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FIRST
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Manhattan, KS

February 2016

Headline News



First Presbyterian's Cornerstone youth group, adults, and friends enjoyed the annual ski trip to Ski Cooper in Leadville, CO. Pictured are the youth and their leaders dressed for their sport! See pages 6 and 7 for more!

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Lent Around the Corner!



Rev. McConnell

As I write this article, I'm still feeling the afterglow of another wonderful Christmas season at First Presbyterian, but find myself already thinking about Ash Wednesday (February 10 at 6:30 p.m.) and our traditional Lenten Wednesday lunches, which will be marked by a large variety of speakers this season. With Easter being exceptionally early (March 27th) less than seven weeks separate Christmas Day from Ash Wednesday this year. So here we go into a time of the Christian calendar that's customarily reserved for self-reflection and subsequently, the celebration

of the miracle of the Resurrection. As we anticipated the

good news of the birth of our Savior in the season of Advent; we anticipate the good news of the empty tomb.

Lent is not a biblical tradition, nor was it a practice suggested by Christ. It was a tradition devised by the church shortly after Christianity emerged from its "underground" status to its legalization under the Roman emperor, Constantine, in the fourth century, emphasizing the need for personal renewal through self-denial acts of fasting, etc., in order to connect with our Savior's own self-denial. It seems appropriate that it begins several weeks before Easter, commencing with Ash Wednesday, a service dedicated to the penitential part of Christianity, when we present ourselves to God in our sincerest and most transparent forms, and then culminating in a grand and festive celebration on Easter Sunday.

Please take some time to consider any special things you might do to bring yourself closer to Christ this Lenten season: join a small group Lenten book study—there are two currently being offered (check with Whitney Short, our Director of Health Ministries), pick up the Lenten devotional at the church office, commit to going to church every Sunday during Lent, change something in your behavior in need of reform—less critical, more encouraging of others, more grateful, spending less time on your needs and more time on others' needs, more patience, more empathy.

And you won't want to miss the Lenten Lunches beginning February 17th—a great cast of speakers from all walks of life!

See you in church.

Faithfully,

Cam

Coming Up Next... Happy February Birthdays!



Women's World Retreat

Women's World is an annual retreat sponsored by Manhattan Christian College and held in the Kansas State University Student Union in Manhattan, KS. This year's event, February 26-27, 2016, "What's in a Name?" will encourage all of us to consider the many attributes and names of God. Each name helps to describe his character and gives insight into who He is and how we can have a relationship with Him as well as worship Him. Ellie Lofaro, a popular Bible study author and speaker will be the keynote speaker and the University Christian Church worship team will lead the worship. Fifteen practical seminars will also be offered throughout the weekend and everyone will have the opportunity to attend four. Contact the church office for complete registration information or go online at www.mccks.edu.

Men's Breakfast

February Men's Breakfast will be on February 18 at 7:00 a.m. with Robbie Collins as our speaker on the topic of "The Key to Happiness."

Upcoming breakfasts will be on March 17 featuring Micah Hydeman, a Manhattan Firefighter

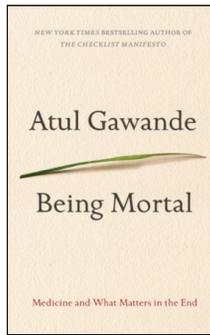
April 21 featuring Jon Wefald, former President of Kansas State University.

2016 Small group Lenten Book Studies

Books are available for purchase on Amazon. For more info email Whitney at whitneyshort57@gmail.com

"Being Mortal" by bestselling author Atul Gawande tackles the hardest challenge of his profession: how medicine can not only improve life but also the process of its ending... watch the Frontline interview with author Atul Gawande (available on YouTube) on the book "Being Mortal" for more information about the book.

"Better than Before" by Gretchen Rubin: What I learned about Making and Breaking Habits--to Sleep More, Quit Sugar, Procrastinate Less and Generally Build a Happy Life. Watch the Vimeo video "Breaking Habits & Finding Happiness" for more information on this book.



First Academy

The first First Academy of the year will feature the topic: "Religion and Politics in a Campaign Season." on **February 8th at 6:30 p.m.** in the sanctuary. Refreshments begin at 6:15 p.m. Bring a friend. Why is religion such an important topic during campaign season? What are the candidates saying about their faith? What are your thoughts on the role of religion in politics? Rev. McConnell will deliver the talk followed by questions and answers, and discussion.

March's First Academy, **March 8**, will feature **Jon McGraw**, former K-State football player and former NFL player, and co-founder of **"Vision Pursue,"** an organization dedicated to improve people's performance mindsets in corporations, athletics and a variety of other fields.

Preaching Series on the Gospel of Mark Continues

Come to worship and listen to the Gospel of Mark come alive! Jesus' healing, his tremendously insightful parables, his wisdom, his confrontations with the religious elite and the Roman authorities, his compassion and mercy, his relationships with his disciples and friends, his crucifixion and resurrection. All wrapped up into one Gospel!

Presbyterian Women's Bible Study group will meet on **February 21 at 1:00 p.m.** in the First Presbyterian library. The lesson leader will be Joyce Whitson and we will be studying lesson five.



Mission and Outreach

How many volunteers does it take to serve 4,084 meals?

81 volunteers!! Our Community Outreach Meal Volunteers served 2239 dinner meals, 1211 breakfast meals and 634 sack lunches in 2015!!

I would like to express my heartfelt appreciation to all 81 volunteers that contributed their time and talents to make this mission a tremendous success in 2015! So many of our wonderful Manhattan neighbors receive delicious meals and benefit greatly from conversation, shelter, fellowship and the love they receive every Tuesday and Wednesday at First Presby Place! Thank you, Thank you, Thank YOU!!

I also would like to especially thank Missy Cox and Peg Lyons for coordinating the breakfast and lunch meals. They both do a fantastic job and are a huge part of this much needed mission.

In Christ,

Claudia Voos

Crunching the Numbers

During the month of December, we served 221 dinners and 110 breakfasts. We also distributed 59 brownbag lunches. Our Community Dinners take place on Tuesday evenings from 6:00-6:45 p.m. and the Community Breakfasts on Wednesday mornings from 7:30-8:15 a.m. Average attendance at dinner is 35-40 and for breakfasts is 20-25.

Food Pantry News

In December, our Food Pantry served 34 adults and 29 children. We partner with the Flint Hills Breadbasket to help those in our community who are food insecure.



Thank you!

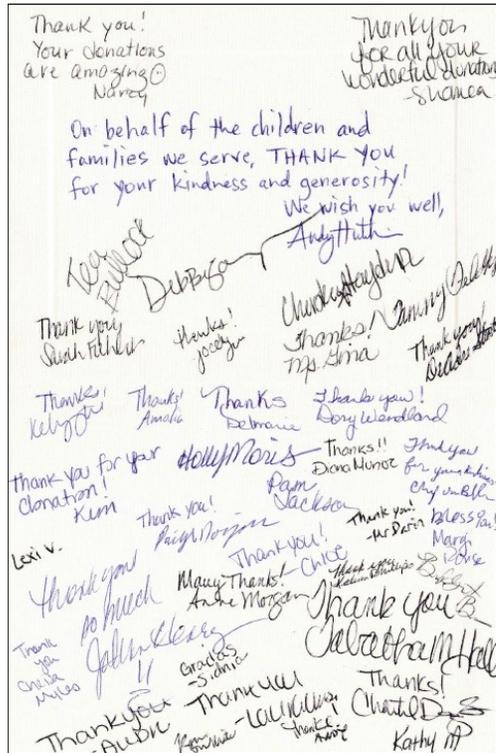
Thank you for your donation to Shepherd's Crossing (\$1,389). Your gift affirms our mission to help local families with rent, utilities, or prescription medications. It is heartening to know that we live in a community where individuals, churches, and agencies work together for the common welfare of its citizens. Please be assured that we will use your gift in good stewardship.

Thank you so much for supporting us with your Christmas offering. Beverly Olson, Executive Director of Shepherd's Crossing
Note: Shepherd's Crossing was the recipient of the Christmas Eve envelope offering.

Thank You!

On behalf of the Greater Manhattan Community Foundation, I would like to sincerely thank you for your gift to the Friends of Peace Memorial Foundation in memory of Marilyn Sharp (\$1,300). We are honored to be able to include you among the many contributors helping us grow to serve the greater Manhattan community.

Sincerely,
Vernon J. Henricks, President and CEO of the Greater Manhattan Community



The Friends of Peace Memorial Auditorium gratefully acknowledges your donation of \$1,300 toward the future restoration of Peace Memorial Auditorium, and we thank you for your contribution to this effort. The Friends of Peace Memorial Auditorium is supporting the City of Manhattan with the renovation of the auditorium, which was built as a “living memorial” to the 101 Riley County servicemen who gave the ultimate sacrifice during World War II, veterans, and Kansas pioneers. The Friends of Peace Memorial Auditorium was organized to help raise funds to refurbish the stage and performance aspects of the auditorium and to develop plans to commemorate veterans with a memorial foyer. Your contribution will be applied toward financing these improvements and will help our organization accomplish these goals.

Sincerely,
Kathy Dzewaltowski, Secretary of the Friends of Peace Memorial Auditorium

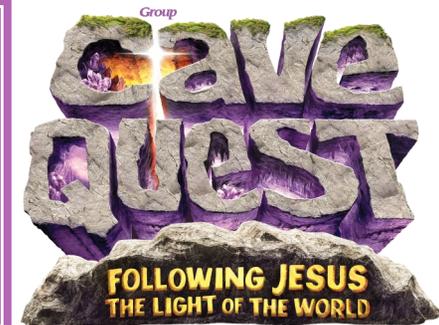
Holiday Clothing Drive

On behalf of the children and families we serve, thank you for your kindness and generosity! We wish you well, Andy Hutchinson, Program Director. Pictured Above: Signed by Head Start children and families.

Presby KIDS!

Vacation Bible School 2016!

Join us June 6-10 for a fun week of Vacation Bible School! We will have a lot of fun learning about Jesus and the bible through songs, games and stories. Watch the newsletters and website for more information.



FPC KIDS Choir Spring 2016

Parents and friends! Here is our spring to summer schedule for the FPC KIDS! Choir Program. I will have cd's, lyrics and schedules available at church this Sunday.

Feb- KIDS choir performance **Feb. 28**

Bigs- I Sing the Mighty Power (chimes)

Littles- Oh How I Love Jesus

Mar-KIDS choir performance **Mar. 27 (Easter)**

Bigs and Littles- Hallelujah and Jesus Loves Me

May- KIDS choir performance **May 8 (Mother's Day)**

Bigs/Littles- Great Big God and possibly Lord Let your Love Shine Through Me

June - VBS Sunday performance **June 12** (VBS is June 6-10)

Bigs and Littles- Cave Quest Theme Song

July- Music Camp performance **July 31, Youth Sunday.**

Music Camp July 26-29, 10am to noon, and Sunday the 31st showcase.



Sunday School

“Mark... Your Bibles!” is our theme for this semester as we explore the Gospel of Mark in depth. We will learn to highlight and take scripture notes in our special Gospel of Mark booklet and have fun along the way learning about the life of Jesus.



Parents' Night Out

February Parents' Night Out will be on February 12, featuring a Valentines theme! Please watch the website and bulletins for information on signing up. Prices have changed slightly: \$7/single child, \$12/two children, \$16/family.



Lenten Lunches

First Presbyterian will be hosting its annual Lenten Lunches beginning on **February 17th** with Pastor Kati Collins speaking on "An Introduction to Labyrinths."

Lenten Lunches begin with a service at noon, followed by a light lunch in Fisher Hall. This year, we will be hosting a number of lay speakers from the area. Lunches will begin Wednesday, February 17th and continue for the following four Wednesdays.

Ash Wednesday Service

Join us as we begin our journey to Easter with the sign of ashes. This ancient sign speaks of the frailty and uncertainty of human life, and marks the penitence of this community. Join us for this special service, **February 10th at 6:30 p.m.** as we offer up this time of self-examination and renewal.

Friday Fellowship

February Friday Fellowship will be on February 26 at 11:00 a.m. Ken Johnson The February program will be given by Ken Johnson, honoring deceased veterans from our congregation. If you have a deceased family member, veteran of any war, please contact the church office. . Please join us for what is sure to be an interesting talk and delicious lunch to follow!

We encourage you to RSVP with the church office so that we can prepare appropriate amounts of food.

Musicians Wanted

Presby Players, a new civic music group provided by First Presbyterian, is looking for musicians! This new playing opportunity brings together young musicians and experienced musicians, acting as an outlet for experienced players and a training environment for young players. Several youth and adults started meeting in January and interested players can still join us! We invite any adult or youth(7th grade and up) who wants to enjoy playing music with a larger group. Rehearsals are Wednesday evenings 6:45-7:45pm, preparing for a concert on Good Friday, March 25th.



Family Bonding

If you haven't made your tile for our 100 year anniversary cross, please call the church office and make an appointment to come in and do so.



In Our Church

40 Bags in 40 Days

40 Bags

That's right 40 bags. You have to fill 40 bags. Whether you fill a grocery bag, garbage bag or a contractor's bag, it doesn't matter. You just have to make sure you fill a total of 40 bags.

40 Days

Make sure you fill those bags in the 40 days of lent (with one day a week off). That means 40 bags by Easter Sunday. These bags can be given away as well as throw away. Take them to recycle, donate to a charity, or regift them to friends or family.

Mental health benefit!

Being able to sit down and relax can be so hard when you are surrounded by clutter. It causes stress and your brain cannot quiet itself enough to get that truly calm frame of mind that makes for the most fulfilling prayer or meditation time.

A Very Merry Christmas

The week of Christmas, through a "Common Table" project we handed out 58 Christmas gift bags (pictured right) at our Community Meals. They were beautifully decorated by our own church youth. The gift bags contained items donated by our Deacons and several area churches. The angel tree decorations were hand made by Stoneybrook Retirement Center residents.



Adam Bowen Elected as 2016 Deacon Chair

At its January meeting, Adam Bowen was elected as chair of the Board of Deacons. Adam previously served as the Board's secretary. Adam has his own dental practice, Bowen Family Dentistry, and Abby is a school psychologist at Woodrow Wilson Elementary in Manhattan. The Bowens joined First Presbyterian in 2013.

Youth and College



Cornerstone Youth Ski Trip 2k16

We skied, we fell, we got back up, we skied again, and we shared fun times together. Several brave skiers put on skis for the first time and many experienced skiers challenged themselves and helped their neighbors. I was incredibly impressed with the way our youth and adults helped one another become better skiers. Each morning and evening we had devotional times and learned a lot about one another. We played many different games from Trivial Pursuit and Monopoly to Catch Phrase and Reverse Charades. And there was an epic snow ball battle. Leadville, CO was amazingly beautiful and the staff at Ski Cooper were charming and friendly. We are breathing a lot easier back in Kansas, but we'll be ready to head back next year! A special thanks to Mary Lawrence Currie for preparing all of our meals and an incredible amount of delicious snacks. Thank you to our youth leaders, Erin Koolman and Natalie Bender, for shepherding our youth. Thank you to all of our drivers, including Robbie Collins, Mike Vick, Natalie and Erin, for getting us there and home safely and encouraging our youth along the way. Thank you to Mary Dell (junior cornerstone in training) and John Currie, for joining our group and encouraging our skiers on the slopes and off! - Pastor Kati Collins



Our youth small and large groups are back in full swing with what is now a normal schedule: Mid-High Small group, Wednesdays at 5:30pm; Senior-High Small Group at 7:30pm; Sunday large group, beginning at 6pm with hangout time and Cornerstone at 6:30pm. Our Cornerstone T-shirts are in! So, check with Pastor Kati if you want one or ordered one!



Pictured left: Michaela Vick, Kati Collins and Erinn Koolman try to stay warm on the slopes.

Pictured below: Cornerstone members practice their accounting skills in a friendly game of monopoly.

SKI COOPER 2016



Save the Date!

Presbytery of Northern Kansas Youth Rally, March 5&6 in our church with our own Coach Bill Snyder giving the featured Keynote on Saturday evening!

Groceries for God

Use your grocery shopping trips to help our youth raise funds for their annual ski and mission trips! Simply register your Dillon's Plus Card online and you will automatically start earning rewards for First Presbyterian on qualifying purchases! For more details about the program and directions on how to sign up, visit our website! If you are already enrolled in the program, you must re-enroll after January 1 in order for purchases throughout 2016 to credit First Presbyterian.

