



# First Presbyterian Times

May 2023

## Letter from the Pastor

*The expressions of prayer are as varied as the people of God.*

May the fourth is not just a date that Star Wars fans love (If you know Star Wars then you'll get it). This year, it is also the first Thursday of the month, designated as the National Day of Prayer. To my knowledge there are no prayer gatherings in Manhattan on this day (something we should perhaps remedy as a Ministerial Association). But my past experience with this day of prayer has been life-changing: women, men and children from across the Judeo-Christian tradition gathering to acknowledge the sovereignty of God over all creation, and our need to humble ourselves before God and ask for God's forbearance, guidance, wisdom, and help, as we make our way forward as a global community that struggles with justice, equity, righteousness, mercy, and peace, just to name a few things.

To be sure, many folk within the Christian tradition pray differently than me. Some raise their hands. Some speak in tongues. Some sing as they pray. Others weep. Still others are very solemn, stately, measured in their prayers. The expressions of prayer are as varied as the people of God. And that has been a great part of this life-changing experience. The other major component has been rather shocking in its simplicity: whenever I've participated in this day of prayer with others from across the community, it's been invigorating to see people who look different than me. Black, white, brown, young and old, male and female, those with luscious locks of hair! It is a living testament to the church of Jesus Christ being so much bigger than a particular congregation or denomination; a reminder that none of us "corners the market" on God, indeed that God won't be put into anyone's pocket or box (often labeled: "Charismatic," "Evangelical," "Orthodox," "Reformed," "Catholic," "Mainline," and so on). And I, for one, truly value that perspective – it is both deeply humbling and deeply comforting.

This year's theme for the *National Day of Prayer* comes from James 5:16b "The prayer of the righteous is powerful and effective." And, in context, it is a reference to James' call for the community of faith to lift one another up in prayer, trusting that God will be the one to heal, restore, and forgive. And it is as good a place to start as anywhere. So, on May the fourth I invite you to set aside some time during the day (or throughout the day) to engage in intentional prayer for this community, this state, this nation, and God's world; to pray for healing, restoration, forgiveness and reconciliation, wholeness, justice, and peace – trusting that God will hear, and is already at work within (and around) us all. If you are connected to First Pres. on Facebook and/or Instagram, you will be able to join throughout the day in what is called the "A.C.T.S." form of prayer (Adoration, Confession, Thanksgiving, and Supplication). But, as I have already stated, there are as many ways to pray as there are people who do it. So lift up your heart, mind, and spirit, and pray knowing that you are surrounded by a great cloud of witnesses (nod to Hebrews 12:1) whose hearts and voices are joined with your own in seeking God's face, pleading for God's mercy, and humbly following where God leads.

May God be with you all,

*Pastor Jason*

# A Note from Faith Formation...

*Hello, sunshine!*

The weather is warming up here in Manhattan, Kansas and I imagine everyone here at First Presbyterian Church is gearing up for summer...especially those of you with young children! Summer is one of the busiest, yet most fun parts of my job and I am so excited that I get to share these exciting summer experiences with all of you.

The first thing I would like to tell you all a little bit about is our VBS coming up this summer July 10th-14th. The theme this year is "On the Case" where kids will get to learn about some of Jesus' Parables through a mystery/detective themed VBS. There will be fun games and activities, music, snacks and more and we hope to see as many kiddos there as we can. We encourage all of our kids at the church to come and bring their friends too! Additionally, we always need lots of volunteers to make VBS happen. If you would like to volunteer your time and/or resources to make this fun summer event happen this year, please contact me directly or through the church office. If you would like to help, but are unsure how to, please come talk to me. I promise there is some way you can help us out and be a part of this amazing ministry!



Building off of that, we are searching for more volunteers from the congregation to help with faith formation related activities beyond VBS. If you have the time and ability to help us out as a volunteer nursery assistant, Youth mentor or Sunday School teacher, please let me know. The more volunteers we have, the less strain it is on each individual and we can get a nice rotation going, especially for the nursery. I know that the prosperity of our kids and youth programs is something many of you are very passionate about and have expressed interest in, so I hope that you will be able to help support these programs in whatever ways you can.

With blessings,

Susana Vick  
Director of Faith Formation



**New Member Welcome:**  
*The Toomajian's!*

Leo and Myra Toomajian are pretty much life-long Presbyterians moving here from Aiken, South Carolina, to live closer to their son who is a professor in the genetics department at K-State. Leo grew up in Troy, New York, while Myra's home was a suburb of Cleveland, Ohio. Leo and Myra met in Cleveland after college. Leo retired as a mechanical engineer with Ford, working in Ohio and Detroit (he was there when the first Ford Mustang rolled off the line)! Myra is a retired educator of children ranging from pre-school to 4th grade to community college. Myra completed her career working with a non-profit to help working families find childcare. They have 3 grown sons with families, including 6 grandchildren (ages 6-22)! They now reside at Meadowlark and are looking forward to the activities both at Meadowlark and our church! They are also excited to call Manhattan "home", and are a delightful addition to our church family! Welcome Leo and Myra!

# UPCOMING EVENTS

## National Day of Prayer | May 4th

### Join us online!

Join us on Facebook or Instagram for "A.C.T.S." prayer!

## Faith & Film | May 12th

### Fisher Hall | 6:30PM

Faith & Film returns with a showing of the 2014 film, "St. Vincent" (PG-13). Kids are able to watch The Prince of Egypt in the Large Group Room. Refreshments and popcorn provided!



## Mother's Day | May 14th

### Send us your photos!

Is there a mother in the congregation you would like to commemorate for Mother's Day? Send us a picture so she can be featured in our Mother's Day slideshow! Please send your pictures by Monday, May 8th to our Communications Coordinator Stacy Markley at [stacy@firstpresmanhattan.com](mailto:stacy@firstpresmanhattan.com)

## Ascension Sunday | May 21st

### Sanctuary | 10:30AM

## Parents' Night Out | May 26th

### Presby Place | 6PM

It's open gym night! Drop your kiddos off for a few hours of fun! Ages walking to 11 years old. Donations accepted! Questions? Contact Susana Vick at [Susana@firstpresmanhattan.com](mailto:Susana@firstpresmanhattan.com)

## Pentecost Sunday | May 28th

### Sanctuary | 10:30AM

Join us for our celebration of the birthday of the church! We'll gather with joy to celebrate the Lord's Supper, the gift of the Holy Spirit, and raise our praises to God in a hymn-sing.

## Nature Camp | June 17th

### More information to come!

## Clothing Drive | June 17

### Presby Place | 9AM to 1PM

Clean out your clothes closets and help our Food Pantry Patrons! Contact Mary Vander Pol for more information or to volunteer: [margaretvanderpol@yahoo.com](mailto:margaretvanderpol@yahoo.com)

## Music Camp | June 24th

### More information to come!

## VBS: On the Case! | July 10-14

### FPC | 9AM to Noon

Growing spiritually doesn't have to be an unsolved mystery! Take a four-day journey with kid detectives as they dig into a few of Jesus' parables to solve the mysteries of how to grow their faith, how to care for, serve, and love others. Free to all kids (donations are accepted)!

# MAY CALENDAR

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
	<b>1</b> Prayer Group 9am Boy Scouts Troop 74 6:30pm In-reach & Outreach 5:30pm	<b>2</b> World Friendship 9am Community Showers 5pm Community Meals 6pm	<b>3</b> Community Breakfast 7am Staff Meeting 9am Women's Bible Study 10am Hospitality & Fellowship 5:30pm Back in the Word Bible Study 6pm Handbell Choir Practice 6pm	<b>4</b> Life's Journey with Grief 12pm  <b>National Day of Prayer</b>	<b>5</b> Food Pantry 9am
<b>7</b> Early Service 8:30am Nursery 9am-noon Sunday School 9:30am Traditional Service 10:30am <b>5th Sunday in Easter</b>	<b>8</b> Boy Scouts Troop 74 6:30pm	<b>9</b> World Friendship 9am Community Showers 5pm Community Meals 6pm	<b>10</b> Community Breakfast 7am Women's Bible Study 10am Back in the Word Bible Study 6pm Handbell Choir Practice 6pm <b>Newsletter Deadline</b>	<b>11</b> Life's Journey with Grief 12pm Worship & Discipleship 9:30am	<b>12</b> Food Pantry 9am
<b>14</b> Early Service 8:30am Nursery 9am-noon Sunday School 9:30am Traditional Service 10:30am <b>6th Sunday in Easter</b> <b>Mother's Day</b>	<b>15</b> Men's Luncheon 12pm Boy Scouts Troop 74 6:30pm	<b>16</b> Community Showers 5pm Community Meals 6pm	<b>17</b> Community Breakfast 7am Staff Meeting 9am Women's Bible Study 10am Back in the Word Bible Study 6pm Handbell Choir Practice 6pm Nuts & Bolts 6:30pm	<b>18</b> Life's Journey with Grief 12pm	<b>19</b> Food Pantry 9am Friday Fellowship 11am
<b>21</b> Early Service 8:30am Nursery 9am-noon Sunday School 9:30am Traditional Service 10:30am <b>7th Sunday in Easter</b>	<b>22</b> Boy Scouts Troop 74 6:30pm	<b>23</b> Community Showers 5pm Community Meals 6pm Session 6:30pm	<b>24</b> Community Breakfast 7am Women's Bible Study 10am Back in the Word Bible Study 6pm Handbell Choir Practice 6pm	<b>25</b> Life's Journey with Grief 12pm	<b>26</b> Food Pantry 9am
<b>28</b> Nursery 9am-noon Sunday School 9:30am Communion & Hymn Sing 10:30am <b>8th Sunday in Easter</b> <b>Pentecost Offering</b>	<b>29</b> Boy Scouts Troop 74 6:30pm  <b>OFFICE CLOSED</b>  <b>Memorial Day</b>	<b>30</b> Community Showers 5pm Community Meals 6pm Session 6:30pm	<b>31</b> Community Breakfast 7am Women's Bible Study 10am Back in the Word Bible Study 6pm Handbell Choir Practice 6pm		



5/01 Jan Westberg  
 5/01 Patricia Kolonosky  
 5/04 Jim Morrison  
 5/04 Susan Schoneweis  
 5/05 Cheri Graham  
 5/05 Micky Jensen  
 5/05 Pat Tippin  
 5/05 Linda Wassberg  
 5/05 Amanda Tomlinson  
 5/06 Sherry Borck  
 5/06 John Lyons  
 5/08 Bob Brown  
 5/09 Barry Sarvis  
 5/11 Gene Moherman  
 5/12 Karen Bell  
 5/13 Dean Armbrust  
 5/15 Max Dunn  
 5/15 Bob Mullen



5/18 G.E. Simmons  
 5/18 Terry Voos  
 5/19 Joe Montgomery  
 5/19 Chris Gathers  
 5/19 Kathie Gathers  
 5/21 Robba Moran  
 5/22 Claudia Voos  
 5/23 David Regehr  
 5/24 Steven Graham  
 5/24 Jamir Johnson  
 5/25 Josh Medicinebird  
 5/26 Garalyn Connery  
 5/27 Jim Schottler  
 5/29 Jerry Moran  
 5/30 Mike Toy  
 5/30 Pam VanderPol  
 5/30 Carrie McColloch  
 5/31 Diane Mullinax

## LADIES FELLOWSHIP

SAT, MAY 6 | 4PM  
FISHER HALL

BRING YOUR FAVORITE SNACK TO SHARE!  
CHILDCARE PROVIDED!

## EASTER Brunch



Thank you to everyone who cooked up, cleaned up, and chowed down during the Easter Brunch! A lovely time was had by all!

# FAITH & FILM



Please join us as we round out the inaugural season of "Faith and Film" by viewing and discussing the 2014 movie "St. Vincent" starring Bill Murray, Melissa McCarthy, and Naomi Watts. In this film, Maggie (McCarthy), a single mother, moves into a new home in Brooklyn, NY with her 12 year old son, Oliver (played by Jaeden Martell). Forced to work long hours, she has to leave Oliver in the care of a new neighbor, Vincent (Murray)—a retired curmudgeon with a penchant for alcohol and gambling. Vincent helps Oliver grow into a street-wise young man and Oliver begins to see in Vincent something that no one else is able to see: a misunderstood man...a saint.

**Friday, May 12, 6:30pm -- Fisher Hall**  
**You bring your friends.**  
**We'll bring the popcorn.**  
**And let's explore our faith in film!**

## “WHAT IS ASCENSION SUNDAY”?

The “Ascension of the Lord” is observed 40 days after Easter – as we read in Acts 1:3 – and we celebrate it on the Sunday nearest the date. Thus, May 21 is Ascension Sunday at First Presbyterian Church, Manhattan!

But what is it? Simply put, it is the day we remember Jesus’ ascension into heaven (just as the creeds state) where he sits at the right hand of God, the Father Almighty. Why is it so important? The Ascension of the Lord is more than simply a nod to some historical event, or even theological concept. It is the proclamation of the church, and celebration of the people of God, that God’s promises are true in Jesus; that we (our whole self – body, mind, and spirit) are important to God; that all of our humanity is wrapped up with Jesus and is present with, and precious to, God. It is the affirmation that our hope has been placed wisely in Jesus.

In that John Calvin’s theology placed great importance on the ascended and reigning Christ, Ascension Day is in some ways the Presbyterian feast day. Christ is Lord of the world and head of the church, we proclaim. Christ’s ascension, therefore, concerns us not only with church-related matters but also with social and political ones. If Christ has ascended, then Christ’s word rules the world as well as the church. If Christ has ascended, then there are no other rulers – all others are merely pretenders. Christ reigns supreme.



Ascension  
of the Lord  
Myth # 23,456:  
“Jesus Jumped into  
the sky”

**Please set your calendars, and make sure to  
worship on Sunday, May 21, Ascension of the  
Lord Sunday!**





**Join us on Sunday, May 28 for our celebration of what is sometimes called "the birthday of the church"! We'll gather with joy to celebrate the Lord's Supper, the gift of the Holy Spirit, and raise our praises to God in a hymn-sing.**

Psalm 147:1 says "How good it is to sing praises to our God; for he is gracious, and a song of praise is fitting." We plan to do just that on this day of celebration. Pastor Jason will call upon people from each section of the sanctuary and we will sing up to two verses from each hymn. So start identifying your favorite hymns (and verses) and come ready to celebrate and sing on May 28!

## DEACONS ARE ON THE MOVE!

**Clean out your clothes closets and help our Food Pantry Patrons!**

The Deacons have been made aware that there is a need for clothing for our Food Pantry patrons. Please bring your clean GENTLY used clothing in a small box or bag (no underwear, socks, or shoes) to the church office during regular business hours.

**Saturday, June 17  
9AM to 1PM in Presby Place**

For more information, please contact  
Mary VanderPol at  
[margaretvanderpol@yahoo.com](mailto:margaretvanderpol@yahoo.com)



## At the Helm IN ORGANIZING FPC FOOD PANTRY VOLUNTEERS

A boatload of thanks to Mary Vander Pol (front row-left), FPC Food Pantry Volunteer Coordinator, for organizing the weekly work schedules of our 35+ volunteers. The food pantry is open on Fridays from 9:00 to 11:30 a.m. Mary checks in the pantry guests with great care, helps them select food items needed, and coordinates the volunteers filling the orders. It's always smooth sailing with Mary at the helm!





First Presbyterian Church  
801 Leavenworth St  
Manhattan, KS 66502

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# First Presbyterian Times

## May 2023

### *Connect*

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**Facebook:** @firstpresmanhattan

**Instagram:** @firstpremanhattan

**YouTube:** @firstpresmanhattan

**Website:** [www.firstpresmanhattan.com](http://www.firstpresmanhattan.com)

### May Lectionary

#### **Sunday, May 7 | 5th Sunday of Easter**

Acts 7:55-60 & Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16 ; 1 Peter 2:2-10 & John 14:1-14

#### **Sunday, May 14 | 6th Sunday of Easter**

Acts 17:22-31 & Psalm 66:8-20; 1 Peter 3:13-22 & John 14:15-21

#### **Sunday, May 21 | 7th Sunday of Easter**

Acts 1:6-14 & Psalm 68:1-10, 32-35; 1 Peter 4:12-14, 5:6-11 & John 17:1-11

#### **Sunday, May 28 | Pentecost Sunday**

Acts 2:1-21 & Psalm 104:24-34, 35b; 1 Corinthians 12:3b-13 & John 20:19-23