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FIRST
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Manhattan, KS

March 2016

Headline News

Holy Week Worship and Fellowship Opportunities Let us Celebrate the Risen Christ!



The Way of the Cross: Prayer Walk and Experience— Starting Monday, March 21st, a series of Prayer stations will be set up beginning in the Chapel. You will be invited to follow the footsteps and experience the days leading up to Jesus' death and resurrection. You may come on your own, but several people may do it at a time, so feel free to experience the Way of the Cross as a family, small group or pair of friends.



Maundy Thursday Supper— Thursday, March 24th, 6:15 p.m.— This year's meal will include a "Remembering the Seder" ritual --experience part of the meal Jesus would have celebrated with his disciples on the night of his arrest, including Matzah (unleavened bread), and Haroset (spiced apple mixture).

Maundy Thursday service— *Office of the Tenebrae*— March 24th, 7:30 p.m. An adaptation of the early fourth century office in which there is a solemn observance of the Lord's Supper.

Good Friday Concert: Classical Music, Contemporary Hymns and the Passion of Christ, 6:30 p.m.— Featuring our new musical ensemble, Presby Players, our young vocalists and college soloists as well as "The Church Ladies."

Easter Sunday, 7:15 a.m. Sunrise Service, Friendship Park

Easter Brunch Fundraiser for Youth Mission trip, 8:00 a.m. -10:30 a.m.

The World's Greatest Easter Egg Hunt— Easter Sunday after the 10:30 a.m. worship service.



Easter Sunday traditional worship services at 9:15 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.

(785-537-0518)

www.firstpresmanhattan.com

An Easter Message



Rev. McConnell

Easter means a new birth and new beginnings. It's unlikely that the disciples didn't receive a breath of fresh air and a burst of new energy when they discovered the empty tomb after a desperately despairing week. With their backs against the wall, their spirits suddenly rallied with the news that Jesus had risen from the dead. What a story they had to tell and what a victory they had witnessed!

Easter's message today teaches that we are always to look forward with optimism and hope that the world will get better if enough people adopt the attitudes and the values of Christianity: love, hope, reconciliation, forgiveness, acceptance and understanding. As Christians, we should never give up on this dream, for if we give up, who is left to promote the principles of our Lord and Savior, which are the answer to a more harmonious and peaceful world. Jesus' final instructions to his disciples were to "go into the world and make disciples of all nations." I don't believe he meant to be content with just your friends across the street, but he was suggesting a much larger vision and mission to include the world, and employ whatever means necessary to get the word out on the street, to start a "Love Train," as sang by the O'Jays, that goes to every corner of the world to teach the world the beauty of faith and freedom—and these two words go hand in hand.

But let's begin with reaching out to those around us. I look forward to another glorious Easter at First Presbyterian. Last year we broke the modern-day First Presbyterian Easter Sunday attendance record. Let's break it again this year. Invite a friend to church!

Faithfully,

Cam

January Session Highlights

- Deacons report was given by Karen Davis, which included a report on the community meals: 81 volunteers involved in the program with over 2,200 dinners served, over 1,200 breakfast served, and over 600 lunches prepared--all of this in 2015
- Officers were elected: Jim Weaver as President of the Corporation, Robin Smith as clerk, and Amy Matthews as treasurer
- Approved Planning Committee recommendations for future growth (see Planning Committee report at the visitor's counter in the narthex).
- The Gospel of Mark preaching series was discussed

Coming Up Next... Happy March Birthdays!



Blood Drive

First Presbyterian Church will have a blood drive on April 3, 2016. Please contact Tamera Garibay at 785-236-0955 for an appointment.



Lenten Lunches

Wednesday Lenten Lunches begin with a lunch at 11:45, followed by a brief worship service. This year, we will be hosting a number of lay speakers from the area. Our final three speakers will be:

March 2: Coach Bill Snyder (lunch and service at First United Methodist Church)

March 9: Lyle Butler (lunch and service at First Presbyterian Church)

March 16: Nick Wiggins (lunch and service at First Presbyterian Church)

Men's Breakfast

March Men's Breakfast will be on March 17 at 7:00 a.m. with Micah Hydeman, the captain with the Manhattan Fire Department. He will be speaking about the today's challenges for fire fighters at the firehouse and while away from work and, the 2015 Manhattan Fire Department statistics and community involvement..

Presbyterian Women's Bible Study group will meet on **March 17 at 1:00 p.m.** in the First Presbyterian library. We will be studying lesson seven.



Note: The password for the online church directory is Proverbs2 .

40 Bags in 40 Days

40 Bags

That's right 40 bags. You have to fill 40 bags. Whether you fill a grocery bag, garbage bag or a contractor's bag, it doesn't matter. You just have to make sure you fill a total of 40 bags.

40 Days

Make sure you fill those bags in the 40 days of lent (with one day a week off). That means 40 bags by Easter Sunday. These bags can be given away as well as thrown away. Take them to recycle, donate to a charity, or regift them to friends or family.

First Academy



March's First Academy, **March 21 at 6:30 p.m.**, will feature **Jon McGraw**, former K-State football player and former NFL player, and co-founder of "**Vision Pursue**," an organization dedicated to improve people's performance mindsets in corporations, athletics and a variety of other fields.

Friday Fellowship

March Friday Fellowship will be on March 18 at 11:00 a.m. Dr. James Carpenter will be speaking on the topic of exotic animals. Please join us for what is sure to be an interesting talk and delicious lunch to follow! We encourage you to RSVP with the church office so that we can prepare appropriate amounts of food.

Crunching the Numbers

During the month of January, we served 201 dinners and 86 breakfasts. We also distributed 34 brownbag lunches. Our Community Dinners take place on Tuesday evenings from 6:00-6:45 p.m. and the Community Breakfasts on Wednesday mornings from 7:30-8:15 a.m. Average attendance at dinner is 35-40 and for breakfasts is 20-25.

Food Pantry News

In January, our Food Pantry served 75 adults and 38 children and 5 elderly. We partner with the Flint Hills Breadbasket to help those in our community who are food insecure.



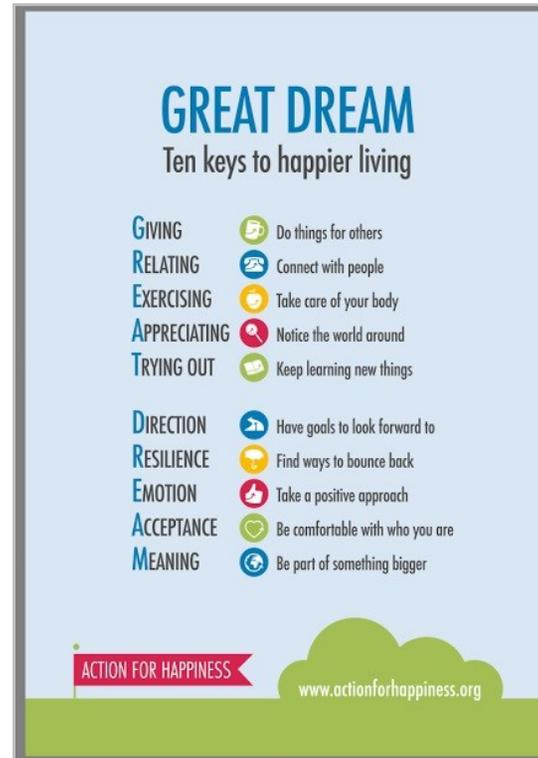
International Day of Happiness! March 20th

The International Day of Happiness was founded by the United Nations and is based on the idea that happiness is a fundamental human goal and calls upon countries to approach public policies in ways that improve the well-being of all peoples.



The International Day of Happiness began in Bhutan which instituted an alternative measure of prosperity called the Gross National Happiness Index (GNH). The GNH uses a holistic look at measuring happiness, taking into account the spiritual well-being of citizens and

communities along with the measure of economic and material wealth. **First Presbyterian** will be celebrating the day with a **Happiness Wall** and encourages you to do the same in your homes or places of employment.



Pictured left: Ten Keys to Happier Living.

The United Nations suggests these ten guidelines to a happier outlook on life.

As you go through your day, remember these ten tips for happiness and think about how you can implement them to make you happier and spread your good feelings to other people.

“May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.”
Romans 15:13

In Our Church

To everyone at the First Presbyterian Church,
Thank you so much for sponsoring the Jingle Bell Run. We had such a wonderful time and it meant so much to see the huge turnout and support.

Wishing you all a very merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Sincerely,
The staff at Katie's Way



Thank you

Dear Friends,
Thank you from the bottom of my heart to all who prepared and served my husband's funeral desires. My family and I appreciate the thoughtfulness and love we were shown during this time of sadness.
Jo Call and Family

Ashes-to-Go

"Remember, that you are dust, and to dust you will return." Ash Wednesday Service Liturgy. On Wednesday, February 10, Rev. Kati Collins joined Fr. Patrick Funston of Saint Paul's Episcopal Church to offer ashes at the Westloop Dillon's as part of Ashes-to-Go.

Ashes-to-Go consisted of several ministers from the Manhattan area making themselves available around town throughout the day to administer ashes and 'mini services' to those interested. To read more about Rev. Kati's experience, visit her blog at czechmyblog.blogspot.com.
Pictured left: Fr. Patrick Funston and Rev. Kati Collins at Westloop Dillon's.



January Mission Committee Highlights

- Discussed possible outreach organizations to support in conjunction with "Grow Green Match Day," when the Manhattan Community Foundation will match part of First Presbyterian's gift to a local outreach organization.
- Upcoming "Moments for Mission" in the worship services will include: Crisis Center Manhattan Home Care and Hospice, Flint Hills Bread Basket, and CASA



February 20-April 30
Saturday mornings from
9:30-11:00 a.m.
Boys and girls ages 4-6.
\$15 9 sessions.

To register and view schedule, visit www.firstpresmanhattan.com or contact Tamera Garibay at twgaribay@gmail.com or 785-236-0955.

Pictured below: Kids from the first day of the Hoop It Up clinic. 30 kids attended! If you would like to volunteer to help at the clinic, contact Tamera Garibay at the information listed above.

March PNO

St. Patty's- March 10
6-9 p.m.

Visit the Parents' Night Out page on our website at www.firstprmanhattan.com for more



Acolyte Sign-up

Any Presby KIDS grades K-12th interested in becoming an acolyte for the 10:30 service, please contact Shiloh Vick at 317-8286. Acolyte training will be held on **March 6th** immediately following the 10:30 service.
Ages K-3rd Grade: The Carrying of the Bible
Ages 4th-12th Grade: The Posting of the colors (flags)

New Electronic Check-In System Coming Soon: This electronic check system will be for children 6th grade and under. There will be a brief training meeting on how to use the system for all parents immediately following the 10:30 worship service on February 28th in the sanctuary.

Upcoming Events

3/10- March Parents' Night Out

3/27- Easter Service and Easter Egg Hunt

4/3- 3rd Grade Bibles Presentation

4/8- April Parents' Night Out: Mad Hatter's Tea Party

4/16- Pitching Camp

5/7- Mother's Day Tea and Fashion Show

5/15- Last day of Sunday school
End of year P2 camp
fire cook-out

6/11- Father's Day outing

June 20-23- Art camp

Presby KIDS!

Summer Camps Are Coming!

This year we have camps for kids of all ages! This summer, we have:

April 16- “Pitching Camp” for grades 3rd-5th led by Scott Voos

May 25th- “Tap Camp Extravaganza!” National Tap Day is May 25th and Julie Pentz will be leading tappers of all ages.

June 20-23- “Basketball Camp” for grades 3rd-6th led by Sarah Wenger, Manhattan Christian College’s Women’s Basketball Coach.

June 17-18- “Cheer Camp”- Damian Hilton will be cheering us on with a “Cheer Camp” for individuals ages 7 to 100!

June 20-23- “Art Camp” with Micky Jensen for 4th-8th grades.

July 26-29- “Music Camp” with Steve and Susan Maxwell for ages Pre-K-6th grade.

If you would like more information on the camps or would like to register, go to:

<http://www.firstpresmanhattan.com/children/2016-summer-camps/>

Hope to see you at camp,

Tamera Garibay

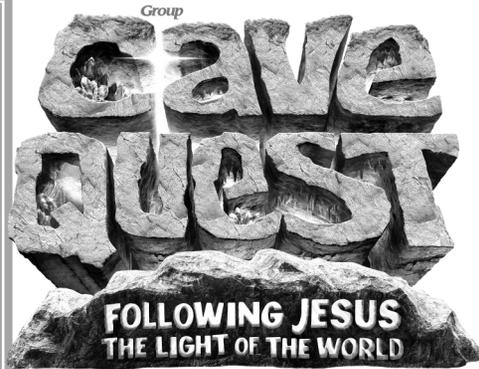
twgaribay@gmail.com



Vacation Bible School 2016!

Join us mornings, June 6-10 for a fun week of Vacation Bible School! We will have a lot of fun learning about Jesus and the Bible through songs, games and stories.

Interested in volunteering? We would love to have you! Check out the welcome table or your weekly bulletins for sign up information.



Sunday School

“Mark... Your Bibles!” is our theme for this semester as we explore the Gospel of Mark in depth. We will learn to highlight and take scripture notes in our special Gospel of Mark booklet and have fun along the way learning about the life of Jesus.



Renew the “I Do’s”

John and Shirley Shimp were married in 1955 in Madison, KS. In honor of Valentines Day, the Shimps renewed their wedding vows at the close of the 10:30 a.m. worship service. Pictured left are Shirley and John Shimp after their wedding. Right are Shirley and John after their renewal of vows.



A Better Fit

After some modifications (including lowering the height, decreasing the depth, opening up the north side of the pulpit to create a clear view between the pastors), the pulpit returned Sunday, February 21 from its manufacturer. The four chancel chairs were also modified in the narrowing of the width of the chairs. These complimentary changes were made by Ratigan-Schottler Manufacturing in Beatrice, Nebraska.



Adult Ski Trip!

Leadville, Colorado was once again the destination for the adult ski trip. We skied at Ski Cooper, worshiped at First Pres Leadville (where the pastor wears her ski clothes under her robe), ate wonderful food and enjoyed each others’ company. This was our second year making this trip over President’s weekend.



Pictured on the left: Bob and Missy Cox, Joan Nelson, Maxine and Ray Coffee.

Youth and College

Cornerstone Youth Group

Last month we had a great time from special events like the Super Bowl Party and ice skating, to digging into the Bible as we learn to “Echo the Story” of God in our life. March will bring some great opportunities to connect with each other and with God. Check out the schedule below! Small Groups are continuing to meet each week (5:30 & 7:30) except March 16th (during Spring Break).

Dates you Won't Want to Miss!

- March 5&6 Winter Youth Rally hosted by OUR CHURCH, a.k.a overnight with lots of fun and keynote speaker Coach Bill Snyder!
- March 6th Cornerstone Youth (hangout 6-6:30pm; 6:30 Games and Bible Study)
- March 13th NO Cornerstone (Spring Break)
- March 20th Cornerstone will experience Locked Manhattan!
- March 25th Good Friday Concert: Enjoy the wonderful talents of our youth as part of this worship experience
- March 27th Easter Youth Mission Brunch: Help us raise money to make an impact and learn about service in the beautiful country of the Ozarks in and around Eureka Springs! Youth and Volunteer Partners are invited to sign up for 30 minute shifts from 7:45-10:30am. (No Cornerstone Youth on Easter Evening)

Youth Mission Trip Important Dates!

- March 6th Registration forms available
- April 1st Forms and \$50 down payment due
- **July 17th-23rd Mission Trip Ozarks!**



Cornerstone Youth Group and P2 took a Valentines Day trip to the ice rink in City Park. Pictured above from left: Rev. Kati Collins, Ashley Ellenz, Izzy Dowling, Natalie Bender, and Susana Vick holding each other for balance as they make their way around the rink!

Grandma's House

Last month we helped Ecumenical Campus Ministry start a new college lunch opportunity on Wednesdays from 11:30-1pm. Trinity Presbyterian and First Congregational are helping us reach the students and balance the preparation of meals. We've been serving between 20-30 students each week. Our next meal commitments will be March 2nd and April 6th. If you would like to help with casseroles and cookies, please talk to Pastor Kati.



College Lunches

Our College Ministry continues to provide a monthly meal to gather our college students for social time. The next date will be March 6th after a 10:30am worship service.

Thank you!

Thank you for your support, prayers, and donations for my trip to Nicaragua. It was very successful. Over the six clinic days we treated approximately 420 animals and performed 70 spays and neuters. Both people and animals were blessed by your kind donations. Again, thank you for being a part of God's work and helping my trip.

Anna Kucera

Groceries for God

Use your grocery shopping trips to help our youth raise funds for their annual ski and mission trips! Simply register your Dillon's Plus Card online and you will automatically start earning rewards for First Presbyterian on qualifying purchases! For more details about the program and directions on how to sign up, visit our website! If you are already enrolled in the program, you must re-enroll after January 1 in order for purchases throughout 2016 to credit First Presbyterian.



Souper-Sunday!

First Presbyterian held its annual Souper-bowl food drive on February 6 and received huge support. Pictured left is the collection cart bursting at the seams!