



Volume 28, Issue #9
September 2024

The **First** Connexion



On the Christian Journey... with Pastor Christopher

What is the difference between attending church and being the church? I spent a lot of my life going through the motions. I'd attend, or not, and I think I was a generally good person – but I wasn't engaged. I read a lot – church history and theology – but I didn't spend much time applying. I was a "hearer of the word..." but not so much a doer. That changed when Robin and I joined University UMC. There were a lot of reasons, but one key one was that I was asked and agreed to help run the sound board. Now candidly... I thought I said yes because it gave me something to "do" during the service instead of "just" sitting and listening... The irony of a person who often tuned out because he couldn't hear very well now running the sound board is pretty rich. But running the sound board meant I was in church every week and I was focused. And then... being regular in attendance and focused... I began hearing the word in a different way and was inspired to become much more of a doer. I began being intentional about my faith journey differently than I ever had. I became deeply committed. I started understanding the ministry of all believers and thinking about my path.

It made all the difference. Most Christians are not called to ordained ministry. Liturgy – the word we use for the order of the church service – comes from a Latin word that means "the work of the people." As the chart shows, that drew from Greek that meant both "worship" and "public service." As the church grew, liturgy became a "church word" for our order of worship – which is not merely what the Pastor and other leaders do, but what the body of

Christ present does. Our hymns, our prayers, our participation in ritual, our listening, our pondering during and after the service and most importantly, how all that shapes our lives the rest of the week. One of the things I have been thinking about as I have begun my 4th year of appointment here is how we witness in the world in our ordinary lives and what kind of gathered community that reflects. As our Revelation series concludes this month, we'll finish with the opening chapters: Letters to the 7 churches. I'm asking us, individually and as a congregation, to ponder those letters deeply. How do they describe, affirm, and challenge us as the people of First United Methodist in Fort Scott in 2024? Are we a people of faithfulness and repentance? Are we patient in suffering? Do we follow false prophets? Are we known for our works (but really dead)? Are we beacons of love? Are we hot, cold, or lukewarm? Do we listen for the knock and let Jesus in? Do we let Jesus change us? The sound board at University UMC had lights that would show me visually when there was a sound problem. Sometimes I wish life were like that. Scripture is a mirror that can help us notice when things need a reset. Our next series we'll be taking the questions the letters to the churches raise and considering our responses as deeply committed Christians – individually and as a congregation.

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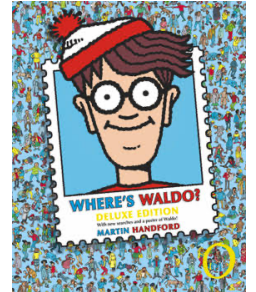
PASTOR'S UPCOMING TRAVEL AND OUT OF OFFICE NOTES:

He will be taking Sunday the 8th as a vacation day. Robin and Pastor are attending a couple more soccer games and a baby shower. They hope to be back in time for the Fish Fry on Sunday but it will be a close call. In his stead *Southeast Kansas District Lay Servant Ministries Director* Mary Brooks will share a message entitled "What a Wonderful World." Mary is a lifelong Methodist and a church secretary's kid. Her home church is Lyndon UMC where she often serves as pianist. Mary believes our lay leadership in our churches is crucial to continue the mission of making disciples of Jesus Christ.



Mary Brooks

Looking forward, over the next 18 months, Pastor Christopher will fulfill his required Continuing Education by participating in Track 1 of the *Center for Pastoral Effectiveness of the Rockies* with an ecumenical group of fellow clergy. This is a series of 6 in-person retreats and various other check-ins that will incorporate elements of both Spiritual Formation and Professional Development over 140 contact hours. Their first retreat is **September 17-20th** in Denver and as long as air travel goes smoothly, he should be back before Sunday the 22nd. The rest of the retreat dates will be set once the group forms. These retreats are not vacation time, although he does expect them to be times of renewal (and may, in the future, take a day or so in conjunction with them.)



The Southeast Kansas District Committee on Ministry that Pastor is a part of will meet for mandatory training on **Monday, September 30th** and Pastor will most likely move his day off that week to Tuesday, the 31st. DCoM then meets in Chanute to interview candidates twice in **November, on the 7th and 21st** (both are Thursdays.)

Bishop Wilson has called our annual Orders and Fellowship clergy gathering for **October 28th – 30th**, so Pastor will be travelling to Kansas City for that.

Then he will tentatively be out of the office at least part of Wednesday, November 13th to preside at a local wedding (offsite).

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:

September 8th and 22nd

October 6th and 20th

November 3rd and 17th

December 1st, 15th & 29th

Tell a Friend!

If you'd like to send a card or note of encouragement and appreciation to Lee Davis, who is now serving in the Air Force, you can write him at:

AB Davis, Lee P.

321 TRS/FLT 602

JBSA Lackland TX 78236-6407



SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS:

Reggie Fancher-2, Jana Hazelbaker- 2, Cadence Hunziker- 8, Cheryl Marsh- 10, Landia Antonetti-11, Mike Leachner- 14, Mark Ward- 17, Carol Majors- 18, Miranda Arndt- 19, Dacia Clark-19, Pat Hartford- 20, Ruby Ingram-21, Randy Sprague-22, Barbara Stuart- 23, Tim Engle- 25, Marlene Braker- 26, Kova Altic-26, Delene Russell- 27, Winston Bishop-29, Peggy Stark- 30



SEPTEMBER ANNIVERSARIES:

Don and Jean Tucker-3, Mark and Lisa Ward- 4, Charles and Cheryl Marsh-8, Ryan and Amber Huziker-15, Troy and Tori Post-16, Roger and Charlene Sipe-17, Jessica and Jamie Ballou-21, Trina and Jason Arndt-28



SEPTEMBER 2024 is Healthy Aging Month

Our new Southeast Kansas
District of the Great Plains
Annual Conference has a
“parish nurse” as a resource.

You can contact Linda Stotler RN, BSN by email:
lstotler@greatplainsumc.org

Linda submitted the following article:

September is Healthy Aging® Month, the national observance month created by the Healthy Aging organization over 25 years ago. The mission behind Healthy Aging Month, is to draw attention to the importance of healthy lifestyles for adults, 45-plus,” according to Carolyn Worthington, president of Healthy Aging, an international multi-media platform. What has not changed and is more important than ever is the opportunity to follow a healthy lifestyle, remain positive and passionate about life, and look forward to better days ahead.



TIPS FOR HEALTHY AGING MONTH Mental Illness

- Be realistic
- Shed the “superhero” urge
- Take one thing at a time

Physical Fitness

- Move more, set less
- Aerobic exercise
- Muscle strengthening

Diet

- Review your daily diet and make necessary changes

Social

- Volunteer
- Dream and then get to it

Financial

- Explore ways to share resources generously.

*Beloved, I pray that all may
go well with you and that you
may be in good health, as it
goes well with your soul.*

~3 John 1:2

**Our last Aging Forward
for 2024 will be
September 27th, 1-4pm**

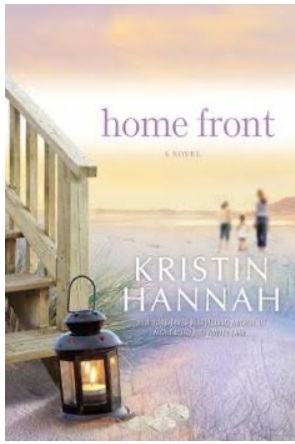
Geared towards retired seniors but open to anyone interested, our free speaker’s series and time for fellowship and conversation will meet for the final time in 2024. We will hear from Cory Demko with an introduction to “SeniorCize” chair exercise. Then Mark McCoy will speak on the Naturalization Ceremony held at the Fort on Sept. 20th and, last but not least, we will learn more about the Fort Scott Genealogy Society and its resources from Ann Rawlins!

It will be a great time of fellowship and learning! Invite a friend!

This wraps up our 2024 program year – but mark your calendar for the 4th Friday of Oct, Nov, Jan, and Feb for our Fellowship Soup Luncheons (freewill donations requested to support missions and ministries) 11:30-1pm and look for the United Women in Faith potato bar to return in March.

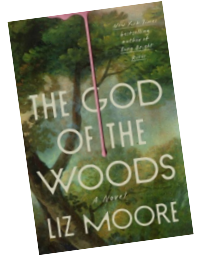
Aging Forward begins again in April, 2025!

WOMEN'S READING GROUP RESUMES IN SEPTEMBER!

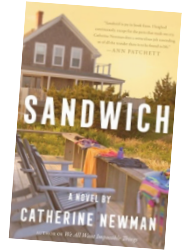


The Reading Group is a women's reading/discussion group that meets September through November. After the holidays, the group resumes in January through May. The objectives are to let women of the church become more acquainted with each other while stimulating their minds and learning some insights into reading literature. While not a bible study, many of the books address social or moral issues.

The Group meets on Wednesdays at 1:30 in the church library for about one hour. **THE FIRST SESSION WILL BE SEPTEMBER 11, 2024.** Dorothy Kivett is usually the moderator, but others in the group also moderate the discussions. Those attending are asked to provide their own copy of the book being discussed. If you cannot order online yourself, Hedgehog, Ink. can order for you.



On September 11, 2024, the group will discuss *Home Front* by Kristin Hannah. (We usually read about 100 pages each session.) The novel explores the difficulties of a woman helicopter pilot in a National Guard Unit who is called to duty in Iraq. The author addresses the emotions and mental stresses of separation from family, war, and a severe injury. Other books that will be used soon are *God of the Woods* by Liz Moore and *Sandwich* by Catherine Newman. They may not immediately follow the first book as a member of the group may have one to discuss. Join us! ~Dorothy Kivett



FAITH BUILDERS IN SEPTEMBER

We have been doing a multimedia study, "Bad Girls of the Bible," by Liz Curtis Higgs, and in September, we will continue that series. Our focus in September will be: "Knockin' on Heaven's Door," "Friends in Low Places," "Out of Step," "I Beg Your Pardon," and "Dyin' for a Drink." Come join us and find out who these "bad girls" were and what lessons we can learn from them. We hope you will join us in our discussion and fellowship. ~Ron Wood

UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH FALL TEA

Friday, Sept. 20th, 2024 at 2pm

At Presbyterian Village dining room
2401 S. Horton, Fort Scott
(parking in back of building).



United
Women
in Faith



Light refreshments will be served.

Austin Bolinger of Tri-Valley will be the featured speaker.

**Please RSVP to Jean Tucker 620-418-9143 by Monday, Sept. 16th.
Bring a friend!**

Save Best Choice Labels for United Women in Faith!

You can leave them in the
glass jars by the entrances
each week.



Thank you!



KIWANIS CLUB OF FORT SCOTT PIONEERS meets Thursdays at Noon – ~Kelley Collins

Kiwanis is a global organization of volunteers dedicated to improving the world one child and one community at time. This sentence is the defining statement that guides the Kiwanis Club of Fort Scott Pioneers.

The club, founded in 1988 as one of the only all female clubs in the nation, currently has 14 members who support numerous community activities such as Feeding Families in His Name, the Bourbon County Fair, downtown beautification, and the Fort's Naturalization Ceremony. Members also organize an annual Community Prayer Breakfast. Our annual Chili Feed fundraiser is held in November and allows the club

to make contributions to many helping organizations/individuals such as: Head Start, Bourbon County Health Department's child wellness programs, USD-234's & USD-235's reading programs, CASA, and the Beacon among others. We also provide college scholarships to high school seniors. The club meets Thursdays at noon in the Fellowship Hall at First UMC and features speakers, projects, and fellowship. Anyone interested in joining us is welcome! Contact Marlene Braker (treasurer) or Kelley Collins (president) at 417-684-2484 for more information!

K-STATE
Research and Extension

Southwind District

ATTENTION:

Parents of Special Needs Kids

Do you ever feel alone, isolated, discouraged, burned-out, stressed-out? Ever wish you could just get together with other families who are like yours and spend time with those who will understand and not judge you? **YOU ARE INVITED TO:**

Meet and Greet Time
with other parents of
Special Needs Kids



Friday

Sept 13, 2024

5PM - 7PM

Splashpad and Gathering Pavilion

Corner of N. National and Old Fort Blvd.

Fort Scott, KS

BRING:

- *Your Kids
- *Lawn Chairs
- *Snacks
- *Water to drink



Come and Go Event opportunity to connect with other special needs families in our community.

Sponsored by K-STATE Research and Extension Southwind District. Kansas State University Agricultural Experiment Station and Cooperative Extension Service. K-State Research and Extension is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Contact Cherri Walrod, Community Health Worker 620-223-3720, ext 503 cwalrod@ksu.edu

A Letter from Cheri Wolrod

I am now working with the K-State Research and Extension office as a Community Health Worker.

One of the projects I am working on is to form a community-wide support group for parents with special needs kids which will eventually meet regularly.

This meet and greet opportunity is the first attempt to reach out to parents of special needs kids and find out what their needs are.

Please spread the word to those you know who could benefit from this opportunity!

**Community Health Worker
K-State Research and
Extension Southwind
District**

**620-223-3720, ext. 503
cwalrod@ksu.edu**

The CHW project has received funding and support from K-State 105, Kansas State University's economic growth and advancement initiative for all 105 counties in Kansas.

Learn more at k-state.edu/105.



2024 OIMC Immersion Experience, Oklahoma Indian Missionary Conference

When Courtney Fowler spoke here last year, several of us had interest in the Immersion Experience she mentioned.

Here are the details from Rev. Donna Pewo,

Director Connectional Ministries, OIMC

We are looking forward to hosting our Oklahoma Indian Missionary Conference (OIMC) Immersion, **October 2-6, 2024**. The experience provides history, context, and unique perspective on

Native peoples in The Oklahoma Indian Missionary Conference and our involvement with The UMC. In addition, our Native communities proudly share our traditions and culture throughout the event.

We focus the immersion experience on tribal areas which are within a two-and-a-half-hour radius of Oklahoma City. We will stay at the Best Western Plus Saddleback Inn and Conference Center, 4300 SW 3rd in Oklahoma City OK. The hotel has completed its renovation to the restaurant, breakfast area and lobby. It looks amazing and is way more functional than before!

We will begin on **Wednesday** afternoon with an orientation to OIMC. We will meet at the host hotel the first day. We are very excited and proud of the First American Museum that we will visit together. We will spend one entire day at FAM on **Thursday** <https://famok.org/>

Our next visit will be the Washita “massacre” Battlefield Site <https://www.nps.gov/waba/index.htm> at Cheyenne OK, on **Friday**. This is the place where General George Armstrong Custer massacred 30-60 Cheyenne, mostly women and children. This event happened a few years after the massacre at Sand Creek. It has a wonderful cultural center and a guided walk tour through the area where the massacre took place, which is about 1.5 miles. We will visit the Clinton Indian Church and Community Center to visit with Dr. Henrietta Mann, Cheyenne Prayer woman, about the massacre site.

We will travel to Ponca City on **Saturday** to visit the Standing Bear Park, which includes a 22-foot bronze statue of the Ponca leader. We will learn about Standing Bear’s role in determining the “humanity” of his people and Native peoples. We will have lunch at an OIMC church and we will also hear from tribal leaders regarding current issues among the tribe. We will gather for our debriefing session and closing worship on Sunday morning at hotel.

A chartered bus will be provided for the event. The hotel cost includes breakfast.

There is a block of rooms reserved at the hotel and you will need to use the hotel reservation link https://www.bestwestern.com/en_US/book/hotel-rooms.37078.html?groupId=M72ZQ2Q6 to make your reservation. The rate is \$90.00 for a single and \$95.00 for double occupancy. Should you have any issues with the link please call the hotel, 405-947-7000. Please ask for “**Oklahoma Indian Missionary Conference Immersion Event.**” The deadline to reserve rooms at this rate is **September 19, 2024**.

The hotel is approximately three miles from the airport and they have a shuttle service. There will be several opportunities to purchase native arts and crafts at FAM and other sites that we visit.

Please note the following registration information. **The fee for the event is \$300.00 per person which will cover all charges of the meals, and entry fees for sites that we visit. If the cost is prohibitive for any, please contact me and we can work this out. Payments can be mailed or can be paid on the OIMC website, www.umc-oimc.org.** The hotel reservation charges are separate from registration fee. Please contact me at 405-632-2006 or via email at Dpewo@oimc.org for more information. The mailing address for the office is Oklahoma Indian Missionary Conference, 602 SW 35th St, Oklahoma City, OK 73109.

We have had a wide range of participants including both lay and clergy, women and men, volunteers, and United Methodists who just have a heart for Native ministries. We will gladly provide a certificate for CEU’s if needed. Everyone is welcome. Please help us spread the word about this amazing experience!

CAR SHOW Tuesday, September 10th at Presbyterian Village Roger and Charlene Sipe plan to participate. Show begins at 4:30pm
RSVP by September 6th to attend.

CAR SHOW

If you have a classic car to show off, shine up that chrome cause here's your chance. Or, just come to check out some beautiful vehicles and vote for your favorite.

Food will be available and prizes for the winners!

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 10

SHOW BEGINS AT 4:30 P.M.

If you're participating, arrive by 3:30 p.m.

RSVP BY SEPTEMBER 6

Contact Taylor Bailey at **620-223-5550** or **tbailey@pmma.org** and specify if you're showing or attending.



2401 S Horton St,
Fort Scott, KS 66701



FORT SCOTT
Presbyterian Village

A PMMA[®]
COMMUNITY

CPR TRAINING AVAILABLE

FSCC - Fort Scott

Community College will
be offering Non-Credit
CPR classes soon for
anyone interested!



Cost: \$65.00

Location: Lower level of Dick Hedges
Admin. Bldg., Room E-112

See dates below for classes scheduled:

October 5, 2024 @ 8:00am

March 1, 2025 @ 8:00am

June 7, 2025 @ 8:00am

Email admissions@fortscott.edu for
more information or to register
or call 620-223-2700 x-3510.

**Please share with anyone you
think may be interested!**

TUESDAY MORNING SEWING GROUP AND 1ST THURSDAY STITCHERS ~ by Nancy Swanwick



We meet in the parlor on Tuesday mornings from 9-noon-ish, and in Fellowship Hall for First Thursday Stitchers nearly every month. Most of the Tuesday group bring hand work which includes patchwork, quilting, needlepoint, cross-stitch, knitting, embroidery, with lots of advice sought and given. Thursday nights often include sewing machines along with hand work, and also includes snacks to nourish our bodies. Occasionally we hold an all-day sew on Saturdays. Our groups are ecumenical and open to all.

Thank you from CORE Community—Bourbon County

For the past twelve months, First United Methodist Church of Fort Scott has graciously shared its facilities with our fledgling organization in the first year of our efforts to encourage, support and befriend Bourbon County families struggling to escape poverty. As we begin our second year and second group of families, we have outgrown the facilities you so willingly offered and provided us. In September we are moving our meetings to another facility. We will always be grateful for your support of CORE as both we and you continue to "love our neighbors as ourselves." Thank you!

CORE Community—Bourbon County
Staff, Family Leaders, Volunteers



GORDON PARKS CELEBRATION

The Gordon Parks 21st Annual Celebration
is Oct. 3rd-5th.

Both Janice Fewins and Debra Wood sit on the board and the celebration is very informative and interesting, but not many locals turn out for it.

Let's support this "hidden gem" in our community!

You can find the full schedule of events at www.gordonparkscenter.org. The Museum is located in the Ellis Center at Fort Scott Community College.

Some Highlights:

There are photo exhibits on the theme of "*What Fills Your Hungry Heart*" and celebrating the 40th Anniversary of *Solomon Northrup's Odyssey* and *Fort Scott, Now and I Needed Paris* by students from the Gordon Park's Academy in Wichita.

There are too many featured Speakers and film screenings. to list in this space – most are free, some events require registration and fees. **Check it out!**

OCTOBER CHURCH EVENTS!



We will again be a part of the **Pioneer Harvest Fiesta Parade** which will be Thursday, October 3rd at 6pm! Plan to ride our float and wave or walk along and hand out treats.

4th Friday FELLOWSHIP SOUP LUNCHES resume October 25th
11:30-1pm

We have an opening for your group to use it as a fundraiser in November.
Contact the office!



Trunk or Treat Thursday, Oct. 31st

5:30pm - plan to decorate your car and/or set up a game for the kids to play! We'll also need donations of candy! Announcements will run in the bulletin in October when we are ready to receive them. Thanks!

The 21st Annual Gordon Parks Celebration October 3rd – 5th, 2024 Honoring

Kokayi Ampah



Art Evans



Fred Watkins



In addition...
40th Anniversary of
Solomon Northrup's Odyssey





GOSPEL CONCERT SATURDAY OCTOBER 26TH

HOCROC will host Ernie Couch and Revival for a freewill offering Gospel concert at 6pm.

"From its inception, EC&R has produced high energy, emotionally colorful music reflective of the diverse musical heritage that has made Music City home of Nashville internationally famous. The groups unique blend of traditional, country, and contemporary gospel music speaks to people of all ages and all walks of life."

Mark your calendars & invite friends!



The Beacon Food Drive 2024 is ON! This year they are calling it:

"A-CAN-ABILITY"

This year's Beacon Food Challenge, will continue to compete based on total weight donated rather than counting item by item. Each week we will focus our contributions with only specific items purchased, and the winner each week will be based on total package weight of target items donated.

This year's contest will run from Sunday, September 15th through Sunday, October 6th.

Celebration will occur on Sunday, October 13th, with a Potluck at First Presbyterian following worship. Non-winners will wash dishes following the celebration!!!! Each church should prepare a skit to share!!!!

Count 1, Sunday, Sept. 15th - Peanut butter and Jelly (or similar)

Count 2, Sunday, Sept. 22nd - Pasta and sauces, Mac n Cheese

Count 3, Sunday, Sept. 29th - Boxed or bagged cereal, Powdered Milk

Count 4, Sunday, Oct. 6th - Canned fruits, veggies, soups, Spam, tuna, salmon, stew, chili, etc.

Weekly cash donations received on each Sunday will be counted as (1) pound per \$1.00.

RULES

- Each weekly "Sunday" count is due Monday by noon and reported to the other church's office.
- Weight used is from item packaging. Weekly winner is the church that brings the most weight of each item designated for that week.
- Items may be "saved up" to be counted during the assigned week if brought in early.
- Once that week's designated item passes, that item becomes "other items donated" and are ONLY counted in a tiebreaker.
- If weeks are split 2 to 2 on designated counts, "other items and cash donated" tiebreakers are used
- NOTE: churches may choose to use donated weekly cash to purchase items for a given week to try and win that week, BUT cash used cannot then also be counted for the tiebreaker later.
- The **OVERALL GOAL**, of course, is to continue the trend of each church donating more food (and cash) than last year so that **"The Beacon Wins"** through our **"A-CAN-ABILITY Food Drive."**

Upcoming Church Meetings
in library unless noted

These committees make important decisions for our work together as the church. If you are a member of one or more, your regular attendance is needed to help do our work. If you are not currently serving, please consider which of these (*or what other ways*) you are called to help do the work of the church as a member of Fort Scott United Methodist Church and contact the office to express interest. Thank you!

HOCROC (*Hospitality and Outreach*) Monday, September 9th - 6pm

Trustees – Thursday, September 12th 4:30pm

SPRC and Finance *will meet together on Monday, September 30th at 6pm.*

Memorials Tuesday, October 8 in the Parlor.

Administrative s Board Charge Conference Preparation: Wed. October 16th

Annual Charge Conference: 3pm Sunday, Nov. 24th – all members are invited!

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

Return Service Requested

*Here is your SEPTEMBER 2024
Newsletter from:*



Visit us online:
www.firstumcfsks.org
Links to Facebook,
YouTube, Instagram