

First Presbyterian Church
801 Leavenworth
Manhattan, KS 66502

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Articles for **March HEADLINE NEWS** will be due on **February 19**.

Crunching the Numbers

During the month of December, we served 200 dinners and 107 breakfasts. We have also distributed 63 brownbag lunches.



Our Community Dinners take place on Tuesday evenings and the Community Breakfasts on Wednesday mornings.

Food Pantry News

In December, our Food Pantry served 65 adults, 61 children, and 9 elderly. We partner with the Flint Hills Breadbasket to help those in our community who are food insecure.



Date Night Challenge 2015 | Sunday, March 8 from 6:00-8:00 p.m.

Date Night Challenge is back for another year! This is a relationship building event for couples who are married, engaged, or considering marriage. Couples of all ages are welcome to join us! We will spend the evening having fun, thinking about our relationships from a faith perspective, and challenging one another to become an even better spouse. We had a GREAT time last year, so don't miss out! A generous helping of desserts will be served. RSVP's can be made at the church office.



Manhattan, KS

February 2015



FIRST
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Headline News

785-537-0518

www.firstpresmanhattan.com

Can We Build It? Yes We Can!

APOSTLES BUILD update! 2015 is off to a great start. With your help Manhattan Area Habitat for Humanity (MAHFH) continues to provide homes for area families.

On January 17th, MAHFH warmly welcomed 20+ volunteers from First Presbyterian Church of Manhattan to the Apostles Build - Wamego Home Site. First Presbyterian Church provided a stellar group of volunteers and we finished siding the home, completed soffit and fascia work, and built shed shelves! It was a fantastic build day and wonderful time of fellowship! Thank you for Helping Habitat BUILD IT!

-Roxann Janes, Executive Director Manhattan Habitat for Humanity

Anytime you can serve as the hands and feet of Jesus to show God's amazing love, it's a good day. Getting to know the homeowners and working alongside them is one of my favorite things about working on Habitat Houses. I also loved getting to know some of our congregation members more deeply. I feel like I have 25 new friends!

-Alison Chyba



It was wonderful to see so many friends from First Pres work hard on the Habitat for Humanity build on Jan 17. From very skilled to unskilled volunteers, everyone found a way to pitch in which lead to a safe and productive day. It's so encouraging to see the First Pres community share in the mission of Habitat for Humanity to build safe, decent and affordable housing.

-Cameron Ward



It was a rewarding feeling to be part of a community working together to make a difference for one family.

- Kim Smith





Rev. McConnell

Getting a Grip

Amidst the New England Patriot “Deflategate” controversy, I couldn’t help but think how much the quality of life depends on getting a good grip on things. Just as it is important for a quarterback to get a good grip on the ball, it is equally important for us to get a good grip on life. When my family and I play touch football every summer on a beach in North Carolina, the ball invariably ends up in the ocean more than it should. It then becomes an

even greater challenge to throw because it’s wet and the solid grip is soon lost. The pass usually then wobbles out of control.

Life has a tendency to spiral out of control, especially if you don’t get a grip on the things that matter. Both common and spiritual senses dictate that you pay the most attention to your faith, your family, and your work. When one firmly secures these three essentials, then life becomes that much more enjoyable and rewarding. But when all is said and done, we know these senses don’t always win out, and distractions that take us down other paths disrupt the flow that God intended us to follow. Over-commitments to things that don’t matter in the end take away from things that really do matter in the end. From time to time I’ll hear someone say: ‘I feel like I’m losing control of my life—there’s too much going on, I have to get a grip on things.’ The firm grip comes when one returns to the essentials: faith, family, and work.

There is a Protestant denomination that has the motto: “In Essentials Unity, in Non-Essentials Diversity,” meaning that they are united in a common faith in Christ, the Bible, and particular theological doctrines, but allow for diversity in interpretation of their applications to life. To me the motto also represents a healthy grip on life: one stays united in his or her priorities---faith, family, and work, but allows for the openness of the Holy Spirit to respond in ways that reflect the love of God.

Like the quarterback whose solid grip of the ball helps him to throw the ball with confidence, so will our good grip of life’s essentials help us to live life with confidence.

Faithfully,
Cam

Interim Associate Pastor Search

The Personnel Committee of the Session has reviewed Personal Information Forms (dossiers) from candidates and will continue to review additional ones for the position of interim associate pastor. The Committee has invited a candidate to visit Manhattan in February. The Committee will inform the congregation as to any new developments in the search.

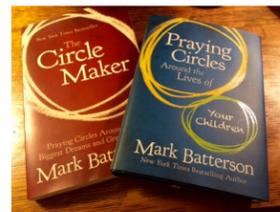
Small Group Lenten Bible Study!

Our recommended staff pick is “The Circle Maker: Prayer Circles around Your Biggest Dreams and Greatest Fears” By Mark Batterson. Get together with existing small groups or form new groups to read and discuss during the Lenten season.

Family Lenten Study

Our recommended staff read is “Praying Circles Around the Lives of Your Children” by Mark Batterson. This is a great opportunity to gather as a family to read and discuss the importance of prayer and how to put it into practice.

All books can be purchased at our local Christian Book Store located at 1437 Anderson Avenue or at Amazon.com. We encourage existing small groups and new ones to consider this study.



Coming Up Next... Happy February Birthdays!

1 Susana Vick	9 Maureen Thien	17 Harold Taylor	27 Matt Kirby
2 Joan Burton	10 Richard Elkins	18 Jon Anderson	27 Ethan Chege
3 Mary Mertz	10 Hunter Hunt	18 Shana Lander	27 Jack Dunn
3 Sydney Snyder	10 Michael Nuckowski	21 Alison Chyba	28 Landon Lour
4 John Shimp	10 Dick Towers	21 Elayne Mathis	
4 Jami Habluetzel	11 Verlla Coughenour	22 Jennifer McConnell	
7 Ashley Chyba	13 Paul Aviles	23 Pam Beardsley	
8 Kristyn Hayden	13 Cassidy Taylor	23 Terry Healy	
9 Scott Alexander	15 Bob Haines	25 Olive Barth	
9 Jamie Bundy	16 Jake Barth	25 Melissa Wefald	
9 Dale Eustace	17 Sydney Chyba	26 Bill Fortney	
9 Amy Levin	17 Karl Greiner	26 Russell Heath	
9 Katie Philp	17 Jan Rayl	27 Sharon Byrd	



Lenten Season Happenings

February 18– **Ash Wednesday Service**– 6:30 p.m. in the sanctuary

Prayer vigil in the chapel on Ash Wednesday– 8:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m.

Lenten Lunches and services at 12:00 p.m.– February 25, March 4, 11, 18, 25

We will have a church wide prayer walk and talk after each noon Lenten lunch around the church property. Wear your tennis shoes!

April 2 at 6:30 p.m.– **Maundy Thursday** dinner followed by Maundy Thursday service at 7:30 p.m.

Prayer vigil on Maundy Thursday in chapel– 8:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m.

April 3 at 12:00 p.m.– **Good Friday Service**

April 5– **Easter Sunday**– He is Risen!!

February 15: Volunteer Appreciation and Spiritual Gifts Sunday



Wanted: Community Meals Helpers

Our Community Dinners staff is in need of volunteers! We need both cooks and servers to help with this important mission. Please contact Claudia Voos at 785-313-1874 to sign up.

Note: The password for the online church directory is Proverbs2 . The P must be capitalized.

Threads of Compassion

Prayer shawl ministry meets 1st and 3rd Tuesdays at Radina’s Bakehouse. Knitting or crocheting shawls and lap blankets for those suffering from illness, loss, and grief.

Special Blessing Ministry (Baby Blankets)

We are looking for knitters, quilters, and crochet-ers, to make baby blankets for our Baptism Blankies. Any questions please contact Whitney Short at whitneyshort57@gmail.com



Men’s Breakfast

The Men’s Breakfast is held monthly on the third Thursday of each month from 7-8 AM in Fisher Hall.

The February Men’s Breakfast will be held on Thursday, February 19. We hope to see you there!

