

The Leaven

September 2018

Soule Searching



I was looking back at the sixth chapter of Mark this morning, reading about Jesus going to a deserted place for some quiet time only to find that place filled with people looking for him. Mark says, “they were like sheep without a shepherd.” I find it very telling that the first thing that Jesus provides for these folks is a lesson. Jesus begins with teaching. Out of all the needs they present to him Jesus offers them education.

Henri Nouwen, priest and teacher, said that if pastors do not know what is absolutely essential for them to do, they will do the merely important. There are many important acts of ministry that churches and pastors are called upon to provide. What is most important? The answer depends, to a great extent, not only on what we believe about Jesus but also about what we believe about our present context. Jesus, when confronted with a whole array of needs, decides that his first response to the people will be teaching.

Growing up in Winfield, Kansas, my parents did not worry whether or not I would grow up Christian. After all, ours was the only game in town. Everybody we knew was Christian. One became a Christian, not by intentional, careful, and caring Christian education, but rather by osmosis, by being lucky enough to live in our community. We went to Sunday school and youth group to uncover our feelings about God, to learn to be “nicer” than we already were, to spend time with our friends. We were Christians and it was good to be part of the church. It was our world. Or at least that is what we thought.

That is no longer true. We are not the only game in town. The church is likely to be ignored by much of the world. There is no longer Christian faith by osmosis. If our children are to grow up Christian, we will have to intentionally form them into this faith. The future belongs to congregations that take their education needs seriously. In so many ways, people in the world are “like sheep without a shepherd.” We have good news to share! However, people do not hear if no one teaches who God really is and what God is doing in the world and how much God’s loves us and all creation.

That is why I am excited that Sunday school for elementary children will begin this Sunday at 9:30am, in the upstairs class room. That is why I am excited we will have a youth intern from Heartland Center coming to help us with programing for both our youth and kids. We have good news to share with those who are lonely and with those who feel very much at home in FPC.

I ask all of our members to pray regularly for the work that we are doing with our young people and to find ways to help and support this important ministry of our congregation.

Tim

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

Who are we?

Presbyterian Women (PW) is a church wide organization whose membership is open to all women of the Presbyterian Church (USA) who choose to participate in or be supportive of PW in any way. PW intentionally seeks the membership of women from all racial ethnic groups so that the organization reflects a vision of the whole church as a community of mutual inter-dependence in which diversity contributes to wholeness.

Presbyterian Women is organized at all levels of the PC (USA) – in congregations, presbyteries and synods as well as General Assembly. This connectional system all ideas and information to continually flow back and forth to strengthen the work of PW and the ministry of the PC (USA).

What do we do in this Congregation?

Presbyterian Women in the Congregation functions through PW “circles” – small groups that gather regularly to provide an inclusive, caring community of women. Circle leadership is elected, appointed and volunteered by each circle annually. At First Presbyterian we have four circles:

10:00 am the 2 nd Tuesday	Circle 3	Marti Auchard	772-7350
6:30 pm the 2 nd Tuesday	Circle 5	Cindy Scircle	682-8918
10:00 am the 3 rd Monday	Circle 4	Pam Crume	651-2208
2:30 pm the 3 rd Sunday	Circle 2	Kathie Wagner	727-2102

We meet each month – September through May. Our study this year is *God's Promise: I Am with You* by Amy Poling Sutherlun. This Bible study approaches God's promise, to be with us in good times and bad and to never forsake us, through examples in the Old and New Testaments.

We organize Operation Christmas Child Shoebox Ministry. And we look for and support local ministries. We bought the freezer that is used for our Community Meals program, and have supplied the kitchen with dishes, glassware, silverware, pots, pans and utensils. We are found on all committees here at FPC and help with receptions and funeral dinners for bereaved families. This year we hosted the

Presbyterian Women of the Presbytery Spring Meeting and Luncheon. We supported two women from FPC who attended the Churchwide Gathering of Presbyterian Women in Louisville, KY

All women are invited to participate in PW. Each woman is encouraged to participate according to her own needs, interests and gifts as led by the Spirit of God. Feel free to contact any of the following for more information:

Ginnie Strand, Marti Auchard, Kathie Wagner, Pam Crume or Cindy Scircle.

“You did not choose Me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit, and that your fruit should abide; so that whatever you ask the Father in My Name, He may give to you.”
John 15:16 RSV

The Circles are coming

All women in the church and friends are invited to attend one of the 4 "Circles" at First Presbyterian Church. We meet monthly for Bible Study, Fellowship and Mission Opportunities.

Call the church office 682 6891 or Ginnie Strand 651 0511 for more information.

The Circles are coming

Gathering October 6 10-11:30

Circle 2 2:30 3rd Sunday 10-11:30
Kathy Wagner 727 2102

Fellowship

Bible Study "God's Promises" Amy Poling Sutherland

Circle 3 10am 2nd Tues
Marti Auchard 772 7350

Circle 5 6:30pm 2nd Tues
Cindy Scircle 682 8918

Mission

Circle 4 10am 3rd Monday
Pam Crume 651 2208

Operation Christmas Child

CELEBRATION SUNDAY, SEPT. 23

Subject to approval by Session on September 13. Sunday, Sept. 23 will be Celebration Sunday at First Presbyterian Church. During the worship service that morning, individuals representing the various ministries and programs of the church will have an opportunity to step up to the microphone at the pulpit and share the success stories (personal or otherwise) they are aware of as God has used the time, talents and financial resources of members and friends of the church to bless others both within the church and beyond. By now, if you are in charge of one of these ministries or programs, you should have been contact by either Pastor Tim or a member of the Faithful Discipleship Committee in regard to Celebration Sunday. If you haven't, please get in touch with me as soon as possible for further details while I save a spot for you in the "I've got good news to share" line at the front of the sanctuary. We may be a relatively small church, but we have accomplished some big things at First Presbyterian in recent years. So let's celebrate! Plan on hearing some celebratory music. Plan on seeing some colorful balloons here, there and yonder. Plan on having your cake and eating it too (you've earned it!) in the parlor immediately following the service. One, two, three-it's time to CELEBRATE!!!

Rick Nichols, Chairperson, Faithful Discipleship Committee

LEAVENWORTH INTERFAITH COMMUNITY OF HOPE

Leavenworth Interfaith Community of Hope will hold their annual meeting on September 16th at 2:30pm. The meeting is open to the public and will be held at the St. Paul Lutheran School gymnasium, 320 N 7th St. in Leavenworth.

Please come and hear about the past adventures at Welcome Central, the Day Shelter and the Shelter of Hope night shelter as well as plans for our future. There will be time for questions and an opportunity to submit suggestions.

After the meeting, the new facility at 311 Kiowa (the blue building) will be open for tours. Come see our beautiful facility and learn about our services and opportunities to join the group of dedicated volunteers and donors who make the Community of Hope an asset to our local community.

