



The **Connexion**

On the Christian Journey... with Pastor Christopher

What is working? What isn't? How can we do what is necessary in ways that are energizing and engaging to those who regularly participate...(?) while also creating new connections and inviting new people to be involved and help shape our next steps? Each of us was once new – to the church, to a committee or role... I am very excited that many of us are doing that kind of work here at First United Methodist right now. At Charge Conference we will formally adopt a slate of committee nominations that include several “new faces” and longtime members in new roles. I appreciate every person that has stepped up to lead some aspect of our life together – be it on the formal Discipline specified committees or the behind-the-scenes organization of events both special and quite ordinary. Sunday, we changed the paraments from Red (*which are my favorite but are really only for Pentecost*) to Green – ordinary time, what they are “supposed” to be for most of the church year. Yet there is nothing ordinary about ordinary time. God is all around us – in the song of the meadowlark, the roll of thunder, a shining star, the birth of a new life, or just the fluttering wings of a butterfly. Life is an extraordinary miracle!

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One way our Network is seeking to do necessary work in an engaging way is changing our approach to Charge Conference. This year we will break bread together at tables catered by Chicken Mary's at 6pm, then have our brief, Discipline required, Charge Conference meeting to affirm the work our Administrative Board, Pastor, and Committees are doing for a new year, and then at 7pm, we will enjoy the music of the Prairie Sunflower Strings! RSVP to the Church office by noon on Wednesday, October 11th to reserve your spot!



Another “necessary” thing is funding our mission and ministry – creating opportunities for people to encounter Christ and community more deeply. Sometimes it's fun, like our gospel concerts or parade entries. Sometimes it's routine like turning on the lights and AC to host a community group or paying for the time and talent of our staff. We do this through the offering we collect and need a way to budget for the funds we will have in the coming year. We do that through pledge cards and a Stewardship campaign. This year we will be asking you to fill out and return a pledge card for 2024 by Sunday, November 12th. This day was selected

because it falls between All Saints Sunday (*remembering our past and a rededication of memorial books*) and Thanksgiving (*our present and future*). This year's campaign will feature the theme "Greater Than..." and is focused on what we can do together in and beyond our walls. Each of us is a small part of what First United Methodist is and can be. What we can do together is “greater than” the sum of its parts while glorifying not ourselves, but Christ. And together, Christ promises we will do still greater things!



Chuck Crain
In concert at First United Methodist!

Featured at Presley’s Branson and RFD TV and a former member of the Blackwood Brothers, *Chuck will bring his music ministry here on*

Sunday, October 8th at 6pm!

*A Freewill offering will be collected for the artist. For more information about Chuck, visit his website at <https://www.chuckcrain.net> **Invite a friend!***

The Beacon Challenge is Underway!

After the first 3 weeks it is 2-1 Methodists. As this issue goes to press our challenge is Boxed Cereal and we’ll know Monday if it’s 3-1 or all tied up.



The final challenges are:

Sunday, October 8th – *Soup & Canned Meats/Fish (chicken, Spam, tuna, salmon, stew, chili, etc).*

Sunday, October 15th – *Peanut Butter and Jelly (or similar).*

And if needed the Tiebreaker “Other Items” TOTAL - also tallied by Monday, Oct 16th (includes all items not on list or brought after target date, by weight). Cash donations will be totaled here and count as One (1) pound per \$1.00

THE RULES:

- Each weekly “Sunday” count is due by Mondays at noon, reported to the other church’s office. Weight used is from item packaging. Weekly winner is the church that brings the most (by weight) of each item **by that item’s Sunday (aka by the Monday noon deadline...)**
- Items may be “saved up” to be counted during the target week if brought early, but once that item’s week passes, any further donations of said item just become “other items donated” and are included in the tiebreaker, but not retroactively to the item’s weekly count.
- Church that wins 4 of the 6 “weekly” count wins the trophy – if we spilt 3-3 on designated counts, an “other items and cash donated” tiebreaker is used.
- Churches may choose to use donated weekly cash to have someone purchase items for a given week to try and win that week **BUT** cash used that way 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!”** Now... let’s get that trophy back ☺



SPEAKING OF CHALLENGES – EMAIL WOES



This one is considerably less fun. Email continues to be problematic, and Pastor Christopher has been working with tech support contacts from Microsoft (we use Outlook servers as part of our free Microsoft365 nonprofit license for Word, Excel, etc.) and Wix (our internet hosting site) to try and resolve numerous DNS problems. It has taken far, far more of his time than he’d like and is still not fixed. Right now, the primary issue is Google’s gmail servers intermittently rejecting nearly anything we send out. It affects both our new domain and the old one. We consistently receive email sent to either set of addresses, but mail we send out repeatedly gets flagged and stopped. We hope to have this resolved soon.



PIONEER HARVEST FIESTA PARADE – Thursday, October 5th at 6pm.

One of the “new traditions” Pastor Christopher has introduced is passing out pinwheels at community parades as a form of engagement and outreach. We are becoming known as the “pinwheel church” and as the sticker we add with our website and address says: "The Spirit is moving at First United Methodist Church!"

We need folks to ride along and a few walkers to help pass out the pinwheels this year!



We will use this year’s Pioneer Harvest Fiesta Parade float to introduce our “new to us” outdoor nativity set and another “new tradition” – our first annual **Nativity Showcase: Friday, Dec. 1 5-8pm & Saturday, Dec 2, 10am -2pm**

We will be part of the new “Christmas on the Bricks” slate of activities, centering around the Fort’s annual Candlelight Tours. Bring your Nativity or Crèche to display alongside others from our church and community in Fellowship Hall. Watch for further details and registration in November!

REAL CANDLES FOR CHRISTMAS EVE!

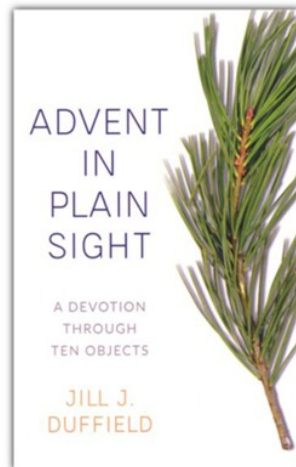


We will again have real candles available for our annual “Silent Night” service at 7pm on December 24th.

Trustees has worked with our insurance company for a “once a year” exception to make this possible without raising our rates.

*This year that date is also a Sunday, so we *will* meet at 10:30am for our normal worship service with an Advent theme and then at 7pm for our traditional Christmas Eve with Communion.*

This year our theme for Advent will be based on a book called “Advent in Plain Sight.” *In this daily devotional for Advent, Christmas, and Epiphany, Jill J. Duffield draws readers' attention to ten ordinary objects that appear in the biblical narratives of messianic prophesy and incarnation—objects we encounter in our own lives. Through objects such as gates, trees, cloth, light, and water, readers will find new meaning in the biblical account of Jesus’ coming. By connecting everyday objects with biblical texts, Advent in Plain Sight prompts readers to see the near kingdom of heaven on earth and ponder what that divine proximity enables and asks them to do and be. Each daily devotional features a Scripture reading, prayer, and reflection, reminding Christians that God still dwells among us, even in the most ordinary places.*



Join the Choir!
Practice is at 10am and then briefly after worship each Sunday.



Faith Builders in October

We will be finishing the last two sessions of “The God of the How and the When” the first two Sundays in October. On October 15, 22, and 29 we will be studying and discussing “Twelve Women of the Bible,” a multi-media program authored by a group of six women pastors and scholars. Those first three sessions are on Eve, Rebecca and Leah. Come and join us the discussion and fellowship. ~Ron Wood

2024 Plans for SHEPHERD'S CENTER / ADVENTURES IN LEARNING – “Fourth Friday Fellowship”



In 2024, we will meet April through September on the 4th Friday of the month, from 1-4pm! Each monthly Shepherd's Center “Adventures in Learning” session will feature local speakers on a variety of topics, presenting to all attendees, with snack breaks and fellowship time. We have a plan for most of the speakers, but your suggestions for speakers and topics are still welcome! Contact the office!

Using our Healthy Congregations grant from the Great Plains Conference we have begun experimenting with ways to build connection and encourage lifelong learning among senior adults in our

congregation and community. Our Shepherd's Center / Adventures in Learning program is affiliated with a national network of such programs, each locally run. We are excited to be growing this program for the Fort Scott Community with 6 events in 2024!

“Forth Friday Fellowship” SOUP LUNCHES OCTOBER THROUGH MARCH

The other 6 months of the year – starting this month and running through March, we will have the fellowship and fundraising opportunity of our Friendship Soup Lunches. These are freewill offering events to be held in Fellowship Hall. Groups preparing the lunch can specify a mission project, but by default this year we'll use funds not otherwise designated to start saving up for needed HVAC repairs and replacement.



October Birthdays: 7-Linda Leachner, 9-Jaeston Grant, 10-Missy Davis, 11-Hannah Tourtillott, 12-Janet Fancher, 13-Patty Smilie, Charles Hoffmeyer, 13-Tim Heiser 1 4-Amanda Widder, Carlyle Dunshee, 15-Nicholas Davis, Doug Altic, 16-Theron Fancher, 19-Dru Nichols, 24-Minnie Lou Allen, 25-Kent Boyd, 26-Gloria Shankel, Kaylie Dinneen, 28-Camrie Hunziker,

October Anniversary: 18-Dave and Debra Wood



“MAD HONEY” NEXT BOOK FOR WEDNESDAY READING GROUP – Jean Tucker

Any lady is welcome to join the Reading Group which meets on Wednesdays in the library at 1:30 p.m. for about an hour.



Beginning October 18th, the next book we will read is “Mad Honey” by Jodi Picoult and Jennifer Finney Boylan. It is a fascinating novel about the complexities of love, betrayal and the lengths people will go to protect those they care about. The novel offers profound commentary on the lasting impact of abuse, trauma, and the power of forgiveness. The book will teach you more about bees than you ever thought you wanted to know! The book will take 4 weeks to read and discuss:

1st Week – October 18th - read pages 1-100, through chapter 3.

2nd Week – October 25th – read pages 101-223, through chapter 5.

3rd Week – November 1 – read pages 224-327, through chapter 7.

4th Week – November 8 – read pages 326-444, through recipes.

Upcoming KMDO Radio Schedule:

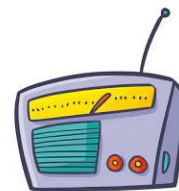
A recording of our services will run every other week at 1pm on 103.9 (or occasionally 98.3 if there's a Chiefs or Royals game conflict).

Our upcoming dates are:

October 8th & 22nd

November 5th & 19th

December 3rd, 17th & 31st



Tell a Friend!



First UMC
Fort Scott, KS

Knowing Growing
Serving Sharing



The man whispered,
“God, speak to me.”
And a meadowlark sang.
But the man did not hear.

So the man yelled,
“God, speak to me!”
Thunder rolled across the sky.
But the man did not listen.



The man looked around and said,
“God, let me see you.”
A star shone brightly.
But he noticed it not.

And the man shouted,
“God, show me a miracle.”
And a life was born.
But the man was unaware.



So, the man cried out in despair,
“Touch me, God, and
let me know that you are here!”



Whereupon God reached down
and touched the man.

But the man brushed the butterfly away... and walked on.

~Author Unknown
Shared by Pastor Christopher to start worship 9.24.23

3rd Annual First United Methodist Community Halloween

**Tuesday, October 31st
5:30 – 6:30pm**

**Parking Lot behind the
church: 301 S National**

Trunk *or* Treat



*Setup begins at 5:00pm,
lot will be blocked off at 5:20 for safety*



Open to all. Parents and grandparents are invited to bring the kids.
Come in costume and celebrate All Hallows Eve with your friends and neighbors.

There is no charge for this event.

We need church members and friends to decorate their car, truck or van
or just bring lawn chairs and candy pass out. Donations of Candy are also needed.
We especially encourage stations with short, kid friendly, simple games to play to
get the candy (a spinner, fishing, etc.) to foster conversation and engagement!

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

Return Service Requested

*Here is your October 2023
Newsletter from:*



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