



Volume 26, Issue #4

April, 2022

The Connexion



On the Christian Journey... With Pastor Christopher

As you read this we are deep into our Lenten journey and Easter is on the horizon! Easter is a joyous time when we celebrate the Resurrection - when we live into the light of Christ and the reality that "love has already won." You've been hearing that phrase from me recently - it is our Easter season theme this year.

Thanks to a generous donor that underwrote the cost, in the Sanctuary throughout Lent we've had banners up talking about that love - reminders from John 3:16 and Luke 10:27, 1 John 4:7 and 1 Corinthians 13:13. Just a few of the many verses that talk about God's love for us and our response in sharing that love with all. I hadn't really said anything about them yet - just letting them subtly add to our space in worship. As we approach Easter we will increasingly focus on the theme of Love.

But to really understand the depth of God's love for us, we need to enter into the full depth of Holy Week. It's tempting to stay with the celebrations - the triumphant entry into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday and the light and life of Easter. Yet God's love is fully revealed in the darkness of Maundy Thursday and Good Friday. The silence of Holy Saturday. This year we will gather on Thursday and Friday, April 14th and 15th, at 7pm for special services to mark Holy Week and prepare for Easter. If you were a part of our Ash Wednesday service - or heard about it - these special services will have a similar feel. You will get to interactively enter into the events of Jesus passion and take the next step on your own path of discipleship and faith. Make plans to join us and invite a friend!



Our deep sympathy to Jan Hedges as well as all family and friends of Dick Hedges, who died March 11th. And thanks again to all who helped with the lunch. Cindy Foxx's name was inadvertently left off the list run in the bulletin last month.

Email Distribution Glitch / Update



Due to some technology glitches we recently had to recreate our email distribution

groups. This may have resulted in some folks who want to opt out of weekly and monthly updates getting them - and possibly some folks who want them being left out. 'Our apologies!

Please help us improve our communication - if you are getting emails from us at an address you don't want them - please reply with "Remove from List" and we will do so immediately.

If you *aren't* getting weekly updates, including Pastor's written sermon summaries but would like to - email Zandra at secretary@firstumcfsks.org and ask to be added! Please also check that we have your current email anytime it updates. **Thank you.**

Labyrinth Planning with First Presbyterian!



Pastor Christopher walking a stone labyrinth in Santa Fe, New Mexico.

Pastor Christopher recently attended a Sessions meeting with First Presbyterian to present a proposal for a joint project to establish a labyrinth in the vacant lot that they own between their building and our Parsonage!

There will be a work day on May 15th (their "Serve Sunday") to help develop the space. Plans are still tentative but Pastor Christopher is hoping to have a temporary design laid out prior to that.

A walking labyrinth is not a maze - rather it is a single path to the center used for prayer and discernment in many cultures. As a Christian practice, it dates back to at least 1200-1220AD, as that is when a design was laid in stone on the floor of Chartres Cathedral, France. You can check out a display about labyrinths at Hedgehog, Ink anytime in April and Pastor will present some workshops on the practice to help interested people from both churches and the community at large learn about the spiritual practice of labyrinth walking. We will see photos of labyrinths from many cultures, learn how to draw a simple labyrinth design you can "walk" with your fingers and learn more about our local plans.

Join him on one or more of these opportunities:

Wednesday, April 20th at 7pm at First UMC

Thursday, April 21st at 2pm at HedgeHog, Ink!

Saturday, April 23rd at 2pm at First UMC

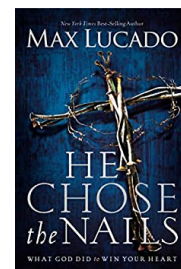


April Birthdays: 2-Lynn Chaney, Nicolas Norris, Griffin Swaim, 3-Alyssa Popp, 4-Douglas Barlet, 6-Rose Stoughton, 9-Kristin Bishop, 10-Tom Coyan, 13-Meganne Norris, 16-Connor Harry, 19-Leslie Reynolds, Darren Tucker, 20-Lee Culbertson, Koda Ballou, 23-Annie Temple, Kyle Altic, 24 Robert Christuski, 25-Miles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

April Anniversaries: 7-Ron and Barbara Wood, 26-Tom and Marlene Braker

FAITH BUILDER'S IN APRIL: We will continue our Lenten study with the multimedia presentation, "He Chose the Nails," by Max Lucado. We will also review and discuss a DVD, "The Third Day." This documentary investigates the questions regarding the Resurrection of Christ. This study attempts to shed light on the greatest mystery of all time. We invite you to join us in study and fellowship.

~Ron Wood



Easter Lilly Dedications



If you would like to honor or remember a loved one on Easter, please complete the information below and return it to the office, 301 S National, Fort Scott, KS 66701. You can call it in to (620) 223-1950 or email secretary@firstumcfsks.org.

We must have the information by Monday, April 11th

In [] honor of or [] memory of (write person's name below):

By (your name):

NAMES OF GRADUATES



If you have a graduate from High School, Trade School or College you'd like to celebrate in the May newsletter and at a service in May, please send their names to

secretary@firstumcfsks.org

so Zandra can compile a list.

Please have these in by Friday, April 22nd so we can get them in the May newsletter.

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/Royals game conflict).

Our upcoming dates are April 10, 24, May 8, 22, June 5, 19, July 3, 17 and August 14 and 28th.



ASP Mission Fundraiser Update:

As of March 27th, we've raised almost \$4000! - or 1000 miles worth! If we average \$4 given per mile, the trip is paid for. Sponsor one or more of the roughly 1800 miles the annual June mission trip will travel. See pledge sheets near the entrances for more info. Note "ASP Mission" on your check or envelope memo line! ***And be thinking about joining us on the trip June 12-18th as well - talk to Doug Altic or Tom Braker for information.***



History and Current Events


Volunteers Needed - We are still looking for folks who know the congregation and their families to watch local news - especially sources like the Tribune and

FortScott.biz - for mentions of our members and friend's involvement in the community or honors and accolades they might receive. We'd like to feature these stories on the bulletin board at church as well as in other ways. Is this a way you might be called to serve? Please chat with Pastor to get started!

First Quarter Giving Statements are available by contacting the church. We will mail them out in the 3rd and 4th quarters automatically, but if you'd like one now, just ask! **THANK YOU** for your generosity in supporting the mission of First UMC!

April 2022

Every Sunday: classes and fellowship for all ages at 9:30am, Worship at 10:30am
 Fellowship Café begins again April 3rd - sign up in the narthex. Greeters are also returning in April!

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Every Tuesday: Sewing group 9am, Mahjong group Noon. Every Wednesday: Work Crew 9am, Reading Group 1:30pm, Feeding Families 5:30-6:30pm Every Thursday: Pioneer Kiwanis - Fellowship Hall Reserved Noon-1pm						
 No fooling, Jesus Loves you!						
3 Communion <i>2pm Presbyterian Village service</i>	4 9:30am Pastor at Common Grounds most Mondays.	5	6	7 2pm Pastor at Hedgehog Ink! most Thursdays	8	9
10 <i>1pm MedicalLodge service</i>	11 Easter Lily slips due by noon 9:30am Pastor at Common Grounds	12	13	14 Maundy Thurs service 7pm AWE mtg - 5-7:30	15 Tenebrae Service Good Friday 7pm	16 <i>Holy Saturday</i>
17 EASTER SUNDAY	18	19	20 7pm Labyrinth Program at First UMC	21 2pm Labyrinth Program at Hedgehog, Ink!	22 <i>Names of Graduates Due to the office for May newsletter.</i>	23 2pm Labyrinth Program at First UMC.
24 <i>Afternoon - Sanctuary reserved Piano recital</i>	25	26	27	28	29	30 <i>Tentative Labyrinth build day - weather permitting.</i>

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

Return Service Requested

Here is your April 2022
 Newsletter from:



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 Links to Facebook,
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