

FPC Messenger

SEPTEMBER 2021 | VOLUME 83 ISSUE 9



Dear Friends,

Last fall, our session unanimously voted to become a “Matthew 25 Congregation.” In the parable Jesus tells in Matthew 25, he teaches his disciples that feeding the hungry, giving a drink to those who are thirsty, welcoming the stranger, clothing those who lack clothing, caring for the sick, and visiting those in prison is the same as doing it for him. Several times, you’ve heard messages from Pat and me about the way this parable challenges and stretches us.

Matthew 25 isn’t a one-time event—it’s a calling, a vision, and a way of life. Beginning September 12, we will dive more deeply into Matthew 25: 31-46 and focus each Sunday on a different action. Not only will you hear a message from the pulpit: you’ll have a chance to hear from other speakers in our church and community during the traditional “Sunday School Hour” at 9:15 a.m. You’ll also see some visual images in our main hallway to inspire reflection.

Right now, Covid continues to impact so many things. We still don’t know a “for sure” date when choir can safely resume, enjoy meals indoors as a congregation, or even celebrate the sacrament of communion with real bread, instead of our little communion kits. But we DO know that the mandate to love our neighbors never goes away. Now, more than ever, is the time for our church to step up and shine.

Here’s our schedule of topics and messages in the coming weeks:

- Sept. 12 Feeding the Hungry
- Sept. 19 A Drink for Those Who Are Thirsty
- Sept. 26 Welcoming the Stranger
- Oct. 3 Clothing the Naked
- Oct. 10 Caring for the Sick
- Oct. 17 Visiting Those in Prison

Meanwhile, please remember to track and report your prayers and invitations as we work towards our goals of 100,000 meals, 100,000 prayers, and 1,000 invitations this year!

Yours in Christ,



Sandra Brown



Save These Dates!

- September 26:** Seipp/Sheets Duo Organ & Trumpet Concert
- September 28:** Widows, Tea & Fellowship
- October 3:** Doorstep Neighbor Helping Neighbor Walk/5K Fun Run
- October 24:** AGO Bob Jacoby Memorial Organ Concert
- December 16:** Blood Drive at FPC, Noon-6 pm

September Session Meeting

The next Session meeting will be Monday, September 20, 2021 at 6:00 p.m.

Session did not meet in August 2021.

Family Ministry Park Meet Up

Join us September 5 in Gage Park from 12—2 p.m. for fun and a chance to reconnect with church friends, and maybe even make new ones! We will meet at the playground next to the Carousel in the Park. Come and stay as long as you feel comfortable. Treats, drinks, and tickets for the carousel (if it is running) will be provided. Masks are encouraged if social distancing is not possible. Allison Brewer, our new Director of Family Ministries, and her family hope to meet and get to know church families!



Children's Zoom Sunday School Returns

We are so excited to welcome families who are comfortable back to 8:30 a.m. or 10:30 a.m. worship in the sanctuary on September 12. We will also kick off Children's Sunday School on September 12 at 9:30 a.m. Due to Covid-19, Children's Sunday School will be by Zoom. We want children to be safe, and in-person Sunday school could add unnecessary risk to already stressful times. A new Bible and participation materials will be available at church on September 5, or will be delivered to families that week.

We will be relaunching Zoom Sunday School with your favorite teachers and some new faces, too. Zoom sessions will start at 9:30 a.m. every Sunday and be done by 10:20 a.m. For folks hoping to worship in person at church, you are welcome to jump onto Zoom when you arrive home after the 8:30 a.m. service, or leave Zoom early to get to church for 10:30 a.m. worship. We will adjust times if we find the timing puts a burden on folks wanting to both worship in person and participate in Zoom. The Zoom link is the same as last year and will be included in the FPC Friday e-newsletter each Friday. You can also access the link at <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86337338215?pwd=Z2o0b0tVNUJlRmowazZpcWJ3NHhQT09>

FIRST Families Facebook Group

We have a new Family Ministry Facebook group called FIRST Families for those connected to family ministries. This will be a great place to learn about upcoming events in the life of the church, share and gather information on raising children in their faith, and a place to find fun activities for families. The link below will take you to the Facebook group where you can request to join. For safety and privacy purposes, a group administrator will only admit individuals with connections to Family Ministries at First Presbyterian Church.

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/386490269518323/>

Family Fun in the Topeka Community

We are blessed to live in a fun, family-centered community! Here are some free activities for families:

- September 7 Mulvane Art Lab at Washburn University reopens offering hands-on art experiences. Open Tuesdays 4-7 p.m. and Saturdays 12-4 p.m.
- September 11 Downtown Touch-A-Truck at Every Plaza, 9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

You can connect with Allison by email at abrewer@fpctopeka.org, by calling the church at 785-233-9601, ext. 106, or in church on Sundays. She looks forward to meeting you!

Youth Group Goes to Camp

It was an excited and enthusiastic group of youth and adult leaders that set off for church camp on August 1! Led by Pat Yancey, who served as camp director for the week, the group headed to Heartland Camp in Kansas City, Mo. The group was the last camp of the year and they “closed down the camp” by doing light maintenance and other tasks to ensure the camp will be in great shape when it opens again next summer.

But, it wasn't all work and no play! Campers enjoyed many fun activities including swimming, zip lining, horseback riding, making s'mores, playing games, attending vespers, and sharing fellowship. And, they celebrated an awesome week with a trip to Worlds of Fun on the last day!

“I couldn't be more thrilled with the outcome of this year's work camp,” Pat said. “Our group worked hard, played hard, and enjoyed tremendous fellowship with one another.”

Everyone had such a fun time that no one wanted to go home. On the final night of camp, one of the campers asked Pat if there was any way he could schedule another camp the next week before they went back school? “I laughed inside,” Pat said, “they had no idea how much work and planning goes into pulling off a great camp experience. But that sentiment was shared by everyone—we all had such a good time and wished it could continue.”

Camp is of course fun for the kids, but it's also fun for the adults, too. “We really enjoyed it and chuckled at some of the questions we got asked,” Pat said. “Do you like bugs? Do you know what I don't know how to do? Did you know I have allergies? What is that (about 1 million times)? What time is it (about 2 million times)? See my new ‘tattoo’?

Did you see everybody wrote their name on my leg? When are we going to Worlds of Fun (about 3 million times)? And this was all in just one morning! They kept us on our toes and smiling.”

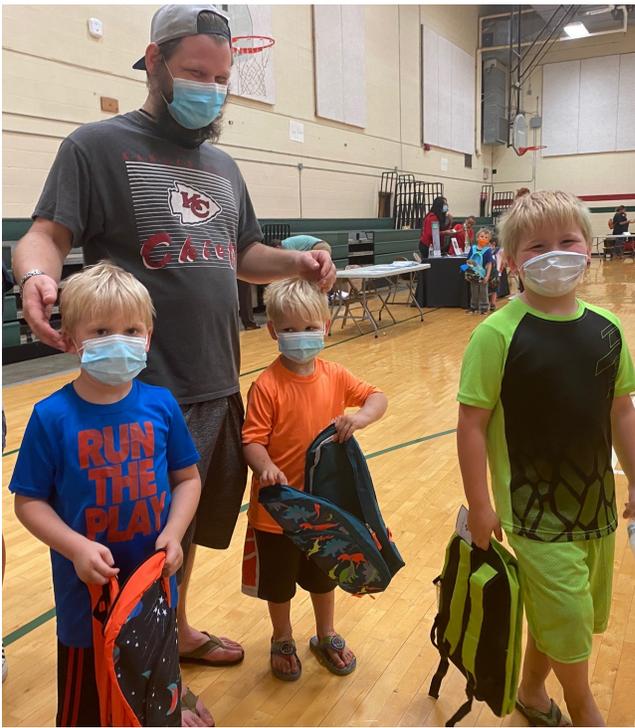
On the final evening of camp, the group gathered for vespers and received this charge, “Go now, and take the community we've built here back home with you. Go, and expand life in God's kingdom.” We know they will!



Recent Happenings

Top Row: Commissioning the youth and their adult leaders on the Sunday they left for camp.

Middle and Bottom Rows: United for a Successful School Year event at Highland Park HS (selfie by Julie Lady, all other photos by Gayle Hunter.)



Recent Happenings

Top Row: The Faith & Flour group made pizzas in August (photo by Pat Yancey).

Middle Row: left, the Faith & Flour group baked bread in July; right, Sara and Bob Keckeisen donated blood at the blood drive in August.

Bottom Row: In July, Church members helped the family of one of our youth group members move from Lawrence back to Topeka (photos by Gayle Hunter).



Recent Happenings

Top Row: Blessing of the Backpacks (photo on right by Claudia Perney).

Middle Row: left, Dick Adams brought tomatoes for the Neighborhood Food Distribution Ministry; right, moving the Matthew 25 Drive clothing to Doorstep (photo by Gayle Hunter).

Bottom Row: Moving the Matthew 25 Drive clothing to Doorstep (photos by Gayle Hunter).



Status of the Neighborhood Food Distribution Ministry

The FPC Neighborhood Ministries Team (NMT) has voted to fully fund the Wednesday afternoon Neighborhood Food Distribution Ministry through October 2021. The cost to purchase food for 50 bags each week is \$850, which provides 3,400 to 4,200 meals a month, depending on how many Wednesdays there are in the month.

The need to feed hungry families continues in Topeka and the NMT is researching ways to continue to provide food, even if it is not at the level of the current program. While the NMT has money in their budget that could cover the program in November and December, using the funds for that would not allow them to support any of the other programs they have supported in the past at the end of the year.

Funding for the program has also come from donations from church members through the chancel arrangements fund, as well as direct donations to buy food. Church members who would like to donate towards the food ministry can contact the church office for more information.

FPC Donates \$5,500 to Doorstep 55th Anniversary Fund

In honor of Doorstep's 55th Anniversary of providing short-term emergency aid to families and individuals in need, and work to promote long-term self-sufficiency for their clients, FPC has made a donation of \$5,500 to the Doorstep Anniversary Fund. The Anniversary Fund was established so that individuals, congregations, businesses, and civic groups can donate funds to help Doorstep replace their 60+ year old HVAC system with a new, more efficient system, help provide more direct services, and help cover operational expenses.

The donation was made through the FPC Neighborhood Ministries Team and chair Leah Marshall said, "We have a long history of supporting Doorstep and the great work they do in our community. This donation will help them bless our neighbors in Topeka and I want to thank our church for making this donation possible." Individuals who wish to make a donation can mail a check to Doorstep at 1119 SW 10th Avenue, Topeka, KS 66604.

Keeping it Confidential: A Message from Your Stephen Ministers

One of the four points on the Stephen Ministry compass is "trustworthy." Confidentiality is a cornerstone of being trustworthy. It creates a safe place where a care receiver can openly and honestly share their situation and concerns, without worrying about others knowing what is said. For Stephen Ministers, maintaining confidentiality is an intentional act. Our ministers are trained and prepared to answer questions from friends and family and others in an appropriate, prompt and assertive way to maintain confidentiality. Stephen Ministers keep confidential the existence of the caring relationship; the care receiver's name, as well as the names of any of the care receiver's loved ones; the care receiver's specific situation or need; all communications between the Stephen Minister and the care receiver; all observations or impressions that the Stephen Minister has about the care receiver; and all written information about the care receiver.

Confidentiality builds a safe house for care receivers. Stephen Ministers are committed and trained on maintaining confidentiality in an intentional way. If you or someone you know is having troubling times be assured that everything shared in a caring relationship with a Stephen Minister remains only between the care receiver and the minister. If you would like to connect with a Stephen Minister, please call the church office at (785) 233-9601, ext. 102.

Matthew 25 — All Church Goals

2021 All Church Goals

100,000
meals



**Total as of
August 31:**
39,360

100,000
prayers



**Total as of
August 15:**
16,978

1,000
invitations



**Total as of
August 15**
327

Every member
receives a visit



**Visits are ongoing
by pastors, session
members & deacons**

It's also time to report for **August!** Enter your totals using the online form at www.fpctopeka.org/matthew-25/. You can also mail your August prayer tracker sheet to the office, or call the office at 785-233-9601 to record your totals. You can download copies of the prayer trackers on the Matthew 25 webpage. If you have not yet reported your individual prayers/invitations/meals for July (team leaders please report your group's meals and prayers) it's not too late. Your numbers will be added to the running total. Thank you to our wonderful congregation for contributing to our 2021 all church goals!

Seipp/Sheets Duo to Perform at FPC September 26

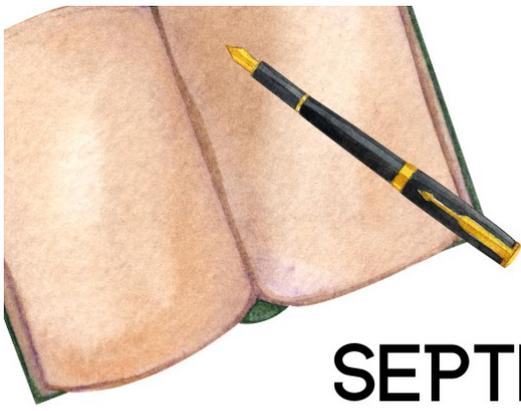
Join musicians Chuck Seipp, on trumpet, and Randall Sheets, on organ and piano, for a free concert at First Presbyterian Church on Sunday, September 26 at 3 p.m. Randall Sheets is the Ceremonial Organist for Arlington National Cemetery, as well as an active concert organist, pianist, and choral conductor. Chuck Seipp is the retired lead trumpeter from The United States Army Band, "Pershing's Own" in Washington, D.C.

The Seipp/Sheets Duo program will feature several works written and arranged specifically for them, with unique performance enhancements through video presentations to most of their selections.

The concert will include Bach's "Tocatta and Fugue in D Minor," excerpts from Mussorgsky's "Pictures at an Exhibition," and a moving Responder's Tribute with "What a Wonderful World." Particular fun for the audience will be "Carnival of Venice," with Seipp performing on six different trumpets, and the entertaining silent movie, "A Trip to The Moon."

They will round out the program with Freddie Mercury's "Bohemian Rhapsody" and a patriotic tribute to Veterans.





But I say to you who are willing to hear:
 Love your enemies. Do good to those
 who hate you. Bless those who curse
 you. Pray for those who mistreat you.

Luke 6:27-28

SEPTEMBER PRAYER TRACKER

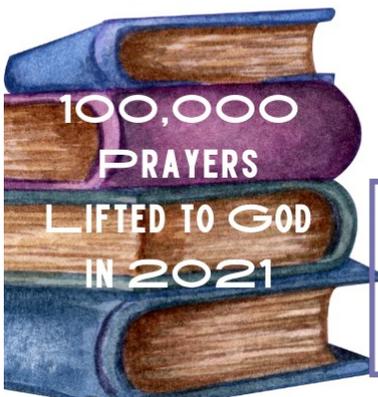
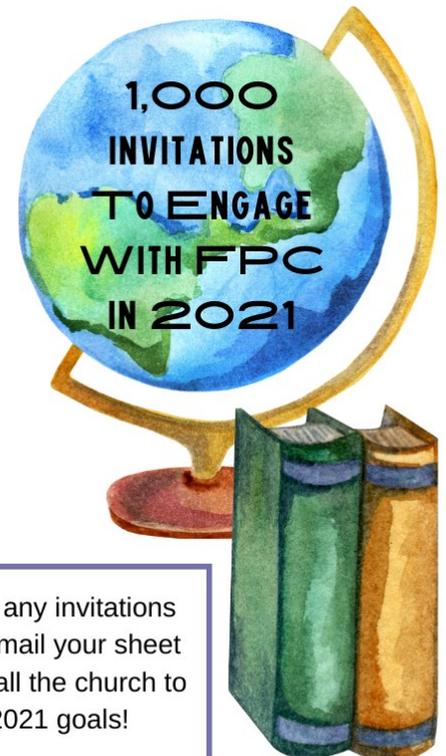
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

MY TOTAL PRAYERS IN SEPTEMBER:

I EXTENDED THESE INVITATIONS TO OTHERS IN:

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

My personal Blessing Box Contributions: ____ (# of meals)



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!

SEPTEMBER 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
29	30	31	1	2	3	4
		Pat Glidewell-AM Vol. 6:30 AM Men's Bible Study 4:30 PM Food Distribution Ministry 6:00 PM Cycling Group	Melanie McQuere-AM Vol. Lorraine Hyle, PM Vol. 9:00 AM CrossForm, Conference Rm	Melanie McQuere-AM Vol. Lorraine Hyle, PM Vol. 9:00 AM CrossForm, Conference Rm 6:30 PM Quartet Rehearsal	John Conlee-PM Vol. Pastors' Day Off	
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Noah's Ark Room open Youth Sunday 10:30 AM Worship Service, In Person & Online 12:00 PM Family Meet-Up at Gage Park Carousel 6:00 PM Festival Singers Rehearsal, Choir Room	Labor Day - Church Office is Closed	Marguerite Underhill-Vol. 10:00 AM Staff Meeting 6:00 PM AELC CPR Class, Willard Hall	Pat Glidewell-AM Vol. 6:30 AM Men's Bible Study 4:30 PM Food Distribution Ministry 6:00 PM Cycling Group	Melanie McQuere-AM Vol. Lorraine Hyle, PM Vol. 9:00 AM CrossForm, Conference Rm 6:30 PM Quartet Rehearsal	John Conlee-PM Vol. Pastors' Day Off	
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
Matthew 25 Noah's Ark Room open for during worship 8:30 AM Worship Service, Sanctuary 10:30 AM Worship Service, In Person & Online 6:00 PM Festival Singers Rehearsal, Choir Room	Jerry Foster-AM Vol. Sue Ohlde-PM Vol. Kansas Youth Chorale 12:00 PM Personnel Committee Mtg 3:30 PM Menninger Bible Study Group	Marguerite Underhill-Vol. 10:00 AM Staff Meeting 5:30 PM Deacon's Meeting	Pat Glidewell-AM Vol. 6:30 AM Men's Bible Study 12:00 PM Finance Team Mtg 4:30 PM Food Distribution Ministry 6:00 PM Cycling Group	Melanie McQuere-AM Vol. Lorraine Hyle, PM Vol. 9:00 AM CrossForm, Conference Rm 3:13 PM Adult CE Development Team 6:30 PM Quartet Rehearsal	John Conlee-PM Vol. Pastors' Day Off	
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
Matthew 25 Noah's Ark Room open during worship 8:30 AM Worship Service, Sanctuary 10:30 AM Worship Service, In Person & Online 6:00 PM Festival Singers Rehearsal, Choir Room	FPC Messenger Deadline Jerry Foster-AM Vol. Sue Ohlde-PM Vol. Kansas Youth Chorale 3:30 PM Menninger Bible Study Group 6:00 PM Session Mtg	Marguerite Underhill-Vol. 10:00 AM Staff Meeting 4:00 PM Worship Team Zoom Mtg	Pat Glidewell-AM Vol. 6:30 AM Men's Bible Study 9:45 AM Shepherd's Center MAP Group 4:30 PM Food Distribution Ministry 5:30 PM Neighborhood Ministry Team Mtg 6:00 PM Cycling Group	Melanie McQuere-AM Vol. Lorraine Hyle, PM Vol. 9:00 AM CrossForm, Conference Rm 6:30 PM Quartet Rehearsal	John Conlee-PM Vol. Pastors' Day Off 12:00 PM Seipp/Sheets Duo Rehearsal in Sanctuary 2:00 PM Book Study Group	
26	27	28	29	30	1	2
Matthew 25 Noah's Ark Room open during worship 8:30 AM Worship Service, Sanctuary 10:30 AM Worship Service, In Person & Online 3:00 PM Trumpet/Organ Concert 6:00 PM Festival Singers Rehearsal	Jerry Foster-AM Vol. Sue Ohlde-PM Vol. Kansas Youth Chorale 3:30 PM Menninger Bible Study Group 6:00 PM Family Ministry Team Mtg	Marguerite Underhill-Vol. 10:00 AM Staff Meeting 3:00 PM Widows, Tea & Fellowship	Pat Glidewell-AM Vol. 6:30 AM Men's Bible Study 4:30 PM Food Distribution Ministry 6:00 PM Cycling Group	Melanie McQuere-AM Vol. Lorraine Hyle, PM Vol. 9:00 AM CrossForm, Conference Rm	John Conlee-PM Vol. Pastors' Day Off	



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

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PERIODICALS
 POSTAGE

Ministers

All the Members of the Congregation

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

Program Staff

Allison Brewer, *Director of Family Ministries*
 Carrie Riordan, *Director of Communications*

Music Staff

Dr. Kevin Kellim, *Director of Music*
 Dr. Cynthia Neufeld Smith, *Organist*
 Norma Pettijohn, *Organist Emeritus*
 Dr. Mark Pudwill, *Assistant Organist*

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The deadline to submit articles for the October Messenger is September 20, 2021

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- | | |
|---------------------|--------------------------|
| Jamie Robinson—4 | Gwen Perney—18 |
| Linda Viera—5 | James Mayer—19 |
| Barbara Harris—6 | Axley Wolff—19 |
| Robert McElroy—8 | Carol Sook—20 |
| Sara Keckeisen—10 | Bill Rowell—20 |
| Marty Snyder—11 | Samantha Viera—20 |
| Janie Coates—12 | Bob Owen—21 |
| Marilyn Miller—15 | Jana Mastin—22 |
| Dean Hill—16 | Christopher Musterman—22 |
| Julian Ford—16 | Carolyn Adams—27 |
| Norma Hill—17 | Rosalie Zamzow—29 |
| Kathryn Githinji—17 | Daniel Wolff—29 |

SEPTEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

- Joe & Suzanne Mumford—3
- Jim & Donna Sanders—3
- Rob & Beth Johnston—6
- Jared & Melissa Maag—6
- Cameron & Grace Kim—7
- Vern & Gretchen McFalls—7
- C.J. & Leslie Reser—11
- Dave & Mary Alice Huntsman—13
- Matt & Melissa Renick—13
- Jerrold & Katie Giessel—17
- Drew & Trena Forster—18
- Ben & Marissa Mumford—23
- Joe & Liz Steffen—24
- Michael & Tabitha Steiner—25
- Dean & Norma Hill—28