was well".

That night I got a call from a parent wanting to know if Don and I were OK? They had been praying for us after their daughter came home and told them about my asking for prayer at our Moment of Silence.



AGING FORWARD is moving to the 3rd Friday of each month May through September. (In April we cosponsored the Mental Health First Aid event) We meet beginning at 1pm and light refreshments are served during the event.

This month we will gather to get reacquainted at 1pm and our own Pastor Christopher will present a talk on on contemplative walking and mindfulness. then move up to the Sanctuary for a Senior Recital by Talya Banwart, one of Pat Harry's voice students that starts at 2pm.

We have invitations out to a number of other local leaders doing interesting things in Fort Scott and will announce future speakers soon! In July, Patty Smilie's son Ethan will be in town and share his research into the life of Laura Ingalls Wilder of Little House on the Prairie fame!

If you have a hobby, talent, or experience to share or an idea for a local speaker for our Aging Forward series fostering fellowship and lifelong learning for retired adults (and anyone else interested), please contact Pastor Christopher to pass it along. Our speakers generally have about an hour to share, but we can arrange a longer format when warranted. Mark your Calendar for May 15, June 19, July 17, August 21, and September 18th and invite a friend.

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Return Service Requested

*Here is your MAY 2026
Newsletter from:*



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