

*First Presbyterian Church, Salina*

# IN THE NEWS

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AUGUST Newsletter



# news

## 40+ years of marriage:

**Bruce & Margaret Wyatt** will celebrate their **56th** wedding anniversary on August 2.

**Bill & Ruth Cathcart-Rake** will celebrate their **54th** wedding anniversary on August 14.

**Gary & Jan Denning** will celebrate their **48th** wedding anniversary on August 19.

**Morrie & Sydney Soderberg** will celebrate their **58th** wedding anniversary on August 27.

**Mark & Carolyn Wedel** will celebrate their **44th** wedding anniversary on August 29.

**Congratulations to these two pickleball competitors. Bob Salem and Kay Engelland took 5th place at the National Senior Games Sunday in Des Moines, Iowa in their age/skill category. They sometimes dominated the competition and other times had to fight back from behind. They were great sports and maintained grace under pressure. Way to represent Salina Kansas!**



## Congratulations to Will & Anne Exline!

They welcomed a new baby girl, Liv Carolyn Exline, on June 20th.



## In Sympathy

to Justin Klaassen and family for the loss of his brother, Aaron Klaassen.



**Women of Achievement**

July 16 at 10:00 AM · 🌐

★ Women of Achievement is excited to announce our first 2025 honoree - Dr. Britton Zuccarelli, Pediatric Neurologist at [Salina Pediatric Care](#).

We are pleased to honor and support these amazing local women and their contributions to our community!

Dr. Zuccarelli will be honored in the category of **WORKPLACE** 🏢 This category recognizes women with visionary leadership that benefits her industry, profession and/or field. She makes specific professional contributions, innovations, inventions, and/or is engaged in strategic problem solving. She has received professional acknowledgement within her industry, and creates and inspires a positive, family friendly work environment. She actively assists others, particularly women, in realizing their full leadership potential.

📅 Come learn more about Dr. Zuccarelli and celebrate all of this year's honorees on November 6th at 5:30pm at Theatre Salina. Tickets will be available for purchase in September, so stay engaged and look for our posts.

📧 If you or your business is interested in sponsoring this year's event, email Amanda at [woa67401@gmail.com](mailto:woa67401@gmail.com).

Congratulations, Dr. Zuccarelli! 🎉







It all started with a tip about a grant available from the Kansas Health Foundation. And then, as it happens, a speck of an idea was formed.

This May, members of the Social Justice and Mission committee submitted a \$5000 grant application for Hunger Free Kansas' inaugural round of grants. This grant would be used to create connections among local food producers and Salina Grace. By purchasing locally grown and raised food, FPC would be spending grant money to serve fresh, local, healthy food at our weekly lunch meal at Salina Grace.

In June, we were notified that there were 160 applications submitted, and FPC was one of the 80 selected! A few weeks later, Amanda Littell began working to introduce FPC and Salina Grace to several local growers. It was interesting to learn that these producers were unaware of Salina Grace and the work they are doing with our homeless and hungry neighbors.

Amanda and Chandra Cooper began discussing the various ways we could serve and preserve the abundance of beautiful fresh produce that we are fortunate to have access to. BLT wraps were added to the menu. Roasted corn on the cob will be served this week. Fresh, ripe cantaloupe was enjoyed. But, there's so much more! Grant dollars were also used to purchase a new large-capacity upright freezer to keep all of this bounty fresh for use all year long.

On Saturday, 7/19, SJM hosted a small but mighty group of folks to help process corn and **cherries** for our Salina Grace Wednesday meals. Betsy Scholten pitted almost **20** pounds of cherries (24 cups!) from The Fruit Truck for yummy desserts this fall. We also froze **72** ounces of fresh blackberries.



Amanda Littell and Cheri Parr cut corn off of **216** ears of sweet corn from Jirak Bros. The corn was par cooked, cooled and then frozen, ready for use in soups, stews, creamed corn and other yummy meals this winter.

Then, FPC has purchased over 100 pounds of tomatoes from Salt and Light Homestead and members of the congregation have processed those into pizza sauce, marinara, salsa and tomato soup. In addition, 30 pounds of potatoes are being stored. We have also bought



*Salt and Light Homestead*



*Jirak Bros*

Colorado peaches to serve and preserve, and we look forward to the additional late-summer and fall crops that will become available. We can't wait to continue to share the stories of the farmers we will be supporting and to get to share time with you in the kitchen. You may even learn a new tip or trick for how to de-seed tomatoes, or find a pizza sauce recipe that you will add to your dinner rotation!! We are blessed to have the kitchen full of commercial equipment to do this work together.

However, this is not only a project for SJM. We need your help! The tomato crop has been amazing this year, and we need to continue preserving. We will have lots of zucchini, squash and pumpkin to process and freeze. Be on the lookout for pop-up opportunities to come to Blair Hall and put on your apron...or answer the call when a member invites you to join. If you'd like to know when the next opportunity is, call or text Amanda at 785-452-2141.

For more information about the Kansas Health Foundation, Hunger Free Kansas and the Kansas Leadership Center, visit <https://kansasleadershipcenter.org/khf-awards-423k-to-87-kansas-nonprofits-fighting-food-insecurity/>

*Those interested in Adult Education are invited to view TheoEd talks throughout August. TheoEd is a faith-based speaker series that brings together leading thinkers in the church and the academy to give the talk of their lives in 20 minutes or less. Its speakers deliver neither sermons nor traditional lectures. Rather they offer highly polished, no-notes, TED-style talks that seek to spark conversations about God, religion, and the power of faith to change lives and communities.*

• • • • •

#### **August 3<sup>rd</sup> – Josh Scott: Re-wilding the Church**

In the context of re-wilding, Scott calls for a church that is less about programs and more about cultivating deep, organic relationships. He challenges traditional structures and encourages a faith that breathes new life into church practices—focused on true discipleship, deep listening, and a radical love that moves beyond the walls of the sanctuary into everyday life.

#### **August 10<sup>th</sup> – Moshe Szyf: Inheriting Trauma**

Dr. Szyf delves into the fascinating science of epigenetics and its profound implications for understanding intergenerational trauma. Epigenetics refers to how environmental factors—such as stress, trauma, and life experiences—can influence gene expression without changing the DNA sequence itself. This talk explains how trauma experienced by one generation can leave biological marks on the genes, which may then be passed down to subsequent generations.

#### **August 17<sup>th</sup> – Reginald Sharpe: The Fourth Temptation**

Rev. Sharpe explores the challenge of overcoming the pressure to please others and the inner conflict that arises when the desire to gain approval occasionally wins. He acknowledges that the need for external validation is a natural part of the human experience, but it emphasizes the importance of not allowing that desire to dictate one's life decisions or self-worth.



## REVISITING OUR PARTNERSHIP, JUNTOS GUATEMALA

### The Relationships: Mirna Pérez and Walter Hernandez

The 2012 pilot team was invited to visit *Próximos Pasos*, a nonprofit, missionary-operated, primary school for girls in Santa Maria de Jesus. The school's mission was to provide education for young girls from families with economic need and domestic circumstances that often excluded them from enrollment in public school. It was here that we first met **Mirna Pérez**, the youngest daughter of Roduel and Hilda, the founding director of the school for Mission Impact.

That pilot team came back home enlivened and better informed of the potential opportunity this relational partnership could offer to our missional and spiritual growth, as well as our own community outreach. The following year, Morrie Soderberg, Carson Michaelis and Amanda Littell, Richard Gibson, Kegan and Katy England, and Avery and Chandra Cooper prepared, fundraised, were commissioned and sent for service and back to Guatemala. The actual work was valuable as a vehicle for connection but in reality it was secondary to the fellowship, discipleship, and bonding that only happens with extended presence and proximity.







2013 was the trip we would first meet **Walter Hernández**. Walter is son-in law of Roduel and Hilda, and husband to Mirna Pérez. Alongside Gerber and David, Walter was learning the ropes on facilitating the project work with visiting teams, while also bridging the language gaps, fostering engagement and spreading camaraderie between the local members and our members. Walter's affable personality, ability to land jokes in English and Spanish and his intentionality in making sure the three youth in our group felt noticed, valued, and had fun while they worked and absorbed cultural opportunities alongside adults endeared and galvanized his role in our budding partnership.

A great deal of bonding was initiated during the 2013 experience; both, among groups members and our new relationships and emerging partners in Guatemala. Mirna and Morrie became acquainted at a time when she was preparing to present at the International Rotary Conference in Portugal. She would share about *Próximos Pasos* and the new SoyCow that Rotary had provided the school. The SoyCow produced protein-rich, soy milk that was provided to students each day and was also made available to the surrounding neighborhood. Impressed by the school, Mirna's leadership, and the dedication to young girls, their families, and the community that surrounded them, Morrie became an allied supporter of her work.



Shortly after this time, Mirna went on to complete advanced studies and receive her licensure in psychology. At the time, Guatemala had very few mental and behavioral health counselors in the public school system. We were excited to be early supporters in Mirna's transition to her new role as public school psychologist in San Antonio Aguas Calientes.



*To be continued.*

Next month: Lesson's learned along the way...



# FAITH FORMATION

## CHILDREN AND YOUTH PROGRAMING 2025-2026

Children and youth programing is starting up for the new school year soon! Please register or update your child's information now. Don't let your child miss out on the gift of community and mission while increasing their understanding of God's Word!



*Starting*  
**SEPT. 3RD!**

**Faithful Bible Investigators** (FBI) is the name of our program for all children in grades kindergarten through fifth grade. FBI takes place each Wednesday from 4pm-5:15pm in the second floor classroom. Children are welcome to start arriving as early as 3:45pm. We enjoy after-school snacks, fun activities, making crafts, and learning about God.



**FBI-In-Training** is the name of our program for children ages 2- PreK. FBI-In-Training takes place in the nursery and second floor classroom. Children are welcome to start arriving as early as 3:45pm each Wednesday. The class session runs from 4pm-5:15pm. FBI-In-Training members enjoy after-school snacks, activities, crafts, Bible stories and playtime.

**God Squad** is the name of our 6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grade program. God Squad usually meets two Wednesdays each month, during the school year, from 6:30pm-7:30pm. God Squad meets alternately in the church youth room, at a member's home, or a local restaurant; and dinner is always provided. Youth are encouraged to invite friends. Youth enjoy dinner, laughter, and faith discussions! Text reminders are provided weekly.



*Starting*  
**SEPT. 3RD!**



**HEBREW'S**  
JESUS IS GREATER THAN

*Starting*  
**AUG. 21ST**

**HeBrews** is the name of our high school youth group. HeBrews meets during the school year at Mokas from 7:00am-7:30am each Thursday. Youth enjoy breakfast before starting their school day! There is always lots of laughter and lively discussions.

Please register your child or youth so that we have important current contact information available for the 25-26 school year. Sign up on the church website or by using the following link [fpcsalina.org/connect/fpc-student-registration-form](https://fpcsalina.org/connect/fpc-student-registration-form) Contact Heidi or Pastor Phil with questions.



## FAITHFUL BIBLE INVESTIGATORS: WHAT IS ON THE AGENDA FOR THE 2025-2026 SCHOOL YEAR?

FBI uses the **Follow Me** curriculum. **Follow Me** is a Presbyterian created curriculum that includes various themes of study. Each lesson is directly connected to a Bible passage. The following themes have been selected for this academic year: Crossing Borders, Celebrate Communion, Pray, and Do Not Fear. FBI will continue to collect containers for The Salina Emergency Food Bank and purchase school supplies for Cottonwood Elementary. We will participate in our children's Christmas Pageant and we are considering some opportunities for fund raising to assist with the cost associated with sponsoring The Heartland Day Camp that will take place in June of 2026. Children can expect "Bring a Friend Day" to occur sometime throughout the school year. Finally, we are hoping to include a few Friday evening events such as "Movie Night" and other themed events to provide fun activities for the children and respite for parents or care givers who would enjoy a date night or quiet meal at home. These are just a few of the things planned for this school year!

Heidi Paquin, Children's Ministry Director

Meghan Hessman, Children Education Assistant

Kirsten Lilak, Nursery Caregiver and FBI-In-Training Leader



Heidi



Meghan



Kirsten

**BLESSING OF  
THE BACKPACKS**

**First Presbyterian Church  
Sunday,  
August 17, 2025!  
10:00 Am**



 **PLEASE HELP!**  
The Faithful Bible Investigators (FBI) is collecting containers for the Salina Food Bank.

| WE ACCEPT THESE CONTAINERS  | WE ACCEPT THESE CONTAINERS  | WE ACCEPT THESE GLASS JARS  |
|---|---|---|
|  8oz<br> 16oz<br> 24oz<br> 32oz |  Jif<br> 8oz / 16oz<br> 8oz / 16 Plastic |  32oz<br> 16oz<br> 8oz |

**WHAT?**

- Clean containers when empty
- Save both container and lid together
- Deposit container/lid into our collection bin at church.





**We are once again collecting  
school supplies  
for Cottonwood Elementary!**  
**Here are the items they have requested:**

**Regular Pencils**  
**Jumbo Pencils (Kindergarten)**  
**Dry Erase Markers**  
**Underwear Size 4-7 (Boys/Girls)**  
**Sweatpants Size 4-7 (Boys/Girls)**  
**Lice Kits**

**You may drop off items at church or give  
a monetary donation that will be used to  
purchase these specific supplies!**  
**( Identify Donation as  
“Cottonwood School Supplies”)**

**Back To School**  
*Cottonwood*  
**Supply Drive**



**COLLECTION TIME**  
**27 JULY - 25 AUGUST**





### BY WHAT WORDS DO YOU LIVE BY?

By what words do you live by? For as long as I can remember my father has encouraged me to consider: "When your feet hit the floor a smile goes on your face!" as words to start the day; wise words, but ones that I have struggled to adopt. One mantra of my father's that I have lived by, however, is "think before you speak." While some biblical words to live by are "As for me and my household, we will serve the LORD" (Joshua 24:15) words that literally hang on the wall in our dining room.

Recently our Sunday morning adult class listened to Suzanne Stabile's TheoEd Talk about four mantras, or words she tries to live by. They come from the Basque people who are an indigenous European ethnic group found in a region straddling the border between northeastern Spain and southwestern France. The four mantras Suzanne Stable raised are: Show Up, Pay Attention, Tell the Truth, and Disengage from Results. She spoke about how these four mantras are meant to offer a roadmap for personal growth and effective relationships; consider them for yourselves.

**Show Up:** for us at Salina FPC, this means figuring out which areas of the congregation's life and ministry we feel led to get involved with while also considering what is not ours to be part of so that we can follow Jesus' wisdom from the Sermon on the Mount, "Let your word be 'Yes, Yes' or 'No, No' (Matt. 5:37). Where will you show up?

**Pay Attention:** these words to live by encourage us to try be fully present with those with whom we worship and serve alongside as we seek to form relationships, both with God in Jesus Christ and one another; ensuring that we try to get to know one another as we are known by God. To whom do you want to pay more attention to?

**Tell the Truth:** while everyone agrees with the importance of the truth, this can be easier said than done. But its through being honest with one another, that we find the courage to say and do what God sets before us both in the glorious building entrusted to us as well as out in the community of Salina where we are called to embody the Gospel. What truth do you need to tell?

**Disengage from Results:** this can be awfully difficult in the outcome-oriented world in which we live. But the purpose of this mantra is to remind us that if we get too close to managing results ourselves, we leave little room for God's Spirit to be at work leading us into the grace, hope, and love we are meant to live by. How will you disengage in a way that leaves room for God's Spirit to lead you?

**Show Up, Pay Attention, Tell the Truth, Disengage from Results**, all are words to live by that can help us to be Led by Christ, together in faith and love, as we joyfully think, question, grow and serve. Please watch Suzanne Stabile's TheoEd talk, yourself at <https://www.theoed.com/suzannestabile>. Once you watch the video, consider: *what words do you live by?*

## SESSION SNIPPETS

### SESSION JUNE 16, 2025 MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

- Received reports from the Clerk and standing committees including a financial report from the Treasurer.
- Building & Grounds is waiting for the adjusters report on the recent roof inspection.
- Faith Formation reported on the extremely successful Heartland Day Camp that was held at our church June 9-13. Final preparations are underway for the Bruce Reyes-Chow lecture weekend on June 28 & 29.
- The annual financial review will be available for Session review at the August meeting.
- Annual staff reviews will occur during July utilizing a revised evaluation form.
- Positive feedback was given regarding the June 15, "Ask Phil Anything" Sunday.
- Elected Ruth Ascher as commissioner for 2 upcoming Presbytery zoom meetings.
- There will be no Session meeting during the month of July.

### LOOKING FORWARD



Assemble  
Weekend Food Bags  
After Worship  
**August 24**



**FPC**  
*Ice Cream Social*

**6-7PM**  
**SUNDAY, AUGUST 17TH**  
*FPC Courtyard*



4 Ruth Lamfers  
6 Julia Klaassen  
9 Ethan Speer  
12 Harper Johnston  
16 Theodore Klaassen  
18 Brigid Hall  
20 Kelsey Mousley  
21 Kelli Exline  
24 Ann Knowles

HAPPY  
*Birthday*



25 Ellen Tinkler  
25 Kathy Hanson  
25 Jessica Klaassen  
27 Ann Nordboe  
27 Danielle Peckham  
28 Annabelle Dupy  
31 Brian Carlgren  
31 Carolyn Wedel

**AUGUST**

| SUNDAY   | MONDAY  | TUESDAY                       | WEDNESDAY  | THURSDAY   | FRIDAY   | SATURDAY |
|--|---|-------------------------------|--|--|--|----------|
| 27   | 28  | 29                            | 30   | 31   | 1  | 2        |
| 3<br>ADULT ED, 9:00<br>WORSHIP, 10:00<br>ADULT ED, 11:15   | 4<br>COFFEE & CARD<br>MAKING, 9:30<br>PERSONNEL, 3:30 | 5<br>FAITH FORMATION,<br>5:15 | 6<br>SALINA GRACE<br>PREP & SERVE<br>WORSHIP, 4:30 | 7<br>BUILDING &<br>GROUNDS, 3:30   | 8  | 9        |
| 10<br>ADULT ED, 9:00<br>WORSHIP, 10:00<br>ADULT ED, 11:15  | 11<br>NOMINATING CMTE,<br>4:00PM                      | 12                            | 13<br>SALINA GRACE<br>PREP & SERVE                 | 14<br><br>FINANCE CMTE,<br>4:00 | 15<br>GRUB,<br>GAMES &<br>GROG, 6PM-<br>MIDNIGHT | 16       |
| 17<br>ADULT ED, 9:00<br>WORSHIP, 10:00<br>ADULT ED, 11:15<br>ICE CREAM<br>SOCIAL,<br>6:00<br> | 18<br>STEWARDSHIP<br>CMTE, 4:00PM<br>SESSION, 5:15    | 19<br>DEACONS, 5:30           | 20<br>SALINA GRACE<br>PREP & SERVE                 | 21<br>HEBREWS, 7:00  | 22   | 23       |
| 24 / 31<br>WORSHIP, 10:00<br>ASSEMBLE WEEKEND<br>FOOD BAGS, 11:15  | 25  | 26                            | 27   | 28<br>HEBREWS, 7:00  | 29   | 30       |



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Pastor Phil Price

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## STAFF

**Pastor/ Head of Staff: Rev. Phil Price**  
**Administrative Coordinator: Nicole Olson**  
**Bookkeeper: Kathleen Pierson**  
**Building & Grounds Coordinator: Steve Fowler**  
**Week Day Custodian: Dennis Augustine**  
**Sunday Custodian: Regina Miller**  
**Children's Ministry Director: Heidi Paquin**  
**CE Assistant: Meghan Hessman**  
**Nursery Caregivers: Kirsten Lilak & Haley Lindenmuth**  
**Youth Volunteer Leaders: Makenzi & Trey Cullins,**  
**Music Director: Dr. Richard Koshgarian**  
**Musician: Parker Freeland**  
**Worship A/V Tech: Jesse Smith**