

First Presbyterian Church  
801 Leavenworth St  
Manhattan, KS 66502

Phone: 785-537-0518

Website:  
www.firstpresmanhattan.com  
Facebook: @firstpresmanhattan  
@theLightMHK

Twitter: @firstpresmhk  
@thelightmhk



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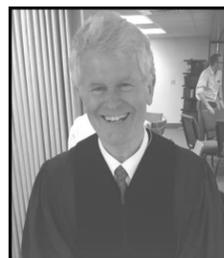
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First Presbyterian Church

May, 2018

# FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH Headline News



Rev. McConnell

## NO SINGLE PATH

As Christians, we understand that the single path to God is through Jesus Christ. Jesus said in John 14: "I am the way, the truth, and the life, no one comes to the Father except through me."

But when one considers life's choices, there are plenty of paths to happiness and there are plenty of paths to fulfillment when it comes to work and career. Each person marches to the beat of his or her own ambitions. And we should steer clear of judging others for the

choices they make with regard to family life and career.

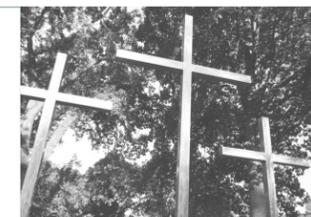
Of the many remembrances offered for former First Lady, Barbara Bush, one in particular struck me: choose your own path, don't let society tell you what to do. She shared this thought in a commencement speech to the 1990 graduating class of Wellesley College, a women's liberal arts school in Massachusetts, not too long after a student protest organized against Mrs. Bush delivering the address, declaring in a petition that she had "gained recognition through the achievements of her husband," and that Wellesley "teaches us that we will be rewarded on the basis of our own merit, not that of a spouse." Never mind that Mrs. Bush was the First Lady with a commitment to increase literacy, and was, as her husband, George H.W. Bush, wrote in his diary about the incident: "What's wrong with the fact that she's a good mother, a good wife, great volunteer, great leader for literacy and other fine causes...."

Mrs. Bush said in that same speech that "....your success as a family, our success as a society, depends not on what happens in the White House, but on what happens inside your house." The bottom line being that no matter what path you take to create a loving, nurturing home---this is what really matters in the end. And we should expect that a grandmother has just as much wisdom to share with a graduating class as does a CEO of a Fortune 500 company. As Barbara Bush said to that same class at Wellesley: "Maybe we should adjust faster; maybe we should adjust slower. But whatever the era, whatever the times, one thing will never change: Fathers and mothers, if you have children---they must come first. You must read to your children, hug your children, and you must love your children."

People make their own choices; culture and society shouldn't make them for them. You listen to your heart, along with a little logic, and you do what is best for you and your family, and that generally means finding that intersection where love and fulfillment meet.

It's an exciting time in which we live with a plethora of choices for men and women, both in career and in the home. But we know in the end: love is the answer, no matter what path you take. As the Apostle Paul said: "Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things."

Faithfully,  
Cam



## COMING UP SOON

See inside for events and schedules

**May 4:** Ladies' Night Out

**May 4:** P<sup>2</sup> end of the year party at Tuttle Lake (Pending May 4 or 5)

**May 6:** College Lunch following 10:30 worship service

**May 11:** Last meeting for P<sup>2</sup>

**May 13:** Kids sing at 10:30 service

**May 14:** Blood Drive

## SUMMER CAMPS SCHEDULE!

**June 4-9:** Vacation Bible School

**June 10-15:** Heartland Youth Encounter (Kansas City)- Contact Rev. Kati

**July 9-13:** Heartland Day Camp

**July 23-27:** Music Camp

## CRUNCHING THE NUMBERS

### Food Pantry

In March, our Food Pantry served 46 adults and 28 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 March, we served 150 dinners, 75 breakfasts, and 51 sack lunches.

## MOTHER'S DAY PHOTO

First Presbyterian has always placed a great emphasis on the day we honor our mothers. Families or individuals submit one of their favorite mom pictures and Director of Communications and Volunteer Coordinator, Taylor Roberts, prepares an inspirational video of the moms in our congregation and beyond our church family. Please submit your favorite photo **by May 8th**. Photos may be emailed to secretary@firstpresmanhattan.com or brought to the office.

## FRIDAY FELLOWSHIP

Please join us for Friday Fellowship on **May 25 at 11 am** in Fisher Hall. **Ron Wilson**, Director of the Huck Boyd National Institute for Rural Development, will give the presentation "Radio Recollections: True Stories of Amazing Kansans." Come hear Ron's interesting accounts of Kansas people who have made a difference. A delicious lunch, prepared by Hospitality Coordinator Julie Haynes, will be served at noon.



## WORSHIP WITH THE LIGHT IN MAY

How many friends do you have? Facebook tells me I currently have 1,124 friends, and that's not counting all of you who are not on Facebook! Our world has so many people and so many people groups, that sometimes it can seem hard to keep up with all of our friends, share our love and tend to those relationships. **So, in the twenty-first century, has the church become just another one of those people groups, or can we offer something different?**

This month at The Light, we will be looking at "The Core Values of the Early Church", the people group we try to emulate. As we read about these early Christians in Acts, we find people who are discovering a unique group of friends: brothers and sisters who share the mind of Christ. This community has several characteristics. **Their community was diverse.** Fishermen and merchants, literate and illiterate, scholars and slaves, Romans and Jews, men and women, these "children of light" met together to learn about Jesus and then carried His ways into their everyday lives. **Their community was generous.** They offered everything they had, financial and physical property, for the betterment of one another. Like the Israelites in the desert gathering manna, the early church saw all they had as a gift from God given to share. **Their community carried the story of Jesus and his reconciling work to the world.**

When we gather, we are practicing the type of relationships Jesus wants us to have in our community. We celebrate the diversity of our world. We give what we have to care for one another. We live and speak as a witness to the forgiveness and creative work of God. **The time you spend "practicing" your faith in church will inform and improve your relationships outside of church.** Come learn with us and re-connect with Jesus. He will offer you healing and hope to practice the "beloved community."

— Rev. Kati



### PREACHING SCHEDULE

- May 6th: "Kairos: Gathered in the Mind of Christ", followed by A Light Lunch
- May 13th: Rev. Kati interviews a special guest, "Celebrating Our Community as Mother."
- May 20th: "Pentecost: Speaking Love in a World of Hate"
- May 27th: The Light will worship in the sanctuary with the 10:30am service. Rev. Kati will preach.



## YOUTH AND COLLEGE

We have had a lot of fun at youth group this year on Sunday evenings as well as at other events. Coming up we have planned a night at the park to get out and enjoy the warm weather (hopefully) and celebrate the end of the school year. We are also **restructuring and building** part of the youth program for next Fall semester to have a more dynamic youth group! We are looking forward to seeing what will happen next Fall when we can put our plans into action!

With school beginning to wrap up for our college group, they have definitely been very busy! From singing in the choir to college lunches, it has been a great month and semester. We have one last **college lunch and program** coming up on **May 6th** to help celebrate the end of the year and the beginning of summer! Our college lunch programs consist of having a local professional speak about their faith and how it has played a role in their per-

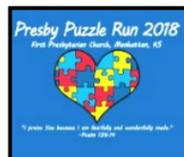
## Easter Season at First Presbyterian!

The Thursday dinner and Seder meal attracted a greater number of members and friends as many shared fellowship around Fisher Hall tables and Passover traditions were celebrated, followed by the Sacrament of Holy Communion. Good Friday blended beautiful music with the Office of the Tenebrae, symbolizing the flight of the disciples. This particular service drew a much greater number than previous years with its unique combination of music and readings. Good Friday communion was served by First Presbyterian at Meadowlark Hills with over 50 in attendance---a record crowd for that service! Easter services drew over 400 with triumphant music and great spirit, including the "World's Greatest Easter Egg Hunt," with the snow beginning to fly!!



## GENEROSITY UPDATE

By Sarah Diamond, Director of Operations and Development



Because of your generosity, during the month of April, the following contributions were made to the church and community:

-The No Stone Unturned Therapeutic Learning Center received the proceeds from the Presby Puzzle Run held on April 29. Over 70 volunteers helped make this event possible! Thank you so much for all your support to this charity event including the silent auction contributions!

-The Greater Manhattan Community Foundation Grow Green Match Day was April 20; the First Presbyterian Mission Committee and the Deacons made donations to 16 organizations as a part of this effort. Below is the list of the 16 agencies First Presbyterian Church supported for a total donation of \$16,000.

- |                               |                       |                          |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------|--------------------------|
| -Manhattan Emergency Shelter  | -Shepherd's Crossing  | -Ronald McDonald         |
| -Manhattan Crisis Center      | -Sunflower CASA       | House Charities          |
| -Big Brothers/Big Sisters     | -Habitat for Humanity | -Fairy Godmothers        |
| -Flint Hills Community Clinic | -Pawnee Mental Health | -The Guardians (formerly |
| -Flint Hills Breadbasket      | Service               | The Guardian Angels)     |
| -Manhattan Home Care and      | -Riley County Senior  | -Ecumenical Campus       |
| Hospice                       | Services Center       | Ministries               |

## Summer Camps 2018!

### VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL 2018

June 4-8 | 9:00 a.m. - Noon | Pre-K-5th grade

The best week of the summer!

Registration is available now through our website at [www.firstpresmanhattan.com](http://www.firstpresmanhattan.com). Camp can't run without volunteers! We need: Crew leaders, kitchen help, and recreation help. Visit our website for more information on how to make VBS a great week for campers!



### MUSIC CAMP 2018: CREATURE PRAISE

July 24-27 | 10:00 a.m. - noon | K-6th grade

Kids will learn about both vocal and instrumental music through hands-on experience! Camp includes performances of professionals, snack time, and a "showcase performance" at the 10:30 Sunday worship service! This camp is led by Steve and Susan Maxwell, professors of music at Kansas State University.

Register on our website.