

April 30 & May 7, 2017

MARK'S MESSAGE

## God Did An Awesome Job at Creation

As spring approaches and we see the signs of new life springing up all around us, I can't help but pray to the Lord, "God, you did an awesome job with creation." "I did an awesome job" would be a loose translation of what God said when he looked around at the newly created earth. Or as Genesis 1:31 puts it, everything was "very good."



The first *not-good* aspect of reality shows up in the middle of chapter two: "The Lord God said, 'It is not good for the man to be alone'" (Genesis 2:18). Solitude was never God's intention for humanity. "I will make a helper suitable for him."

It's worth noting that in Hebrew there's no difference between the name Adam and the words "the man." Adam is thus the only person about whom we can always say, "you da man."

So what kind of helper is suitable for Adam? The word "helper" does not mean administrative assistant, go-fer, or someone-who-will-cook-and-cleanup-after-me. In fact, "helper" is used most often in the Bible to refer to God. It is therefore a word of great dignity.

What follows is the account of Adam encountering numerous animals and discovering that none of them is qualified to be his helper. God's next step is extraordinary. Part of Adam's side is taken to form a second being. Human maleness and femaleness come into existence for the first time. This means that every time men and women come together, it isn't just a union. It's a kind of reunion.

When Adam the male sees Eve the female in Genesis 2:22, the very first love poem springs from his mouth: "This is now bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh. She shall be called 'woman,' for she was taken out of man."

That sentence, in the original Hebrew, begins with a small, untranslatable particle. It's not a word, exactly. It's more like a catch in the throat. Some scholars translate it "wow." Wow. That is Adam's first response when he sees his true partner.

People who love each other have been saying "wow" since the beginning of time. Which is another evidence that God did an awesome job of creating, indeed.

In Christ, 

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## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

What happens when two young people go through the HCC Fire Science Program? How about fall in love and get married!! That is what happened to two new wonderful church members — **Shannon and Zac Heath**.

Shannon grew up in a Presbyterian Church in Concordia. When she came to HCC, she visited a few churches and decided on First Presbyterian. She said the size is just right. Plus, she and Zac like sitting in front of Max and Roberta Price!

Shannon said she had always wanted to be a firefighter. However, a career change became necessary since she and Zac are expecting their first baby in July. She currently works for RCEC — the Reno County Education Coop. She manages the IEP (Individual Education Program) database for students in five different school districts.

Zac grew up in Wichita. His father has been on the fire department there for 28 years. He says it was pretty much ingrained in him. "I knew nothing else."

Recently Zac spent many hours fighting the recent fires north of Hutch. He manned a brush truck and mopped up fire line. He said they automatically knew what to do and they tried their best.

Our youth group wrote thank you notes to Zac. So on April 5, Zac and his crew visited the youth and thanked them personally for their appreciation. What a marvelous gesture of giving back in many different ways.

Thank you Shannon and Zac. We all welcome you to First Presbyterian Church.

## DROP AND RUN OUTREACH

### Sign up for FPC's May 7 "Drop and Run" Outreach

Do you miss the old May Day tradition of leaving a May Day basket on a neighbor's porch, knocking on their door, and running away? Well, now is your chance to relive those days by helping with the Deacons' "Drop and Run" Outreach project.

**What is "Drop and Run"?** You can think of "Drop and Run" as a May Day delivery...except instead of flowers, we will deliver bags that include a beach towel and fun toy for each child, sunscreen, and flyers for free summer activities around the area. We will be delivering the bags to families in our church neighborhood.

**How can you help?** We need people to deliver the bags on May 7 after the 10:30 worship service. Just pick up a bag in the parlor, head to the address you are given, place the bag on the door step, knock, and run! The adults in the home will be informed in advance of your delivery; but hopefully to the rest of the household, your May Day bag will be a complete surprise!

**Sign up to deliver!** To assure that we have enough people to deliver our May Day bags, please sign up in the bookstore in the Parlor beginning Easter Sunday, or contact one of the following individuals:

**Dianne Coons:** [dicoons@me.com](mailto:dicoons@me.com)

**Misti McLain:** [misti.mclain@gmail.com](mailto:misti.mclain@gmail.com)

**Terri McQueen:** [maxandlil@yahoo.com](mailto:maxandlil@yahoo.com)

### Summer Outreach Update

Because of our congregation's generous contributions to the Deacons offering last November, we have registered and provided full scholarships this summer for 12 Lincoln Elementary children to attend either Dillon Nature Center camp or Stay to Play camp at Graber. Thanks to all of you for your continuous support as we reach out to enrich the lives of children in our neighborhood!

## Managing Our Time in a 24/7 World



A day holds a lot of time: 24 hours. 1,440 minutes. 86,400 seconds. Yet for most of us, our daily cry is “If only I had more time!” We all feel so busy—overwhelmed by our lengthy and never-ending to-do lists. Busyness has become a status symbol in the United States. Even Christians fall into the trap of over-scheduling, over-doing and over-committing our time and resources. Time is our most treasured possession, but we often

act as if it’s not. Can I suggest that we need to start each day off with Jesus, as he is the ultimate example of rest. Jesus’ invitation in Matthew 11:28 “Come to me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest” — is such a text for any age, but if it ever had resonance and poignancy, it is our age because heaviness and weariness defines most people in our day and age. As Christians, we should be managing our time because it is not ours. Just as we should think of our possessions and money as on loan to us from God, so is our time. Time management is important because God calls us to be good stewards of all that he has entrusted to us. Some people have the mistaken idea that managing your time is all about cramming more stuff into an already overloaded schedule. You and I need to find the right balance in all the different areas of our lives.

We also need to remember that our time is limited. We have been given a certain amount of time here on earth for our lifetime. Our most valuable possession is our time. Queen Elizabeth I was the richest person in the world in her day. Yet when it came time for her to die, her last words were, “I would give all my kingdom for one more moment of time.” When we rightly view all time as belonging to God, then we see how we fill that time in a different light.

Before taking on any projects or signing up for another activity, stop, pray, and wait to say either yes or no. We all need to cultivate a Day of Rest, scheduling a day off. God has already established what the proper ratio should be; he did it through the principle of the Sabbath day when he prescribed six days of work to one day of rest. By resting on the Sabbath, we show that we believe that God will give us the energy, the time and the provisions to provide what we need the other six days. God finished his work and then rested; our problem is we never finish. We need to have a Sabbath, we need to recharge our physical and spiritual batteries in order to be more productive on the other six days.

## WMW FAMILY FUN DAY

### Westminster Woods Family Fun Day! — May 27

Time for some **FUN** for the whole family at WMW...Games/Activities, Chapel, Lunch, Swimming and Snacks. Times: 9:30 a.m. (registration) to 4:00 p.m. Cost is \$15.00 per family member. Go online to purchase ticket: [www.westminsterwoodscamp.com](http://www.westminsterwoodscamp.com), and under “WMW Summer Camp” header, click on “Family Fun Day” and click the link to EventBrite to purchase your tickets.

## CARE PORTAL

Two more Care Portal cases in the last two weeks! The first one was yet another set of bunk beds and twin mattresses, along with the needed bedding and a Walmart gift card for spring clothing for the young children and their single mom. Then over Easter weekend we took a used dresser to another single mother with two small children. The mom has added her ten-year-old sister to the apartment in a kinship placement. A Walmart gift card will allow the little sister to pick out some bedding for herself and hopefully help her feel more integrated into her new living situation. The mother in this case is a member of a church which participates in Care Portal and she was aware of the program and is grateful to be a recipient of it. A special thanks to David Weidensaul and his son John who managed to carry the dresser up to the second floor apartment. Meanwhile, Ed Johnson enjoyed the role of supervisor!

## CHURCH OFFICE NOTES

*Chimes* Note

Deadline for next issue of *Chimes* will be **Monday, May 8, 10:00 a.m.** That issue will cover May 14-27.

## Chancel Flower Calendar

**May 7 and 14** are open on the 2017 Chancel Flower Calendar. If you would like to provide flowers for worship one of these days, please contact Marla in the church office at [marla@fpchurch.org](mailto:marla@fpchurch.org) or 665-5549, ext. 106, by the preceding Monday.

## SESSION SNIPPET

The April session meeting was held April 16, the day after Easter, and the numbers tell the story of a most successful Easter Sunday at FPC. One hundred attended the breakfast put on by the Congregational Life Committee, 20 dozen cookies were baked for the butterfly release after the second service, and the combined total attending the chapel and the 10:30 service was 398. A joyful morning at Sherman and Poplar!

With Easter in the past, the Session committees are already looking ahead to other events on the spring calendar, including Communion on April 30, the Drop and Run Project on May 7, and Mother's Day on May 14. Summer and early fall activities are also being organized. The work of the church is continuous and the participation and enthusiasm of all our members is always essential. Contact Session members or Pastor Mark if you have questions or concerns or if you want to volunteer for any event or project.

## FOOD BANK AND NEW BEGINNINGS

It's time again for our monthly donation to the Reno County Food Bank. They are requesting **canned chicken or tuna, juice, pancake mix and syrup**. You may leave those items at any of the entrances to First Presbyterian. We will pick them up on May 8. We also will collect donations for New Beginnings. Suggested items are: **magic erasers, dish soap, large black leaf trash bags, and tall kitchen bags**.

Thanks, The Deacons

1 John 3:17-18 *"But if anyone has the world's goods and sees his brother in need, yet closes his heart against him, how does God's love abide in him? Little children, let us not love in word or talk but in deed and in truth."*

## Sunday Morning Adult Education Opportunities

*"The Challenges of Life Together"*, Facilitated by Pastor Mark Miller, Large Conference Rm, 9:30 – 10:15 a.m.

*"The Wired Word"*, Facilitated by Bob Fee, Fellowship Hall, 9:30 – 10:15 a.m.

## "Great Day Every Day — Navigating Life's Challenges"

Our next small group meeting is scheduled for 1:30 p.m., Tuesday, May 2, at Linda Chandler's house. We will discuss chapter 6 of the Max Lucado book, "Great Day Every Day — Navigating Life's Challenges." All are welcome.

## PARISH PERSONALS

- Thank you to all who sent cards, prayer chain, pastor's visits and prayers when I was in the hospital during March and a few days in April. — Richard Sunner
- Deepest sympathy is extended to the family and loved ones of Mary Frances Burns, who died April 18 at the age of 101. Mary Fran had been a member of FPC since 1959.
- Dear First Presbyterian Church,  
Thank you for your recent donations to the Reno County VOAD. On March 6, 2017, the lives of many in Reno County changed forever. The wildfires quickly spread over 5,441 acres destroying 11 homes and numerous outbuildings. Your generous gift has assisted many families to begin their recovery process. Among many things, your gift has helped by providing debris removal from destroyed homes and outbuildings, replacing septic systems and melted laterals, drilling new water wells that became contaminated, repairing electrical lines that were torn off the weather boxes of homes, and feed for animals during the first few days once families were allowed back in to their properties. The mission and purpose of the Reno County VOAD is to meet the need for ongoing coordination in Reno County providing volunteer, financial, spiritual, physical and/or psychological support for people whose lives have been affected by a disaster in our community. Thank you again for your kindness and generosity. — Reno County VOAD
- Soup Kitchen helpers on April 20 were Donna Kelley and Bob Callahan helping us serve, and driving the three routes were Ed & Marj Johnson, Martin Miller and Mark Coberly. Thank you volunteers for helping us serve 130 hungry people. — Gene & Arlene Becker

## KEEP IN PRAYER

### *For those in the hospital or hurting*

- The family of Mary Frances Burns, on her recent death

### *For all FPC shut-ins*

### *For all those affected by the wildfires*

*For First Presbyterian Church, Halstead (4/30/17)*

*For First Presbyterian Church, Newton (5/07/17)*

## BIRTHDAYS

30	Lindsey Maschler	9	Alex Saenger
4	David Kerr	10	Chris DeMeyer
5	John Swearer	10	Aden Gamber
7	Jim Heck	11	Elizabeth Lane
7	Connor McClenahan	12	Dan Fee
8	Ron Ediger	12	Jane Gamber

## FINANCIAL PEACE UNIVERSITY


**Financial Peace University**  
**God's Way of Handling Money**
**Beginning Tuesday, June 13, 7:00 – 9:00 pm**

 Facilitated by Pastor Mark Miller, Robbie Gehling & Mike Petitjean  
 Watch for more information in upcoming *Chimes*!

## YOUTH GROUP

One of the highlights for me in the year is our Youth Sunday and this year was another one of those days when I feel like I am walking on air. I know we say it a lot but we do have great young people. Last Sunday you got to witness Payton DeMeyer, Lydia Johnson and Seth Ramirez sharing their faith stories with you in worship. It is so evident that what they are sharing is not scripted, it comes from their hearts. Their love of Jesus is there for all to see and their willingness to share their struggles, their ups and downs and their belief of "Who Jesus is" to them is refreshing.

I am so proud of our young people who even after a night at prom, made it to worship. Our worship leader or host on Sunday was Libby Schultz and her bubbly, relaxed style of leading us brought a wonderful relaxed atmosphere that set the tone for both our services. Lillie McQueen, Olivia McLain and Casey Lane led us in prayers that came from their hearts and Maggie Epp read our scripture beautifully as we heard Jesus ask us "Who do you say I am?". From greeting to ushering our whole youth group played their part in making them such moving and meaningful services.

The next two weeks at Youth Group will see us get down and dirty on the streets around the church. We are doing our "TEAM UP to CLEAN UP" as we go out on the streets and remove weeds and grass that are growing up everywhere on the sidewalks and roads. We will remove trash and spray to kill the weeds for a while. So if you adults and parents want to join us, "Come on Down" — we would love to see you there. We will start around 7:15pm and finish before 9:00pm. Just bring a shovel, gloves and something to poke the weeds growing through the cracks.

This is a busy time for all students with tests, activities, prom, graduations, and so many end of term activities. So please keep them in your prayers as they try to navigate these final weeks of the school calendar.



## CALENDAR — APRIL 30 - MAY 14

**Sunday, April 30, 2017**

DEACON OF THE WEEK: Beth Southern, 669-1270

*Preacher Mark Miller: 2 Cor. 5:17-21; Heb. 10:19-24*

- |             |                             |               |
|-------------|-----------------------------|---------------|
| 8:15 am     | Worship service             | Chapel        |
| 9:00 am     | Chancel Choir               | Sanctuary     |
| 9:00-10:15  | ReFresh Café open           |               |
| 9:30 am     | Christian Education         |               |
| 10:30 am    | Worship service/Kidz Church | Sanctuary     |
| 11:30 am    | Fellowship time             | Parlor        |
| 11:30-12:00 | Book store open             | Parlor        |
| 2:00 pm     | Communion                   | Wesley Towers |
| 5:00 pm     | "Inside FPC" dinner         | Refresh Café  |
| 6:45 pm     | Mission trip meeting        | The Basement  |

**Monday, May 1**

- |         |                     |                       |
|---------|---------------------|-----------------------|
| 8:30 am | Exercise class      | Calvin Hall           |
| 9:30 am | Book study          | Large Conference Room |
| 4:00 pm | Music staff meeting | Conference Room       |
| 5:30 pm | Worship Committee   | Conference Room       |
| 7:00 pm | Worship practice    | Sanctuary             |
| 7:00 pm | Boy Scout Troop 301 | Fellowship Hall       |

**Tuesday, May 2**

- |         |                |                       |
|---------|----------------|-----------------------|
| 9:00 am | Yoga           | Parlor                |
| 9:00 am | Koinonia Women | Lg Conference Rm      |
| 1:30 pm | Bible study    | Chandler's            |
| 7:00 pm | Area pastors   | Large Conference Room |

**Wednesday, May 3**

- |          |                    |                       |
|----------|--------------------|-----------------------|
| 8:30 am  | Exercise class     | Calvin Hall           |
| 9:00 am  | Staff meeting      | Large Conference Room |
| 12:00 pm | Building & Grounds | Conference Room       |
| 7:00 pm  | Youth group        | The Basement          |

**Thursday, May 4**

- |         |                   |        |
|---------|-------------------|--------|
| 7:00 am | Men's Bible study | Parlor |
|---------|-------------------|--------|

**Friday, May 5**

- |         |                   |             |
|---------|-------------------|-------------|
| 9:00 am | Walk-a-mile class | Calvin Hall |
|---------|-------------------|-------------|

**Saturday, May 6**

- |     |                         |             |
|-----|-------------------------|-------------|
| TBA | Group staying overnight | Calvin Hall |
|-----|-------------------------|-------------|

**Sunday, May 7**

DEACON OF THE WEEK: Terri McQueen, 663-5719

*Preacher Mark Miller: Acts 9:10-22*

- |            |                     |           |
|------------|---------------------|-----------|
| 8:15 am    | Worship service     | Chapel    |
| 9:00 am    | Chancel Choir       | Sanctuary |
| 9:00-10:15 | ReRefresh Café open |           |

**Sunday, May 7, continued**

- |             |                             |           |
|-------------|-----------------------------|-----------|
| 9:30 am     | Christian Education         |           |
| 10:30 am    | Worship service/Kidz Church | Sanctuary |
| 11:30 am    | Fellowship time             | Parlor    |
| 11:30-12:00 | Book store open             | Parlor    |

**Monday, May 8**

- |         |                     |                 |
|---------|---------------------|-----------------|
| 8:30 am | Exercise class      | Calvin Hall     |
| 4:00 pm | Mission Committee   | Conference Room |
| 5:00 pm | Board of Deacons    | D. Coons'       |
| 6:00 pm | "Faces of Poverty"  | Grace Episcopal |
| 7:00 pm | Boy Scout Troop 301 | Fellowship Hall |

**Tuesday, May 9**

- |         |                |                     |
|---------|----------------|---------------------|
| 9:00 am | Yoga           | Parlor              |
| 9:00 am | Koinonia Women | Lg Conference Rm    |
| 9:00 am | Presbytery mtg | Mt. Vernon, Wichita |

**Wednesday, May 10**

- |         |                |                       |
|---------|----------------|-----------------------|
| 8:30 am | Exercise class | Calvin Hall           |
| 9:00 am | Staff meeting  | Large Conference Room |
| 7:00 pm | Youth group    | The Basement          |

**Thursday, May 11**

- |          |                   |                 |
|----------|-------------------|-----------------|
| 7:00 am  | Men's Bible study | Parlor          |
| 10:00 am | Finance Committee | Conference Room |

**Friday, May 12**

- |           |                            |             |
|-----------|----------------------------|-------------|
| 9:00 am   | Walk-a-mile class          | Calvin Hall |
| 12:00 pm  | Congregational Connections | Conf Rm     |
| 6:00-8:00 | Lincoln School block party |             |

**Sunday, May 14—Mother's Day**

DEACON OF THE WEEK: Mel Dower, 663-4639

*Preacher Mark Miller: 1 Sam. 1:27-28; Acts 16:13-15, Acts 18:24-26*

- |             |                             |           |
|-------------|-----------------------------|-----------|
| 8:15 am     | Worship service             | Chapel    |
| 9:00 am     | Chancel Choir               | Sanctuary |
| 9:00-10:15  | ReRefresh Café open         |           |
| 9:30 am     | Christian Education         |           |
| 10:30 am    | Worship service/Kidz Church | Sanctuary |
| 11:30 am    | Fellowship time             | Parlor    |
| 11:30-12:00 | Book store open             | Parlor    |



LOVE GOD. LOVE PEOPLE.



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**Communion**  
**Sunday, April 30**  
**8:15 a.m. — Chapel**  
**10:30 a.m. — Sanctuary**  
**2:00 p.m. — Wesley Towers**

