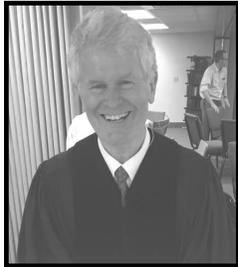




Manhattan, KS

January, 2018

Headline News



Rev. McConnell

PLATFORM FOR THE FUTURE

In just the last two months nineteen people joined First Presbyterian, officially uniting with the congregation and bringing a wealth of talent and variety to the ministry of our congregation (see insert). In a world where more and more people are shrinking away from ties to a traditional church, we continue to buck that trend with continued growth and vitality. We know this is due to the belief in Jesus Christ as the true source of truth and the commitment to live this faith in a creative, resourceful way.

Let us share in the celebration of our new members and the opportunities to expand our outreach even further as we enter the New Year together.

Happy New Year!

Faithfully,

Cam

DEACONS HARD AT WORK

The First Presbyterian Deacons have been very busy over the past two months preparing for the Christmas season! The Deacons have three prominent holiday ministries: The Head Start Clothing Drive (led by Sheila Fortney), the Christmas Cookie Platters for shut-ins, and the Deacons Dinner following the children's pageant.

This year, the Head Start Clothing Drive collected 61 winter coats, 23 pairs of shoes, and numerous pairs of underwear, sweatpants, and diapers. Deacons spent a Saturday filling trays with home-baked cookies and personally delivered 26 plates to senior members from our church! The Deacons would like to give their thanks to all of those who donated their time and money to these missions.

Thank you to our Deacons for your hard work this holiday season and throughout the year!



Church volleyball league!

Come play (or cheer!) with our recreational, co-ed, volleyball league! The season runs from January—March. Games are played on Thursday nights in our recreation center.

For more information, contact Kristine Tiroch ksmpt@cox.net or Mike Wilson mdw8778@yahoo.com.

VBS 2018

Just sit right back and you'll hear a tale, a tale of a FAITHFUL trip.....

Can YOU guess what our Summer 2018 VBS theme will be? Stay tuned in the new year for the big reveal!

Save the date: VBS 2018 is June 4th-8th. Mark your calendars! Registration begins April 1st!

HOW DO YOU SERVE?

Why do I volunteer? A couple of reasons quickly come to mind. First, I really love being a part of such valuable local missions as our church food pantry and our Community Breakfasts. Meeting our clients and guests and getting better acquainted with my co-workers (often, but not always, members of our congregation) is a large part of why I enjoy these activities. Second, and more importantly, knowing that I am serving God while serving others gives real meaning to every minute I spend doing these things. I truly do appreciate these opportunities to serve.

-Member, Judy Ray!

First Presbyterian provides an endless number of ways to serve, from helping the food insecure in our Food Pantry to visiting the homebound through Bridge Builders.

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



PAINTING WITH OUR NEIGHBORS

Painting with Our Neighbors continues on the first Tuesday of each month at 5pm in Presby Place. You may bring your own project; however, supplies will be provided for acrylic, watercolor, crayons, and markers.

Pictured right: Artwork done at Painting with Our Neighbors was displayed during the Blue Christmas service in December.



JANUARY LIGHT EVENTS

On Christmas Eve, The Light turned 15 weeks old and celebrated the Light of Christ! Join us in January for a few additional speakers and a new series, "The Gospel of John: Light the Way".

January 7th, Communion and Interview with **Officer Tyrone Townsend**
January 14th, **Rev. Kati Collins** "Star Words"; plus a special mission partners lunch

January 21st, **Rev. Boone Clayton**, preaching
January 28th, **Rev. Kati Collins**, "Come and See"



JINGLE BELL RUN

Runners, walkers, and volunteers all had a great time at the 2017 Jingle Bell Run! Thank you to race director, Sarah Diamond, and to all of our sponsors for making this year's race a huge success!

Pictured bottom left: Runners gather at the starting line.

Pictured top right: Volunteers, Jerry Vestweber and Mary Alice Schlesener serve Cox Bros. BBQ to hungry race participants.

Pictured bottom right: The 5K race begins!



NOTES TO THE CHURCH

Dear Rev. McConnell and Congregation,

Congratulations on celebrating the 150th anniversary of First Presbyterian Church.

This incredible milestone is no doubt a testament of the dedication, faith, and commitment of your church and all of its members, past and present. Thank you for making a difference and setting a positive example for so many. First Presbyterian has clearly impacted the lives of countless individuals.

Again, congratulations. Robba and I are honored to be members of First Presbyterian. You should be proud of this incredible celebration of service to God and the community. Best wishes for the future.

Very truly yours,

Jerry Moran



A heartfelt thank you to all the participants, volunteers, and sponsors for the Jingle Bell Run! The event would not have been possible without you! There were 99 participants and over 50 volunteers. We sincerely appreciate all your support and contributions to this cause. All proceeds from this year's race will be donated to The Heart of MFB; a non-profit that provides support for families experiencing Congenital Heart Defects, fertility and pregnancy issues, and childhood diseases. Thank you so much for your support! We look forward to next year's race!

Thank you,

Sarah Diamond, Race Director

CHRISTMAS PREPARATION



Virginia Benkelman has been a long time member and volunteer in the First Presbyterian community. Pictured above is Virginia organizing costumes for the Christmas Eve Nativity scene. Thank you, Virginia, for your hard work!



Our "Christmas Elves" did a wonderful job decorating the church for Christmas! Pictured left is Patsy Brandt putting the finishing touches on the sanctuary Christmas tree. This year's "Elves" included Patsy Brandt, Joan and Ken Burton, Micky Jensen, Peg Janssen, and Sally and Bob Mullen. A huge thank you to you all!



Musicians from "The Light" performed at the Blue Christmas service on December 21. From left to right: Joshua Arnoldy, Robbie Collins, RJ Leonard, and Lars Quinke.

First Presbyterian Church
801 Leavenworth
Manhattan, KS 66502

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Phone: 785-537-0518

Website:

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CRUNCHING THE NUMBERS

Food Pantry

In November, our Food Pantry served 31 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 November, we served 154 dinners and 121 breakfasts. We also distributed 69 brownbag lunches.

JANUARY MEN'S BREAKFAST

The Men's Breakfast is held monthly on the third Thursday of each month from 7:00-8:00 a.m. in Fisher Hall.

The January Men's Breakfast will be held on Thursday, **January 18**, and will feature a presentation by FPC member Nick Lander (pictured right). Nick is the Associate Director of the Department of Housing at Kansas State University. Join us for this interesting talk!



FRIDAY FELLOWSHIP

Please join us as we begin a new year of Friday Fellowship on **January 26 at 11 am** in Fisher Hall. This month's speaker will be **Emilee Gorman, Program Director of Green Apple Bikes**. Come learn the history of the bike sharing program, and its part in the public transportation network in Manhattan. A delicious lunch will be served at noon, prepared by Hospitality Coordinator Julie Haynes.