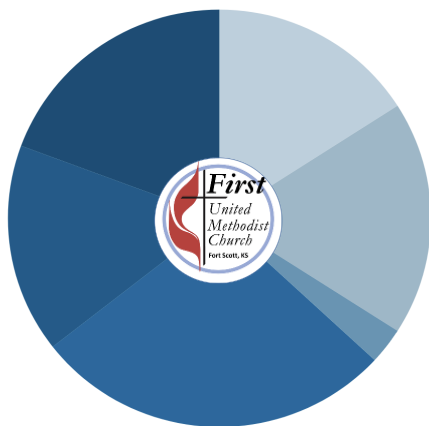


The Connexion



On the Christian Journey... with Pastor Christopher

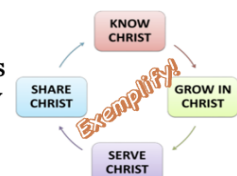
Last month I laid a challenge before us, naming that we need to average about \$21,000 a month in giving to meet our budget. In August we got closer, finishing at about \$18,500 – so progress, but some ways to go. I want to talk a bit about how we arrived at that \$21,000 goal. It didn't come out of the blue. Linda and Jon, our treasurers, have gone over the books for 2023, 2024, and 2025 with a fine tooth comb. Our reinvigorated Finance committee has spent time with the numbers and categories Linda and Jon have developed. We've prayerfully considered what is necessary and we've been frugal. We've looked at best practices – for example, we've taken the recent large gifts from the Braun and DuVall estates and maturing endowment CD's and combined them into a Money Market Account that gives us better interest, yet ensures the funds are accessible if needed, for example, to fix the dome. But the budget categories we organize around don't always tell the story, so it's helpful to look at how the categories overlap, that's what the chart below is about telling the stories the numbers enable. For example, what does it take to gather for worship? The facilities must be cleaned, climate controlled, the doors opened, lights on, music prepared, prayers and liturgy written, bulletins printed, slides for the screens prepped. Hopefully there's a sermon worth listening to as well. So when we look at our annual budget, there's only a very small amount in the category that says "worship" – but a large percentage of our custodian, administrative assistant, and pastor's time – as well as essentially all of our choir director, nursery and IT staff time, go to making worship happen. Worship also accounts for a significant portion of our utilities. Without all those pieces, Sunday mornings do not happen. What does it take for us to sustain Feeding Families in His Name, likely our most impactful mission? It's entirely volunteer driven and grants from beyond the congregation pay for most of our "paper" goods and have provided several new appliances and even food recently – yet again, tables need to be set up, so some of the custodian's time goes here, and we maintain the building and pay those darned gas and electric bills to have the space to do the ministry – or again, it doesn't happen. This is why we exist!



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

We believe in this budget and we believe God is making a way for Fort Scott First UMC to continue to serve this mission field and tell the story of Christ's life, death, and resurrection, just as we have for 160 years! I invite us all to prayerfully consider our giving and do so with the conviction that God can do abundantly far more than we imagine! Thank you for your support and for being a part of our shared journey as the people of First!

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.



What's Inside This Edition?

- Page 2 *Bake Sale Dates
- Sept. Birthdays/Anniversaries
 - * United Women in Faith
 - Library Activities and groups
 - * Harry Hynes Hospice meeting
- Page 3 • Aging Forward – September 18th
- * Thank You note, Pat Hartford
 - * Biblesta Parade, Humbolt, KS
 - * Ladies Reading Group “Rebecca”
 - Core Community Opportunities
- Page 4 • Committees of FUMC, duties
- Page 5/6 *Very Special Music Guests
- Page 7 *Beacon Food Collection
- *Tri-Valley Garden Sale
 - * Faith Builders “AWE of God”
 - *Alzheimers Meeting
- Page 8 * Trunk Or Treat Information

Please submit articles about your church or community group events for the October Newsletter by September 28, or before if possible, so that Christy can start laying things out.

And be planning ahead for November and beyond!

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

FALL BAKE SALES!

If you like to bake, or make candy, ect., we have two chances: 11/22, the Sunday before Thanksgiving, and 12/20, the Sunday before Christmas! The monies earned will go to various funds, including our General Fund, and you have an opportunity to pick up holiday goodies! Please call Cindy Valdez to let her know what you can bring, at 620-224-8515. God Bless!

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS: Debbie Button-1 Shannon Miner-1
Cheryl Marsh-10 Landia Antonetti-11 Mike Leachner-14 Robert Miner-16
Mark Ward-17 Carol Majors-18 Pat Hartford-20 Ruby Ingram-21
Barbara Stuart-23 Marlene Braker-26 Delene Russell-27
Winston Bishop-29 Peggy Stark-30

SEPTEMBER ANNIVERSARIES:

Don and Jean Tucker- 3 Mark and Lisa Ward-4 (50 years)
Charles and Cheryl Marsh-8, Roger and Charlene Sipe-17



United
Women
in Faith

The SEK District Fall Meeting is held in Iola on Saturday, September 26, at 9:00 to 12:00. Registration is due Sept. 12, forms are available in the office or from Debra Wood.

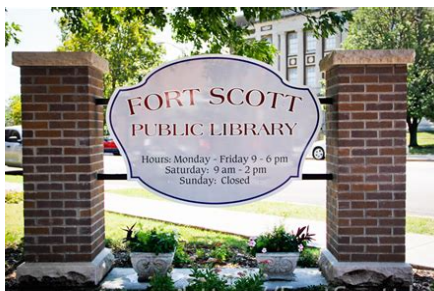
The next UWF meeting will be held Thursday, October 8 at 1:30. Deb Anderson will be sharing information about their Elk Farming, and the various



elk products. All women are invited to attend as we learn to know God and experience his gifts.

Women in Faith are Uniting in Fellowship with their Sisters in God at the Presbyterian Village on October 14 at 2:00. The Annual Fall Tea will have refreshments, music and devotions. All women are welcome!

Best Choice labels, the UPC, are still being collected by Linda Leachner. Drop off jars are available on the entrance tables; she recently sent a batch in, so please help her continue building the next batch!



SEPTEMBER LIBRARY EVENTS – Jennifer Carnes

Tuesdays, 10:30 a.m. “Story Time,” snacks and crafts

Tuesdays, 2:15 “Unraveling The Clues” with Sam

Wednesday Golden Aces, ages 55 and over, 10:00 a.m. social

connections, guest lectures and group projects

Wednesday Writers at 1:30 to 3:00, every Wednesday, monthly prompts for ideas on casual writings to share at each meeting

September 14, 2:00 Bring Your Own Book Club with Jennifer C.

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!** Our first speaker on September 18 will be a representative of the Kansas Renewal Institute, new owners of the former Mercy Hospital building. She will discuss how they help young people regain power over their mental health. She will also share steps the foster care system takes to keep families safely in tact and building a safe community. She is asking for donations of luggage, any size, for the foster care kids, and t-shirts and socks for the homeless society.



Our second speaker will be Don Banwart discussing Fort Scott's historic train depot being transformed into The Railroad Museum. The addition of the historic MKT caboose on the property will also be highlighted. He will candidly share stories about Hell's Bend Train Wreck of 1885 and the long journey the train's bell has taken. Hope to see you there!

Thank You for the many prayers, support, cards, and kind gestures I received through the last few months. I am healing from the fall I encountered in May with the surgical repair in June to my left arm. Physical Therapy (PT) continues through September. The Parathyroid Surgery in July went well. Getting better. Looking forward to the progress.

*From
Pat Hartford*

Mark Your Calendar for the Biblesta Parade in Humbolt, Kansas

Saturday, October 3rd, 10:00am is the 68th Annual **Humboldt Biblesta Parade!** Also is a Free Bean Feed, Gospel Music, activities for the kids and many opportunities for fellowship and Christian learning, including The Biblesta After Dark Youth Rally! Help in honoring the joys of the Lord Jesus Christ!



The Ladies Reading Group will begin the fall session on Wednesday, September 9, at 1:30 p.m. in the FUMC Library. The first book will be the 1938 classic "Rebecca," by Daphne du Maurier, a classic psychological Gothic novel set in Cornwall, England. The young, new wife of a widower, finds herself in competition with the dead, first wife. The novel, explores themes of manipulation, isolation, jealousy, insecurity. Please read up to page 133 for Sept. 9th. Ladies are asked to purchase their own copies through Hedgehog or Amazon. The second book, for pre-order, will be "My Dear Hamilton" by Stephanie Drake. Dorothy Kivett is the moderator, if you have any questions.



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 you with support. Participants work alongside a trained volunteer to build on financial, emotional and 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!

STANDING COMMITTEES We thank each of the folks below for their service on our standing committees. Each year at Charge Conference we elect our representatives for each committee. Normally members serve a three year term then can either rotate off or renew to serve another term. Part of discipleship and membership are meeting together to do the work of the church, overseeing and equipping our ministries. The committees are fairly self-explanatory and often work together. Trustees oversees maintaining the building and grounds. Finance focuses on our budget and spending – those obviously overlap. SPRC hires and oversees staff and works with the District Superintendent on the appointive process for our pastor. HOCROC is our primary programming group, creating fellowship events and engaging with the community. We’ve recently started a tradition of Bake Sales to help fund our ministries, which may develop into it’s own standing committee. Soon it will be time to renew some of these, what area would you most enjoy serving in?

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. Assistant: 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



Guest Cello/Piano Duo

Sunday, Sept. 6, 2026

Featuring

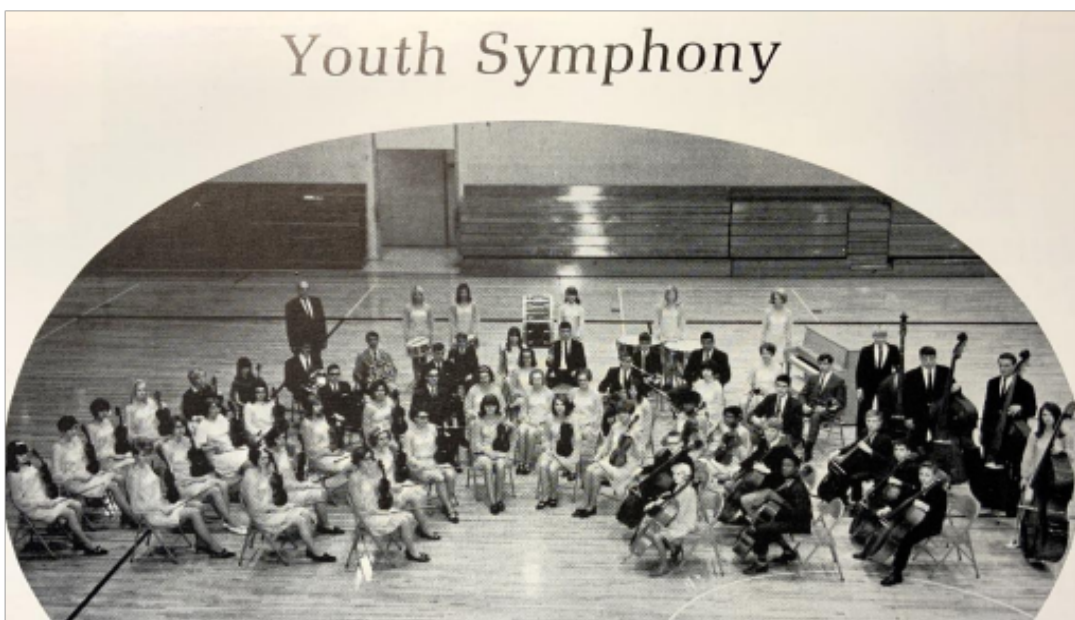
**Barbara McCord, Cello
Karen Fremar, Piano**

**First United Methodist
Church**

10:30 AM Worship Service

**Barbara McCord & Karen Fremar on stage after recent concert
Bowlus Fine Arts Center, Iola, KS**

Barbara (Sewell) McCord and Karen Fremar first performed together in the Fort Scott Youth Symphony as pre-teens, in the 1960s. Youth Symphony conductor, Carl Clinesmith, recognized their musical talent when playing in the Winfield Scott grade school orchestra, and recruited each of them into the 60-member symphony as 6th graders. They attended weekly Monday night rehearsals with musicians who were mostly high school students, and performed and toured regionally with the group for 6 years. Barbara and Karen quickly rose to positions as principal cellist and lead percussionist/timpanist in the symphony. During those years, they also performed together in the SEK Orchestra at Pittsburg State University (someone needed to drive them to rehearsals, since neither were old enough yet to drive). After heading off to different colleges and pursuing their careers, they recently enjoyed reuniting to perform concerts together as members of the Iola Symphony, where Barbara serves as principal cellist, and Karen as timpanist. On their drives over to Iola for rehearsals, they discussed the possibility of working together for fun as a cello/piano duo, and began spending joyful times together arranging and rehearsing music to perform. Their special music is a result of that new collaboration.



McCord sitting 1st Chair Cello and Fremar (behind the big drums) as Timpanist c. 1968



Alex Brady, Flutist

**Featured Guest Musical Artist
with**

**Karen Fremar,
Accordionist/Pianist**

**First United Methodist Church
Sanctuary
301 S. National
Fort Scott, Kansas 66701**

**Sunday, September 27, 2026
10:30 AM Worship Service**

All are Welcome!

Alex Brady, flutist, is a Fremar Foundation Scholar and senior majoring in Flute Performance at Kansas University. He has received numerous awards and accolades for his extraordinary musical skills. Since his freshman year, he has been a recitalist and has held the principal chair in flute in the Kansas University Orchestra; and he has performed professionally (sometimes even sitting in as a special musical guest with ensemble Vivant! and Karen Fremar).

Alex spent the past summer at the Oxford Musique Academie studying with the principal of the NY Philharmonic, and professors from the Julliard School of Music, Manhattan School of Music, Paris Conservatoire, Yale School of Music, & Montreal Conservatoire. He then headed to France where he studied with his mentor, Stefán Ragnar Höskuldsson, principal flutist of the Berlin Philharmonic; toured with the Orchestra of Americas as a representative of the US; and finally spent a brief residency in Poland at the Penderecki Center, where he performed at the Berlin Kunsthau. After completing a senior recital and his final year at KU, Alex's plans include attaining an advanced degree in performance (at a prestigious music school in either Europe or the USA), and then ultimately securing a position as flutist with a major symphony orchestra. (Photo right: Karen Fremar & Alex Brady in concert together.)



Alex Brady's appearance is sponsored by the Fremar Foundation, a 501(c)(3) Charitable Organization, providing scholarships and recognition for outstanding young artists (including many from the Fort Scott, KS area).

Donations are Tax Deductible

Fremar Foundation • 701 Meadow Lane • Fort Scott, KS 66701

www.fremarfoundation.org

The BEACON



All this month we are collecting items for the Beacon! Our goal is to collect **1000 items by the end of September**. Bonnie Milburn called a Beacon representative and here are the most needed items Beacon staff is requesting. Let's restock the shelves for our neighbors! You can bring any of these items at any time. We have totes outside of the office door for collection.

Peanut Butter	Jelly	Macaroni and cheese	Instant potatoes
24 oz. Spaghetti sauce (note: *no* pasta needed)			Ramen Noodles (chicken or beef)
Pancake Mix	Cornbread mix		Canned Vegetables (all kinds)



Tuesday, Sept 29th 2pm
CREDO Senior Living
820 South Horton
Fort Scott

Everyone is invited to play some exciting Bingo with the Credo residents! Bring your "Groovy Clothes" and have friendly competition with some of the First UMC members and Credo friends!

B I N G O!

Tri Valley

Developmental Services

Tri Valley Developmental Services
Autumn Plant Sale

Saturday, September 26, 2026

9:00 am to 2:00 pm

Winter Pansies, Houseplants,
Ornamental Cabbage,

Lots of Garden Items and Fun Decor

Garden Mums by Pre-Order only



Faith Builders: In September we will continue "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 EMPOWERED CAREGIVER

An education program presented by the Alzheimer's Association®

Want to show up as the strongest version of yourself—for you and the people you love? Build the skills that help you thrive in this role and feel confident doing it.

Join Us in A Two Part Series
Tuesday, October 6th & 13th
6-8pm

Fort Scott Community
College
Burris Ag Hall
2108 South Horton
A light meal will be
provided
Please RSVP to
620-224-3826 or
tsolomon@ksu.edu

Join Our 6th Year of Trunk - Or -Treat!

Saturday, October 31, 5:30 pm to 6:30 pm

Saturday night, bring your car, SUV, truck, or chairs and table for decorating! Please come to hand out candy and enjoy all the kiddos in their costumes! We especially encourage stations to have short, kid friendly, simple games to “earn” candy and encourage engagement!

We will be in the parking lot on Third and Main behind the church; set up begins at 5:00 pm.

Everyone is welcome to set up, OR you are welcome to bring the kiddos to Trick-Or-Treat us!

Donations of candy, any kind, may be brought to the office for those set up to hand out.



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

Return Service Requested

**Here is your September 2026
Newsletter from:**



Visit us online:

Links to Facebook, YouTube,
Instagram www.firstumcfortscott.org