

PRESBYTIDINGS

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"Like" us on Facebook for the Latest News: www.facebook.com/fpceld

Church website: www.firstpreseldks.org

Sunday Worship Service: 10:30 am

Sunday School for all ages 9:30 am

SEPTEMBER 2018

COMMUNITY PIZZA DINNER

The following are signed up for the community pizza dinner on Saturday, September 1: Kate Niemann-Food/Help, Billye Odom-Food, Nita Whiteman-Food/Help, Larry & Judy McCully-Food/Help, Dorothy Miller-Food/Help, Cherri Ogle-Food, Sheryle Dunbar-Food/Help, Jan Taylor-Food. Please have food at the church by 5:00 and helpers need to arrive by 4:30.



MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

The final event that Dream Team is planning for this year to raise funds for the general operating budget is a "mystery dinner theater" Saturday, October 27th. Linda Sanders has written a wonderful play regarding a mystery here at the church and a missing object. There will even be an appearance by a ghost! Plans are still underway for the dinner and more details will be available in the coming weeks. Tickets will be sold to church members as well as to the community. This promises to be a fun and entertaining evening for all!



MUSTARD SEEDS STARTING BACK UP

Mustard Seeds Bible study group will begin a new in-depth 17 week study on the Book of James on Wednesday, Sept 12th, starting at 6:30 pm in Fellowship Hall. We plan to use videos from a sermon series on James from Cornerstone Presbyterian Church in Leawood, KS along with the Serendipity Bible. Members of the class will share leadership responsibilities taking turns in leading the class.

Contact Steve Jensen for more information or just show up if you're interested!

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Saturday, September 15 at 10:00 am Rodger Decker will be spearheading the removal of the old tile floor in the downstairs kitchen. We will need several volunteers to help with this. If you can help, please contact the church office or talk to Rodger. Thank you!



Adult Sunday School Class



ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL

You are invited to join the East Parlor Adult Sunday School class September 2 at 9:30 am for a John Ortberg study The Life You've Always Wanted. It is a six week study.

PICTORIAL DIRECTORY

Evangelism/Member Care Committee is planning on doing an "in-house" pictorial directory this fall. We will pick several Sundays in September for Jennifer Penner to take pictures following worship. We will also have contact info for you to review to make sure everything is correct. Stay tuned for more details!



FROM THE



PASTOR RUTH REFLECTS

*Love God; Nurture People;
Make Disciples*

This month, I want to pause and reflect on the many things I have learned over the past year. It's just a year ago this week since I arrived in El Dorado, expecting to stay for just a month or two. I had just completed a bicycle trip across the country and planned to stay with my mom while I looked for job in Iowa. Some people did tell me that if I wanted a job in Iowa, it might be smarter to move there first—obviously, I did not heed that advice!

I arrived just a few months after the Rev. Dr. Robyn Abel had moved away, and I was signed up to provide pulpit supply for a few weeks. The first week that I was scheduled to preach, though, I was incapacitated by an ulcer. My conclusion was that being between jobs was more stressful for me than I was willing to admit. When I finally was able to preach, I pulled out a couple of the best sermons that I had ever written. I still had to do some re-writing, because some of my illustrations were out of date by then. As time wore on, I still had not gotten a clergy position in Iowa, and some members of the session began to ask if I would be willing to stay and serve here.

We had some red tape to cut through, since I am ordained in the United Methodist Church, rather than in the Presbyterian Church USA. There was red tape on both the Presbyterian side of things and on the United Methodist side of things. At times it seemed a bit burdensome. I have been thankful, though, to be part of an organization that does check into people before approving them to lead a church.

First Presbyterian Church in El Dorado is the largest congregation, the most financially stable congregation, and the most active congregation that I have had the privilege to serve during my ten years in full-time ministry. Being new to the "Presbyterian way," it was encouraging to see how well the congregation was able to function even without a full-time pastor. The way the congregation was able to sustain itself in a time of uncertainty is a real

testament to the strength of both the system and of the officers of the church.

Through this time, you have carried on with the six great ends of the church as named in the Book of Order. Congratulations! This is no small feat.

The Great Ends of the Church

- The proclamation of the gospel for the salvation of humankind
- The shelter, nurture and spiritual fellowship of the children of God
- The maintenance of divine worship
- The preservation of the truth
- The promotion of social righteousness
- The exhibition of the Kingdom of Heaven to the world

As the Pastor Nominating Committee meets over the next few months to seek God's will on who can best lead this congregation into the future, it's important for us to continue to focus on these six great ends. We sometimes get lost in administrative or financial worries. But we must never forget why the church exists, or why the church is important. We do not exist for ourselves alone. Long ago, when God tested Abraham, God said, "by your offspring shall all the nations of the earth gain blessing for themselves, because you have obeyed my voice." God calls the church—including this congregation in El Dorado, KS—to be part of God's blessing to all the nations of the earth.

Thank you for being a part of First Presbyterian Church in El Dorado, KS. May we be a blessing to all those for whom Christ Jesus lived and died.

ATTENDANCE & OFFERINGS

| Date | Attendance | Offerings |
|-----------|------------|------------|
| August 5 | 65 | \$2,314.00 |
| August 12 | 63 | \$3,309.00 |
| August 19 | 55 | \$2,031.00 |
| August 26 | 67 | \$2,709.00 |



YOUTH NEWS

The school year is in full swing, and it's been fun to see some of our students "graduate" to senior high in FLAME Student Ministries. I've only known some of these students for a couple years, but I can already see them maturing. I look forward to seeing them develop even more, and they're going to have some big decisions to make as they go through high school. It will be fun to both see them grow and see what decisions they make concerning their future!

In the youth ministry, we are meeting as both a junior high and a senior high. Junior high meetings take place on Wednesday nights from 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Senior high meetings occur on Sundays from 5:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. We encourage all students to attend our Sunday Morning Youth Stampede on Sunday mornings from 9:30 a.m. to 10:15 a.m. Honestly, I'm looking forward to running our program this year and doing all the things you do in youth ministry!

One of those "things" is getting out into the community and participating in service projects. I really enjoyed doing a project for Max Hubbell's neighbor, last year. The youth did a great job cleaning up Max's neighbors' yard! If anyone in the congregation has ideas for service projects in El Dorado, I would be very happy to hear your suggestions. Our main program is now going to be meeting on Sundays, so that would be the best day to get things done. Please don't hesitate to allow the youth to help out if you need gutters cleaned, leaves raked, boxes moved, etc., etc. Several valuable lessons are learned when we do work like this. We're open to helping the congregation, obviously, but we'd be happy to help other people in the community, also! I do ask for at least two weeks' notice so I can schedule our work project within our regular school year youth program schedule. Have a wonderful day!

-John Simon

SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

This Sunday school year we will once again be utilizing curriculum



from Children's Ministry Deals. We've really enjoyed the format of this curriculum. It is structured similar to VBS where there are different themes every 4 - 8 weeks. The curriculum is also very cost effective at only \$50 a year when you purchase them as a bundle.

We are kicking off the Sunday School year with learning about Heaven. Heaven is our real home, and we can prepare for it right now. Even though we all hope to live long lives on Earth, we will all leave the Earth someday. Thankfully, the Bible tells us that death isn't the end of our lives - in fact, it's really the beginning. We'll live forever with Jesus in a place that's so wonderful we can hardly imagine what it's like. Right now, we can start preparing ourselves for spending eternity with God. This 4 week program will cover the following things about Heaven. Heaven on Earth - Matthew 5:45-48 (Love your enemies); Saving for Heaven-Matthew 6:19-24 (Store up treasures in Heaven); The Best Thing about Heaven-1 Corinthians 15:12-20 (We will be raised from the dead as Christ was raised); and Imagining Heaven-Revelation 21:1-5, 10-11, and 18-23, (The New Heaven and New Earth).

We also plan to do Lego, Candy, Bugs, When I grow up, and Miracles of Jesus themes this year. Thank you to all the individuals that volunteered during Summer Sunday School. Alicia and I appreciated the break. Please let us know if you would be interested in volunteering during the school year. We can always use additional help for skits, crafts, and snacks.

Sunday school is more fun with friends! Please invite your grandchildren, and your relatives', and friends' children to Sunday school.

Thanks! Jennifer and Alicia

TUGGS

The next TUGGS meeting will be Sunday, September 23 with Antique Road Show as the program and dinner will include barbeque. Members will show and tell about an Antique they bring from home. This is an informal meeting and visitors are welcome to join in by coming for dinner and bringing an antique. Please sign up in the church office.





PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

A group of 19 members and guests met for the PW Girls' Night Out, Thursday August 9th at 6:00 pm in the church parlor. We enjoyed a Greek meal prepared by Greekstone Grill and an evening of fellowship. A great big thanks to Martin & Patty Goedecke, Nita Whiteman and Cinda Darwin for making arrangements, setting up and providing the Greek décor. Those attending were Billye Odom and guest Gladys, Mary Baker, Sharon Decker, Kendra Wilkinson, Cinda Darwin, Nita Whiteman, Dorothy Miller, Ruby Shoemaker, Connie Hamlin, Lois Fairman, Marie Rowell, Judy McCully, Dorothy Kaufmann, Wendy Kaufmann, Gail Kaufmann, Pat Varner, Pastor Ruth Waite and Barbara Hubbell.

Presbyterian Women will start back up with their regular Circle meeting on Thursday, September 13th at 10:00 am in the church parlor. Mary Baker and Pat Varner will serve as hostesses and the lesson will be from the book *Twelve More Women of the Bible-Shulamite Women: We Had God at Hello...* All women of the church are invited to attend.

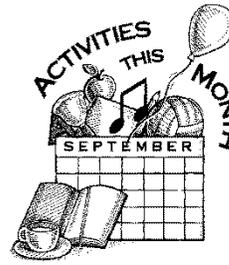
BIRTHDAYS

- 2 – Jack Sanders
- 4 – Hanna Rowell, Shelby Rowell
- 5 - Tara Varner
- 7 – Mary Baker
- 9 – Marie Rowell, Mike Baker
- 16 – Krystal Wallace, Dorothy Miller, Robyn Abel
- 19 – Claire Jensen
- 26 – Greg Downs
- 25 - Nita Whiteman
- 28 - Neil Benson, Sharon McClure
- 30 - Trisha Yearout



ANNIVERSARIES

- 2 - Ralph & Lois Fairman
- 7 – Dwight & Jamie Downs



SEPTEMBER ACTIVITIES

Sat, Sept 1, 5:30 pm-Community Pizza Dinner
Sun, Sept 2, 9:30 am-Sunday School & Youth Stampede, 10:30 am-Worship, 5:00 pm-Sr High

Mon, Sept 3, Church office closed for Labor Day
Tues, Sept 4, 4:30 pm-Finance Committee, 6:00 pm-Girl Scouts

Wed, Sept 5, 6:30 pm-Middle School, & Dream Team

Thurs, Sept 6, 5:30 pm-Weight Watchers

Sun, Sept 9, 9:30 am-Sunday School & Youth Stampede, 10:30 am-Worship, 5:00 pm-Sr High

Mon, Sept 10, 6:30 pm-Worship & Music

Wed, Sept 12, 6:30 pm-Trustees, Mustard Seeds & Middle School

Thurs, Sept 13, 5:30 pm-Weight Watchers, 6:30 pm-PNC

Sat, Sept 15, 10:00 am-Removal of tile in kitchen

Sun, Sept 16, 9:30 am-Sunday School & Youth Stampede, 10:30 am-Worship, 5:00 pm-Sr High

Tues, Sept 28, 6:00 pm-Girl Scouts

Wed, Sept 19, 6:30 pm-Mustard Seeds & Middle School

Thurs, Sept 20, 5:30 pm-Weight Watchers, 6:30 pm-Session

Fri, Sept 21, 12:00 pm-DAR

Sun, Sept 23, 9:30 am-Sunday School & Youth Stampede, 10:30 am-Worship, 5:00 pm-Sr High

Wed, Sept 26, 6:30 pm-Mustard Seeds & Middle School

Thurs, Sept 27, 4:30 pm-Evangelism/Member Care, 5:30 pm-Weight Watchers

Sun, Sept 30, 9:30 am-Sunday School & Youth Stampede, 10:30 am-Worship, 5:00 pm-Sr High



VISITORS

- August 5: Worship in park.
- August 12: No visitors listed.
- August 19: No visitors listed.
- August 26: Erin Benson Hoffman