



First Church News

May 2024

A Call for Help: Mentors, drivers needed

By Heather Reames

Our church has always prioritized helping children. First Presbyterian Church has developed a program that does a beautiful job of meeting children where they are and supporting them. For 20 years students from McKinley

Elementary have been served by this program. All the pieces are in place. Students are picked up from school and taken to the church.

At the church, they are given a snack and they meet with a mentor. The mentor can help them with homework sent by teachers and touch base with

the child. Then, the children are bused home. It is very well put together and it makes an impact on the children it serves.

This program can only continue if volunteers step in to help. Gail Wynne has been leading this program for 20 years and she is ready to pass

MENTOR continued on back

May UWF Meetings

Wednesday, May 8:
Esther Circle, 9:30 a.m.
Meeting at the home of
Louise Milacek, 1526
Wood Rd., Waukomis.

Wednesday, May 8:
Rahab Circle, 6:30 p.m.
Meeting at the home of
Lori Markes, 200 Flynn
Rd., Waukomis.

Wednesday, May 8:
Lydia Circle, 6:30 p.m.
Meeting in the Church
Parlor.

Tuesday, May 21: Anna
Circle, 1:30 p.m.
Meeting at the home of
Sharon Jenkins, 1401
Vinita Dr.

Mother, Daughter, Friend Bingo for Babies



United Women in Faith hosts its annual Mother, Daughter, Friend Bingo for Babies in April. Fellowship Hall was full of girls from two to 92, including several families with three generations present. We shared a meal, enjoyed Bingo and guessing jars, and collected a love offering of \$425 along with 536 diapers for the CDSA Diaper Bank.

DEVOS W/DEVON

Imposter Trolls



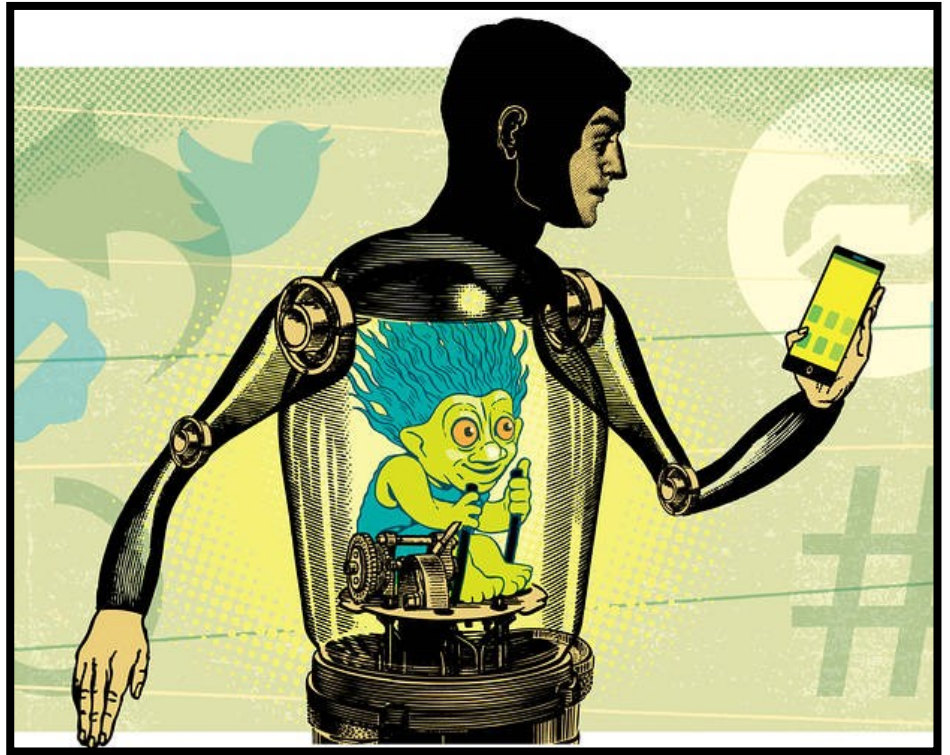
Pastor
Devon Krause
[seniorpastor@
firstchurchenid.com](mailto:seniorpastor@firstchurchenid.com)

Trolls are real. They're everywhere. Don't believe me? Just try to do something that will make a difference in the world and trolls will appear saying "you can't do that." "You don't have what it takes." (Some of the trolls might even quote scripture to make their point.)

If we're honest, sometimes we're the troll and often the voices have to do with what's called imposter syndrome. Imposter syndrome is only an issue when we're making an effort. Whether it's internal or external, consider the lies of the voices we've believed about ourselves from childhood, school, even church. What unhealthy and destructive conclusions have we come to believe about our place in the world?

Those voices are not God's voice. God's, who spoke us into existence, and spoke at Jesus'

“Imposter Syndrome is only an issue when we're making an effort.”



baptism “*you are my child with you I am well pleased*” (Matt 3:17) speaks the same message over us. Moses believed the lies before he believed God, standing in the desert having an argument with a burning bush about his lack of qualifications. If you read the stories of the people of scripture you're bound to find story after story of people dealing with imposter syndrome.

Peter, before he becomes a disciple of Jesus, had been fishing all night with nothing to show for it. When Jesus shows up in the morning and invites Peter to continue fishing, Peter argues with Jesus. After agreeing to it, Peter and his friends followed Jesus' instructions and filled more than one boat with fish. Seeing this miracle you might expect Peter to hug Jesus and thank him for what he's done but his first reaction is shame and guilt. Peter falls down before Jesus and says “*Depart from me, for I am*

a sinful man, O Lord.” (Luke 5:8) That's the voice of the enemy troll leader taking hold in our hearts and minds. The Savior is standing before us and showing us a world beyond ourselves and we tell ourselves we're not good enough because we believe the lies. While scripture highlights that we will always have some sinful tendencies, it's not who we are. Sin has no authority. Jesus doesn't even acknowledge Peter's sin in this moment. Instead he says “*do not be afraid. I will make you a fisher of people.*” (Luke 5:10). Like Peter, Jesus calls out the potential within us. May we take the time to silence the voices of the enemy so that we might hear God's voice calling out clearly. And may we never forget that those troll voices wouldn't be telling us lies if we weren't on to something amazing.

Grace and Peace,
Pastor Devon

New Member



Baptism



FAR LEFT: Joshua Garcia joined March 17. **LEFT:** Tucker Rodenberg was baptized Friday, April 19. **BELOW:** The 2024 Stations of the Cross.

Stations of the Cross



Summer 2024

AT FIRST CHURCH

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

JUNE 3-6, 9AM-NOON. REGISTER ON THE QR CODE OR AT
https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSf6qhoe7b9dDJ7IHpl4Y8MuUgS2IB3I_xZhziGXUmZkE9t9TA/viewform



SONSHINE CAMP AT CANYON CAMP

JUNE 15-16, GRADES 1-2

CAMP REQUIRES PARENT/GUARDIAN TO ATTEND WITH EACH CHILD.

SIGN UP AT [HTTPS://OKCAMPS.ORG/](https://okcamps.org/)

YOUTH FORCE ARDMORE

JUNE 16-21, MIDDLE SCHOOL & HIGH SCHOOL (ADULTS ARE WELCOME TOO).
FELLOWSHIP, HARD WORK, COMMUNITY SERVICE & SERVANT LEADERSHIP.

SIGN UP ON THE QR CODE OR AT

[HTTPS://DOCS.GOOGLE.COM/FORMS/D/E/1FAIPQLSCNBYXIO32MGG4DXZ5EAJJCK2TFJK5NMEG GIBPIDOD2-EI6JW/VIEWFORM.](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSCNBYXIO32MGG4DXZ5EAJJCK2TFJK5NMEG GIBPIDOD2-EI6JW/VIEWFORM)



GROWING IN GRACE AT CANYON CAMP

JULY 8-10, 3RD-5TH GRADES

SIGN UP AT [HTTPS://OKCAMPS.ORG/](https://okcamps.org/)

LEAD CAMP - CROSSPOINT

JULY 15-19, MIDDLE & HIGH SCHOOL AGE

SIGN UP AT [HTTPS://OKCAMPS.ORG/](https://okcamps.org/)

CHOIR CAMP

JULY 22-26, 9AM-NOON - PERFORM JULY 28, 9 & 11AM
1ST-6TH GRADES (JUST COMPLETED)

SIGNUP LINK TO BE POSTED JUNE 1

CHURCH CLOSED

ON FRIDAYS MAY 24 THROUGH AUGUST 30
OPEN 9AM-4PM MONDAY-THURSDAY

CARE NOTES:

Appreciate the small gifts, give back



Deborah Reeves

Director of Care
Ministries

I recently read in my daily devotional, “Faith is the centerpiece of a connected life. It allows us to live by the grace of invisible strands. It is a belief in a wisdom superior to our own. FAITH becomes a

teacher in the absence of fact.” “Blessed are those for whom faith can absorb the shock of not knowing,” who can place their trust in God “a wisdom superior to our own!”

After reading that all I could do is say Amen! Again, faith does not erase my grief but it does ABSORB the shock, the fear of not knowing and the uncertainties of tomorrow. With grief you are given the first taste of “if tomorrow never comes.” We all know we

are not guaranteed a tomorrow, so how very important to live each day letting people know how much they mean to you. Sounds like a country song, right?! To appreciate the small gifts we are given and to give back to others even more than what you receive. We do not have to fear “If tomorrow never comes” because we have the assurance that “Because He Lives” I can face tomorrow,

CARE continued on back

MISSION MOMENT

May Open Your Heart for CDSA diaper bank

By Heather Reames

Our Mission Meeting on April 7 had a full agenda. We had a thank you note for our participation in the Vance Partnership. We are looking forward to having a new class to provide for in the coming months.

Lora Dierksen is going to volunteer at New Day Camp at the beginning of June. New Day Camp is a ministry of CJAMM (Criminal Justice and Mercy Ministries) and it is supported by the Oklahoma Conference of the United Methodist Church. First Church has supported this ministry with both an Open Your Heart collection and a Communion Rail offering this year. The goal of CJAMM is to break the cycle of generational incarceration. Lora is using some of her vacation time to represent our church at New Day Camp. Please pray for Lora

and all those involved in this ministry.

Our Open Your Heart project for May is collecting diapers for CDSA diaper bank. Chelia Armour sent me the following information about the needs for this service: Our biggest need is for size 6 and 7 diapers and for wipes. These sizes of diapers are a higher cost per diaper, and they are packaged with fewer diapers. That contributes to the need for more of those sizes. Also, if you have anyone that would rather make a monetary donation, we will use it to purchase those size diapers. Our diaper bank is funded solely from donations. We have seen a 50 percent increase in the number of diapers given out in the last year. We had been giving out around 50,000 per year and are now distributing 75,000.

Our Communion Rail offering in May is going

MISSION continued on back



RECEPTION

for Nathan & Kristia Oney

Sunday, June 2, 10am

MENTOR:

the torch. Mentors and bus drivers are needed. First Presbyterian has put this together and it works. We cannot lose a ministry that makes a difference in our community. The program ended in April for this school year, but we need to start planning for the next year. Kickoff for the next school year will be in October. Please get with your small groups and friends and see how you

can help. Maybe a group of friends could be a mentor or a bus driver. You could alternate weeks, so that one of you is there each time. This is a once a week program from approximately 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. depending on what job you are doing. If you want to know more about the program or you are wanting to help, contact Lora Dierksen at 580-758-3669 or Robin Newby at 580-977-8114.

CARE:

“He Lives” so all fear is gone, because I know he HOLDS my future, life is worth living all because Jesus lives!

I challenge everyone this month not only to celebrate mothers on Mother’s Day but celebrate them all month. I challenge everyone to reach out to just one person and let them know you see them and appreciate them. I challenge you to just find joy in one small thing. When I say let’s empower the whole church to care for the whole church, I mean not a building where we come together but all the individual people that come together each day in this church. Not the congregation as a whole but each and every individual that comprises this congregation. And then let’s go beyond the church walls and care for the entire community. Knowing who holds our tomorrows frees us up to care for others all around us today!

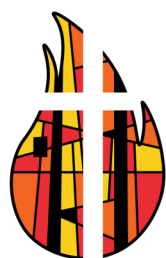
I am so thankful that Jesus lives so that I do not have to fear tomorrow. I am so thankful God is part of my tomorrows. And I am extremely thankful for this church that has cared for my needs, seen me and supported me.

MISSION:

to the Native American Ministries for our conference. Half of the money donated will stay in our conference. The other half will go to fund scholarships and programs through the United Methodist Church.

Welcome Table and the Blessing Box are still going strong and you can help with either of these efforts.

Our next meeting will be June 2 in the B.I.G. classroom after second service. Feel free to join us!



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FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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