

FPC Messenger

APRIL 2021 | VOLUME 83 ISSUE 4



Dear Friends,

When I served as associate pastor at the First Presbyterian Church of Lee's Summit, Mo., we had a wonderful office administrator named Lynda. She did outstanding work, and she also had a little sign over her door that said, "Enter with grace—I make mistakes." It was a good reminder that none of us are perfect all the time, even though I believe most of us do our best most of the time.

As we begin to re-gather for worship in our church building, and to come together again for meetings and activities, "Enter with grace" is a great motto! Even though we are worshiping in person again, it's not the way it used to be. We don't do the offering the same way. We don't celebrate the Lord's Supper the same way. There's still no choir yet (but how about our awesome ensembles and soloists?!).

Some of us love being back at church, while others of us need to wait awhile before we feel safe and comfortable to worship in person again. We are going to need to find new ways to do everything from re-structuring our usher teams to figuring out how best to show hospitality before and after worship. It will take us awhile to find our "rhythm." Some of us will want to move full speed ahead and others may want to take baby steps. It's easy to feel frustrated with each other when we see things so differently!

This Easter, wherever we fall on this spectrum, let's "*Be kind to one another, forgiving one another, just as in Christ God forgave you.*" (Ephesians 4:32). Let's "enter with grace." Let's remember that love never insists on having its own way (a tough one for me sometimes!). As we prepare to celebrate the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ on Sunday, April 4, please do call the church office or go online and let us know 1) if you plan to come to worship in person on Easter Sunday, and 2) which service you plan to attend—9:00 a.m. or 10:30 a.m. We want to be prepared to welcome ALL.

This Easter, let us celebrate with joy, humility, and yes, GRACE. Christ is risen! Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia! Amen!

Yours in Christ,



Sandra Brown

Session Highlights from March 15, 2021

The lease with AELC (the daycare center) was renewed for one year. A task force will be evaluating the impact of AELC on church finances and mission. Plans are being made to schedule a joint meeting of the deacons and elders in May to examine new officers. New officers will be ordained and installed June 13. The elders brainstormed appropriate uses for accumulated undesignated memorial gifts. Some new appointments were made to session teams: Sue Ohlde, Claudia Perney and Melisa Renick were approved to serve on the Personnel Team with Bruce Cooper as liaison. Linda Nantz and Warren Watson continue on the team. Ellen Townsend will serve as liaison to the Fellowship Team. John Dorsey will serve as liaison to the Adult Education Team. Jim Owen has been added to the Worship Team.

Cover photo: FPC member Herman Jones receives a thumbs up during the March 19 blood drive hosted by FPC.

Hello friends,

Happy Easter to everyone! I would like to take this time to announce that I'm retiring from my "temporary" interim position as the Director of Family Ministry. I started this position over three years ago, in November 2018. This is actually my second retirement—I retired from my full-time teaching job with USD 501 Topeka Public Schools in June of 2016. My last day as FPC Director of Family Ministry will be June 15, 2021.

I have really enjoyed working with the children and their families, with dedicated fellow staff members, my great committee, our amazing Sunday School teachers, and the many, many volunteers who willingly use their time and talents to help the children in our church grow as young disciples. Many thanks to all of you, too many to name, but you know who you are! My most favorite memories during my time as director are any times I was with the children in Sunday School, at VBS, or just watching them play! They always make me smile and laugh.

I am looking forward to the next chapter in my life and spending more time with my family. You will still see me around church—I've been a member here my entire life after all! (Baptized, confirmed, and married at FPC!) And, Rob and I look forward to the day when the two of us are able to attend worship in person again. My hope is that all of our FPC children and families will continue on in their faith journey—as I know they will, and I look forward to watching each of them grow day by day!

In other news, the children continue with their Sunday School on Sunday mornings. I hope you saw some familiar faces on Palm Sunday! And, thank you to my committee who put together a very fun watch-at-your-own-home movie night on March 28.

Blessings to all,
Beth Johnston



Easter Sunday Worship Services

9:00 AM and 10:30 AM

Please help us plan for your attendance:

If you have not already told us which worship service you plan to attend and how many will be in your party, please call the church office at 785-233-9601 and let us know. Thank you!



Marilyn Meyer would not call herself an artist, but she definitely is one. Marilyn, who has been a member of FPC for 26 years, is an amazing quilter who has been publicly lauded for her skill and artistic creations. Most recently, she was the February 2021 featured video presenter for the Kansas Capital Quilters Guild, and was the Featured Quilter at the 2014 Kansas Capital Quilters Guild show, where hundreds of visitors viewed her works. She is also accomplished at sewing, wool rug hooking, knitting, and crocheting.

Marilyn's favorite part of the quilt process is choosing the colors, and she's really good at it! Any fiber artist knows just how important color selection is to the overall appeal of the piece. Marilyn's "Doors, Doors, Doors" quilt (pictured) is a great example of how her fabric selection helps tell the story of the quilt—colors and patterns blend together to create realistic doors that appear to have the texture of wood and stone.



She often embellishes her quilts and wall hangings with antique and vintage buttons—calico buttons are her favorite—but she uses all kinds of buttons made of wood, plastic, glass and mother of pearl, along with beads and crystals. "It's fun to sort through my collection to find just the right buttons to add to a quilt."

She and her late husband John enjoyed traveling the world together and visited many different countries. "I would buy fabrics in just about every country we visited, then use them to make quilts when I got back home. The quilts are really our souvenirs, just looking at them brings back happy memories for me," she said. One place they never made it to was Africa, so John's son brought Marilyn some fabric from a trip he took to Africa. Marilyn used the fabric to make a gorgeous wall quilt (photo right) featuring elephants—one of her favorite animals.



Some of Marilyn's quilts have a spiritual element and a much deeper meaning than what can be seen by the casual observer. A beautiful wall quilt hanging in her stairwell was made to honor her daughter, who passed away at the age of 42. Marilyn made the quilt with "dark colors to represent the dark times and sadness, but also light colors to represent the moments of joy that were also present." The quilt design features a split separating one fourth of the quilt from the rest to signify her daughter's departure from this earth. The entire quilt is embellished with hundreds of tiny crystals to represent the stars.

Marilyn's quilts are hand pieced and hand quilted, meaning she doesn't use a sewing machine at all to make
(continued on next page)

Member Spotlight

(Member Spotlight, continued)

her quilts. She draws inspiration “from just about anything that is interesting. Once, in Rome I sat down on the floor of a museum with a large piece of paper and sketched out the beautiful floor tile pattern.” Sometimes she is inspired by the season, or beautiful objects like seashells. Marilyn has long been enchanted by seashells and uses them to decorate. She has made beautiful shell-encrusted crosses which are displayed in her home.

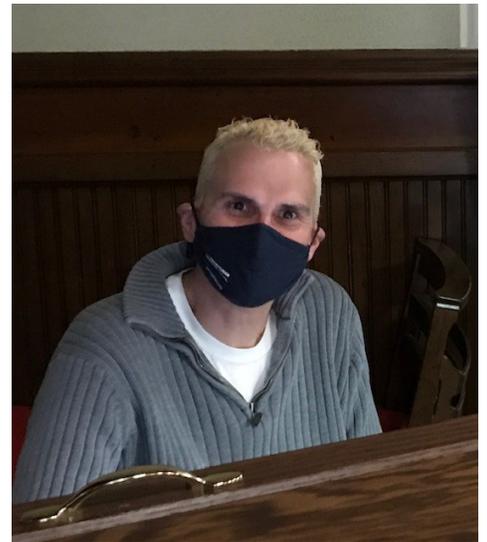
Marilyn said is very happy to be able to attend church in person again. After attending on a recent Sunday she said, “It was wonderful to be able to dress for church and see everyone. Even though we’re still wearing masks it’s just great to be together again. I’m looking forward to seeing more and more of people I’ve missed over the past year.”



Thank You and Best Wishes to Sean Zears

On March 28, Sean Zears recorded his last worship service as FPC videographer and we want to thank him for the excellent service he has provided since last August. Sean resigned his videographer position so that he can spend more time with his wife. Sean said, “My full-time job as the morning DJ on KMAJ has gotten incredibly busy, and weekends are the only time I’m able to spend quality time with Kristi. I’ve loved working for FPC on Sundays to video the services and then later edit them for YouTube and for WIBW, but I really want to be able to spend Sundays with her since we don’t get to see each other much during the week due to our crazy schedules.”

Sean said he has loved meeting the friendly members of FPC and has really enjoyed working with the FPC staff team. “I want to especially thank Sandra and Pat who are just great to work with,” he said. “And, I’m happy to help out in the future if needed if there’s a random Sunday when you’re in a jam and need a videographer. FPC is great.” Thank you, Sean, we’ll miss you!



Heartland Camp Seeking Summer Staff

Heartland Camp has had an exceptionally tough time recruiting summer staff, even though they have increased their recruiting efforts more than any other year. They are seeking help with increasing their reach and prayers as they try to hire 61 exceptional staff to make their programs happen this summer.

If you know someone with a great work ethic who would be an exceptional summer camp counselor, please encourage them to visit <https://www.heartlandsummercampjobs.org/>, or call Jared Briscoe, Heartland Camps: Overnight Camp Director, at program1@HeartlandCenter.org, or (816) 891-1078.

Recent Happenings



(Photo Left) Blood Drive March 19: Thank you to everyone who volunteered to help with the event and who gave blood. Special thanks to Julie Lady and Carlene Jones! (Photo Right) Faith & Flour February 27: Mike Kuner shows off the beautiful and delicious eclairs he made during the baking small group meeting.

A Message from Your Stephen Ministers

Loving God, loving neighbors and living with purpose. The art of listening is the foundation for all relationships. I thought I was a good listener and now I realize that many times I was listening to fix an issue or a time to insert my idea. Now I try JUST to listen not with my ears and eyes only, but with my HEART, as well.

Have you wondered what purpose we are living for? Caring for others is the purpose of the Stephen Ministry. We provide our ministers 50 hours of training and continuing education mostly on listening to others with our hearts. If you, a loved one, or a friend could use someone to speak with who listens with their heart, there is a Stephen Minister ready to listen: John Dorsey at 845-1177 or jwdorsey_48@yahoo.com; Jane Owen at 862-5959 or jwowen54@gmail.com; Pat Yancey at 233-9601 or pyancey@fpctopeka.org; Sandra Brown at 233-9601 or sbrown@fpctopeka.org.

Doorstep News for April 2021 — Lisa Cain, Executive Director

It is hard to believe that for over a year now we have been in the middle of this pandemic—we now have volunteers we have not seen for a year or longer! Our services continue to be made available over the phone, except for the clothing bank. We have certainly felt that loss of contact with people here at Doorstep, just as everyone has in their personal and/or work lives. The month of April traditionally brings Doorstep's Annual Banquet honoring our volunteers, along with the quilt drawing. With COVID still going on, we do not have plans yet for this event. It won't be in April, but hopefully later in the year we can gather again and celebrate Doorstep and our volunteers! Most of our events are "up in the air" at this time as we see how the year goes. But, you can mark your calendars for Doorstep's 4th Annual Neighbors Helping Neighbors Walk/5K Run at Lake Shawnee. The big day will be Sunday, October 3, at 2 p.m.! Please come out and support Doorstep, and get some exercise at the same time! We raised just under \$7,500 last year with the pandemic virtual event, and have a \$10,000 goal this year. Thank you for your continued support!

2021 All Church Goals—Report for March

First Presbyterian is the church that feeds people spiritually and physically!

At the time of this writing, we still had more than a week left in the month of March, so when Messenger went to print you had not yet been able to report your prayers and invitations for the month. But we wanted to go ahead and announce the total number of meals our church has provided as of March 31, because we know how many food boxes and bags are distributed each week, and how many meals are served from a fully stocked Blessing Box each week.

As of March 31 we have provided 14,405 meals towards our goal of providing 100,000 meals in 2021! Amazing! It may seem like we have a long way to go, but we are just getting started, and the Neighborhood Ministries Team is hard at work thinking about all the ways we can feed the Topeka community!

So, now is the time to report your prayers and invitations for March by entering your totals using the online form that can be found on our website at www.fpctopeka.org/matthew-25/. (There is a form for individuals, and a form for Team Chairs to use). You can also mail your March prayer tracker sheet to the office, or call the office at 785-233-9601 to record your totals. We will report all of the March totals in the April Messenger. On page 8 of this issue of Messenger you will find the April Prayer Tracker. (We got the calendar right this time, we promise!)

Thank you to our wonderful congregation for contributing to our 2021 all church goals! We look forward to watching the bowls fill up on our tracker each month as we love God, love neighbors and live with purpose as a Matthew 25 church.



2021 All Church Goals

100,000 meals



100,000 prayers



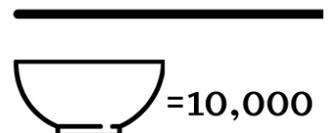
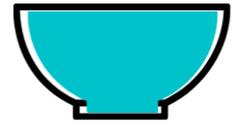
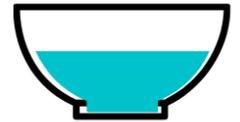
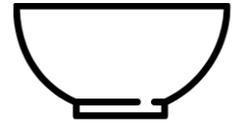
1,000 invitations



Every member receives a visit



100,000



Rejoice always, pray without ceasing,
 give thanks in all circumstances;
 for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.
 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

APRIL PRAYER TRACKER

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	
TOTAL PRAYERS IN APRIL:						

**100,000
 PRAYERS
 LIFTED TO GOD
 IN 2021**

**1,000
 INVITATIONS
 TO ENGAGE
 WITH FPC
 IN 2021**

APRIL INVITATIONS

- ____ Attend Worship
- ____ Watch Online Worship
- ____ Join a Bible Study
- ____ Volunteer at Wednesday Food Distribution
- ____ Other:
- ____ Other:

Keep track of how many times you pray each day, and any invitations you extend to others. At the end of the month you can mail your sheet to the church, enter your totals on the online form, or call the church to report your totals. Thank you for helping us reach our 2021 goals!

APRIL 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	29	30	31	1	2	3
	Marguerite Underhill-Volunteer 10:00 AM Staff Meeting, Weatherhogg Room 4:00 PM Worship Team Zoom Mtg	Bob McElroy-PM Volunteer 6:30 AM Men's Bible Study - Zoom Video Mtg 4:30 PM Operation Food Secure Neighborhood Food Distribution 6:00 PM Art+Faith, Willard Hall	Jerry Foster, Liturgist Lorraine Hyle, PM Melanie McQuere-AM 6:00 PM Stressed Nest Zoom Mtg 7:00 PM Maundy Thursday, Sanctuary	Jerry Foster, Liturgist Lorraine Hyle, PM Melanie McQuere-AM 6:00 PM Stressed Nest Zoom Mtg 7:00 PM Maundy Thursday, Sanctuary	Jerry Foster, Liturgist Lorraine Hyle, PM Melanie McQuere-AM 6:00 PM Stressed Nest Zoom Mtg 7:00 PM Maundy Thursday, Sanctuary	Jerry Foster, Liturgist Lorraine Hyle, PM Melanie McQuere-AM 6:00 PM Stressed Nest Zoom Mtg 7:00 PM Maundy Thursday, Sanctuary
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Easter Sunday 9:00 AM Worship Service, In Person & Online 10:30 AM Worship Service, In Person & Online	Jerry Foster-AM Volunteer Patrick Yancey's Day Off	Marguerite Underhill-Volunteer 10:00 AM Staff Meeting 12:00 PM Fellowship Mtg at Church & Zoom	Bob McElroy-PM Volunteer 6:30 AM Men's Bible Study - Zoom Video Mtg 4:00 PM Worship Team Zoom Meeting 4:30 PM Food Distribution 7:00 PM Deacons Subteam Mtg	Lorraine Hyle, PM Volunteer Melanie McQuere-AM Volunteer 6:30 PM Quartet Rehearsal	John Conlee-PM Volunteer Sandra Brown's Day Off	John Conlee-PM Volunteer Sandra Brown's Day Off
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
Walt Menninger, Liturgist 9:30 AM Children's Sun. School Zoom Mtg 10:30 AM Worship Service, In Person & Online	Jerry Foster-AM Volunteer Patrick Yancey's Day Off	Marguerite Underhill-Volunteer 10:00 AM Staff Mtg 5:30 PM Deacons Mtg - In Person and Zoom 7:00 PM Stephen Ministry, In Person and Zoom	Bob McElroy-PM Volunteer 6:30 AM Men's Bible Study - Zoom Video Mtg 12:00 PM Finance Team Mtg 4:30 PM Food Distribution	Lorraine Hyle, PM Volunteer 6:30 PM Quartet Rehearsal	John Conlee-PM Volunteer Sandra Brown's Day Off	John Conlee-PM Volunteer Sandra Brown's Day Off
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
Kent Townsend, Liturgist Pat Yancey, Vacation Rev. Dr. Neil Weatherhogg is preaching 9:30 AM Children's Sun. School Zoom Mtg 10:30 AM Worship In Person & Online	FPC Messenger Deadline Jerry Foster-AM Pat Yancey, Vacation 6:00 PM Session Zoom Meeting	Marguerite Underhill-Volunteer Pat Yancey, Vacation 10:00 AM Staff Meeting	Bob McElroy-PM Volunteer Pat Yancey, Vacation 6:30 AM Men's Bible Study - Zoom Video Mtg 4:30 PM Food Distribution	Lorraine Hyle, PM Volunteer Pat Yancey, Vacation 6:30 PM Quartet Rehearsal	John Conlee-PM Volunteer Pat Yancey, Vacation Sandra Brown's Day Off 3:00 PM Memorial Service for Day Kaufmann	John Conlee-PM Volunteer Pat Yancey, Vacation
25	26	27	28	29	30	1
Pat Yancey is preaching 9:30 AM Children's Sun. School Zoom Mtg 10:30 AM Worship Service, In Person & Online	Jerry Foster-AM Volunteer Patrick Yancey's Day Off 6:00 PM Family Ministry Team Zoom Mtg	Marguerite Underhill-Volunteer 10:00 AM Staff Meeting	Bob McElroy-PM Volunteer 6:30 AM Men's Bible Study 4:30 PM Operation Food Secure Neighborhood Food Distribution 5:30 PM Neighborhood Ministry Team Zoom Mtg	Lorraine Hyle, PM Volunteer 5:30 PM Officer Training	John Conlee-PM Volunteer Sandra Brown's Day Off	John Conlee-PM Volunteer Sandra Brown's Day Off

First Presbyterian Church

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FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF TOPEKA
Loving God, loving neighbors and living with purpose

PERIODICALS
POSTAGE

Ministers

All the Members of the Congregation

Pastors

Sandra Brown, *Pastor*
Pat Yancey, *Commissioned Associate Pastor*
Neil Weatherhogg, *Pastor Emeritus*

Program Staff

Beth Johnston, *Director of Family Ministries*
Carrie Riordan, *Director of Communications*

Music Staff

Kevin Kellim, *Director of Music*
Cynthia Neufeld Smith, *Organist*
Norma Pettijohn, *Organist Emeritus*

Support Staff

Lori Hennessey, *Office Manager*
Mark Ingle, *Maintenance Supervisor*
Steve Johnson, *Part-time Custodian*

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The deadline to submit articles for the May Messenger is April 15, 2021

APRIL BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

- | | | |
|-------------------|----------------------|----------------------------------|
| Tom Nyquist—1 | John Stauffer, Sr.—8 | Michael Hall—27 |
| John McKenzie—2 | John Conlee—9 | Philip Jones—27 |
| Donna Sanders—2 | Leslie Mondesir—9 | Thomas Barr—28 |
| Wesley Weathers—2 | Joshua Barcomb—10 | Collin Robinson—28 |
| Thomas Zamzow—2 | Rebecca Crotty—11 | Donna Crawford—29 |
| Pat Dorsey—4 | Austin Schauer—13 | Rendi Kersting—30 |
| Addison Gray—4 | Addison Schauer—15 | Marguerite Underhill—30 |
| Casey Wright—4 | Daegan Jensen—17 | Hal & Julie Jensen—8 |
| Al Harper—5 | Carolyn E Adams—19 | John & Karolynn Ross—16 |
| John Dicus—6 | Debra McKee—20 | Wes Weathers & Patricia Riley—21 |
| Tara Habiger—8 | Evan Roberts—20 | Jason & Kristin Fish—26 |
| Ken Sook—8 | Penny Allton—23 | Thad & Penny Alton—29 |
| | | Justin & Jessica Roberts—30 |