

The AUGUST Leaven 2023



PASTOR BONNIE NOW ON BOARD

The Rev. Bonnie Grabowski officially became the church's bridge pastor on July 18 and preached her first sermon in that capacity on July 23.

In the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), a bridge pastor fills the time gap between the departure of an interim pastor and the arrival of a permanent pastor. A contract between a church and its bridge pastor typically covers a three-month period, but this contract can be renewed twice if need be.

Pastor Bonnie is currently employed by the church on a 1/4-time basis, which means she will be in her office only occasionally to attend to church business. With this in mind, if you need her for pastoral care, please contact Arlene and she can provide you with Pastor Bonnie's telephone

number.

A resident of the Parkville, Mo., area, Pastor Bonnie has been an installed pastor and an interim pastor at several churches since she was ordained as a minister.

Pastor Bonnie was the Pharmacy Manager at North Kansas City Hospital for 29 years before she entered the ministry.

Pastor Bonnie hails from Nebraska and is married. She and her husband have three adult children and three grandchildren.

In her free time Pastor Bonnie enjoys reading, bicycling, traveling, and playing ultimate frisbee.

SUNDAY SEND-OFF



On Sunday, July 16, the Rev. Dr. Krista Kiger's last day as the interim pastor of our church, she and the rest of her crew from Eudora were honored by members and friends of our church during the weekly worship service.

Following the benediction, Rick Nichols, Clerk of Session and the liturgist for the day, presented Krista with a jar of goodies (candy and homemade cookies) and a cash gift from the congregation, then the choir performed a

special number in saying "Good-bye" to her under the direction of Freda Proctor, Director of Music. The service was followed by a potluck dinner in Fellowship Hall, during which those present could sign one of two cards (Thank You and Good Luck) that were to be given to Krista before she left the building.

Finance & Administration (F&A) Committee Report

As with any business, the bottom line is always an important measure of success. Well, First Presbyterian is no different. Your Finance and Administration (F&A) Committee was established earlier this year and is charged with monitoring FPC finances, reporting to Session and making recommendations for improved communication. As a result, the Session wants to give you more regular updates on the bottom line in meeting our 2023 budget through the first 6 months. Below is a summary of the budget and pledges for 2023.

2023 Budget	\$ 297,470	
2023 Pledges.....	(<u>177,990</u>)	
2023 Not pledged contributions needed to meet budget		<u>\$ 119,480</u>

Note that the 2023 budget includes two items that are one-time expenses: \$20,000 for recruiting, travel and relocation for a new Pastor (PNC), and \$7,500 for media/communications – the Church’s new sound system.

Below is a summary of pledge activity through June.

Pledges received	\$96,249.34 (54% of total 2023 pledges)
Contributions received, not pledged	\$ 24,584.18 (21% of not pledged needed to meet budget)

FPC has never had an approved budget, in at least the last 30+ years, where pledges covered the entire projected budget expenses. We have always relied on not pledged contributions to fill that gap and have done so through 2022. As depicted above pledges are keeping pace with its end-of-year projection; however, not pledged dollars reflects a potential shortfall based solely on the first 6 months performance.

This is not to say the sky is falling but know that the F&A Committee is tracking expenses monthly, and the Session is informed accordingly. The church, Session and its committees have been prudent in its spending, but many of our expenses are largely fixed in nature. More than 90% of the budget consists of personnel, building and grounds and administrative costs. These costs include the pastor costs, music staff compensation, utilities, and church insurance.

The F&A Committee is coordinating with the Endowment Committee and has identified some expenses that more appropriately should be covered by existing endowments. For instance, the Mission Committee portion of the 2023 budget reflects an expense of \$4,000 for the Community Meals Program, which should be funded from the Mission Endowment.

As noted above, there are two large one-time costs to be covered by pledges this year. While these are one time in nature, these costs must be covered by contributions, either pledged or not-pledged, and were above and beyond the normal operating expenses of the FPC.

The F&A Committee will continue to monitor contribution progress and will provide regular updates to the congregation. And soon, the F&A Committee will begin the budget process for 2024.



VISITORS FROM THE EAST

Members and friends of Leavenworth's First Presbyterian Church welcomed 15 students from a Christian high school in Omihachiman, Japan, two of the school's teachers and two chaperones to the church this past Sunday morning. The group participated in a worship service led by the Rev. Dr.

Krista Kiger, who has moved on to become the interim pastor of the Presbyterian church in Parkville, Mo., then enjoyed the church's monthly potluck dinner in Fellowship Hall. The connection between the Presbyterian church in Leavenworth and Omihachiman, one of Leavenworth's two sister cities, can be traced back to William M. Vories (1880-1964), who attended the church as a boy and later founded the Omi Mission of Japan and schools and an architectural firm in Japan.

CHURCH HELPS WITH VBS

Three members of the church, Ann Keeling, Carolyn Anderson and Rick Nichols, assisted with Vacation Bible School at First Christian Church in Leavenworth July 17-21. The theme for the event was "Hero Hotline - Called Together to Serve God!" Ann played the role of The Professor during the opening and closing sessions that took place each evening in the sanctuary and is pictured here with Super Meerkat, who worked with her in responding to the various calls for help that came in on the hotline. Meanwhile, both Carolyn and Rick served as buddies in two different classrooms, which gave them the chance to help some of the younger children who were present with craft projects that tied into the Bible lessons for the week. The key verse for the week was Romans 14:19 - "So let us strive for the things that bring peace and the things that build each other up."





RICHARD ALLEN CULTURAL CENTER & MUSEUM HAS A WISH LIST FOR THE AFTER-SCHOOL TUTORING AND MENTORING PROGRAM.

The after-school tutoring program serves K-12 students in the Greater Leavenworth Area. The program is staffed by volunteer teachers, military personnel, and community members. Parents must enroll students on a first come, first serve waiting list. All students are welcome. Tutoring is available from 4 to 5:30

Wish List

Printer Ink for Xerox Work Centre 6515 All 4 colors.

Printer Ink for SP Smart Tank 7301 All 4 colors.

Thumb Drives (10-15) Texas Instrument Calculators (3-5)

HP Desk Top Computer (2-3) This is a wish list!

SNACKS

Small water

Juice Boxes/packs

Chips

Fruit Rollups

Popcorn

The Mission Committee will have a bin ready to receive these gifts after August 5.

DIAPER REPORT

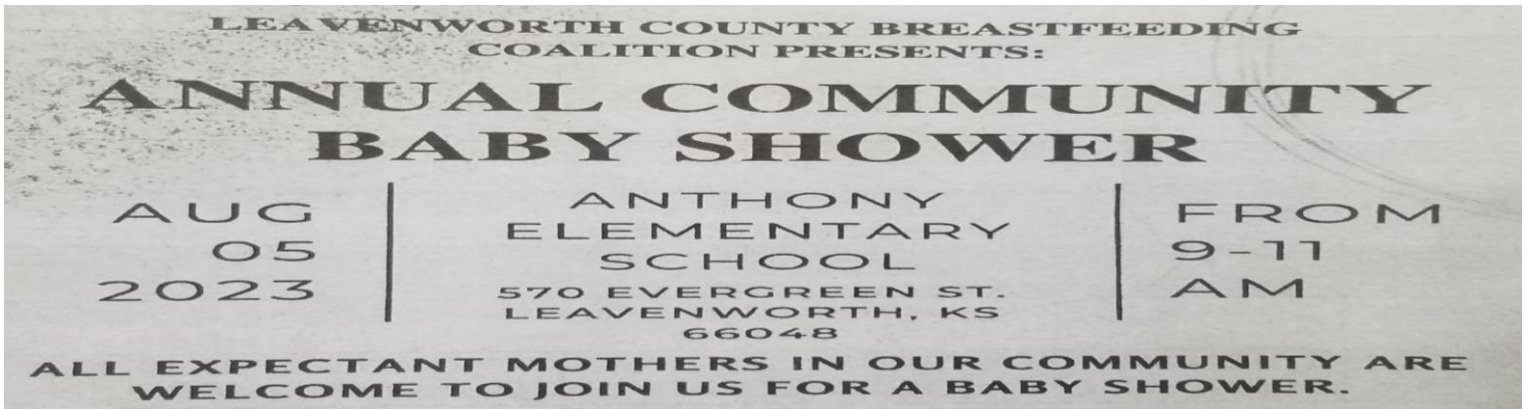
We have received over 20 packages of diapers in June and July as of July 18. They were distributed at the Leavenworth County Baby Shower sponsored by the WIC program and the county health office on August 5. Carolyn Anderson, Carolyn Tillotson and Shirley Rockwell will be helping at our table. If you still wish to donate, the diapers will be picked up from the church on August 2. Thank you for all your support.

Volunteer Anyone?

We have three 2024 openings for Session and Deacons. Several seats are also opening on the Nominating and Endowment Committees. FPC would love to tap into your sage wisdom and servant heart so if you are willing to serve on one of these committees or have a recommendation for someone who would help lead and support our congregation and pastor, please let Dick Gibson or Debbie Anderson know by August 27th.

COMMUNITY MEAL

We had over 175 meals served on July 18th. We ran out of food for the first time in years. Some of you had asked what we serve. This month we had pulled pork on a bun, green beans, slaw, fruit cocktail and cookies. The women of the church cooked the pork loins (from the State of Kansas distribution) at their homes and brought the finished product to the kitchen. We were able to serve that meal at a cost of \$120.24. We are fortunate to qualify for State of Kansas free food. The dedicated group of workers are rewarded with the joy of knowing they are helping our community, as well as getting to know each other. There is a lot of hard work, but also a lot of laughs! We are looking for volunteers to be dishwashers. It is a hard job and takes a good back. All your volunteer hours are appreciated.



PRAYERS

Immediate: Jim and Lorna Mathison, PNC, Linda Richard (Kristen D.), Sue Moore (Merna), Jami (Tom & Becky), Scott Williamson (Cindy S.), Herb Montgomery (Strands), Gun Violence in our Country, Michael Brock (Cindy S.), Patricia Sibblee (Cindy S.), Lisa Rees, Dale (Cindy S), Cathy Tillotson, People of Turkey, Syria, Ukraine and Iran, Dana Guanciale (Ginnie S.), Elaine Coffman, Brianna Hoffman and Family (Cindy S), Abby (Cindy S.)

Ongoing: Erika Johnson, Rick Nichols, Margie Holland, John Clinton (Linda Barry), Maria Gordon (C. Tillotson), Barbara-Sue Rose, Le Thomas, Mike Graham (Norma Graham), Greta Sharp, John Garner (Carolyn T.)

AUGUST FELLOWSHIP TREATS

August 6 – Deacons

August 13– Potluck **A-C-** Salads, Sides, and/or Bread **D-M-** Dessert **N-Z** – Main Dish

August 20–Session August 27 – Choir & Bell Choir

AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

2- Kum Cha Williams 12-Dru Cox 14-Keri Litewski 15-Bill Geiger
19-Marti Auchard 23-Carla Hathaway 23-Rod Cox 24- Gayle Zillman
25-David Anderson 26-Howard Anderson

AUGUST ANNIVERSARY

6- Gregg & Cindy Scircle 8-Dennis & Keri Litewski 14-Wally & Freda Proctor
15-John & Gayle Zillman 18-Mike & Kathy Lemke 31-Tom & Becky Stovall

HELP WANTED IN NURSERY

If you or you know of someone that might like to work in the nursery on Sunday please contact Virginia Rawlings or the church office.

August 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
30	31	1	2 9:30am Crafts & Fellowship	3	4 Church Office Closed 1:00pm ESL	5
6 Fellowship Treats-Deacons Mission Committee Meeting 9:00am Adult Study 9:15am Choir Practice 10:30am - 11:30am Worship	7 7:00am Men's Morning Discussion Group 7:00pm - 8:30pm Cody Choraliers	8 5:30 pm Financial & Admin. Mtg	9 9:30am Crafts & Fellowship	10 6:00pm Session Meeting	11 Church Office Closed 1:00pm ESL	12
13 Fellowship Treats-Potluck 9:00am Adult Study 9:15am Choir Practice 10:30am - 11:30am Worship	14 7:00am Men's Morning Discussion Group 7:00pm - 8:30pm Cody Choraliers	15 5:00pm - 6:00pm Community Meal	16 9:30am Crafts & Fellowship 11:00am Deacons Meeting 6:00pm Special Needs	17	18 Church Office Closed 1:00pm ESL	19 10:00am League of Women Voters
20 Fellowship Treats-Session Worship Committee Meeting 9:00am Adult Study 9:15am Choir Practice 10:30am - 11:30am Worship	21 7:00am Men's Morning Discussion Group 7:00pm - 8:30pm Cody Choraliers	22	23 9:30am Crafts & Fellowship	24	25 Church Office Closed 1:00pm ESL	26
27 Fellowship Treats-Choir and Bell Choir 9:00am Adult Study 9:15am Choir Practice 10:30am - 11:30am Worship Nominating Committee Mtg.	28 7:00am Men's Morning Discussion Group 6:00pm Building and Grounds Committee Meeting 7:00pm - 8:30pm Cody Choraliers	29	30 9:30am Crafts & Fellowship 5:00 p.m. PWC Strand's Home	31	1	2