

First Presbyterian Church  
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www.firstpresmanhattan.com

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#### CRUNCHING THE NUMBERS

##### Food Pantry

In February, our Food Pantry served 35 adults and 13 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 9:30 a.m.-noon.

##### Community Meals

During the month of February, we served 163 dinners, 60 breakfasts, and 45 sack lunches.

#### FOOD PANTRY DONATIONS

Thank you to **Boy Scout Troop 78** for their donations to the First Presbyterian Food Pantry! Donations were collected in mid-April and delivered to the pantry to be given to those in need.



#### FRIDAY FELLOWSHIP

Please join us for Friday Fellowship on April 27 at 11 am in Fisher Hall. **Trisha Gott**, Assistant Director for the Staley School of Leadership Studies, will speak on "The Mandela Washington Fellowship: Young African Leaders Learning in the Little Apple". Come learn about this exciting and important program taking place in our community this summer. A delicious lunch, prepared by Hospitality Coordinator Julie Haynes, will be served at noon.

Non-Profit Organization

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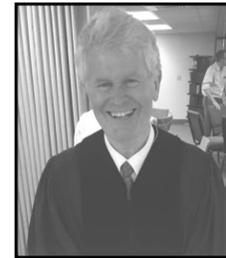
Permit No. 349



First Presbyterian Church

April, 2018

## FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH **Headline News**



Rev. McConnell

### WHAT HOLDS US TOGETHER

David Brooks of the New York Times recently wrote an editorial entitled: "What Holds Us Together," talking about the diversity of our nation, but also the similar dreams and values we hold as individual citizens. It gave me pause to consider the same question for our Christian faith---what actually holds us together?

Christianity has always been a divergent group of individuals with varying interpretations of how to view the world through the Christian lens. If you pulled together twenty professing Christians in one room, chances are high you'd get ten different opinions on a political, social, or cultural matter important to society. This has been evidenced time after time in our denomination and other denominations. If you pulled together twenty professing Christians in one room it's likely you'd end up with several Republicans, several Democrats, and several Independents. There's also no doubt you'd find multiple interpretations of one scripture passage, and different interpretations on how to approach life in general. So what actually holds us together?

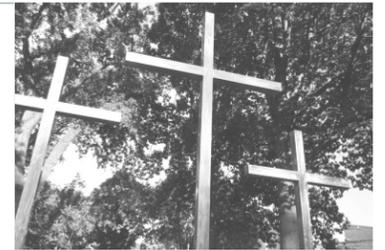
When I served as a pastor of a suburban Detroit congregation ten of us Presbyterian pastors from the Detroit Presbytery would gather for a monthly lunch with no agenda, just conversation and a lot of laughter. We'd take turns hosting and the host would always foot the bill. But what was particularly interesting about our group was that the dissimilarities outnumbered the similarities in our understanding and interpretation of theological, political, and social issues. But that didn't matter---as a matter of fact it was refreshing to sit next to or across the table from someone who didn't think exactly the way you thought---the key here being that our friendship in Christ transcended any differences we might have had.

Our friendship in Christ not only holds us together as individual Christians, it also holds us together as a congregation, as it does for other congregations across the country and the world. We have differences and diversity of thought, but we have the common bond of friendship shared in Christ. The phrase, "In essentials, unity; in non-essentials, diversity; in all things, charity," a quote widely attributed to the 4<sup>th</sup> century theologian, St. Augustine, speaks to the respect we hold for one another as fellow Christians, no matter the issue, no matter the difference.

It's a great life that we share in Christ. Let us celebrate the hope and joy of the Resurrection that comes with our faith.

Faithfully,

Cam



### COMING UP SOON

See inside for events and schedules

**April 7:** Empty Bowls Common Table Fund-raiser

**April 14:** Boy Scouts Pancake Feed (Presby Place)

**April 15:** Volunteer Recognition Reception following 10:30 service

**April 20:** Parents' Night Out

**April 22:** 2nd/3rd Grade Bible presentation, 66 Book Club certificate presentation at 10:30 service

**April 23:** Safety and Active Shooter Presentation

**April 28:** Alan and Marilyn Shineman anniversary party in Fisher Hall

**April 29:** Presby Puzzle Run

**May 4:** Ladies Night

To make reservations for rooms in the church or Presby Place, please contact the church office at 785-537-0518.

### YOU ARE APPRECIATED!

Our volunteers are the backbone of First Presbyterian Church. In celebration of National Volunteerism Week, please join us at **11:30 AM** in the narthex on **Sunday, April 15** for a reception honoring all of our volunteers. All are welcome!

### HOW DO YOU SERVE?

*There is no purer joy than making someone else happy; then improving someone else's life. You can volunteer for the "volunteer hours" or to make yourself look good on a job application and somehow turning volunteering into an almost self-serving activity, but that is not a good reason to do it. I do it for the smiles on a kid's face when they're playing a fun, new, game. I do it for the lightbulb that turns on when they suddenly make a connection they hadn't seen before. I volunteer because there is no greater joy than giving children the opportunity to have a safe place full of friends that they can learn, have fun, ask questions and ultimately grow in faith.*

-Member, Susana Vick, Sunday school teacher

For information about service and mission opportunities, contact the First Presbyterian Volunteer Coordinator, Taylor Roberts, at [secretary@firstpresmanhattan.com](mailto:secretary@firstpresmanhattan.com) or 785-537-0518.

### LADIES NIGHT MAY 4

On **Friday, May 4**, please join us from **6:00-9:00 PM** for a fun evening at Frontage 109 (109 W. Barton) in Leonardville! Come and enjoy a fun evening of delicious treats and fun fellowship! If you are interested in attending, but would like to carpool to the



event, please let the church office know and we will assist with arrangements. **Please RSVP to the church office by May 1.**

### ANNIVERSARY PARTY

Alan and Marilyn (Harry) Shineman will be celebrating their 65th wedding anniversary with an Open House April 28 in Fisher Hall from 1:30-4:00.

The Open House will be hosted by their children, Kirby & Kelly. Alan and Marilyn were married at the First Presbyterian Church in Frankfort, May 2, 1953.

No gifts please, they would be honored by your presence.

### Your Generosity Makes a Difference

Did you know Stewardship is more than just your annual pledge – it is ongoing. Because of your generosity, many great things are possible in the church and not just in the church, in our community and worldwide. There are many ways to give to the church without solely a financial contribution. Be watching for monthly updates in Headline News, beginning in April where we will keep you informed on how your contributions to First Presbyterian are making a difference.

### Safety Training Coming April 23

Please join us for a free safety and active shooter training on April 23 from 10:00-11:30 AM in Fisher Hall. This is a very engaging and valuable presentation facilitated by the Kansas Highway Patrol.

### JUST CHILLIN'

The First Presbyterian Youth Ski Trip skied the March 9-11 weekend at Granby Ranch, Colorado. The group stayed at Snow Mountain Ranch, a property of YMCA Camp of the Rockies and enjoyed the good skiing, and great fellowship. Many thanks to youth leader, Emily Moormeier, and advisers, Wesley Garibay and Emily Bryant, who headed up the trip. Rev. McConnell accompanied the group for part of the weekend.



### APRIL PARENTS' NIGHT OUT

April 20 | 6-9 p.m.

Your kids will enjoy all the splendor of spring as we talk about new life and God's hand in all living things. From creepy crawly bugs to colorful plants... all God provides to sustain life will be represented through crafts, activities, and themed snacks! Register by clicking on the link on the church website between April 5-18.

### P<sup>2</sup> SCHEDULE: APRIL & MAY

P<sup>2</sup> will meet from 6:00-7:30 p.m. each Friday in April. Join us for games, fellowship, and Bible study.

We will meet on May 4 for our end of the year party from 6-8 at the lake. Come for a fun time of snacks, games, and fellowship!

### Update on The Light, a New Worshiping Community from Rev. Kati



One Lenten tradition I've always wanted to try is the practice of boxing up the alleluias for release on Easter morning. Alleluia is the English version of the Hebrew Hallelujah, which means, Praise be to Yahweh, the One who is. At the beginning of Lent, they put strips of ribbons or paper that say alleluia in a box and on Easter morning they open the box and pick up the alleluia with a declaration that Christ is Risen and Christ promises to deliver hope and forgiveness for all!

Last month, as I was preparing for a sermon on the faith of Martha and Mary, I started to think about this tradition. Martha got a hard, "No," when she asked Jesus to come to her aid, and then when Jesus finally arrived at her side, she never gave up faith in what He could do for her or her family. Jesus may not have been there physically, but He was holding on to her hopes and dreams, ready to deliver them to her when the timing was fitting for "glorifying God."

I thought about my life, and all of the times Jesus gave me a hard, "No." Some of those questions were revealed years later, and some of them have yet to be fulfilled. I realized that through all of those times that I was working so hard to hold tightly to my faith, Jesus was holding me. Jesus was already holding on to my dreams, my hope, my fears, my loss, my joy and my faith. I wondered what it would be like to actually ask Him to hold these questions for me, to hold onto my hope and especially my alleluia.

*What if I could pass over to Jesus my hopes, my fears? What will happen then?*

He will return them to me with new life, new joy, new alleluias of hope and life everlasting.

Our members of The Light colored butterflies with the word Alleluia and included words or colors to symbolize what they want to entrust to Jesus.

*What do you need Jesus to hold for you? Where do you need God's Resurrection power in your life?* On Easter Morning, we will open the box and see what Jesus returns to us. Follow "Our Story," on [thelightmhk.org](http://thelightmhk.org) or join us for worship on Easter morning to see what happens next!

### COMING SOON!

The Light members and musicians will participate in the Presby Puzzle Run and join First Pres for worship on April 29th, with special music from The Light musicians and Rev. Kati Collins preaching the sermon "Fearfully and Wonderfully Made."

### Empty Bowls Soup Luncheon

Join us on April 7 from 11:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. in Presby Place for the Empty Bowls Soup Luncheon! This event is organized by the Manhattan Nonviolence Initiative. Proceeds go to benefit Common Table (the organization connecting the many community meals hosted downtown.)

Bring a bowl you made through the Manhattan Arts Center or purchase a bowl at the door for \$15 and enjoy free soup! You may also make a donation and enjoy some soup!



### PRESBY PUZZLE RUN – APRIL 29

This event includes a 5k and 1.5 mile run/walk and silent auction that will begin at 9:30 AM at First Presbyterian Church in Manhattan. Register on our website at [www.firstpresmanhattan.com](http://www.firstpresmanhattan.com).

Additionally, our charity partner, the No Stone Unturned Therapeutic Learning Center will be hosting an awareness walk along with several family-friendly activities beginning at 11:30 AM. All proceeds from the Presby Puzzle Run will support No Stone Unturned.

If you are interested in volunteering, we could use your help! We are in need of volunteers to assist in numerous capacities. Please register on our website. All volunteers will receive a t-shirt and are welcome to join us for lunch and the festivities following the race!

Please call the church office at [\(785\) 537-0518](tel:7855370518) or email Race Director, Sarah Diamond at [sarah@firstpresmanhattan.com](mailto:sarah@firstpresmanhattan.com) with any questions.