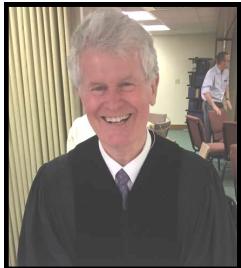




Manhattan, KS

September, 2017

Headline News



Rev. McConnell

SEPTEMBER'S MESSAGE

The crisp mornings and evenings of September are some of my favorite times of the year. September brings more joy to me than any month of the year—its beauty, its warmth, its spirit. I hate to see September go, so it is a month that I should savor and appreciate as much as I possibly can.

To me September is also a parable of all that fades. One of the scripture passages that come to my mind when Labor Day weekend arrives: "Lord, let me know my end. And what is the measure of my days; let me know how fleeting my life is..." (Psalm 39).

My grandson just had his first day of kindergarten. One thinks to himself: "How can this be? He was just a little baby." And before you know it he'll be receiving his high school diploma. We ask, "Where has the time gone?" Many of you know the feeling.

And so it is with life—we must treat our relationships with our loved ones in an urgent way, as if there is no tomorrow. Do we show the proper gratitude and appreciation for the moments and experiences that others share with us? Those we love, those we admire, and those who have been generous to us---many of them have paved the way for us in more ways than we will ever know. As the Psalmist said, "Thou has made my days a few handbreaths." The time is always now to care for and spend time with others, not somewhere down the road.

Life is often paved with the best intentions, but life is also full of "ifs and buts." The best intentions sound good in September, but before we know it September's page is turned over.

Reach out to the person to whom you need to reach out—today and not tomorrow. That way you will live with more rewards than regrets.

Faithfully,

Cam

Staff Notes

As was mentioned in last Tuesday's e-mail briefing, there was recently a reorganization of the church office, which included an outsourcing of the church's finances to a local accounting firm, which will eventually result in savings in the congregation's finances. Most of Judy Lundberg's responsibilities as administrative assistant were within the realm of the church's financial operations, and, therefore, we had to make the extremely difficult decision to make an administrative change, which involved eliminating Judy's role as financial coordinator. We appreciate and are very grateful for Judy's faithful service and very fine work over the last 18 years, and recognized this fact with an appropriate financial severance, and are discussing additional measures to assist Judy in her transition.

Sarah Diamond is our new administrator and will work two days a week, Monday and Thursday. In addition to serving as liaison between the church and the accounting firm, Sarah's background and experience will enable her to assist in the logistics and organization of the new worship service, "The Light," and help the Stewardship Committee develop new stewardship programs. We welcome Sarah to our staff.

If you have any questions, please contact Rev. McConnell at 785-537-0518.

CONGRATULATIONS!

Two First Presbyterian couples recently tied the knot:
Kirk and Taylor Provine
and Lacey and Brad Fahrmeier.



Taylor (Manges) Provine and Kirk Provine (right), married last month in our sanctuary, pictured next to a photo of parents of the bride, Rodney and Shelley Manges (left), standing in the same spot, by our Good Shepherd Stained Glass Window. Rev. McConnell officiated at Taylor and Kirk's marriage ceremony.



Lacy (Robinson) Fahrmeier and Brad Fahrmeier were married in Montana in August with Rev. McConnell officiating.

PW/Horizons Bible Study Circle Thursday, September 21.

Place: Rae Jean Hunt's home 2212 St. Andrew Circle - if you do not do steps, enter through garage. You may want to call Rae Jean at 785-539-8165 or e-mail mhunt3@cox.net.

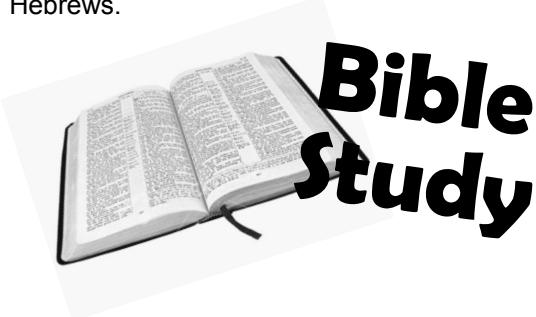
Time: 1:00 PM

2017-1018 PW/Horizons Bible Study

"Cloud of Witnesses" The community of Christ in Hebrews. Lesson 1 – *In Community with Jesus Christ* pages 8 - 16.

Background Scripture – Hebrews 1:1-4; 4:14-5:-10; 7:26-28; Genesis 13:24; Genesis 1:26-27; Genesis 14:18-20.

PW/Horizons Bible Study Circle meet the third Thursday for nine months. We welcome you to attend, please contact Emily Mark (785-532-8472) for more information and to purchase for \$11.00 a copy of this year's bible study book a study of Hebrews.



HOW DO YOU SERVE?

"I don't know how to describe where I volunteer. I work at the church helping with Food Pantry and Community Meals, as well as serving as a Deacon. In the community, I have served with Meals on Wheels, in the schools and just wherever I am needed. I also travel to North Newton, KS about six times a year to help the Mennonites with sorting clothes, shoes, and books to send to underdeveloped countries."

"What I most enjoy about volunteering is the interactions I get to have with other people. It is easy to meet someone new, start chit-chatting and before you know it, you've made a new friend! I like the connections that are made through hours spent working side-by-side for a common cause. Talking with someone new or being assigned a task you've never done teaches you things that you never knew you wanted to know! It is fulfilling and at the end of the day, I can go home feeling like I accomplished something important."

-Member, Jan Gibbs

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.

FIRST PRES ORGAN RECITAL

September 24th at 3:00pm | First Presbyterian Church sanctuary

Join us for an afternoon of beautiful music!

Featuring

Dan Myers



Robert Edwards



Stephen Kucera



Youth Council Meets for First Time

The newly-formed Youth Council met for the first time on August 23, discussing new and exciting ideas for the youth programs, including regular weekly programming on Sundays, beginning **September 10**. The mid-highs will meet at **5:30 p.m. on Sundays**, and the senior highs will meet at **7:00 p.m. on Sundays**. Volunteers, special events, mission trips, summer conferences and ski trips were also discussed. Mackenzie Pepper begins her second semester as the Youth Director, assisted by Wesley Garibay.

Youth Council members present at the meeting were: Chris Wilson, Jim and Linda Schottler, Patsy Brandt, Christy and Brian Dowling, Brianna Dowling, Amy Paquette, Peg Janssen, and Cam McConnell.



THIS MEANS WAR

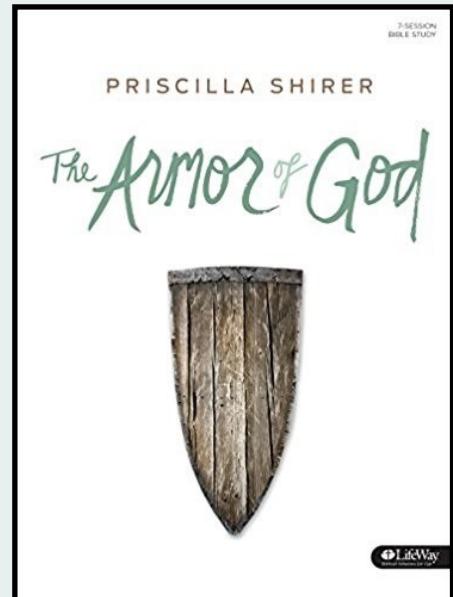
All day, every day, an invisible war rages around you. A cunning, devilish enemy seeks to wreak havoc on everything that matters to you - your emotions, your mind, your family, your future.

But his reign stops right here, right now. With you.

The enemy always fails miserably when he meets a woman dressed for the occasion. A woman who is armed and dangerous.

This Women's Bible study is more than just a biblical description of the believer's inventory. It is an action plan for putting on your armor and developing a personalized strategy to secure victory against the enemy. Yes. A strategy. TARGETED. SPECIFIC. PRECISE. DETAILED.

Join us beginning Wednesday, September 13, 2017, at 10:00 am in the Chapel as we explore what it means to put on the ARMOR OF GOD - led on video by Priscilla Shirer. Please contact the office or Mary Mertz if you would like to participate in this seven week study or would like more information.



PRESBY NINJA WARRIOR CHALLENGE

AND KICK-OFF SUNDAY



Above: Sara Gift works to put together the "floating steps"; Pastor Kati Collins by the Ninja Warrior banner.



Above: Kennan Breiner dunks Rev. McConnell in "Dunk-a-Pastor"; Adam Bowen hits the 12 foot mark on the warped wall!



Willie the Wildcat made an appearance at Kick-off Sunday and joined Sunday school families for breakfast!

Above: Willie having breakfast with newlyweds Taylor and Kirk Provine; Willie commandeering Susana Vick's phone for selfies; Willie missing the mark on the warped wall from the Presby Ninja Warrior Challenge.

NINJA REPORT AND THANK YOUS

Forty-six Ninja's and their fans gathered on August 19 for the Presby Ninja Warrior Challenge! They successfully went up against several obstacles including the Floating Steps, Balance Beam, Sea of Tires, Bible Challenge, Tire Lift and Roll, and the Warped Wall Ramp. Ninja Kids reached up to 9.5 feet on the wall and Youth and Adults reached up to 12 feet! Thank you to Burnett Automotive for supporting the event and allowing us to use their used tires. Thank you to Bowen Dentistry and the Membership Committee for providing the inflatable obstacle course. Thank you to our Ninja Volunteers, including our construction crew, for making this a fun and safe event! A special thank you to Mike Hedke, our Director of Maintenance for constructing the Warped Wall Ramp and more! Thank you to our musicians for providing a worshipful atmosphere, as we gave thanks to God, our creator, redeemer and sustainer. The registration and donations totaled \$300! Later this month, Manhattan chapters of 4H and FFA, will receive this support for agricultural education.

FIRST PRES FAMILY PICNIC!

September 17, 2017

- | Who: Church families, friends, neighbors
- | What: Jim's *Chicken* provided by: Jim and "crew"
| Potluck dishes provided by: those attending (you all)
- | Beverages provided by: ... Fellowship Committee...
- | When: 4:00 pm Gather to visit
| Games from the past
| 5:00 ~ 5:30 Dinner served
- | Where: Friendship Park (south of church) or Presby Place in case of rain.
- | Why: Fun Food Fellowship
| {please bring your table service and a chair if you like)



Church Recipe Books!!

Ever been at one of our potluck lunches and had "the best thing you've ever eaten?" Ever put your spoon in that casserole dish and asked, "What's in this? It looks amazing!" Well, we might be able to help you out!

Over the next few weeks, our Admin and CE offices will be collecting recipes from our congregation for a special First Presby heirloom cookbook. We would love to have everyone submit those family or potluck favorites to share! Along with your recipe, please include a few lines describing a family or church memory associated with it, or why it is a favorite, etc. Please also include your full name, and how many years you've been attending or associated with our church.

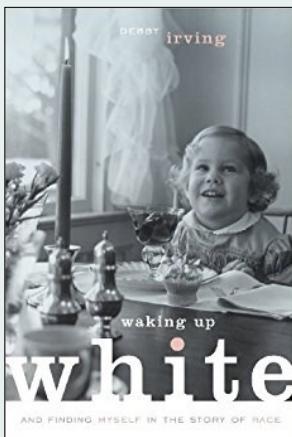
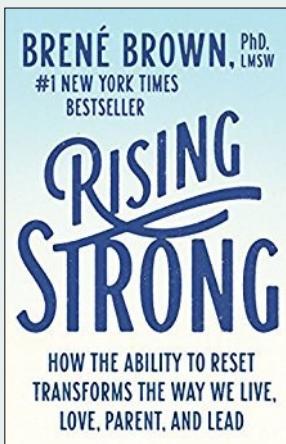
The recipes will be compiled into a cookbook as a fundraiser to bring our awesome summer camps back to First Presby next year! The cost of each book will be a suggested donation of \$12 and will include at least 50 recipes (we hope to receive many more!). Submit recipes in person to the church office or via email to Shiloh, nursery.firstpresby@gmail.com. You can also drop it in the basket at the church picnic on September 17. We will be collecting recipes until October 1.

Treasured heirloom recipes AND memories from our church family in one little book... donation of \$12..so worth it!

P2 NEWS

We are kicking off our P2 year with two awesome additions to our team...our new leaders, Nic Beach and Emily Bryant! You may remember them from Heartland Camp this summer! We are so excited that they are here to bring that same energy and love of children's ministry that they brought to day camp! We hope that our 4th-6th Graders make First Pres their place to be on Friday nights from 6:00-7:30, and that they bring their friends!! Nic and Emily have some awesome things planned! We will be using Group Publishing's "Grapple", a pre-teen curriculum, for Bible study. They will have a chance to focus more on issues they face daily, and how we use the Scriptures to get us through those bumps along the way. We will also go on excursions throughout the year, so watch for any additions to our calendar in Headline News!

PRESBY BOOK NETWORK
SUGGESTED READING



FRIDAY FELLOWSHIP IS
BACK!

Please join us on
September 22 at 11:00 a.m. in Fisher Hall for a new season of Friday Fellowship. Allan Rankin, scientist emeritus from KSU MacDonald Physics Lab, will speak about drone technology and its many applications. Demonstration of the drone and its maneuvers will be included! A delicious lunch prepared by Julie Haynes, Hospitality Coordinator, will follow the presentation.

PRESBY BOOK NETWORK

Reading suggestions for the 2017-2018 season, see the church website for more information and group reading guides. Starting with the K-State Book of the year, join us on a journey towards becoming a "church on one page,"--Rev. Kati Collins

Rick Warren's Bible Study Methods: Twelve Ways You Can Unlock God's Word.

In October, **small groups and bible studies** will begin Rick Warren's *40 Days in the Word* Campaign, as we seek to restore a trust and love of the Word of God. This study will focus on the Devotional Method, whereas his book offers an additional 11 ways of studying the Bible.

Contact the office to order your workbook or volunteer to host a small group meeting.

Rising Strong; How the ability to reset transforms the way we live, love, parent, and lead, by Brene Brown

"Our job is not to deny the story, but to defy the ending—to rise strong, recognize our story, and rumble with the truth until we get to a place where we think, Yes. This is what happened. This is my truth. And I will choose how the story ends."

Waking Up White, and Finding Myself in the Story of Race, by Debby Irving

The Reverend Denise Anderson and the Reverend Jan Edmiston, Co-Moderators of the 222nd General Assembly (2016) of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), have invited the church to read and discuss the book, *Waking Up White and Finding Myself in the Story of Race*, by Debby Irving. By beginning with curiosity and authenticity, we may become driven by compassion and confession, rather than fear and hate.

The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time, by Mark Haddon

K-State community book for the year! Christopher John Francis Boone is a 15-year-old boy living outside of London who is mathematically brilliant with a photographic memory and a love for animals more than people. He also has a mystery to solve: the suspicious death of a neighborhood dog. Along the way, Christopher's investigation reveals important truths about his community, his family and himself.

KITCHEN HELPER

We would like to give a special thank you to Kennan Breiner for helping wash dishes after the August College Lunch!

Thank you also to Shiloh Vick and Jan Gibbs for providing food! Our next College Lunch is scheduled for September 24.

Pictured right is Kennan Breiner showing off his work! Thank you to Kennan and mom, Kendra, for all the clean-up help!

THANK YOU NOTES

Dear First Presbyterian Church,

Thank you for the Cake Decorating Senior Champion Little Apple Dollars. The ten dollars will be used to buy new art supplies.

From,

Brooke Vogl

Dear First Presbyterian Church,

Thank you for sponsoring the reserve grand champion award for geology. I look forward to spending my Little Apple Dollars.

Jake Larson

Dear First Presbyterian Church of Manhattan,

Thank you for supporting Riley County 4-H. I was chosen as the Flower Champion at the county fair this year on a sunflower that I grew. This is my eleventh year in the Randolph Ramblers 4-H club and Horticulture Project. I will be a senior at Blue Valley High School this fall. Your thoughtfulness is truly appreciated.

Thank you,

Kati Pralle

Dear First Presbyterian Church of Manhattan,

Thank you so very much for your generous contribution to Riley County 4-H! It is very greatly acknowledged and appreciated! Once again, thank you so much!

Sincerely,

Chanae Parker

Dear First Presbyterian Friends and Family,

I did Appreciate the JOY cross and all the signatures on the card. At 89 healing will be slow, but I am using a walker and moving around. I hope in a few weeks I will be on my own!!

Blessings to all!

Billie Woodward

CRUNCHING THE NUMBERS

Food Pantry

In July, our Food Pantry served 50 adults and 15 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 10:00 a.m.-noon and 1:00-3:00 p.m.

Community Meals

During the month of July, we served 149 dinners and 67 breakfasts. We also distributed 44 brownbag lunches.

THANK YOU!

Thank you all for your help with this year's Backpack Project! Over 75 backpacks were collected, filled with supplies! We appreciate your help with this mission project every year. Both the students and teachers of USD 383 benefit greatly from your generosity.

Rev. Kati Collins and the Presby KIDS gave a great blessing over the backpacks on the Sunday before school began. To see the blessing, visit our Facebook page.

Pictured below are the backpacks lined up and ready for blessing!



First Presbyterian Church
801 Leavenworth
Manhattan, KS 66502

Address Service Requested

Non-Profit Organization
US Postage Paid
Manhattan, KS 66502
Permit No. 349

Phone: 785-537-0518
Website:
www.firstpresmanhattan.com