



First Presbyterian Church
201 East Sherman
Hutchinson, Kansas 67501

February 4 & 11, 2024

PASTOR'S MESSAGE

Not long ago, I was asked to officiate at a memorial service for someone who had no family or friends in this area. It was someone I had never met, and very few people I asked had ever met him either. I did find a few people who had known him years ago, and the most I could get out of them about him was that he was "unique."

So after I gave it some thought, I wrote a eulogy for him that I called "Beatitudes for the Unique." I'd kind of forgotten about it since that service, which no one attended but the two funeral directors, Guy, and me.

But the other day I found that eulogy in my files, and I started thinking that maybe it's worth sharing. Because maybe, especially in this time of Lent, as we are all looking inward and doing more self-reflection, we could use a reminder that it's OK to celebrate the gifts that God gave us that make us, well... unique.

Blessings and love, Pastor Christy

Beatitudes for the Unique

Blessed are the unique... for they will never be bored. When the whole world has gone a washed-out sepia, they'll bring the color.

Blessed are the unique... for they will never be lonely. Their ability to connect with others – from adults to children, from plants to animals – means they will never be without another spirit touching theirs.

Blessed are the unique... for they will never be hungry. Their souls find sustenance in everything the universe has to offer ... love, laughter, music, the summer sun, an autumn breeze, art, a long nap, a grateful prayer, a deep embrace.

Blessed are the unique... for they will never be silenced. Their voices will always be heard, through every channel of fearless self-expression they find.

Blessed are the unique... for they bring beauty everywhere they go. In a world full of cookie-cutter sameness, they are a breath of fresh air, a swath of glitter, a beam of light.

Blessed are the unique... for they will never grow old. Even when their bodies age, even when the calendar pages keep turning, they are eternally young. Their love for life and eagerness to carpe every diem keeps them ticking like teens.

Blessed are the unique... for they will always inspire. The world may roll its eyes, call them "odd" or "weird" or "strange," but the world will also keep glancing their way, knowing that they can call it weird if they want but it's actually magic mixed with awesome and everyone wishes they had it.

Blessed are the unique... for they are made in the image of God. Fearfully and wonderfully made, deeply and divinely loved.

Blessed are the Unique... for when their time on earth is done, God will welcome them home, and heaven will be that much more amazing because they're in it, being unique.

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CONNECT WITH US

We want to encourage you to make church a priority and join us in person on Sundays at 8:15, W@9 or 10:30 a.m. If you are unable to attend, we have our:

RADIO MINISTRY Sundays at 10:30 a.m. on KHUT 102.9, and
W@9 ONLINE at fpchutch.org.

Your prayers and financial support are vital to our work and ministry. God is still at work! Offering boxes are positioned in the sanctuary, or you can mail in your offering or sign up to give online at fpchutch.org.

We are the Church!

STEPHEN MINISTRY



Did you know? The first crop of freshly minted Stephen Ministers is about to become commissioned and available to you. If you or someone you know could use their assistance, feel free to contact Pastor Christy, Keith, Pam Anderson, or Guy. And if you have the urge to be a part of our dynamic, forward thinking group, contact Guy or Pam. Our next round of classes is being formed now.

CHURCH OFFICE NOTES

Chimes Note

Deadline for next issue of *Chimes* will be **10:00 a.m. Monday, February 12**, for the issue covering February 18—March 2.

Chancel Flower Calendar

February 18 & 25, March 3, 24, & 31, and April 7, 14, 21 & 28 are open dates on the 2024 chancel flower calendar. If you would like to provide flowers for worship one of these days, please contact Brittany in the church office: brittany@fpchutch.org or 620-665-5549, ext. 1, by the preceding Monday.





One of the things that I have learnt is that when I worry about what other people think of me, then I can't be what God wants me to be. This is something that I still struggle with because I want people to like me and it worries me if I fall short in any way. Thankfully these thoughts have gotten less and less since a mentor of mind told me a number of years ago that I needed to learn to think like Jesus and stop worrying about pleasing everyone. Jesus had to become my focus and the one I had to please. I believe we all need to have the same focus and do what God is calling us to do. He calls us to be "fishers of men," but we worry that we might offend the people we try to reach.

Jesus was never manipulated by crowds or by the approval or disapproval of anybody else. He lived for an audience of one: "I try to please the One who sent me," John 5:30. This is why we need to be Jesus focused because by doing so we discover the mind of Christ, to go and do what He wants us to do. What I have discovered is that when I simplified my life so that I live for an audience of one, God, then I know that I am doing the right thing. God says in Matthew 3:17, "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased," it was obvious that Jesus was getting it right. Look, the truth is, you can't please everybody. Even God can't please everybody! When someone prays for it to be sunny, somebody else is praying for it to rain, one of them are going to be disappointed. Last weekend all the Chiefs fans are praying for a win, and the Ravens fans are praying for them to win. So, you see, you can't please everybody.

When I went into full time ministry I had to really ask whose approval I was going to seek. Would it be God's approval or other people's approval, I wanted to make everyone happy. That same question faces all of us in life. Are you going to live for what other people think or what God thinks? If we are always looking for validation from other people, we don't understand what God made us to do. We all need to believe who we are in Christ. Jesus never let someone else's approval or a fear of rejection control him. He wasn't out to win a popularity contest. He didn't need other people's opinions to validate himself. When you have the mind of Christ, you will be secure in your identity, your purpose, and God's presence in your life, you won't need to look to other people for approval. You Have His!



BUILDING COMMUNITY



OUTREACH



LOVE GOD, LOVE PEOPLE



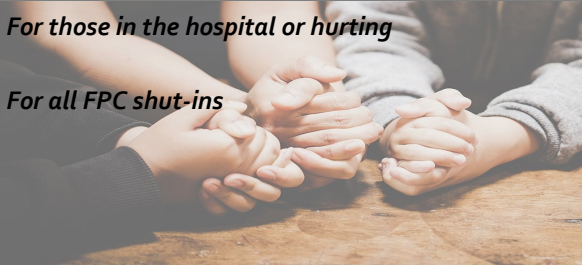
FRIENDSHIPS



KEEP IN PRAYER

For those in the hospital or hurting

For all FPC shut-ins



BIRTHDAYS

- 6 Walker Johnson
- 6 Jake Marlow
- 7 Ben Epp
- 10 Debby Gamber
- 11 Janice Graber
- 11 Gary Brown
- 13 Bob Brown



SOUP KITCHEN

On January 18, the FPC Deacons delivered 54 meals and served 26 meals at the Soup Kitchen. Thanks to Jennifer Epp, Angel Hanzlicek, Suzanne Mahoney, Bob Callahan, Doug Armstrong, Dave Mencl, and Judy Seltzer for all their help.

Serving with you,
FPC Deacons



KID ZONE

WHEN? Sundays at W@9 and 10:30 worship **WHO?** K thru 6th grades

Our aim is to provide a fun, exciting and great learning experience for children. Enjoy our rotational style KidZone where they will learn the story through different experiences over the month. Children start off in worship and then leave for their activities.



- Art • Bible Skills Games • Cooking • Cinema • Science Lab



FILL THE PANTRY PROJECT

"For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat." Matthew 25:35

RAMEN

SOUP

CANNED STEW & CHILLI

MAC & CHEESE

SPAGHETTI & SAUCE

CANNED FRUIT

CEREAL & OATMEAL

CANNED CHICKEN & TUNA

CANNED VEGETABLES

INSTANT RICE

PUDDING CUPS

**MONEY DONATIONS CAN BE GIVEN PLEASE MAKE CHECKS OUT
TO FIRST PRESBYTERIAN WITH FEED THE CHILDREN IN THE
MEMO LINE**

**PLEASE CHECK DATES ON FOOD ITEMS. A LONG SHELF LIFE IS
VERY IMPORTANT.**

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT

A TASTE OF HUTCHINSON



Five men from First Presbyterian showcased their cooking skills on Saturday, January 20 at the Hutchinson Arts Center during A Taste of Hutchinson – The Men Cook event. Sam Buttram, Guy Kass, Scott Meggers, Dan Fee, and Kirk Johnson all participated in the event, which is an annual fundraiser for the Salthawk Community Support Program at Hutchinson High School and Middle School 8. A total of 26 men cook during the event, and prizes are awarded in different categories, including appetizer, entrée, and table décor. At this year's event, Sam made smoked beef tenderloin sliders, Guy made chicken marsala, Kirk made burgers and beans, and Dan and Scott made pimento cheese sausage bites. Claire Foy, who is a board member of Salthawk Community Support Program, serves as the event's co-chair.

GIFT OF WORSHIP

Have you heard about our exciting new program at FPC created to keep in touch with people who can't make it to weekly worship?


Thanks to the generous funding from the Wayne Unruh memorial fund, we will be offering the weekly 10:30 worship service on CD to shut-ins, the Deacon's Special Friends and friends of FPC Hutch. We will also be supplying books on tape and CD players for our member shut-ins. See Helen Unruh or Guy Kass for details.

MESSY CHURCH



Messy Church is on the third Thursday of each month. We hope to see you on February 15 from 5:45—7:00 pm.



WE LOVE
BECAUSE 
HE FIRST
LOVED US
1 JOHN 4:19



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