



The Connexion



On the Christian Journey... with Pastor Christopher

I am excited about that way we at First United Methodist continue to seek to connect and serve. We have encountered the Risen Christ and we are called to share that in many ways! So many good things are happening here, and I appreciate the leadership and service of so many of you in making it all come together.

We have a new resource for your groups and events to use – using our Healthy Congregations grant, we recently purchased 2 new “A-frame” standing signs that are appropriate for indoor or

outdoor use to help invite people to your event. We have inserts that can be written on with dry-erase markers or (with at least 3 week’s notice) we can have custom inserts printed up. The inserts cost \$50 for a pair and can feature text and custom artwork. We have had signs made up for Feeding Families and Shepherd’s Center. We plan to get new signs for next Fall’s Friendship Lunches and the next Nativity Festival. If you have an event you’d like to use these for, let Kristin know in the church office and we will work with you to get things set up!



Knowing, Growing, Serving, Sharing

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This newsletter also has some important volunteer opportunities. This year we will again partner with our friends at First Presbyterian to host Vacation Bible School but this year we will host it here in our building for the first time in several years! It is June 17th – 21st in the evening. This is a great opportunity to connect with young families and I want us to put our best foot forward! We need help decorating – do you have fake or real plants that could be used as part of our gardening theme? Are you able to help make and/or install paper decorations? Can you help provide a meal one night or snacks for the week? Can you help with storytime, guiding and supervising groups, or in other ways? What about cleaning up afterwards? There are lots of roles we need to fill. See the signup on page BLANK and let’s make this the best VBS yet!

We also want to continue to connect with the community – The Chamber has a downtown cleanup on April 22nd and if we provide some volunteers and donations our logo could be on the shirts they’ll give out. The Good Ol’ Days parade is May 31 and we need folks to ride and walk (our float will advertise VBS and we’ll again have pinwheels), the local BSA Troop plans a Soapbox Derby June 1 – can we provide an entry or help staff it? The library summer programs need volunteers and snacks... our Shepherd’s Center/Adventures in Learning program aimed at retired adults starts meeting again April 26th – who can you invite to attend? And you may know of other ways the people of First UMC can get involved and represent our congregation in Fort Scott.



2024 EASTER LILY DEDICATIONS

In Memory Of:

Barbara Wood
Dina Wilson
Maxine Tucker
Dick Hedges
Al Strecker
Karen Hedges
Lance Hedges
Nancy McCreedy
Lee & Maxine Rimbey
Dr. Pratt & Pauline Irby
Daryl Swanwick
Barbara & Kirk Austin
Carolyn Austin Brigman
Colen Milburn
Bryan & Blondena Harold
Ottis Allen
Herschel and Maxine Holt
McKinley & Inez Allen
Ottis Allen
Kathy Wyatt
Ottis Allen
Morris and Edna Allen
Cleland and Mary Allen
Max Casteel
Louise Shattuck
Eugene & Una Todd
Pat & Mary Goodsell
Jim & Janice Hoffman
Howard A. Kivett
Clayton, Dorathy & Jim Hartford
Willie & Millie Rathke
Check & Rosamond Shull
Ray & Ester Leachner
Frank, Sharon & RoseMary
Jake and Doris Underwood
Ruth Ann Underwood Burleson
Dottie Jones
Margie and Bill Majors

In Honor Of:

Leigh Ann, Kristy & Families
Chad, Wade, and Families

By:

Ron Wood
Robert Wilson
Robert Wilson
Jan Hedges
Jan Hedges
Jan Hedges
Jan Hedges
Jan Hedges
Peggy Stark
Peggy Stark
Janet Braun
Nancy Austin Swanwick
Nancy Austin Swanwick
Nancy Austin Swanwick
Bonnie Milburn
Bonnie Milburn
Minnie Lou Allen
Minnie Lou Allen
Joyce Allen
Joyce Allen
Joyce Allen
Joyce Allen
Joyce Allen
Joyce Allen
Joyce Allen
Debra & Dave Wood
Gene & Joyce Todd
Gene & Joyce Todd
Gene & Joyce Todd
Dorothy Kivett
Reed & Pat Hartford
Reed & Pat Hartford
Mike & Linda Leachner
Mike & Linda Leachner
Mike & Linda Leachner
Susan Karleskint
Susan Karleskint
Pastor Christopher & Robin Eshelman
Bruce and Carol Majors & Family



MOM'S GRIEF GROUP RESUMES

Cindy Valdez leads a peer support group for Mother's who have lost children. They will meet Thursday nights from 6 to 7:30pm in the Parlor, April 11th through June 20th. Contact Cindy Valdez at (620) 224-85415 for more information.

EASTER TREATS – THANK YOU



We had some tasty fun this year with Hot Cross Buns on Palm Sunday – an old English tradition of spiced buns topped with a cross shape, that we adopted as a fundraiser, which helped us raise \$442.50 for our HVAC fund! *Thank you to Cindy Foxx, Mille Sharp, Joyce Todd, Bonnie Milburn, Wilma Hibdon, and Janice Fewins for baking and Kristin Bishop for organizing.*



Then after the Easter Sunday service, members of HOCROC (*our Hospitality, Outreach and Community Relations Committee*) provided a free gift of “Resurrection / Empty Tomb” Rolls, which are made with marshmallows that melt and caramelize during baking to leave behind a yummy cinnamon/sugar treat with a hollow center. Both were yummy and fun was to connect our members and visitors with the season of Easter!

BEACON SUNDAYS – “MARCH MADNESS” EVENT WRAPS UP APRIL 7TH

Thank you for your support of the Beacon. As the NCAA “Big Dance” tourneys wrap up, we will have one more challenge Sunday for the Beacon. This week we will vote on which is our favorite team to root for – Kansas Jayhawks, K-State Wildcats, or “Other” – I know we’ve got Pitt State and Mizzou fans out there and Robin and I will be voting for Wichita State – Go Shocks!. Wear your team colors to worship and let’s finish up our “March Madness” with a bang – making sure the Beacon wins!



United
Women
in Faith

In March, UWFaith sponsored the Friday lunch fundraiser. Dorothy Kivett and Jan Hedges chaired the potato/pie meal which drew a large group to socialize and share a meal. Thank you ladies and thank you to everyone for your support of UWFaith!

Look for upcoming events and new handouts on the UWFaith information table. 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 13, 2024. The program is to be a community outreach project. A suggestion box on the information table will be available. So please feel free to leave an idea for that upcoming project.



And remember to bring 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 the north entrance table. 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.

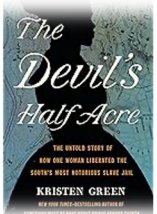
FAITH BUILDERS INVITATION!

In April, we will be resuming our study, “Twelve Women of the Bible,” a study we had started earlier. We focus on “Mary of Bethany,” “Martha,” “The Woman at the Well,” and “The Syrophenician Woman.” This has been an interesting study of real women of the Bible, whose stories remain important today. Won’t you come join us? ~Ron Wood



WOMEN’S WEDNESDAY READING GROUP

The Wednesday afternoon reading group will begin “The Devil’s Half Acre” by Kristen Green the first Wednesday in April. The book is about Mary Lumpkin who was forced to have the children of a brutal slave trader and live at his Richmond Virginia slave jail known as “Devil’s Half Acre”. We will read pages 1 through 98, through Chapter 3, for April 3; pages 101-206 for April 10; and finish the book for April 17. The book discussion will be led by Jean Tucker. If you have questions about the group, please contact Jean Tucker 620-418-9143.





APRIL BIRTHDAYS:

Nicolas Norris- 2, Lynn Chaney- 2 , Griffin Swaim- 2, Alyssa Popp- 3, Douglas Barlet-4, Rose Stoughton- 6, Kristin Bishop-9, Tom Coyan-10, Meganne Norris-13, Connor Harry-16, Darren Tucker-19, Leslie Reynolds-19, Janice Fewins-19, Koda Ballou-20, Lee Culbertson- 20, Kyle Altic-23, Robert Christuski-24, Linden Bishop-25, Miles Allshouse- 25, Craig Sharp- 30

APRIL ANNIVERSARIES: Tom and Marlene Braker- 26

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, even for emergencies or special events, should go through the church, never to the pastor or other staff members. Always doublecheck that info is from a real and legitimate phone or email as well.

It also pays to be on similar guard when contacted by people purporting to be the police, IRS, or creditors – never give out sensitive information unless YOU initiated the transaction and are sure of who you are communicating with.



UPCOMING PASTOR’S SCHEDULE



Pastor Christopher would love to visit with you in the office or at your home. You can make an appointment to visit by calling (316) 833-4974 or emailing him at pastor@firstumcfortscott.org. My schedule varies quite a bit based on whatever special events are going on – but I’m generally off on Monday’s, in the office at least 10-12 and usually afternoons Tuesday – Thursday and while the office is closed (Kristin works 9am – 2pm Monday – Thursday), Robert and I are generally in the building Friday mornings.

I do have some upcoming travel and variations coming up, including some time away for renewal. I was out of the office April 1-3 for a post-Easter renewal. Next week, April 9-12 I’m not officially on vacation and will check in daily, but will be out of the office most of the week in order to take an online iconography class and will do the work from home. Thursday and Friday, April 18-19 I will attend the annual Healthy Congregations Retreat – this year I am delighted to have Suziee Barlett and Peggy Stark joining me to represent First UMC Fort Scott.

And the weekend of April 27-29 I will be on vacation. Marve Ralston, our District Admin and a certified lay speaker will fill the pulpit on Sunday the 28th. Robin and I are going to Oklahoma to see our youngest son Aaron’s team play.

You might also note that Kristin will be out of the office April 30th – May 3rd as she and Will celebrate their anniversary. Pastor Christopher and some office volunteers will be in normal office hours.

A First UMC SOAPBOX DERBY ENTRY?

Seth Needham and BSA Troop 114 are working to bring a new event to Good Old Days! On June 1, 2024, there will be a Soapbox Derby held here in Fort Scott. It will be known as the Marmaton Classic Downhill Derby. Pastor would like to see First United Methodist sponsor at least one, and perhaps more, entries. Who might drive? Who has experience with this kind of build and race? Who is interested in helping out? Details will be forthcoming, and we will share as they are published. Let’s be a big part of a fun new event in Fort Scott!



SHEPHERD'S CENTER / ADVENTURES IN LEARNING RETURNS



First UMC in Fort Scott is partnering with the national network of Shepherd's Centers to provide educational and social opportunities that bring older adults together. 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 presenters are retired older adults, with a number of special interests presented by community

experts. Shepherd's Centers counteract the negative effects of loneliness and isolation by connecting older adults to empowering programs that foster friendships.

This year's events will be from 1pm to 4pm on the fourth Friday of each month April – September. There is no charge to attend and refreshments are provided. Here are the speakers we have lined up so far!

APRIL 26th - Local Resources

1pm Brian Allen – *HISTORY OF FORT SCOTT* and 45 minute film - (likely discussion after)
2:30pm Jennifer Gum-Fowler - Library
3pm Nancy – Quilting

MAY 24th – Adventure Stories

1pm Ron Wood – *helicopter crash & other stories*
2pm Ralph Carlson – *piloting stories*
3pm Lynnette Emerson – *skydiving*

JUNE 28th – Decluttering & Legacy Items

1pm Tara Solimon Smith.
2pm Ginger Nance
3pm Rosemary Harris (*Barbwire Roses*)

July 26th – Local Resources

1pm Austin Bolinger – *Gardening Tri-Valley* 1pm
2pm Matt Chaplin from Landmark Bank on *avoiding scams/fraud*
John Barttlesmeyer – *appraisal, jewelry work* – (not yet confirmed)

DO YOU OR SOMEONE YOU KNOW have expertise in a topic that might be of local interest – let us know as we are seeking more speakers for our August 23rd and September 27th events (and future years!) The plan is to offer these programs April – September and then Friendship Soup Luncheons October – March so there is a Friday Fellowship event each month.

FORT SCOTT AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
DOWNTOWN FORT SCOTT
Spring Clean '24
ON EARTH DAY
SAVE THE DATE
APRIL 22,
4-6 PM

TO VOLUNTEER
CALL/TEXT
BAILEY LYONS
620.224.7795

The Library is hosting an eclipse party April 8th

They also need volunteers and snack providers for Summer activities – check out their lists at:
fortscott.mykansastibrary.org/youthsummerreading

Join us
for the
**SOLAR
ECLIPSE**
APRIL 8
at Fort Scott
Public Library

Get your solar glasses here!
10 Come between 10am & 3pm,
April 8 for activities for all ages.
Attend the eclipse viewing party here or at
the Fort Scott National Historic Site
between 12:35 and 3:09 pm.

FIRST UNITED METHODIST VBS VOLUNTEER INTEREST FORM

Please return by June 10, 2024

Dates: June 17th-21st, 5:30pm to 8:00pm

Name _____

Address _____

Phone (H/C) _____

E-mails _____

Please indicate any areas of interest:

_____ **Group Leader**

_____ **Meals**

_____ **Decorating**

_____ **Station Leader/ Helper:**

_____ **Crafts**

_____ **Music**

_____ **Snack**

_____ **Storytime**

_____ **Games**



Other _____

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:

Apr. 7th and 21st

May 5th and 19th

June 2nd, 16th, and 30th

July 14th and 28th

August 11th and 25th

September 8th and 22nd

October 6th and 20th

November 3rd and 17th

December 1st, 15th

& 29th

Tell a Friend!

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

Return Service Requested

Here is your APRIL 2024

Newsletter from:



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