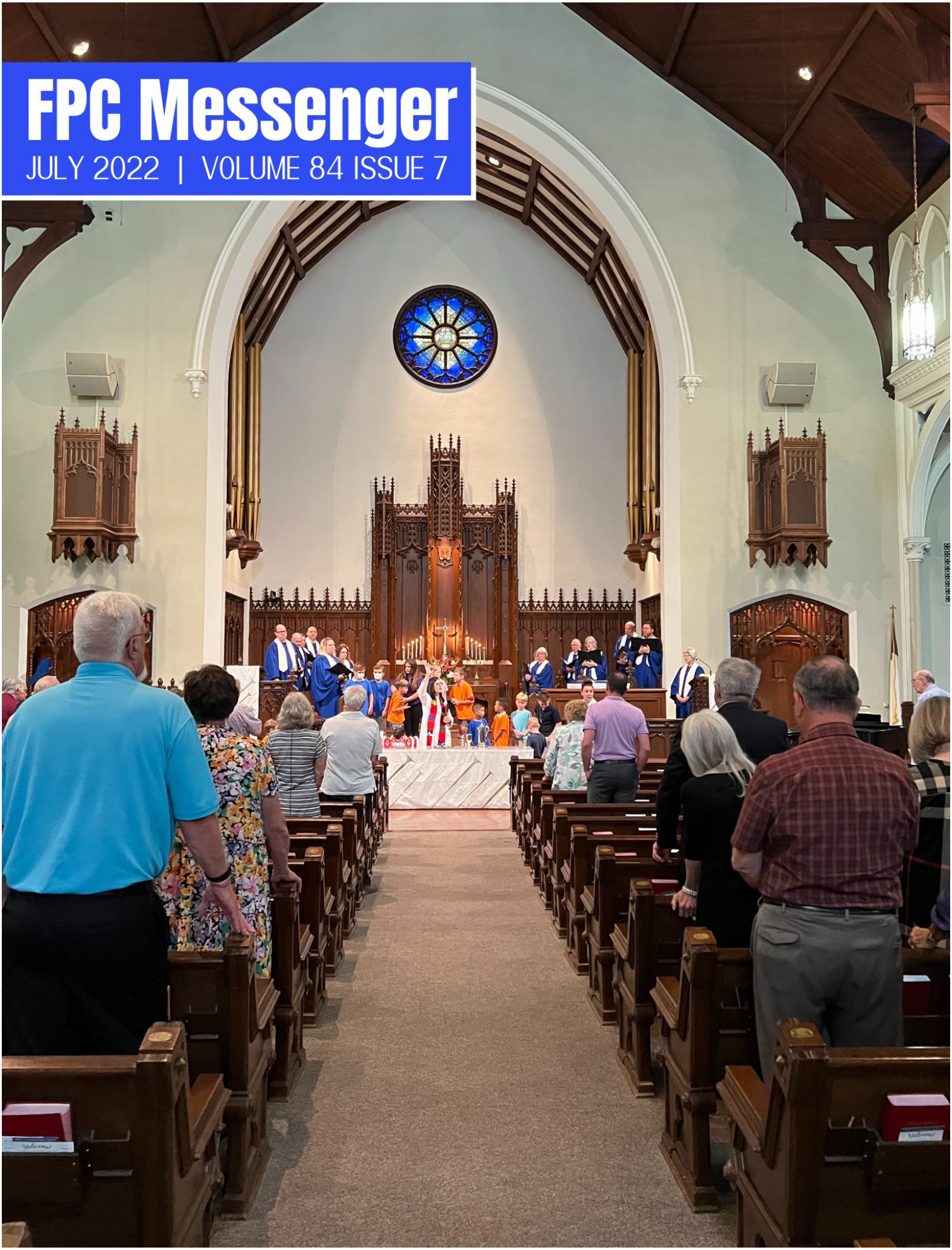

FPC Messenger

JULY 2022 | VOLUME 84 ISSUE 7

From the Heart: July 2022 by Sandra Brown

Dear Friends,

As I write this article, one of my favorite anniversaries is coming up: my anniversary of starting ministry with all of you here at First Presbyterian Church! On June 29, I will celebrate EIGHT years of being connected with you: three as Designated Associate Pastor, two as Designated Pastor, and three as Pastor.

Even though I know most of you by name pretty well now, I do want to invite you to join me in our pre-Covid custom of **WEARING A NAMETAG** when you are at a gathering at our church, especially on Sundays. We want to connect with new people, and each other, and wearing our nametags can help make getting acquainted so much easier!

Have you lost your nametag? No problem. Not an official "member" of the church? No problem. We'd love to get you a nametag, and you can contact us in any of these ways: call the church office during the week at 785-233-9601 and speak with our new office manager, Melissa Ashwill; send and email to mashwill@fpctopeka.org; drop a note in the offering plate or white offering boxes; or drop off your request at the front desk.

Have you had a chance to meet Melissa yet? We are so glad she is here! She has been cleaning and re-organizing our office areas to the point where we are seeing surfaces of desks and countertops that we've never seen before. We give thanks to God for the answered prayer of her presence in our midst.

We have so much to be thankful for! Thank you to all the fantastic volunteers who helped make Vacation Bible School such a wonderful experience for all of our participants. The joy on the faces of the children each night was proof that they were really connecting with God through VBS. And a special thank you to Allison Brewer, our director of family ministries, for her excellent work coordinating and directing VBS!

Thank you to Pat Yancey and Beth Johnston, who led our youth group and other young people at Heartland Camp last month. Church camp is a transformative experience that helps youth connect more closely with what it means to be a Christian, and we are blessed to have servant leaders like Pat and Beth guiding this group.

I want to close by thanking Carrie Riordan, our outstanding director of communications, for filling in full-time as our office manager from January through May of this year, and spending June showing Melissa the ropes. As you know, she has other clients besides our church, and we are so grateful that she was able to manage her schedule to help us out in this way. She has spent a lot of time here over the past six months, and I know she is glad to be back to her normal schedule of 25 hours a week beginning July 1.

I give thanks for the privilege of serving as pastor of this wonderful, Spirit-filled congregation, and am proud of how you all work to connect with others in God's love.

Yours in Christ,

Sandra Brown

Sandra Brown

WE ARE A MATTHEW 25 Church

Cover photo: Vacation Bible School participants sang with the church choir on June 12 to celebrate the end of a successful week of VBS.

Session Highlights for June

- This was the first meeting of the session with newly installed elders.
- Pastor Brown reviewed new appointments of elders as liaisons to the church's committees and teams (see list below).
- Pastor Yancey reported on a successful work camp at Heartland Retreat Center.
- Work continues on both the Child Protection Policy update and the Employee Handbook, which will also include an updated Sexual Misconduct Policy.
- Elders were encouraged to respond to a plea from Presbytery for possible candidates for pulpit-supply training.
- Work will begin later this summer on replacement of the boiler in the Witherspoon Building, paid for out of the fund established for that building.
- A task force to review the archives of the church will begin working soon.
- Session members were encouraged to attend the "Coffeeshop Evangelism" Webinar on Thursday, June 23, in the church conference room.

Class of 2023
Beth Johnston—Youth Ministry Team
Leah Gabler-Marshall—Neighborhood Ministries
Walt Menninger—Stewardship
Melissa Renick—Personnel Committee

Class of 2024
John Conlee—Adult Education Team
John Dorsey—Children and Family Ministries Team
Jerry Foster—Property Committee
Anita Jacoby—Worship Team

Class of 2025
Norma Pettijohn—Fellowship Team
Herman Jones—Youth Ministry Team
Bill Nichols—Finance Committee
Jim Owen—Worship Team

Ad hoc task force to review the church archives:
John Dorsey, chair
Norma Pettijohn
Melissa Renick

Photos: On June 12 the congregation ordained and installed our church officers.

All-church lunch July 17 (Introducing 3rd Sunday Lunches)

You told us you enjoyed the June 12 all-church lunch so much that **we're going to do it again this month—and every month!** 3rd Sunday Lunches will feature a tasty lunch and great fellowship in Disciples Hall immediately following worship on the 3rd Sunday of each month. The menu for July is fried chicken or chicken strips, with sides and dessert. This meal will be hosted by the Children and Family Ministries Team. If your team would like to host a future 3rd Sunday lunch, please call the church office or let Sandra know.

Family Splash Fun July 17

Children of all ages and their families are invited to join us for water-splash fun at Evergy Plaza (630 S Kansas Ave., downtown Topeka) on Sunday, July 17. We will be splashing from noon to 2:00 p.m., following worship and the all-church lunch that day.

FIRST Families
LOVE + GROW + SERVE
First Presbyterian Church of Topeka

Vacation Bible School Thank You

Thank you to the families and volunteers who made Vacation Bible School a big success (see photo of first night below)! The children learned about the truth, justice, and peace we have because of Jesus. Special thanks to Lauren Lewis and Connie Baer for leading our assemblies each day! Thank you to everyone who helped prepare supplies and props, greeted and checked in campers, cooked and served dinners, prepared snacks, served as age-group leaders, led science and craft projects, helped with setup and cleanup, led skits and singing each night, organized outdoor activities on the capitol grounds, and helped serve pizza and ice cream floats at the celebration on Sunday. Leaders and shepherds this year were: Susan Rowell, Susan Mayer, Jim Owen, Jane Owen, Carolyn Adams, Eileen Ernst, Jennifer Wolff, Bill Wolff, Patty Foster, Terry Warrem, Becky Foster, Marty Snyder, Jessica Roberts, Justin Roberts, and Carlene Jones. Many other activities went smoothly thanks to Marilyn Meyer, Marlene Geyser, John Gould, Jason Fish, Scott Brewer, Bill Rowell, John Dorsey, Rev. Sandra Brown, Carrie Riordan, Will Hartner, Mark Ingle, Steve Johnson, and Treven Broxterman. It was a joy to watch children connect, learn, and grow together!

Summer Worship Resources for Families

Fun worship packets for children with coloring tools and VBS-themed activities can be found at the sanctuary entrances. Childcare for children up to 5 years old is provided this summer during worship by our wonderful caregivers, Becky and Chris.

FIRST Families

Top row: VBS kiddos pose for group photos before taking turns trying to knock down Goliath. Some of them were very good shots!

Middle row: (l to r) Jane and Jim Owen lead parachute fun with the littlest VBS friends; Sandra led an adult Bible study group during VBS.

Bottom row: (l to r) VBS kiddos singing "Jesus Loves Me" with the church choir on June 12. The red boxes on the communion table are filled with coins the children brought to contribute to the Pentecost Special Offering.

Youth Group Camp Report by Pat Yancey

As part of our mission this year, the youth group participated in the Presbytery's mission work camp at Heartland Camp in Parkville, Mo., the first week of June. FPC kids made up two-thirds of the entire camp, sending 13 people, including me and Beth Johnston as part of the adult leadership team (see photo bottom left). That week, the group focused on the tasks necessary to prepare the camp for opening the following week (this was different from our experience last year when our group closed down the camp for the season). Our days were filled with tasks such as installing new lighting, painting, splitting firewood, trimming trees and trails, and lots and **lots** of weeding (photo bottom right)! It wasn't all work though; each day we had fun activities like swimming, archery, a high ropes course, zip-lining, and the ever-popular mud pit!

The youth began each day with an activity called morning watch—20 minutes of time to be alone, experience the natural beauty of God's creation, and reflect on what it meant to be part of a mission team experience. Our evenings concluded with a vespers worship around the campfire with fellowship and s'mores. As a reward for our hard work, the week concluded with a trip to Worlds of Fun, which, as its name implies, was literally "worlds" of fun!

This year's mission was in some ways challenging, but was also most gratifying. Because our group made up the vast majority of participants, it created some unique group dynamics, for sure. However, I also saw a strengthening of the bonds of friendship and faith among the youth and that made the week immensely successful. We worked hard and played hard as a team and built memories to last a lifetime. Those make for the best kinds of life experiences. At the end of the week, when the youth were saying "just one more day," and the adults were saying, "it's time to go home," we knew it was a successful work camp.

As the youth and adults departed, we left with the challenge to take back to our homes and communities the togetherness we experienced that week. "Go home!" was the challenge. "Go home, and take this feeling back to your community, a community that is in desperate need of togetherness!"

Youth Group

Top row: packing up to head to camp.

Middle row: (l to r) the high school graduates and college-age youth met recently for a "reunion" dinner; (right) fun in the mud pit at camp.

Bottom row: (l to r) stacking firewood—necessary for s'mores; taking aim with the sling-shot at camp.

First Presbyterian Daily Prayer

Pause for Prayer each day at 4 p.m.

Gracious God, thank you for the beauty of this day and the gift of being alive in it. Thank you for loving me, guiding me, and protecting me wherever I go. Search my mind and heart, and clear away anything that hinders your Spirit from working in my life. Forgive me when I lose sight of all the blessings you have given me. Bless our church and show me today how you would have me feed the hungry, give a drink to the thirsty, welcome the stranger, clothe the naked, care for the sick, and visit those in pris-on. Teach me to love as you have loved me, that I might shine your light everywhere I am. I ask these things in Jesus' name. Amen.

Photo: Passing the Peace during Sunday worship.

Faith & Flour

German Kuchen

Saturday, July 23
9 a.m. to Noon
all ingredients supplied

Reserve your spot by 4 p.m., July 20
Call (785) 233-9601, ext. 101 or email
pyancey@fpctopeka.org.

Recent Happenings at FPC

Top: The June Tasty Tuesday Lunch at Black Dog BBQ; enjoying pizza at the June 12 all-church lunch. Middle: (l to r) Melanie and Gordon McQuere hang paraments after worship on June 12. Bottom: (l to r) staff and church leaders attend an online evangelism seminar June 23; Herman Jones and Marilyn Meyer looking good on June 12.

Doorstep Christmas in July

by Lisa Cain, Doorstep

This July we are taking all our summer events and rolling them into one month! We have Christmas in July collections for our adopted families this December, and our third Summer Cash Bash to earn matching funds! Last December, Doorstep assisted 259 households involving 822 individuals with Christmas gifts, food and gift cards. Each year we celebrate Christmas in July to get a jump-start on collecting new items for our annual Christmas adoption! Our goal is to help alleviate some of the strain during the holidays by also collecting items mid-year. Doorstep will adopt 260 households with 800+ individuals this December through the Christmas Bureau. We have created a more specific list of items this year, based on the requested items our families listed last Christmas. Our collection focus for Christmas in July is non-seasonal items that should be easily available this time of year.

Each school-aged child we adopt receives school supplies and a backpack, and each household receives a blanket and a health kit filled with hygiene products wrapped in a new bath towel, hand towel and wash-cloth! Each child receives one bigger toy as their gift, and other smaller items are available along with games, books, stuffed animals, stocking stuffers, etc.

You can bring your Christmas donations with you to worship in July, or deliver them to Doorstep, Mon.— Fri., 8 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Our 3rd Summer Cash Bash has our generous, anonymous donor offering up to $15,000 in match money if we receive donations of $20,000 or more during the month of July! We hope you will help us reach our match money goal with a donation. Please note your congregation and Summer Cash Bash on your check or envelope so we can apply it to the matching total!

Donations typically drop during the summer months, and this will help Doorstep continue to operate, pay our bills, and help our neighbors in need pay theirs.

Thank you for your support of Doorstep and for your generosity toward friends and neighbors in need.

Doorstep's Christmas in July

Donations Needed for this Christmas!

For our Christmas Store in 2022 we are collecting more specific items based on what families requested last year.

Craft and Art Sets

Canvases (3pk/6pk) Brushes & Paints (Teens/Adults)
Adult Coloring Books with Markers or Colored Pencils
Jewelry & Craft Making Kits

Kitchen Items

Bakeware Sets ~ Skillet Sets
Dish Sets ~ Utensil Sets ~ Pots & Pans

Toys

Footballs & Basketballs ~ Lego Sets ~ Pop-Its ~ LOL Dolls
Paw Patrol ~ Peppa Pig ~ Star Wars ~ Educational Toys (all ages)
Toys for Ages 5 - 12 ~ Family Board Games ~ Puzzles ~ Dinosaurs
Teen Girls ~ Make-Up & Nail Kits

Men's & Women's Gifts

Women's Bath & Lotion Sets
Men's Body Wash Sets
Men's & Women's Cologne Sets

Other Items

Towel Sets - (Bath, Hand & Washcloth) ~ Blankets ~ F/Q & K Sizes
Hygiene Items ~ Shampoo + Conditioner, Bar Soap, Combs, Hair Brushes, Toothpaste, Toothbrushes. (Full Size Items)
Bathroom Sets ~ (Rugs, Trash Can, Shower Curtain, Toothbrush & Soap Holders)

School Supplies

Notebook Paper ~ Spiral Notebooks ~ Folders ~ Pens ~ Pencils
Glue ~ Scissors ~ Erasers ~ Backpacks ~ Rulers ~ Crayons ~ Markers

Bring your donations to worship during the month of July, or deliver to Doorstep at 1119 SW 10th (10th & Buchanan). Thank you for making the holiday brighter for your neighbors in need!

JULY 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			29	30	1 Marty Snyder - AM Volunteer John Conlee-PM Volunteer **Pastors' Day Off** 4 PM Pause for FPC Prayer	2 4 PM Pause for FPC Prayer
3 **Communion** Nursery & Childcare Open Usher Team IV 9:30AM Donuts & Discussion - Library **10:30AM Worship Service, In Person & Online** 12 PM Youth Group 4 PM Pause for FPC Prayer	4 **Church Office is closed** 4 PM Pause for FPC Prayer	5 Marguerite Underhill-Volunteer **10 AM Staff Meeting** 11 AM Faith Formation, Conf Rm 12 PM Fellowship Team Mtg 4 PM Pause for FPC Prayer 4 PM Worship Team Mtg	6 Pat Glidewell - AM Volunteer Jeff Gustin - PM Volunteer 7 AM Men's Bible Study 4 PM Pause for FPC Prayer 5 PM FoodShare Ministry 5:30 PM Deacons Meeting - Library	7 Melanie McQuere-AM Vol. Lorraine Hyle - PM Volunteer 4 PM Pause for FPC Prayer	8 Marty Snyder - AM Volunteer John Conlee-PM Volunteer **Pastors' Day Off** 4 PM Pause for FPC Prayer	9 4 PM Pause for FPC Prayer
10 Nursery & Childcare Open Usher Team V 9:30 AM Donuts & Discussion - Library **10:30AM Worship Service, In Person & Online** 12 PM Youth Group 4 PM Pause for FPC Prayer	11 Jerry Foster-AM Volunteer Susan Rowell-PM Volunteer 12 PM Personnel Committee 4 PM Pause for FPC Prayer 5 PM Topeka Festival Singers Auditions	12 Marguerite Underhill-Volunteer **10 AM Staff Meeting** 11:30 AM Tasty Tuesday – SPIN! Pizza 4 PM Pause for FPC Prayer 7 PM Stephen Ministry Mtg	13 Pat Glidewell - AM Volunteer Eileen Ernst - PM Volunteer 7 AM Men's Bible Study 4 PM Pause for FPC Prayer 5 PM FoodShare Ministry 5:30 PM Silver Wings Summer Supper	14 Melanie McQuere-AM Vol. Lorraine Hyle - PM Volunteer 3:30 PM Adult Education Team Mtg 4 PM Pause for FPC Prayer	15 Eileen Ernst - AM Volunteer John Conlee-PM Volunteer **Pastors' Day Off** 4 PM Pause for FPC Prayer	16 9 AM TDC Learning Centers Training 4 PM Pause for FPC Prayer
17 Nursery & Childcare Open Usher Team I 9:30 AM Donuts & Discussion - Library **10:30 AM Worship Service, In Person & Online** 12 PM Youth Group 4 PM Pause for FPC Prayer	18 Jerry Foster-AM Volunteer Susan Rowell-PM Volunteer 4 PM Pause for FPC Prayer 5 PM Copy of Topeka Festival Singers Auditions 6 PM Session Mtg	19 Marguerite Underhill-Volunteer **10 AM Staff Meeting** 4 PM Pause for FPC Prayer	20 Pat Glidewell - AM Volunteer Gideons - PM Volunteers 7 AM Men's Bible Study 4 PM Pause for FPC Prayer 5 PM FoodShare Ministry 5:30 PM Neighborhood Ministry Team Mtg	21 Melanie McQuere-AM Vol. Lorraine Hyle - PM Volunteer 4 PM Pause for FPC Prayer	22 Marty Snyder - AM Volunteer John Conlee-PM Volunteer **Pastors' Day Off** 4 PM Pause for FPC Prayer	23 St. Stephen Youth Mission - July 23 Overnight at First Presbyterian of Topeka 4 PM Pause for FPC Prayer
24 Nursery & Childcare Open Usher Team II 9:30 AM Donuts & Discussion - Library **10:30 AM Worship Service, In Person & Online** 12 PM Youth Group 4 PM Pause for FPC Prayer	25 Jerry Foster-AM Volunteer Susan Rowell-PM Volunteer 4 PM Pause for FPC Prayer	26 Marguerite Underhill-Volunteer **10 AM Staff Meeting** 3 PM Widows, Tea & Fellowship 4 PM Pause for FPC Prayer	27 Pat Glidewell - AM Volunteer Gideons - PM Volunteers 7 AM Men's Bible Study 4 PM Pause for FPC Prayer 5 PM FoodShare Ministry	28 Melanie McQuere-AM Vol. Lorraine Hyle - PM Volunteer 4 PM Pause for FPC Prayer	29 Claudia Perney - AM Volunteer John Conlee-PM Volunteer **Pastors' Day Off** 4 PM Pause for FPC Prayer	30 4 PM Pause for FPC Prayer 7 PM Kolby Van Camp Choir Concert - Sanctuary
31 Nursery & Childcare Open Usher Team III 9:30 AM Donuts & Discussion - Library **10:30 AM Worship Service, In Person & Online** 12 PM Youth Group 4 PM Pause for FPC Prayer	1 Jerry Foster-AM Volunteer Susan Rowell-PM Volunteer 12 PM Personnel Committee Mtg 4 PM Pause for FPC Prayer 6:30PM Children & Family Ministries via Zoom	2 Marguerite Underhill-Volunteer 10 AM Staff Meeting 11 AM Faith Formation, Conference Room 12 PM Fellowship Team Mtg 4 PM Pause for FPC Prayer 4 PM Worship Team Mtg	3 Pat Glidewell - AM Volunteer Gideons - PM Volunteers 7 AM Men's Bible Study 4 PM Pause for FPC Prayer 5 PM FoodShare Ministry 5:30 PM Deacons Meeting - Library	4 Melanie McQuere-AM Vol. Lorraine Hyle - PM Volunteer 9 AM Property Committee Mtg 12 PM Blood Drive 4 PM Pause for FPC Prayer	5 Claudia Perney - AM Volunteer John Conlee-PM Volunteer Pastors' Day Off 4 PM Pause for FPC Prayer	6 United Community for a Successful School Year Event 4 PM Pause for FPC Prayer

The most recent and up-to-date church calendar can be found on the church website under the News tab.

Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the spirit of the lord is, there is freedom.

2 Corinthians 3:17

First Presbyterian Church
817 SW Harrison Street
Topeka KS 66612-1607
Website: www.fpctopeka.org
Email: info@fpctopeka.org
Facebook: www.facebook.com/topekafpc
(785) 233-9601 Fax: (785) 232-4402

Ministers
All the Members of the Congregation

Pastors
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*

Administrative Staff
Melissa Ashwill, *Office Manager*
Treven Broxterman, *Videographer*
Will Hartner, *Videographer*
Mark Ingle, *Director of Maintenance*
Steve Johnson, *Part-time Custodian*

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

PERIODICALS
POSTAGE

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The deadline to submit items for the August 2022 Messenger is July 20, 2022.

JULY BIRTHDAYS

Bruce Perney —1
Emma Steffen—4
Pat Glidewell—8
Josiah Perkins—8
Polly Collins—9
Mary Kelly McKenzie—9
Mary Nichols—10
Sandra Brown—10
Adrian Apel—13
Connie Baer—14
Heather McKee—14
Will Schaub—14
Averie Fish—14
Margaret Schrader-Ford—15
Alyssa Mastin—15
Warren Watson—16
Hank Ernst—17
Gail Deitz—19
Carey Van Sickle—19
Richard Knoll—19
Rob Johnston—19
Danton Hejtmanek—22
Pam Carmichael—22
Harold Hula—23
Andrea Conlee—24
Fran Crouch—24
Jodi Johnson—24
Vicki Owen Nguyen—25
Liz Steffen—26
Erin Mumford—30
Kathy Pauls—31
Julie Lady—31
Rachel Bell—31
Ayden Barnett—31
Brinlynn Habiger—31
Hudson Habiger—31

JULY ANNIVERSARIES

Gregg & Carey VanSickle —1
Bob & Connie Baer —7
Gordon & Melanie McQuere —7
Jamie & Mary Robinson —9
David & Jill Adams —10
H.B. & Leah Marshall —10
Scott & Donna Crawford —14
Dick & Carolyn Adams —24
Jim & Barbara Conant —25
Richard & Julie Lady —25
Jay & Jana Mastin —29
Herman & Carlene Jones—31