



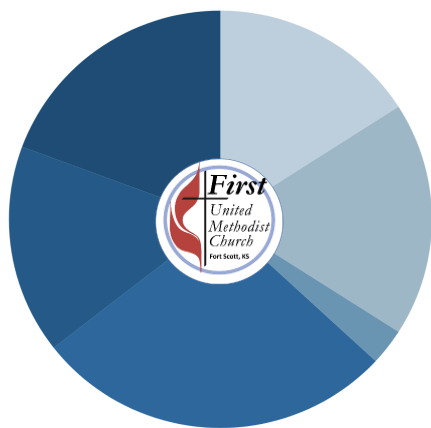
On the Christian Journey... with Pastor Christopher

I've mentioned a couple times that this is the 160th anniversary of the founding of our congregation in 1866 and the 120th anniversary of the building of our beautiful Sanctuary, with the cornerstone pictured above laid in 1906. What a legacy to celebrate! We recently announced that Trustees and Finance have worked together to approve a significant repair to the dome to address recent leaks. We will Use \$14,464 from an endowment designated for building maintenance to do this. We are blessed to have these funds and I deeply appreciate the work that Finance, Trustees, and in particular all the effort Linda Hessong and Jon Hutchinson have done bringing clarity to our finances. Since I have been your pastor, we have basically been living month to month paying our utilities and payroll. We have never fallen short, but it's been tight. At one point last year, I found we had less than \$4000 on hand that wasn't specifically earmarked for some purpose – and we have never “earmarked” the basic budget items. We are in somewhat better shape now, but are still likely to spend more than we take in year over year, as we have for at least a couple decades. I think part of the reason for that is that we haven't been clear about telling the story of our budget. We do a great job telling the story of ministries like Feeding Families in His Name and the Appalachian Service Project – and as a result have funded things like that well, with healthy designated reserves in place to ensure continuous ministry. It is time to do the same for our church as a whole!

Basically, to host and administer everything we currently do – that is fund the staff and facilities – we need to take in about \$20,000 to \$21,000 each month for our general budget. It varies a bit seasonally, but that's the goal. I believe we can meet it & God can do abundantly far more than we imagine!

To help us think about why we do what we do, I have been working with Finance to develop a “narrative budget” – a story, much like we tell about mission projects. Why do we have a building? Why do we seek appointment of a full time Elder as pastor and employ the small staff we have? It's more than a building and staff – it is Outreach, Connection and Communication. It's Evangelism and Hospitality. Of course, it is Worship, which is the largest component of our budget when we break things down by purpose. It's also Education, which, thanks to volunteer leaders and classes largely self-funding their materials, we spend relatively little on from general funds, and, of course it's Facilities Maintenance and Administration.

I created these categories by thinking about what our staff does and how we use our space. Feeding Families, Aging Forward, and even ASP - let alone worship - don't happen if we don't have facilities in place, lights, HVAC, a table set up in the right place at the right time, a bulletin and slide show and on and on. In the coming weeks we'll be telling stories about all these things to help us understand why funds are needed and allocated as they are. Then in November we'll be asking for pledge cards for 2027 to see if our plans are realistic or if we need to make adjustments. I believe God has plans for us in this place and will make a way – and that all will be well! Thank you for being a part of our shared journey as the people of First UMC!



- 19% Outreach, Connection, and Communication
- 16% Evangelism and Hospitality
- 28% Worship
- 3% Education
- 18% Facilities and Maintenance
- 16% Administration / Mission Facilitation / Recordkeeping

What's Inside This Edition?

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Please submit articles about your church or community group events for the September Newsletter by August 24, or before if possible, so that Christy can start laying things out.

And be planning ahead for October and beyond!

Send them to info@firstumcfortscott.org.
Thank You!

Help Needed: Shawnda Stewart, of the Kansas Renewal Institute, is continuing to collect luggage, any size, for use in the Foster Care program. She will be our guest speaker at the September **Aging Forward** where she will also collect donations of t-shirts and socks for the homeless program. These may be brought to the church office at any time where Christy will store them for the meeting.



August Birthdays: Elizabeth Braun -7, Gary Boyd -11, Karen Nichols- 12, Bruce Majors- 17, Paul Antonetti- 22, Randy Nichols- 26, Roger Sipe- 27

August Anniversaries: Ron and Mille Sharp -4, Charles and Clela Winkleman- 4, Chuck and Delene Russell- 8, Doug and Suziee Barlet- 15, Bruce and Carol Majors- 21, Darren & Kelley Tucker- 30, Rich and Christy Pollock- 30



United
Women
in Faith

The Women in Faith are uniting in fellowship on Thursday, August 13, at 1:30 in the parlor to connect and be inspired. All women are invited to attend as we learn to know God and experience his gifts. Pat Hartford and Janice Fewins hostesses. Randy Nichols is scheduled to share his knowledge on climate change, and things we should be aware of, or possibly change. Discussing the Presbyterian Village Fall Tea and the program idea will be set, along with setting a committee; bring ideas! Leatha Boyd attended the Mission U in Lawrence in

July. It is a justice focused, biblical educational program, hosted by United Women in Faith. Best Choice labels, **UPC**, are still being collected by Linda Leachner. Drop jars are available on the entrance tables; she just sent a batch in so please help her start building the next batch!



The
Awe
of
God

Faith Builders In August we will be discussing "The Awe of God," a multimedia study by John Bevere. This study examines the astounding way a healthy fear of God transforms your life. We will see how learning to approach God in this entirely new way allows us to discover the deeper relationship with God that our souls long for and that He desires with us. Come join us in fellowship at 9:30, during the Sunday School hour.

The Caregiver Support Group is meeting the second Tuesday of each month at 6:00p.m. at the Credo Senior Living complex at 820 S. Horton Street in Fort Scott.

This welcoming space offers peer support, helpful resources, and practical guidance to help you navigate the challenges of caregiving while caring for your own well being. Hospice soul focus is delivering excellence in service for patients and families navigating a difficult time. For more information please contact Chaplain Jeff Feagins at jeffrey.feagins@hynesmemorial.org or calling 620-231-7223. Light snacks and drink will be offered.



AGING FORWARD is on the third Friday of the month through September, meeting at 1:00pm with light refreshments, and speakers aimed at lifelong learning and fellowship for all ages. **Everyone is welcome!** August 21 is hosting Austin Bolinger, the **Horticultural Therapist at Tri-Valley**, as he shares the work he does with plants and how the members benefit from the calming affects. He will also be sharing some plants from their greenhouse, and information the activities Tri-Valley has planned for the fall.



Susan Karlskint, with the **Old Fort Genealogy Society**, will be sharing her knowledge about seeking out your ancestors and their history. They will also share tons of Bourbon County history such as cemeteries, pictures and beyond. Susan, and Gary Boyd, professional historian, are excited to share new ideas they have at the center at 2801 S. Horton, the old Great West Building. She will have information on how you can dig into your own family history.

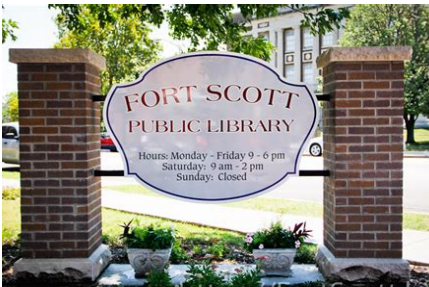


In 2024 the Great Plains Conference had a budget shortfall; the staff worked very hard to steward spending and our churches responded by exceeding needed income. This resulted in a surplus in 2025! Our Council on Finance and Admin voted to return most of that surplus to our conference churches in the form of a \$500 “Serving Joyfully” grant. The intention is to encourage churches to reach out to the local community services or enhance an outreach ministry. We received our check, and Administrative Board is considering helping Xandria Fowler work on her Eagle Scout Award, possibly by partially using this money toward her “Helping Box” project filled with items for the community, including the homeless.

Feeling Stuck? Need Community? Want to improve your situation? If you know of anyone answering yes to any of these questions, the Core Community will take you along on a journey that will surround



participants work alongside a trained volunteer to build on financial, social resources. FREE classes are available, starting in September, including a free family style meal and free childcare during the meetings. Call Jalaine Davis at 916-753-4733 to register!



August LIBRARY EVENTS – Jennifer Carnes

Adult Summer Reading continues through August 29
Wednesday Writers at 1:30 to 3:00, every Wednesday
Spooky Book Club, for adults, Monday, August 24 at 6:00pm, will be reading “I Was A Teenage Slasher” by Stephen Graham Jones
Starting Tuesday, August 4 at 2:15pm, starts the “Unraveling The Clues” program, meeting every Tuesday.

Dates To Put On Your Calendar

August 6 **First Thursday Stitchers** meet in the Fellowship Hall at 4:00pm

August 13 **UW Faith**, meets at 1:30 in the church parlor. **AWE** meets at 3:45 in the Fellowship Hall

August 21 **Aging Forward**, 1:00 in the parlor, light refreshments. Austin Bolinger, from Tri-Valley, will speak on Horticultural Therapy and their fall activities. Susan Karlskint will be sharing her Genealogy knowledge.

August 22 **SE KS District Gathering** in Chanute; Opening at 10:00, sessions, lunch and afternoon sessions follow



August 30 **Church Service in the Park** at 10:30, **Picnic Lunch** to follow. More details to follow.
Saturday, October 3rd, 10:00am, the Annual **Humboldt Biblesta Parade**; free Bean Feed, Gospel Music, activities for kids and many opportunities for fellowship and Christian learning!



Great Plains UNITED METHODISTS

Southeast Kansas District

Love Boldly



Southeast Kansas District Gathering

August 22, 2026

We passionately love God and, like Jesus, embrace and include people of every age, nation, race, gender, and walk of life. (Matthew 22:37-39 | John 13:34-35)

10:00 – 11:00 a.m.

Opening worship in Sanctuary

Bishop Wilson preaching

Ministry Moment: Campus Ministry

11:15 - noon

Morning Breakout Sessions (Choose one)

Prison Ministry - Stan Basler

Re-entry Ministry

Generational Connections - Daniel Reffner

Followers Under 40: Reaching Younger Generations presentation

12:15 – 1:30 p.m.

Program Lunch (Choose one)(sack lunches will be provided)

Campus Ministries - Blake Stanwood (Baker), Alex Bruening (KU),
& Jesse Briscoe (Pittsburg State)

Sharing about campus ministries connected to our district.

Discussion about reach, focus, and how local congregations can help

Caring Congregations - Linda Stotler

A refresher of the Caring Congregations workshop and strategies for implementing in local congregations

2:00 p.m.

Installation of DS Alice Purvis

DS Alice Purvis preaching

Reception to follow

Please Register by calling 785-414-4229 or e-mailing

ks.southeastdistrict@gpcumc.org prior to August 14th.

Registration helps us know how many lunches to prepare.

*A special offering for district campus ministries will be taken during the installation service.
Thank you for supporting our district ministries.*

On the first page, I praised the work our committees and church leaders have been doing to live out responsible stewardship and increase our clarity of communication regarding our finances and planning. Here, for your reference, is a list of who is presently serving on each of our standing committees and, hence, the folks making these decisions. Most committee members serve 3 year terms and we will have a number of openings to have new people take on these roles in 2027. United Methodist churches are designed to be primarily lay led, with the Pastor having voice, but not vote in most committees. Thank you to everyone listed below currently serving.

Please consult the list below to know who to talk with now – and be thinking about where you might be most interested in serving and let Pastor Christopher know! In the September newsletter we'll run more about what each committee does – most are fairly obvious, but it never hurts to make sure. ~Pastor Christopher

Administrative Board

Chair: Mike Carnes
SPRC Chair: Randy Nichols
Trustees Chair: Steve Harry
HOCROC Chair: Bonnie Milburn
Finance Chair: Carol Majors
UW in Faith President: Debra Wood
Treasurer: Linda Hessong
Lay Leader: Don Tucker
At Large: Jean Tucker
Rev. Christopher Eshelman - *ex officio*
Admin. Assist: Christy Pollock

HOCROC (Hospitality, Outreach, and Community Relations)

Chair: Bonnie Milburn
Joyce Allen
Suziee Bartlet
Susan Carnes
Pat Hartford
Linda Leachner
Peggy Stark
Don Tucker
Debra Wood

Staff Parish Relations Committee

Chair: Randy Nichols
Susan Carnes
Gayla Croan
Kathy Probis
Becky Tourtillott

Finance

Chair: Carol Majors
Ken Anderson
Linda Hessong
Jon Hutchinson
Carol Lydic
Randy Nichols
Charlene Sipe

Trustees

Chair: Steve Harry
Vice-Chair: Bonnie Milburn
Jim Covey
Mike Leachner
Carol Lydic
David Shepherd
Patty Smilie
Lisa Ward
Robert Wilson, *Custodian*

Bake Sales

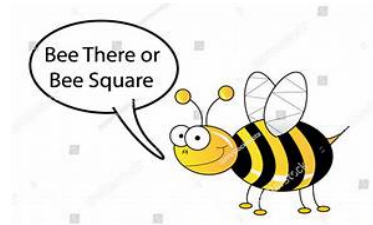
Chair: Cindy Valdez

Note – the Lay Leader and Pastor sit in on every committee. The Lay Leader has voice and vote, the Pastor is generally “ex officio” meaning voice but no vote.

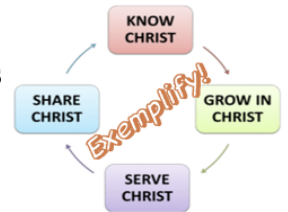


Church Service in the Park Sunday, August 30 10:30am

Church will be celebrated in Shelter House number 5; the enclosed building above the camping area, including air conditioning! Plenty of picnic tables are available, or you may bring your lawn chairs if you prefer. A Fellowship Picnic immediately to follow, so bring your favorite casserole, salad, side dish or dessert and be ready to enjoy goodies in the great outdoors! Drinks will be supplied, table service will be available, unless you have your favorite picnic gear!



Our Mission is: to share the good news of the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ and to *exemplify* the love of God by *knowing* Christ, *growing* in Christ, *serving* Christ and *sharing* Christ.



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

Return Service Requested

Here is your AUGUST 2026
Newsletter from:



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