

Our mission is to create disciples for Jesus Christ and to practice His teachings by loving and serving God and one another.



AUGUST 2021

THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN TIMES

Letter from the Pastor

Friends,

By now you have likely heard that our congregation's beloved Director of Children, Youth and Family Ministries, Shiloh Vick, is stepping down after 8+ years of dedicated ministry. Shiloh's decision comes after much prayer and discernment, and while we are saddened by this news, we also wholeheartedly support her need to attend to her personal health and well-being even as she continues to be an active member of this congregation. Anyone who knows Shiloh, knows her love for young people, her passion and creativity in engaging their hearts, and most of all her love for Jesus which fuels all of the work that she does. We give thanks for her witness and the many ways that Shiloh has "put feet to her faith" over the years, and encouraged the same in our youngest disciples and their families.

I am reminded of a prayer out of one of my favorite daily devotionals, from back in June. It has remained with me (I even printed it out and put it near my computer so I can read it each day). It is based upon a portion of the Westminster Confession of Faith, from the mid-17th century that reads:

Faith, thus receiving and resting on Christ and his righteousness, is the alone instrument of justification; yet is it not alone in the person justified, but is ever accompanied with all other saving graces, and is no dead faith, but worketh by love. (WC 11.2)

Scriptures this statement are based upon come from John 1:12; Romans 3:28, 5:1; Galatians 5:6, and James 2:17, 22, 26. The prayer that has "grabbed me" is this:

Mighty God, remind me today that faith is a verb, an active trust in Jesus. I don't want a coffee-table faith that's mostly display, a Sunday-only faith that's limited piety, or a bookish faith that only lives in my head. Give me a faith that lives and breathes and walks out the door into everyday life, carrying with it joy, peace, and love for all, always trusting in what Jesus has done for me. In his name, amen.

Continued on page 2...

As I give thanks for the many ways that Shiloh has lived, breathed and walk her faith in Jesus through so many aspects of ministry here at FPC, my own prayer is that such a faith is alive and active in and through me; that I would not be discouraged by change or bogged down by the twists and turns of life, but would have a broader perspective of what God is doing and inviting me to share in. As August unfolds, schools come back into session, and (God-willing) rhythms and events resembling something akin to “ordinary” return to our land after the pandemic that made it feel, at times, as though the world stopped turning—I pray such a faith is alive and active in and through us all as community. After all, this is why we’re here: to put feet to our faith, and embody the difference Christ has made, so that all may marvel at God’s wondrous love.

What practices and prayers help you stay focused on, or aware of, God’s presence and call? And how might God be equipping and encouraging you to put feet to your faith...or to step out on those faith-full feet you already have?

Like the Scripture tells us: “As shoes for your feet, put on whatever will make you ready to proclaim the gospel of peace.” (Ephesians 6:15) And as this program year unfolds, even amid change, may the life we exhibit together carry with it hope, joy, peace, and love for all in Christ’s name.

Peace,
Pastor Jason

AN UPDATE FROM SESSION

We realize communication is of paramount importance. In the interest of keeping our members informed, we offer the following selected highlights from Session’s June 29 meeting.

Finances

Net income through May exceeded the budget by over \$130k. We are grateful to the congregation for your stewardship and generosity.

Food Pantry

Interaction with Flint Hills Bread Basket continues to determine whether food distribution to the needy in our community might best occur centrally, rather than from individual churches. TBD.

Deacons Ice Cream Social

Deacons Ice Cream Social is scheduled for August 15 in conjunction with Family Fun Night.

Business Affairs Maintenance

1. Our HVAC system was repaired for \$18k, 2. Reconstruction of our leaking flat roofs using promising new foam technology is in the works, and 3. We are in the city’s queue to repair our alley later this summer.

COVID-19 Restrictions Relief

Session has approved for ALL indoor venues 1. eliminating the distancing requirement, and 2. mandating masks only for unvaccinated persons of age ≥ 18, including singing without masks.

Worship

The informal 8:30 a.m. outdoor service will be moved indoors when the weather turns cold.

Faith Formation

Faith Formation formerly known as Christian Education. 1. The “Bible from Scratch” program continues, and 2. Session has approved having a concession stand during family nights for fundraising for youth.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Upcoming Events, Classes, & Save the Date's



Family Fun Night & Deacons Ice Cream Social

Our final Summer Family Night of the season is August 15 from 5-7 pm! Please join us for a live "jam session" in the park with some of our own Presby musicians kicking off the event. This event is open to musicians of all levels! Feel free to join in with your own instrument, voice of song, or just sit back and enjoy the entertainment in Friendship Park (ice cream provided by the Deacons)!



Fall Faith Formation Classes

Fall Faith Formation (formerly known as "Sunday School") begins September 12. Our curriculum will be ***Feasting On The Word*** and is available for all age levels.



PNK Youth Confirmation Retreat

The Presbytery of Northern Kansas Youth Council has voted in favor of a Presbytery-wide Confirmation retreat to be held right here at FPC Manhattan! Eligible confirmands will spend the weekend getting to know youth from churches within the PNK and learn more about what it means to be a connective body of Christ and PC(USA).

Pastor Jason will lead the groups in introductions and discussions before moving into breakout groups.

Other events that weekend include *Praisefest* on Saturday evening, Sunday morning worship, and zip lining at Wildwood Adventure Park!

The Confirmation class is open to 7th & 8th graders and anyone through age 17 who has not yet been confirmed. Questions about confirmation and how to enroll? Please call Shiloh Vick or Pastor Jason in the church office.

SAVE THE DATE!

FPC Fall Women's Retreat

Tallgrass Trails, Tales & Quilt Squares:

Fearless and Faithful Women Who Settled the Flint Hills and our Church

Where: Lazy T Ranch

When: October 9, 2021, 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Cost: \$30 (includes guest speakers, barn quilt craft, and lunch)

RSVP to Stacey Montgomery, batman0515@sbcglobal.net

QUILTING WITH CHRIST

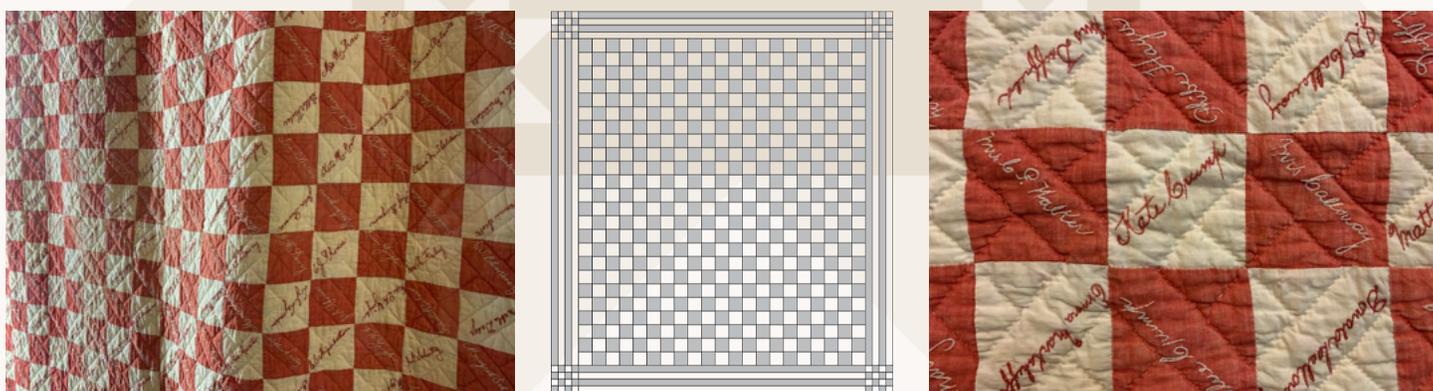
Once a week we have a group of FPC members who gather to quilt and piece together new banners for our sanctuary!



1. A quick pose before they begin cutting away! (pictured left to right: Carolyn Fellows, Cheri Graham, Joan Nelson, Virginia Benkelman) 2. Our quilters working diligently as they thoughtfully piece together a banner.

A HISTORY IN STITCHES: THE ALBUM QUILT

The quilt featured in the Narthex display case is a seemingly small, but dedicated token of the First Presbyterian Church showcasing the remarkable history of our beloved church.



1. The quilt on display in the Church Narthex 2. A diagram of the quilt pattern and layout 3. Close up image of the hand-stitched signatures on the quilt

Signature quilts such as this one were a popular way to network and raise money for noble causes. This particular quilt was created by the Presbyterian Ladies Aid in about 1891-93, likely to help raise funds for the church. Each block was sold at 10¢ each (about \$3 in today's money). Based on the number of blocks with signatures, this quilt would have raised about \$50 (\$1,400 today). The quilt blocks were assembled by hand, however the border of the quilt wasn't added until almost 44 years later with the assistance of a local store only known as "Cole's". The quilt top was eventually completed by hand in the 1930's.



I SCREAM
You SCREAM
WE ALL SCREAM FOR ICE CREAM!

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Deacon's Ice Cream Social



AUGUST 15TH 5 TO 7 PM
FRIENDSHIP PARK

Free Ice Cream!

(non-dairy options will be available)

AUGUST CALENDAR

Calendar of events through the month of August

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY
<p style="text-align: right;">1</p> <p>Outdoor Service 8:30am Children's Bible Study 9:30am Worship 10:30am</p> <p>10th Sunday of Pentecost</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">2</p> <p>Worship Committee 5:15pm</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">3</p> <p>Community Showers 5pm Community Meals 6pm</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">4</p> <p>Women's Bible Study 10am</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">5</p> <p>Hope & Healing Grief Group 12pm</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">8</p> <p>Outdoor Service 8:30am Children's Bible Study 9:30am Worship 10:30am</p> <p>11th Sunday of Pentecost</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">9</p> <p>Mission Committee 5pm Membership Committee 5:15pm</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">10</p> <p>Community Showers 5pm Community Meals 6pm</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">11</p> <p>Women's Bible Study 10am</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">12</p> <p>Hope & Healing Grief Group 12pm Business Affairs Committee 5pm</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">15</p> <p>Outdoor Service 8:30am Children's Bible Study 9:30am Worship 10:30am</p> <p>Ice Cream Social 5pm Family Fun Night 5pm</p> <p>12th Sunday of Pentecost</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">16</p> <p>Men's Luncheon 12pm</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">17</p> <p>Bridge Builders 12pm Community Showers 5pm Community Meals 6pm</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">18</p> <p>Women's Bible Study 10am</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">19</p> <p>Hope & Healing Grief Group 12pm</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">22</p> <p>Outdoor Service 8:30am Worship 10:30am</p> <p>13th Sunday of Pentecost</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">23</p> <p>Deacons 5pm</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">24</p> <p>Community Showers 5pm Community Meals 6pm Session 6:30pm</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">25</p> <p>Women's Bible Study 10am</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">26</p> <p>Hope & Healing Grief Group 12pm</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">29</p> <p>Outdoor Service 8:30am Worship 10:30am</p> <p>14th Sunday of Pentecost</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">30</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">31</p> <p>Community Showers 5pm Community Meals 6pm</p>		

HANDBELL CHOIR

Handbell choir returns August 25th and we are looking for two new members!

If you are interested in joining, contact Reg Pittman at pittman@ksu.edu

FAMILY FUN NIGHT!

Our FINAL Family Fun Night is August 15th

Join us in Friendship park from 5-7pm where we will have an FPC member led "jam session" with a concessions stand and FREE ice cream courtesy of the FPC Deacons!

We can't wait to see you there!



Our youth (and some adults too!) having a BLAST at the July Family Fun Night!

AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

- 08/03 Anthony Tiroch
- 8/04 Jim Weaver
- 8/05 James Poulter
- 8/07 Norm Schlesener
- 8/07 Tom Dunn
- 8/07 Shirley Moherman
- 8/08 Sophia Ng
- 8/11 Sterling Edgar
- 8/13 Nancy Parker
- 8/20 Wayne Mountford
- 8/23 Jerry Vestweber
- 8/23 Carolyn Knostman-Bowers
- 8/25 Travis Shilling
- 8/25 Judy Rayl
- 8/26 Susan Maxwell
- 8/27 Evelyn Neill
- 8/27 Marcia Hauck
- 8/27 Amy Matthews
- 8/29 Sharla Meisenheimer
- 8/30 Mark Healy



"COME, CHRISTIANS, JOIN TO SING"
CHRISTIAN HENRY BATEMAN, 1843

We need your voice in our choir! In addition, the choir will begin rehearsals for the fall semester on August 22nd. The choir meets each Sunday morning at 9:30 in Fisher Hall for rehearsal and then sings for the 10:30 worship service.



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COVID-19 GUIDANCE

The mask mandate has changed!

A reminder that the mask mandate has changed at FPC! If you are vaccinated you no longer are required to wear a mask. If you are unvaccinated, the mask mandate is still required. Thank you!