

The Total Eclipse

A total eclipse was visible in the United States last Monday afternoon. We were the only country able to see, for a few minutes, the moon totally obscure the light of the sun. The "zone of totality," about 67 miles wide, stretched from the Pacific beaches of Oregon to the Atlantic beaches of South Carolina.



Eclipse enthusiasts jammed the highways and headed for places in the zone of totality. On August 21, the moon passed between the earth and the sun gradually obscuring the sun's brilliant surface for about three hours. Here in Hutchinson the partial eclipse started at 11:35 am and ended at 2:30 pm, with 94 percent peak coverage at 1:02 pm.

The best show was undoubtedly the zone of totality. Some of you who traveled north described the afternoon became unaccountably dark as the sun's light was completely extinguished. One of you described the total eclipse as a religious experience. A sense of awe and wonder fell over those who were present followed by cheers of celebration. That Monday millions of people fixed their eyes on the sky.

When we fix our unfiltered gaze on the sun, bad things happen. Sunlight is actually a stream of photons, byproducts of the nuclear fusion deep within the sun's core. Those photons have the power to overwhelm the chemical receptors on our retinas, the delicate tissue at the back of our eyeballs responsible for the phenomenon of sight. It doesn't take much to put our retinas out of commission for good.

Sir Isaac Newton, the brilliant 17th century scientist, once did something incredibly foolish. He stared for a few long moments at the reflection of the sun in a mirror. The result was temporary blindness. Even after hiding for three days in a darkened room, the genius couldn't dispel the bright spot that seemed to have burned itself in his eyes. If he had stared just a few moments longer, he would have lost his vision permanently.

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SOCIAL COMMITTEE

The Social Committee has had a blast organizing get-togethers with FPC members and friends the last two years. The following are events that we have had over the last couple of years:

1. A wine tasting event April, 2016 with Bob and Kris Peel. We were able to donate \$1,060 to Care Portal from the proceeds.
2. A "Casual Sunday" lunch, August 2016 with a Sloppy Joe Lunch and "Finding Dory" movie.
3. September, 2016 was dinner at Carl's and attending the great musical, "Nunsense" at Stage 9 Theater.
4. "Nacho Typical Sunday Dinner" in February, 2017 with a fun lunch and get together.
5. A delicious dinner at Yoder's Kitchen in Yoder, Kansas in April 2017.
6. A relaxing dinner at Anchor Inn in June, 2017 and then on to the outstanding Hutchinson Municipal Band summer performance.

Thank you to each and every one of you who has joined in the fun. We are so lucky to have such a great group of members at FPC. Please let us know if you have any ideas for get-togethers that you would like for us to pursue. The Social Committee members are Jane Harrison, Erika Peel, Dianne Coons, Mary Wilson, Jenn Epp, Kelly Lackey, Lisa Barker and Jayne Briscoe.

COLLEGE STUDENTS

We would like to keep up with our college students this year. Please contact the church office with your college address. Send updated information to rita@fpchutch.org or call (620) 665-5549, ext. 101.

PARISH PERSONALS

- Many thanks for the help received at the Soup Kitchen August 17. Involved were Martin Miller helping us prepare and cook the meal as well as driving one of the routes. Barbara Mencl helped prepare carry-outs. Serving 107 folks were Donna Kelley and Bob Callahan and were great to stay and clean up as well. Driving the other two routes were Ed & Marj Johnson and Mark Coberly. We are grateful, as always, for the Deacons and volunteers who willingly give of their time to feed the hungry in our community. — Gene & Arlene Becker
- Dear First Presbyterian Church,
Thank you all so much again for awarding me this scholarship. This money helps me to pay for books and classes each semester and is a great financial relief. I hope you all know how much the support of the church means to all of us going through college at this time. Your help means everything! Hope all is well and I thank you again! With love, Madelyn Fee
- I want to thank my FPC family for the outpouring of love, compassion, and prayers. I received so many beautiful and encouraging cards, floral arrangements, and visits that I was strengthened throughout this journey by each of you and our Heavenly Father. Thank you & God is Good — Christina Long
- Roy and I want to thank our church family for all the prayers, get well wishes and cards. I wanted to forget my birthday. I have this wonderful Presbyterian friends and family. Again thank you for the cards and prayers. — Roy & Rosalea Sudlow



**SPIRITUAL
FITNESS**

We all know the principles for maintaining good physical health: nutritious food, exercise, pure water, lay off the junk food, plenty of sleep, healthy and loving relationships — right? But, a third of Americans are now obese, another third are overweight. That means two-thirds of Americans, in spite of knowing better, are living unhealthy lifestyles. The same is true for our spiritual health and keeping our spiritual immune systems in top shape. Most of us know what to do; we just have a hard time putting it into practice. The disciplines of physical and spiritual exercise are equally challenging — and the results of

inaction and apathy equally life-threatening. Read through this list carefully and prayerfully, and let the Holy Spirit speak to you about boosting your own spiritual immune system.

1. **Bible Study** *2 Peter 1:4* When troubles in life come, God's great and precious promises are what keep us from becoming infected with fear and doubt. God's promises are found in only one place: the Bible. Daily doses of the Word of God are required for continuing spiritual health.
2. **Prayer** *Philippians 4:6-7* Prayer is like a healthy dose of vitamin C at the first sign of a cold — the first thing we should do when troubles come. Pray for strength, pray for wisdom, pray for help. And most of all, pray for endurance and faithfulness. In prayer we claim God's promises.
3. **Scripture Memory and Meditation** *Psalms 1:2* The more we incorporate Scripture into our hearts and minds, the more we think like God. When troubles come, instead of trying to think of a Scripture verse, the Word of God is there because that's how we think anyway. Take time to dwell on what God says.
4. **Clear Conscience** *Psalms 32:5* No one who has a guilty conscience — one defiled by unconfessed sin — can be spiritually healthy. Guilt leads to physical complications, and it certainly leads to spiritual ill-health. How can we call on God in times of trouble when we harbor sin in our lives?
5. **Worship and Church Attendance** *Hebrews 10:24-25* A healthy human is a worshiping human — but not worshiping just anything. Because we were created by God, we are destined to worship Him. Failure to worship leads to isolation, introspection, and infection with the disease of self-centeredness.
6. **Service** *1 Peter 4:10* Because we were created to serve, we will only be truly spiritually healthy when we are using our spiritual gift(s) to serve others. If we fail to serve, we atrophy — lose our strength and shrivel up. Discover your gift(s) and stay healthy and strong by serving.
7. **Relationships** *Proverbs 22:24-25* The better part of wisdom is to avoid unnecessary contact with carriers of contagious diseases. The same is true spiritually speaking. Anger, bitterness, resentment, envy, and other carnal characteristics can be caught and spread. Choose your friends wisely.
8. **Lifestyle** *Proverbs 3:5-6* Living a healthy lifestyle physically doesn't guarantee perpetual good health — but your chances are better. The same is true spiritually. Living a lifestyle of wisdom, acknowledging God in all your ways, is foundational for spiritual health.
9. **Giving** *Luke 6:38* It takes an investment in a healthy lifestyle to strengthen your body's immune system. Investing your resources — time, talent, and treasure — in your spiritual life will return to you an abundant spiritual health. We reap what we sow physically and spiritually.
10. **Fellowship with Other Christians** *Romans 12:10* Remove a part of the human body and set it aside, and it dies within minutes. Remove yourself from relationships with others, and the same is likely to happen spiritually. You are a "cell" in the body of Christ, and you must stay connected to be nurtured as a part of the whole.

How healthy is your immune system? You will be healthier spiritually when you implement more of these principles consistently. And the healthier you are, the more likely you are to withstand the infections of this world.

Logos will be starting on September 20 and will go through November 29. We will have a parent meeting on Wednesday, September 6, 6:30 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. We would love for anyone to come and help our young people grow their faith. Please contact Misti McLain (620) 921-5190 or misti.mclain@gmail.com.

DINNER GROUPS

Looking to Meet Other Adults of the Church in an Informal, Casual Atmosphere?

D-Groups (Dinner Groups) are Coming!

WHAT IS IT? Small dinner gatherings for 6-8 adults for the sole purpose of fellowship and becoming better acquainted with fellow adults in our church family. Each group will be multigenerational and will meet once a month from October thru May.

WHO IS IT? Open to all adult couples or singles (significant others are welcome). You need not sign up with a partner. Group members take turns hosting, with the host providing the main course and beverages, and other members bringing salad, vegetable, bread, or dessert. And yes, Dillons can do your cooking! Worried about lack of space in your home? Then a restaurant is a great alternative!

WHEN IS IT? A kick-off potluck gathering will be held **Sunday evening, October 1**, in Fellowship Hall. At this time, you will find out the individuals in your group. Bring your calendar because your group will set its dinner dates and locations for the upcoming months. If you cannot be present for the kick-off, someone in your group will contact you.

HOW DO I SIGN UP? Please complete the registration form below and **return it to the church office by Friday, September 22**. You will receive information prior to the potluck, designating a type of dish to bring.

QUESTIONS? Please contact Terri McQueen at (620) 664-7731 or maxandlil@yahoo.com.



D-GROUP REGISTRATION – please return this form to the church office by Friday, September 22.

Name(s): _____

Phone Number: _____

Address: _____

E-mail address: _____

How many will be attending the kick-off potluck dinner on Sunday evening, October 1? _____

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Sunday Morning Adult Education Opportunities — 9:30-10:15 a.m.

"*The Wired Word*", Facilitated by Bob Fee, Cornerstone Room

"*The Psalms — Glorifying the Lord*", Facilitated by Pastor Mark Miller, Large Conference Room

"The Parables of Jesus"

Our next small group meeting is scheduled for 1:30 p.m., Tuesday, September 12, at Darrel McCool's house. We will continue our study of the Parables of Jesus. Everyone is welcome.

CHURCH OFFICE NOTES

Chimes Note

Deadline for next issue of *Chimes* will be **10:00 a.m. Monday, September 11**, for the issue covering September 17-30.

Chancel Flower Calendar

September 10, 17, October 1, 8 and 29 are open on the 2017 Chancel Flower Calendar. If you would like to provide flowers for worship one of these days, please contact Janice in the church office: janice@fpchutch.org, or 665-5549, ext. 106 (afternoons), by the preceding Monday.

KEEP IN PRAYER

For those in the hospital or hurting

For all FPC shut-ins

*For those in Texas recovering
from Hurricane Harvey*

*For Community Presbyterian
Church, Chase (9/03/17)*

*For Viola United Presbyterian
Church, Viola (9/10/17)*



A church stays on its *feet* when its

members get on their *knees*

BIRTHDAYS

3	Darrel McCool	11	Steve Seltzer
4	Casey Ediger	12	Tyler Fee
4	Garrett Ediger	12	Vi Hoffman
6	Jayne Briscoe	12	Nan Meschke
6	Jordan Fee	12	Holly Schuessler
7	Jim Hopengardner	13	Chase Swanson
7	Codi Schoenhoff	14	Chase Denison
8	Robert Graber	14	Clark Denison
8	Megan Hansen	14	Laura Harrison
8	Laura Sellers	14	Kate Jackson
9	Jon Davis	14	Scott Meggers
10	Kalen Stewart	14	Craig Rife
11	Mike McQueen	14	Hannah Woods
11	Sheila Meggers	16	Brad Rayl

YOUTH GROUP



Youth Group is up and running and we are excited about this new season. We started with a great first night at Hutch Putt and Freddy's. I don't think we have any U.S. Open Golf winners in the future in our group but we sure did have a good time on a beautiful night. We gave out our new Youth Group T-shirts with our theme for the year on them — "It's All About Jesus."

Last week we had our first night back in The Basement at church. It was a fun night and we had Seth, Lawson, Lydia and Libby sharing with the group about how God has been working in their lives over the summer and what it means for us to live our lives "All about Jesus." It is so hard to surrender ourselves to God and to live lives that glorify Him. It was exciting to hear our young people encourage each other to live their lives full on for Jesus! There is nothing better than to spend time with our great young people as we do our faith journey together.

We have had 40 plus students at our first two weeks but we have room for many more. So if you haven't made it along yet we would love to see you!

CALENDAR — SEPTEMBER 3 - 17

Sunday, September 3, 2017

DEACON OF THE WEEK: Heidi Schultz, 669-7956

Preacher Mark Miller: 1 John 4:7-21

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

Monday, September 4—Labor Day

Church offices closed

Wednesday, September 6

8:30 am	Exercise class	Kids' Cave
9:00 am	Staff meeting	Conference Room
12:00 pm	Building & Grounds	Conference Room
6:15 pm	Confirmation class	Large Conf Room
6:30 pm	LOGOS parents' mtg	Fellowship Hall
7:00 pm	Youth Group	The Basement

Thursday, September 7

7:00 am	Men's Bible study	Parlor
12:00 pm	Congregational Connections	Conf Rm
6:30 pm	Poverty Action meeting	Large Conf Rm

Friday, September 8

9:00 am	Walk-a-mile class	Kids' Cave
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Sunday, September 10

DEACON OF THE WEEK: Ann Sellers, 662-9510

Preacher Mark Miller: Romans 12:1-8

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

Monday, September 11

8:30 am	Exercise class	Kids' Cave
9:30 am	Book study	Large Conference Room
5:15 pm	Mission Committee	Conference Room
6:30 pm	Deacons' mtg	Large Conference Room

Tuesday, September 12

7:30 am	Community group	Large Conf Rm
1:30 pm	Bible study	McCool's home

Wednesday, September 13

8:30 am	Exercise class	Kids' Cave
9:00 am	Staff meeting	Conference Room
7:30 pm	Youth to TobyMac concert	State Fair

Thursday, September 14

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

Friday, September 15

9:00 am	Walk-a-mile class	Kids' Cave
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Sunday, September 17

DEACON OF THE WEEK: Carol Weidensaul, 669-8661

Preacher Keith Neill: 1 John 3:1-2

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

FOOD BANK/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 September 3. We also will collect donations for New Beginnings. Suggested items are: **laundry soap, dish soap, tall kitchen trash bags, 33-39 gallon trash bags and magic erasers.**

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."*

LOVE GOD. LOVE PEOPLE.



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This brings to mind 1 John 1:5, which declares, "God is light, and in him is no darkness at all." In John 1:18 we read, "No one has ever seen God." It's easy to see why no human being can look at God's essence with unfiltered eyes. We simply don't have the physical, mental, or spiritual apparatus to survive such an experience.

But there's more to John 1:18: "No one has ever seen God, not so much as a glimpse, but [Jesus], this one-of-a-kind God-Expression, has made him plain as day." (*The Message*) God has made it possible to see Him – to see who He really is – by fixing our attention on His Son, Jesus. That's an experience more transforming than an endless number of eclipses. Which is why we should never settle for spiritual knockoffs.

Gazing in Christ, 