

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



SEPTEMBER 2021

THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN TIMES

Letter from the Pastor

Friends,

September is, in many ways, "Go Time" here at First Presbyterian Church. Our public schools have been back in session for a couple of weeks now, and while some of our Sunday School classes have been back in session since the summer, our official start for the faith formation program year comes this month. And we're excited about what has been put together by our Faith Formation team here.

Not only have we identified a curriculum for all ages, small children through adults, we're confident that it is one that will increase knowledge of, and love for, the Word of God among those who participate. Called "Feasting on the Word," for adults, we invite you and your loved ones to dive deeply into the Scriptures each week and seek with your family of faith here to discern what it is that God is saying to you, the church, and the world today. All classes will begin on Sunday, September 12. And we hope you'll make this a priority in your own intentional faith development as we journey together here.

In addition to the new curriculum, we are trying something new this year for Confirmation. The Presbytery of Northern Kansas has asked congregations to join in a presbytery-wide Confirmation Class using the PC(U.S.A.) curriculum "Big God, Big Questions." And we are happy to oblige our partners in Christ's service here in the presbytery. The "Big Questions" referenced are the four questions everyone must answer in the affirmative to become an active member of the congregation: (1) "Trusting in the gracious mercy of God, do you turn from the ways of sin and renounce evil and its power in the world?" (2) "Who is your Lord and Savior?" (3) "Will you be Christ's faithful disciple, obeying his Word and showing his love?" and (4) "Will you devote yourself to the church's teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers?"

As the Confirmands begin their journey, I ask you to keep them in prayer, to offer your words of encouragement and love, and to consider how you might further fulfill your vows at baptism to "guide and nurture, by word and deed, with love and prayer" these young people, and "encourage them to know and follow Christ and to be faithful members of his church."

Continued on page 2...

On September 25, First Presbyterian Church of Manhattan is hosting all participants in this presbytery-wide endeavor for an overnight retreat. Here we'll build connections with other leaders and youth across the region, learn what confirmation is all about, and have some good old fun with one another at Praisefest in CiCo Park. The next morning, all youth will be present in worship where we, on behalf of all congregations whose youth are present and participating in Confirmation, will covenant to love and support these young people as they begin this journey to discipleship. And then we hope to be joined by additional youth from all over the presbytery for an afternoon of ziplining and the all-out goofiness that ordinarily accompanies such gatherings.

And that's just September! Stay tuned for more opportunity to grow in grace, deepen friendships, and bear fruit for God's kingdom.

Peace,
Pastor Jason

CHURCH FOOD PANTRY REOPENING!

The church food pantry will reopen on September 17th, 2021!

The five church food pantries in Manhattan that distribute food from the Flint Hills Breadbasket (FHBB) were closed in March 2020 because of COVID. After careful consideration and approval by the Deacons, Session, and Pastor Pittman, the First Presbyterian Church has opted to reopen its pantry in September along with two other pantries (Grace Baptist Church and Seven Dolores Catholic Church) on a six-month trial basis to better assess pantry client preferences. The pantry will be open on Fridays from 9:00 – 11:30 a.m. beginning September 17, unless other restrictions are recommended. Volunteers are needed to open the pantry, greet clients and present pantry item choices, sack groceries, and take grocery carts to clients for unloading. Necessary safety precautions will be taken to ensure the safety of volunteers and clients.

Since the 1980's our church has helped those in our community with food insecurities by distributing food obtained from the FHBB and donated by the congregation, Zeandale Community Church, Boy Scouts, and other groups. Our church also provides toiletries, laundry products, children's books, recipes, other items not available at the FHBB on a regular basis, and a more personalized experience.

The food pantry coordinators keep the pantry clean, organized, stocked with items received from the FHBB, and prepare weekly distribution sheets used by the Friday volunteers.

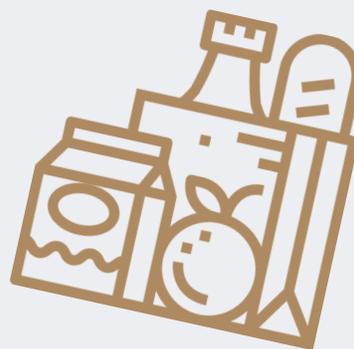
Volunteer coordinator Frank Laubhan, organizes the work schedules of the Friday volunteers. If you are interested in serving as a volunteer, please contact Frank or Barbara. Frank will be contacting the pantry volunteers who served prior to the pantry closing.

Barbara Gatewood | bgatewd@ksu.edu | 785-477-2040

Stacey Montgomery | batman0515@sbcglobal.net

Emily Mark | emark1@sbcglobal.net

Frank Laubhan | FRANK_LAUBHAN@msn.com | 620-770-0191



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Upcoming Events, Classes, & Save the Date's



Fall Faith Formation Classes

Fall 2021 Faith Formation Classes (formerly known as Sunday school) will begin September 12 for ages! All classes meet at 9:30 a.m. Sunday mornings.

Children & Youth Faith Formation

- Mustard Seeds Nursery: (Infants and Toddlers) Nursery
- Seedlings Preschool/Pre-K (2-4) Preschool Room
- Elementary (K-5th Grade) Life Room
- Youth (6th-12th Grade) The Loft

Adult Faith Formation

- Feasting On The Word (Fisher Hall)
- Questions Class (The Library)
- Covenant Class (The Chapel)

For more information, please contact Chris Wilson.



Youth Confirmation Retreat

Plans are in the works for a 2021-22 Confirmation class to be held on Sunday mornings at 9:30 a.m. Pastor Jason will lead the class for all age eligible youth (7th-12th grade) who have not yet been confirmed.

Our confirmation year will kick off with a Presbytery-wide youth weekend retreat on September 25 & 26. Activities will include a walking tour of downtown churches, an introduction to Confirmation, Praisefest, and zip lining at Wildwood Adventure Park.*

The class will begin on October 3, 2021 and will run through February 13, 2022. Confirmation day will be February 27, 2022. There will be holiday breaks in between. Please contact Pastor Jason in the church office with any questions.

****Praisefest and Wildwood Adventure Park is open to ALL youth (non-confirmands please contact Damian for more details).***

Women's Fall Retreat

TALLGRASS TRAILS, TALES & QUILT SQUARES

Fearless and Faithful Women Who Settled the Flint Hills and our Church

LAZY T RANCH

OCTOBER 9, 2021, 9:00 A.M. – 4:00 P.M. \$30 (cost includes guest speakers, barn quilt craft, and lunch)

RSVP to Stacey Montgomery at batman0515@sbcglobal.net



USD 383 BACKPACK & SCHOOL SUPPLY DRIVE



What A Success...Thank you!

There are plenty of people to thank for the success of this year's backpack program. The FPC Congregation was extremely generous by donating over \$2,600 and also school supplies. – Thank you!

The USD 383 Fit Closet coordinated the city-wide drive this year and we were able to deliver a pick-up truck full of backpacks (119) and supplies with the help from John and Peg Lyons and their grandchildren. They loaded dozens of boxes of school supplies. – Thank you!

Another thank you to manager Jeremy Conaway and Staples for their help with a discount for purchases and their own additional supply donations. Finally, a special thank you to Deacon committee members Linda Couch, Peggy Lyons, Frieda Palmgren and Kim Smith for coordinating the project, creating the display, collecting and shopping for school supplies.

There will be many community children excited to go back to school with a new backpack and new supplies to start a successful school year!



BE ABLE UPDATES & INFO

A letter from Scott Voos, Director of Be Able, a non-profit community center based right here in Manhattan!

The Be Able Community Center has successfully moved from our 4th street location, into our 431 S. 5th Street corner spot. We are now in week 4 of being down here and easing into envisioning the configuration of how best to support our neighbors. For the past year, we have welcomed over 250 unique neighbors through our doors; approaching each initial interaction through a lens of love thy neighbors as we do ourselves.

Entering into year 2, our emphasis is being placed towards teaching and development of character. Year 1 has always been geared towards patiently earning respect and trust within the circles of influence of this community. We are gathering teachers and facilitators who are blessed with gifts of leading conversations and inspiring. Class topics include decision making, boundaries and goal setting. Very excited at the thought of implementing an ongoing group offering called Celebrate Recovery every Friday evening starting in September. This class specifically targets those yearning to escape their Hurts, Hang-ups and Habits.

We would appreciate your consideration towards contributing to our on-going list of needs:

- Coffee and cups, specifically K-Cups
- Sugar and creamer
- Cold drinks, bottles of water
- Snacks like granola bars and beef jerky
- Seasonal gear like gloves, hats and warm socks
- Conduct group drives for Belts, Shoes, Backpacks, etc. always ask us for ideas if needed

Bigger items include outdoor furniture for our neighbors to utilize while fellowshiping outside. Picnic tables, Gazebo, chairs, etc. Be on the lookout for larger campaigns related to facility improvements and ways groups or individuals can help us. A sneak peek glimpse being implementing a shower/laundry/locker storage space, an outdoor amphitheater for local music talent and much more. Thank you for being our partner and thank you for loving your neighbors.

Scott Voos, Director | Be Able Community

THANK YOU SHILOH!

We said good-bye to our beloved Director of Children, Youth & Family Ministry, Shiloh Vick! We celebrated the ministry Shiloh has dedicated to FPC on August 15th.



SEPTEMBER CALENDAR

Calendar of events through the month of September

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<p>IMPORTANT DATES! September 26: Last Outdoor Service (indoor service starts Oct.3rd at 8:30 a.m.) September 19: Church Picnic in Friendship Park at 5:30 p.m. (subject to change)</p>			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
<p>Outdoor Service 8:30am Worship 10:30am Deacon's Offering 15th Sunday of Pentecost</p>	<p>Boy Scouts Troop 74 6:30pm OFFICE CLOSED Labor Day</p>	<p>Stewardship Meeting 1:30pm Community Showers 5pm Community Meals 6pm</p>	<p>Women's Bible Study 10am Newsletter Deadline</p>	<p>Hope & Healing Grief Group 12pm Business Affairs Committee 5pm</p>		
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
<p>Outdoor Service 8:30am Children's Bible Study 9:30am Worship 10:30am Fall Faith Formation Kick-off 16th Sunday of Pentecost</p>	<p>Mission Committee 5:15pm Boy Scouts Troop 74 6:30pm</p>	<p>Community Showers 5pm Faith Formation 5:15pm Community Meals 6pm</p>	<p>Women's Bible Study 10am</p>	<p>Hope & Healing Grief Group 12pm</p>		
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
<p>Outdoor Service 8:30am Worship 10:30am Blood Drive 8am-2pm 17th Sunday of Pentecost</p>	<p>Men's Luncheon 12pm Boy Scouts Troop 74 6:30pm</p>	<p>Bridge Builders 11:30pm Community Showers 5pm Community Meals 6pm</p>	<p>Women's Bible Study 10am</p>	<p>Hope & Healing Grief Group 12pm</p>	<p>Friday Fellowship 11am</p>	<p>PNK Youth Confirmation Retreat</p>
26	27	28	29	30		
<p>Outdoor Service 8:30am Worship 10:30am 18th Sunday of Pentecost</p>	<p>Deacon's 5pm Boy Scouts Troop 74 6:30pm</p>	<p>Community Showers 5pm Community Meals 6pm Session 6:30pm</p>	<p>Community Showers 5pm Community Meals 6pm</p>	<p>Community Showers 5pm Community Meals 6pm</p>		

HEARTLAND DAY CAMP

HAPPY CAMPER!

Heartland Traveling Day Camp 2021 is in the books, and what a fun week it was! Thirty-five "campers", eight counselors (adult and youth), and one tuckered out director braved the high temps and sticky air to make new friends, reconnect with old ones and grow closer to Jesus! We had a fantastic group of counselors and volunteers who taught the kids silly songs (the Avocado Song was a big favorite!), fun games, and most importantly...what it means to truly know peace that comes from Jesus' sacrificial love and almighty power.

Thank you to all of our youth and adults who volunteered many hours as counselors that week. We appreciate your hard work and witness to our campers!

To everyone who provided snacks, hosted our Heartland staff, and prepared meals for the week we truly thank you for your hospitality, helpfulness and generosity.



SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- 9/1 Carolyn Alexander
- 9/2 Shelley Manges
- 9/5 Bob Cox
- 9/6 Dana Hauck
- 9/6 Ethan Levin
- 9/9 Mary Alice Schlesener
- 9/10 Fani Wefald
- 9/12 Lawrence Vogel
- 9/12 Cleo Richards
- 9/13 Robert Wagner
- 9/14 Lois Morrison
- 9/18 Val Converse
- 9/20 Jan Gibbs
- 9/20 Mike Mayo
- 9/20 Fred Borck
- 9/22 Samantha Tiroch
- 9/23 Marti Meek
- 9/26 Sharon Snyder
- 9/29 Kathryn Taylor





First Presbyterian Church
801 Leavenworth St
Manhattan, KS 66502

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Manhattan, KS 66502
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FIRST

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Phone: [785-537-0518](tel:785-537-0518)

Facebook: [@firstpresmanhattan](https://www.facebook.com/firstpresmanhattan)

Instagram: [@firstpremanhattan](https://www.instagram.com/firstpremanhattan)

YouTube: [@firstpresmanhattan](https://www.youtube.com/firstpresmanhattan)

Website: www.firstpresmanhattan.com

COMING AGAIN SOON!

Friday Fellowship for All!

4th Friday every month in Fisher Hall.

11:00 a.m. Speaker/Program
11:45 a.m. Lunch

Friday, September 24th

Program: Veronica Dennison, KSU Archivist
Topic: Martin Luther King, Jr. speech - 1968

Watch for more details in the weekly bulletins.
Please contact Marti Meek for questions!