

CRUNCHING THE NUMBERS

Food Pantry

In May, our Food Pantry served 43 adults and 19 children. We partner with the Flint Hills Breadbasket to help those in our community who are food insecure. The First Presbyterian Food Pantry serves our community on Fridays from 10:00 a.m.-noon and 1:00-3:00 p.m.

Community Meals

During the month of May, we served 230 dinners and 128 breakfasts. We also distributed 62 brownbag lunches. In the last week of May, we had a record number of people attending dinner... 63 people enjoyed delicious Barbequed hamburgers and hotdogs!! Thank you to the Kiwanis Club for grilling the meat in the park!

First Presbyterian Church
801 Leavenworth
Manhattan, KS 66502

Address Service Requested

Phone: 785-537-0518
Website:
www.firstpresmanhattan.com

CONCERTS IN THE PARK SERIES

Join us this Summer for a **Concert in the Park Series** featuring our wonderful musicians and local food trucks in our own Friendship Park! So pull out your tailgating chairs, call your friends and get ready for some entertaining neighborhood events!



Friday, July 21st: The Lovehandles featuring Joan Nelson.

Music 6pm-8pm and the Tasty Traveler Truck will be open at 5:45pm-7pm.

Saturday, August 19th: Our new worship band!

Music and fun will begin at 10:15am and Mr. K's Food Truck will be open at 10:15 am.

Non-Profit Organization
US Postage Paid
Manhattan, KS 66502
Permit No. 349



Manhattan, KS

July, 2017

Headline News



Rev. McConnell

TWENTY WONDERFUL YEARS

When I first arrived in Manhattan the evening of Saturday, June 7, 1997 I went directly to my temporary living headquarters at a Wareham Hotel apartment. The next morning, I preached my first sermon to a congregation that had generously and kindly called me to serve as its pastor. On that first Sunday, some were concerned about how I was going to receive my daily sustenance in the form of food, one even asking: "Since you're living at the Wareham, does that mean you'll eat at Harry's every night?" I said, "I wish, but I don't believe it's in the personal budget." But I remember that first day as being especially hot, having just come from mild Michigan temperatures, but the more important memory was the warmth of the congregation, a characteristic that has only gotten better as the years have quickly passed. Whenever I'm on the road, I boast of you often—to family, friends, and strangers. I want others to know of your love, your compassion, your faith, your high-character, and your graciousness.

As the Psalmist said, "The lines have fallen for me in pleasant places." And this congregation for me has been the most pleasant place of all.

Jennifer and I thank you for all you have done for us.

Faithfully,

Cam

VBS 2017 Recap

Campers at this year's Vacation Bible School had a great time learning about themselves and their Maker! See more pictures and learn about what happened at VBS on page 3!



**KICK-OFF SUNDAY
WEEKEND
AUGUST 19 & 20**

After a great summer of music, brunches, and summer camps, we will kick off 2017-2018 with an exciting weekend of activities!

Saturday: Presby Ninja Challenge (see page 5), inflatables, dunk tank, Concert in the Park featuring our new non-traditional worship service ensemble, and a Mr. K's food truck!

Sunday: Kick-off Sunday- first day of Sunday school for 2017-2018! This year's theme will be "**Kids Under Construction: God At Work.**"



STAFF NOTES

As has been published, a new worship service called "The Light" will begin Sunday morning, September 10, and will meet in the recreation center. Rev. Kati Collins will coordinate and lead the service. Her main duties on the staff will include the direction of the new service, an increased role in adult education, the incorporation of youth into the music ministry of the church, the development and nurture of young families, and general pastoral care. Rev. McConnell will oversee the youth (7-12 grades) and college ministry program, in addition to his normal responsibilities as senior pastor. Youth Director, Mackenzie Pepper, will continue her duties in August after returning from service as a camp counselor. Wesley Garibay is serving as a regular volunteer in the youth program.

A Note from your new Volunteer Coordinator

Every Wednesday evening during the school year, I get in my car and head down to the Douglass Center, located on Yuma Street next to the Flint Hills Breadbasket. I then spend an hour or two tutoring elementary and middle school students and helping them with their homework. The goal is to teach them better reading and math skills, but often times I feel like we, as tutors, are teaching them about life. Many of these kids come from lower income homes or homes where their parents are rarely around. I have taught a kid to count to 100 and then been left speechless when he asked if he was going to be deported (his parents were immigrants). Another student started out the year barely whispering to anyone and now she won't stop talking!

I leave mentally and physically exhausted, especially after the three hour per day summer programs. I could be at home watching a movie or going out with people but instead I'm reliving middle school algebra! When I get in my car to go home, wondering if I'm even making a difference, I look at the cards and pictures students have given me over the years and can't wait to go back. Tutoring at the Douglass Center is my form of service. I have been there for five years with no end in sight.

-Taylor Roberts, Volunteer Coordinator and Communications Director

First Presbyterian provides an endless amount of ways to serve from helping the food insecure in our Food Pantry to visiting the homebound through Bridge Builders to teaching our children in Sunday School. Watch our upcoming newsletters to see why your fellow First Presbyterians serve!

For information on how to serve or to sign up for a mission opportunity or committee, contact the First Presbyterian Volunteer Coordinator, Taylor Roberts, at secretary@firstpresmanhattan.com or 785-537-0518.

Pictured: A drawing of Taylor and Jason Roberts' wedding as imagined by a second grade student.



THANK YOU!

Thank you for all of your support through this time and to the deacons!

Leicha Kennedy

Update: Leicha is completed her first set of cancer treatments.

To our Church Family,

Thank you so much for your love and support on Campbell's baptism! The bible is such a treasure and his quilt is beautiful, but most of all, we appreciate you as a church and a wonderful place to raise our children.

With love,

Mitch, Jamie, Charlotte, and Campbell Binns

Dear First Presbyterian Church,

You did it again! Your 2017 Grow Green donation to our Endowed Fund helped put Shepherd's Crossing at the top of the list of 52 agencies for total dollars received and for number of donors.

Because of this extra income, we may help as many as sixty extra families. A single mom with a couple of small children may avoid eviction or a disabled widow can get help with expensive medications to avoid going without food. Your gifts will make a huge difference in their lives!

Please accept our heartfelt thanks for contributing to Grow Green.

Sincerely yours,

C. Clyde Jones, Development Officer, Shepherd's Crossing

Dear First Presbyterian,

Thank you for your donation to the Senior Center Fund during the Grow Green event with the Greater Manhattan Community Foundation. We were very pleased with the support we received from our members and the community. We had the third largest number of donors of all the groups.

Sincerely,

Jami Ramsey, Director, Riley County Seniors' Service Center

First Pres Hymn Tournament

During the month of July, Rev. Kati Collins will preach a sermon series, The Faith We Sing, exploring the historical, scriptural and practical connection between our favorite hymns and our daily lives. The weekly voting ballots have been pretty competitive! You may have been surprised by the incredibly close matches such as "Morning Has Broken" vs. "In the Garden", "Blessed Assurance vs. On Eagles Wings", and "Take My Life and Let It Be". Nevertheless a few hymns have advanced to the Elite Eight and soon we will have a final match up between two favorite hymns. The final hymn winner will be announced in August!

Elite Eight Tournament of Hymns

"Amazing Grace" vs. "Holy, Holy, Holy", "I Danced in the Morning" vs. "Take My Life and Let It Be", "On Eagles Wings" vs. "Just a Closer Walk with Thee", "How Great Thou Art" vs. "What a Friend We Have in Jesus".



Gene and Joan Nelson at Concert in the Park.



20th Anniversary cake!



Kati Collins interviewing Bill Varney about church records in the attic.



Stephen and Anna Kucera at Concert in the Park.

Red Cross Blood Drive

Sunday, July 16, 2017 in Presby Place

Contact Tamera Garibay for appointments at 236-0955 or twgaribay@gmail.com

Social Media Rock-Stars Needed!

Do you love Social Media? Do you like sharing photos and videos on Facebook? Do you check Twitter and Instagram in your free time? We have the easiest volunteer position available for you! We want people to intentionally watch our facebook and Twitter pages to like and retweet our posts in an effort to boost our social media presence.

All you have to do is check our pages and accounts twice a week and respond to our activity in some way. Occasionally we will ask you to share a video or event. Interested friends and followers can contact Taylor Roberts at secretary@firstpresmanhattan.com or Pastor Kati at pastorkati@firstpresmanhattan.com

GERMAN YOUTH SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA VISITING MANHATTAN JULY 29-AUGUST 2

Manhattan will welcome the Ahrensburg Youth Symphony Orchestra from Northern Germany July 29-August 2. They will perform at the C.L. Hoover Opera House in Junction City at 2:30 p.m. July 30 and at McCain Auditorium at 7:00 p.m. July 31st. The Symphony's soprano soloist will sing at First Presbyterian's worship services on July 30. First Presbyterian has volunteered to help host youth and staff in members' and friends' homes. 20 host families are needed, if you are able to host a young person(s) or a staff person(s) in your home, please contact the church office at 785-537-0518. Host families are needed from July 29-August 2. Host family responsibilities include: lodging for four nights, meals, transportation to scheduled activities, and general hospitality.



"Mini-Church"

Beginning July 9, our children will participate in 'Mini Church' during the usual Sunday school time! Kids will be excused before the sermon and spend time learning about the four main parts of a church service: praise, petition, confession, and thanksgiving. Each part will be broken down and explored so that our kids may have a better understanding of what occurs in a church service and why!

YOUTH COUNCIL BEING FORMED

If you would like to serve on the new Youth Council, an advisory board for the 7th-12th grade youth program at First Presbyterian Church, please contact Rev. McConnell at the church office. Watch for upcoming youth events and schedule for the upcoming school year.



VBS RECAP

VBS 2017: Maker Fun Factory, was a huge success with much fun had by all! A total of 93 kids enrolled and enjoyed a week of imagining, creating, and building both in their earthly experiences and their relationship with their Maker. They learned that they were created by God for a purpose!

Andrea Higgins, Susan Maxwell, and I would like to thank all the volunteers who made VBS week possible and all who contributed through monetary gifts, snacks, and supplies.

Thank you!

Shiloh Vick, Director of Children's Ministries

Cheer for Cheer Camp!

Campers had a great time at Cheer Camp 2017! Led by Damian Hilton with assistant coaches from his studio.



2017 SUMMER CAMPS

First Pres is continuing the summer fun with more sports and music camps!

Basketball Camp: July 10-13

6:30-7:15 p.m.
3rd-4th grade

7:30-8:30 p.m.
5th-6th grade

July 17-18

6:00-7:00 p.m.
Pre-K-2nd grade

Music Camp: July 25-28 with showcase on July 31 "Mad About Plaid"

10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.
grades PreK-6th
(See more below)

Visit our website for more information and to register!

Join us this year for "Mad About Plaid" Music Camp! We will explore the music and instruments of Celtic music while following the scripture theme of kindness.

Musicians will perform for the kids each day in addition to activities and snacks!

Visit our website for more information and to register!

NON-TRADITIONAL WORSHIP AT FIRST PRES!

Women's Bible Study

Susan Maxwell is leading a women's Bible study on Monday mornings. The theme is "Be Still" where we spend some creative/meditative time doing adult coloring pages with our theme. Susan also has discussion questions from the book Listening to God by Carolyn Nystrom. This group meets from 10:00-11:30 a.m. in the chapel. If you need childcare, please RSVP to either Susan or Shiloh Vick. The book can be found online and at Walmart. Susan will make copies for each study, so purchasing the book is not necessary. Contact Susan at susiebassoon@yahoo.com with questions.

Summer Brunches

July 2 and August 6

Immediately following the 10:30 a.m. service, join us in Fisher Hall for our church family brunch!

First Presbyterian Fellowship Committee will provide: Main dishes, PB&J, beverages and table service.

Everyone else: Please bring a side dish or desert and your family and friends!

The deacons will provide ice cream for July 2 dessert!

Because we see a desire for quality worship in a more relaxed and spiritual environment, we will be starting a new community of faith which will worship in our gym and incorporate creative opportunities alongside traditional elements of worship, in order to promote a comfortable environment for encountering faith, grace, love and Jesus in our midst.

We need YOU to help this important outreach opportunity be fruitful! Choose one of the following ways to get involved! Join us on this missional adventure for our congregation!

This new service will take place in the morning, since we found from research and surveys that this is still the best time for people to gather for worship. We will have a full service coffee and juice bar as well as ushers and greeters to make people feel welcome. We will have round tables and chairs to set the floor for fellowship. We will also seek to make advances in technology as acts of hospitality towards those who live with technology in every sector of their lives.

Worship Attendees

We are looking for 30 individuals to commit to coming 3 out of 4 Sundays a month for the first three months of our new worship service September 10th-December 3rd! All you have to do is come, worship and provide a welcoming presence.

Ushers and Greeters

Two greeters and Four ushers a week will help us share the hospitality that this congregation already enjoys!

Contemporary Worship Musicians

Instrumentalists wanted to play 2-3 times a month for new non-traditional worship service. Commitment to responsibility and enjoyment of improvisation required. Experience with Contemporary Christian, Gospel and Bluegrass desired, but not required. Instruments wanted: guitar, piano, banjo, drums, violin, mandolin, flute, clarinet, trumpet. Auditions will be July 19th and August 6th.

Walkers

During the last week of August and the First Week of September, we need walkers to commit to a neighborhood and then knock on doors and hand out invitations to our new worship service. This could be fun for an individual or great for a family friendly activity on a night adjustable to your own schedule. Multiple neighborhoods wanted.

Sign up is available on our website and Facebook page!



PRESBY NINJA WARRIOR CHALLENGE FOR AG-ED

August 19th, Registration available now!

Ninja's of all ages and abilities can test their strengths on three different courses designed to challenge your strengths in balance, climbing, mental knowledge and more! Each course will increase in difficulty. Participants and their fans can also enjoy a free practice course and inflatable obstacle courses.

The final feature of our Concert in the Park series will begin at 10:15 a.m. with our new worship band and Mr. K's Food Truck. Awards to be announced at 11:00am!

Every Ninja who finishes the course will receive a chance to dunk either Rev. Cam McConnell or Rev. Kati Collins!

Register as an individual for \$10 or as a family for \$20 by August 6th and get free T-shirts. More details and photos on the event website. All proceeds will go towards the support of agricultural education through 4-H and FFA.



The "Write On" Group

A creative writing group meets on Mondays 5:30-7:00 p.m. at Bluestem Bistro during June and July. Whether you have already started a writing project or need some guidance in creativity, this will be a time for getting tips and being accountable to write a complete art project: fictional book, collection of poems, illustrated book, narrative non-fiction, graduate thesis, journaling pilgrimage, etc. Teens and adults are welcome!

Please visit our website to register.



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