

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



OCTOBER 2022

# THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN TIMES

## Letter from the Pastor

**Friends,**

**Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.**

**I write those words above intentionally, echoing the apostle Paul who greets many communities with them, because it certainly seems as though both grace and peace are in short supply. They seemed so in Paul's day when his epistles were sent to redirect communities in conflict back to the way of Jesus that brings reconciliation. And they appear to be in short supply these days when we see, all around us and within Christ's church itself, factions built around so many issues, making it feel as though we must make a choice for either "A" or "B" and that such polarization is natural, normal, and needed.**

Unfortunately, faction building is nothing new to the church of Jesus Christ. According to the Center for the Study of Global Christianity<sup>1</sup>, there are over 46,000 Christian denominations in the world made up of over four million congregations. That is a staggering number to consider, and even more staggering to consider the theological distinctives, and convictions, and factions that exist between (and within) those four million congregations of which First Presbyterian Church of Manhattan, Kansas is a part.

Recent decisions made, and actions taken, by the 225th General Assembly of the PC(USA) this summer in Louisville, KY, have created quite a bit of disharmony among us here at FPC, Manhattan. This has been made evident in the conversations I, personally, have had with many members, as well as conversations relayed to the Session by ruling elders at our meeting on August 30, 2022. This discord is of great concern to us as a Session. And on Tuesday, September 13, we had a special meeting strictly for the purpose of speaking openly and honestly about the issues from General Assembly that have fomented this frustration. The goal for this meeting was for everyone to feel heard, not judged, and supported as part of a larger body with many parts that are all seeking a faithful response to the concerns before us, that we may walk together.

Thanks be to God that there is no small measure of grace and peace among your Session. In fact, grace overflowed as we wrestled with the issues before us and the call of Christ to a unified vision and sense of shared mission.

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To be sure, not everyone sees eye-to-eye on hot-button issues such as reproductive freedoms, the continuing conflict between Israel and Palestine, divestment, or gun laws/legislation. There is room for disagreement, discussion, and discernment among the larger body of Christ on these and other matters. And while the General Assembly has taken what appears to be a hard stand on many divisive issues in our society (and denomination), the Session is not taking a position on these issues that will further polarize or separate the body of Christ into factions that, as we see all around us in our society, laud and loathe one another depending on each "side's" conviction. Rather, we are committed to redirecting our focus to Christ and his ministry of reconciliation in and for the world, and taking our stand there with him.

To this end, we will continue our listening to and with one another. We will continue our seeking of Christ's will for this congregation and community. We will discern opportunities for the congregation to be heard and affirm a shared vision and mission. And we are committed to working for healing and reconciliation in our world that fulfills the great ends of the church: The proclamation of the gospel for the salvation of humankind; the shelter, nurture and spiritual fellowship of the children of God; the maintenance of divine worship; the preservation of the truth; the promotion of social righteousness; and the exhibition of the kingdom of heaven to the world. Furthermore, we reaffirm our mission as a congregation "...to create disciples for Jesus Christ, and to practice his teachings, by loving and serving God and one another."

As the Session continues its discernment for the faithful way forward—actionable steps that reflect the way of Jesus together as the people of God—we ask for (1) your prayers for God's way to be clear, (2) your pledge of support to, and involvement with, the congregation and its ministry after Christ to be lived out, and (3) for your patience as we wait for the Lord and follow Christ's leading. Opportunities are forthcoming for all to be heard. And I trust that, with focus on Christ and not the divisions around us, grace and peace will surely overflow.

May the peace of Christ be with you all,  
Pastor Jason

**Citation:** <sup>1</sup>"Status of Global Christianity, 2022, in the Context of 1900-2050." Center for the Study of Global Christianity at Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary, Accessed September, 15, 2022. <https://www.gordonconwell.edu/center-for-global-christianity/wp-content/uploads/sites/13/2022/01/Status-of-Global-Christianity-2022.pdf>

## STEWARDSHIP SIGHTING

### Doug "Chappie" Chapman

Our very popular 8:30 a.m. Parkside Worship service runs from May through the end of September. Every week, beginning over an hour before the worship service starts, you will find member Doug Chapman, otherwise known to most of us as Chappie, setting up his microphones, mixers, cables, electric cords, and musical instruments in the park. He uses his own equipment so that from the moment we arrive in our church park to worship, we hear soothing music that than transforms into the full service which allows us to have excellent sound quality for both music and voice. At the end of the service, he packs up his equipment until the next week. Thank you, Chappie!



# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## Upcoming Events, Classes, & Save the Date's

### Stewardship Sunday | October 2nd

#### Sanctuary | 10:30 a.m. Traditional Service

We will be celebrating our Putting It All Together: Faith In Action 2023 Stewardship Campaign. Join us as we come together to dedicate our financial and time and talent pledge cards. In addition, we will be showing the completion of our personalized 500 piece puzzle that you helped build by writing words on the back of each puzzle piece about what our church means to you.

### 2022 Manhattan CROP Hunger Walk | October 2nd

#### Registration at 1:30 p.m. | Walk at 2:00 p.m.

The mission of the CROP Hunger Walk is transforming communities around the globe through just and sustainable responses to hunger, poverty, displacement, and disaster. 25% of the funds raised is returned to the host community to support local hunger fighting efforts. Start and Finish Line will be at First Presbyterian Friendship Park and will go around City Park in total of 1.6-mile walk. You can find the CROP Hunger Walk sign up in front of the sanctuary at First Presbyterian Church or register online at [events.crophungerwalk.org](https://events.crophungerwalk.org)

### PNK Fall Youth Retreat | October 1st-2nd

#### Grades 7-12th | Rock Springs Ranch

During our time together, we will have Fun (Ziplining! Hiking! Gaga Ball!), Fellowship (lunch, dinner, smores and breakfast together!), and grow in our Faith. Youth cost is \$85 which includes all meals, lodging and activities. All you need to bring is yourself, your bedding and towels and clothes for the weekend...and prepare to have a good time! Register online by September 12, 2022 at [www.pnks.org/upcoming-events](http://www.pnks.org/upcoming-events)

### Pumpkin Palooza | October 16th

#### First Presbyterian Church | 2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Join us for an afternoon of fall fun at our 1st Annual Pumpkin Palooza! Enjoy food, games, a petting zoo, face painting and fellowship! Free to all, and all are welcome! Volunteers are needed for this event, contact Susana Vick for more details.

### A Life & House In Order: Forum | October 16th & 23rd

#### Fisher Hall | 5:30 p.m.

What does a life and house in order look like, financially, socially, legally, spiritually? Join to begin the discussion on issues that confront us all, especially as we advance in years. This is for you and your questions and concerns in life! So your questions will lead the discussion and inform any future discussions we have. Refreshments will be provided, so please come!

### Friday Fellowship | October 28th

#### Fisher Hall | 11:00 a.m.

Our October Friday Fellowship Luncheon will be held in Fisher hall on Friday, October 28th. Guest Speaker is Lyle Butler presenting "What Worked and What Didn't in Economic Development". A Homemade luncheon will follow the presentation. RSVP by October 24th to the church office at 785-537-0518 or [staff@firstpresmanhattan.com](mailto:staff@firstpresmanhattan.com)

### Parents' Night Out : Unearthing the Bible | October 28th

#### Walking age to 11 years | 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Kids will do a "dinosaur excavation" and learn about dinosaurs including interactive activities, a bible lesson, fun snacks and an archeology themed bible scavenger hunt.



# FAITH FORMATION AT FPC

Fall is barreling in at full speed here at First Presbyterian Church! School began in late August, and Sunday School kicked off on September 11th, marking the end of summer days and the beginning of a new school year. What this means for us, is the kick-off of our Year C, Fall curriculum in the Revised Common Lectionary and the last season of Year C before Advent begins the Year A curriculum. Advent is sure to be here before we know it and, looking into October and beyond, we have lots of activities to mark on our calendars and many more to be on the lookout for.

First, we have Pumpkin Palooza on Sunday, October 16th, 2-5pm. Pumpkin Palooza is an intergenerational fellowship opportunity where families and members of both our church community and the community beyond can come together and enjoy games, food, crafts and more.

### What can I expect from Pumpkin Palooza?

Pumpkin Palooza will be outside, at the church (weather permitting) with booths set up for carnival and yard games, fall themed crafts and other fun activities. There will be a place to take photos and lots of sweet fall treats to go around!

### What age is Pumpkin Palooza for?

Pumpkin Palooza is for anyone of any age who wants to come enjoy fellowship with others in our church community and beyond!

### How can I help make Pumpkin Palooza a success?

If you are interested in getting involved and volunteering, please let me know by sending me an email ([susana@firstpresmanhattan.com](mailto:susana@firstpresmanhattan.com)) or calling the church office. We need people to run booths, help set up, and bake fall treats for our Pumpkin Walk. Another way to help out is to share the event with your friends!

Looking beyond Pumpkin Palooza, we have our "Unearthing the Bible" Parents' Night Out on October 28th, from 6-8pm for kids ages walking-11 years old. Kids get to come learn about Dinosaurs and Paleontology, Archeology, and about our amazing God who created these creatures!

Once October draws to an end, we will be shifting full speed into Advent mode. There is a Christmas program for Children/Families in the works, so keep your eye out for more information on those events coming very soon.

We hope you all have a wonderful October full of fun costumes, football, lots of candy and, of course, Jesus! I am always here to answer any questions or concerns you may have about Faith Formation and please don't hesitate to reach out.

**Blessings,**  
**Susana Vick | Director of Faith Formation**







# Nina Johnson

SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT

Nina's Service was held in her hometown Missouri Valley, Iowa in the First Methodist Church where she and I were married 68 years ago. She rests in Harris Grove Cemetery with other family members.

We invite you to a Celebration of Life for Nina so people here in Kansas who knew her will have the opportunity to participate.

The Celebration of Life for Nina will be at the Cottonwood Shelter at the Army Corps of Engineers Outlet Park, from 4-6 p.m., on Thursday, October 13. The family will supply hamburgers, hotdogs and buns, chips, and beverages. Desserts and other sides are most welcome.

*Ken & Laurie Johnson*

HAPPY RETIREMENT, MIKE!



Our Director of Facilities, Mike Hedke, after eight years, countless hours, and lots of sweat and elbow-grease, retired on Friday, September 30 and is journeying south to be near his new grandson, Walter, for a season!

We will certainly miss Mike and his loving stewardship of this church building and people. And we wish him well in this next season in life.

We give a big thank you to Mike for his love, friendship, and faithful stewardship of this place we call First Presbyterian Church of Manhattan, Kansas! If you would like to send a note of thanks or well-wishes to him, you may write to him at 2604 Georgetown Pl., Manhattan, KS 66502.



# PARENT'S NIGHT OUT

Friday, October 28th from 6PM to 8PM

Unearth the bible at our next P.N.O. event! Activities include a dinosaur excavation, scavenger hunt, and a bible lesson!

Snacks and drinks provided. Ages walking to 11 years.



A big THANK YOU to everyone who spent time at the 2022 Praisefest Global Impact Food Packing Event on September 23 – 24! First Presbyterian Church of Manhattan was a main sponsor of this mission/outreach, and your time, your attention, your love given in this way will literally bring food and hope to people in times of needs. The goal was 100,084 meals. And thanks to your help, coupled with brothers and sisters across the community, we surpassed our goal and totaled over 101,000 meals! THANK YOU for bearing hope in the midst of chaos, and the light of Christ wrapped up with a meal!"

# OCTOBER CALENDAR

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
<p>2</p> <p>Early Worship 8:30am Nursery 9am-noon Sunday School 9:30am Worship 10:30am</p> <p>CROP Walk 2pm</p> <p>Stewardship Sunday</p> <p>17th Sunday after Pentecost</p> <p>World Communion Sunday</p>	<p>3</p> <p>Faith Formation Meeting 1pm</p> <p>Worship Committee Meeting 5:15pm</p> <p>Boy Scouts Troop 74 6:30pm</p>	<p>4</p> <p>Stewardship Meeting 1:30pm</p> <p>Community Showers 5pm</p> <p>Community Meals 6pm</p>	<p>5</p> <p>Community Breakfast 7am</p> <p>Women's Bible Study 10am</p> <p>Personnel Meeting 1pm</p> <p>Back in the Word Bible Study 6pm</p>	<p>6</p> <p>Life's Journey with Grief 12pm</p>	<p>7</p> <p>Food Pantry 9am</p>
<p>9</p> <p>Early Worship 8:30am Nursery 9am-noon Sunday School 9:30am Worship 10:30am</p> <p>18th Sunday after Pentecost</p>	<p>10</p> <p>Membership Committee 5:30pm</p> <p>Boy Scouts Troop 74 6:30pm</p>	<p>11</p> <p>Community Showers 5pm</p> <p>Community Meals 6pm</p>	<p>12</p> <p>Community Breakfast 7am</p> <p>Staff Meeting 9am</p> <p>Women's Bible Study 10am</p> <p>Back in the Word Bible Study 6pm</p> <p>Newsletter Deadline</p>	<p>13</p> <p>Life's Journey with Grief 12pm</p>	<p>14</p> <p>Food Pantry 9am</p>
<p>16</p> <p>Early Worship 8:30am Nursery 9am-noon Sunday School 9:30am Worship 10:30am</p> <p>A Life &amp; House in Order 5:30pm</p> <p>Pumpkin Palooza -5pm</p> <p>19th Sunday after Pentecost</p>	<p>17</p> <p>Memorial Committee 3pm</p> <p>Boy Scouts Troop 74 6:30pm</p>	<p>18</p> <p>Community Showers 5pm</p> <p>Community Meals 6pm</p> <p>Business Affairs Committee 5pm</p>	<p>19</p> <p>Community Breakfast 7am</p> <p>Women's Bible Study 10am</p> <p>Personnel Committee 1pm</p> <p>Back in the Word Bible Study 6pm</p>	<p>20</p> <p>Life's Journey with Grief 12pm</p>	<p>21</p> <p>Food Pantry 9am</p>
<p>23</p> <p>A Life &amp; House in Order 5:30pm</p> <p>20th Sunday after Pentecost</p> <p>21st Sunday after Pentecost</p> <p>Reformation Sunday</p>	<p>24</p> <p>Deacon's Meeting 5:30pm</p>	<p>25</p> <p>Community Showers 5pm</p> <p>Community Meals 6pm</p> <p>Session Meeting 6:30pm</p>	<p>26</p> <p>Community Breakfast 7am</p> <p>Staff Meeting 9am</p> <p>Women's Bible Study 10am</p> <p>Back in the Word Bible Study 6pm</p>	<p>27</p> <p>Life's Journey with Grief 12pm</p>	<p>28</p> <p>Food Pantry 9am</p> <p>Parents' Night Out 6pm</p>

# October Lectionary

## Sunday, October 2

*World Communion Sunday*

Habakkuk 1:1-4; 2:1-4; Psalm 37:1-9;  
2 Timothy 1:1-14; Luke 17:5-10

## Sunday, October 9

*18th Sunday after Pentecost*

Exodus 32:7-14 and Psalm 51:1-10;  
Timothy 1:12-17; Luke 15:1-10

## Sunday, October 16

*19th Sunday after Pentecost*

Amos 8:4-7 and Psalm 113;  
1 Timothy 2:1-7; Luke 16:1-13

## Sunday, October 23

*20th Sunday after Pentecost*

Amos 6:1a, 4-7 and Psalm 146;  
1 Timothy 6:6-19; Luke 16:19-31

## Sunday, October 30

*Reformation Sunday*

Isaiah 1:10-18; Psalm 32:1-7;  
2 Thessalonians 1:1-4, 11-12; Luke 19:1-10

Please join us on Sunday mornings in the Large Group Room of the Christian Education Wing for a conversation and guided meditation on the scriptures called the "Lectio Divina." Grab some coffee and donuts in Fisher Hall and meet us at 9:30!

## BIBLE STUDIES

Intergenerational Adult Bible Study  
Thursdays at 6PM | FPC Chapel

Women's Bible Study  
Wednesdays at 10AM | Fisher Library

Back In the Word Women's Bible Study  
Wednesdays at 6PM | FPC Chapel

Presbyterian Women's Circle  
Every third Thursday | Member's Home

## OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

10/02 Sophia Townsend

10/03 Adalyn Dowling

10/04 Sheree Dockins

10/05 Richard Williams

10/06 Janet Schlotzhauer

10/06 Edna Williams

10/07 Bill Snyder

10/08 Fred Rothwell

10/08 Ben Pittman

10/11 Bruce McMillan

10/13 Tami Feldkamp

10/13 Micah Hydeman

10/14 Tyrone Townsend

10/15 Sally Lansdowne

10/20 Tim Norris

10/21 Jackie Macdonald

10/22 Kelly Manges

10/23 Brian Ellis

10/23 Wade Radina

10/23 Matt Paquette

10/23 Linda Couch

10/24 Andy Wefald

10/26 Joleen Hill

10/28 Linda Schottler

10/28 Paul Dittmar

10/29 Brianna Dowling

10/29 Talon Huff

10/30 Kathryn Pittman

10/30 Shannon Shilling



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# FIRST

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

## COME TO SING WITH THE CHOIR!

Join the choir on Sunday mornings for choir rehearsal in the music room at 9:30am. The choir prepares an anthem for each Sunday worship service. In addition, the choir will be preparing a Christmas Cantata.