

# THE PILLAR

*Stay connected with  
your church family!*

May 2019

## COVERED IN PRAYER

*Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus. Philippians 4:4-7*

Although Easter was later than normal in 2019, to me it feels like Easter came and went so quickly. The month of May doesn't seem to slow down at Salina First UMC! We have Graduation, Mother's Day, and Confirmation! At home, there are school concerts and programs, spring sports, and preparation for summer sports. Some youth will be scrambling to find work for the summer and others to sign up for camps. May is a time of transition and with children at home, it moves rapidly. Stress levels can increase and precious time with God can feel squeezed!

In the busyness of this season, where does God rank? How can we make time for devotions and spring cleaning? How can we get to church and meet all the commitments of the family? Is it simply impossible to slow down and make time for God when we are pulled in so many directions? Our natural response is to take shortcuts with our prayer and devotional time and put worship and spiritual growth on the backburner.

However, John Wesley would say that when a day was filled with more to do than seemed humanly possible, he hardly had time to arise from his prayer time. In other words, with so much to do, the day needed more prayer for the Holy Spirit to cover him! On busy days, bathing his life and ministry in prayer was essential. Most important to the leader of the early Methodist Movement was to listen for God and to seek God's strength in everything he did.

As we turn the calendar to this season of transition, instead of placing our relationship with God on backburner, let us seek to place it as a higher priority! Let's be covered in prayer! Is your calendar filling fast? Take everything to God in "prayer and petition." Are you unsure how you can make it through the day? Offer "...your requests to God." Is your stress level building? Let God "...guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus." Are you uncertain where to start? "Rejoice in the Lord always...Rejoice!" The Good News in our busyness, is that "the Lord is near." May you be "anxious for nothing" because you hand everything to God in prayer.

Let us pray our way through May!



Pastor Eric



## WEDNESDAY NIGHTS: FIRST KIDS GROW!

"TRUE STORY: A 4-WEEK SERIES ON THE EARLY CHURCH"

First Kids and friends are invited to join us Wednesday nights in May at 6:00 p.m. as we begin an exciting new series: *True Story!*

Everyone loves a story about a big adventure, don't they? The best stories are stories of life change, big dreams, dramatic rescues, and journeys to far-away places. Those adventure stories are even better when they're true stories!

In this 4-week series, we'll follow the true story of the early church. Kids will imagine they are explorers and adventurers as they hear the stories of Saul's conversion, Peter and Cornelius, Peter's escape from prison, and Paul and Barnabas' missionary travels.

By the end of this series, kids will learn and remember that Jesus changes lives, Jesus loves everyone, Jesus gives us freedom, and Jesus helps us share His story.



## Summer Updates! Volunteers Needed.

**Summer Sunday School** will start on June 2nd. All children will gather together at 9:40 to Journey Through the Beatitudes. After the Bible story is completed the children will divide by age groups for their activities.

Over the summer, we give our Sunday School Teachers a break and rely on volunteers to lead classes. If you are willing and able to assist one or two Sundays this summer, please contact Rhonda Bird at [rhonda@salinafirst.com](mailto:rhonda@salinafirst.com) or by calling the church office 785-825-0228.

**Wednesday Grow Nights** will continue through the summer. We will simplify our meals each week with a make your own sandwich bar available at 5:30; group sessions will begin at 6:00.

If you can help one or two Wednesday nights this summer, please contact Rhonda Bird at [rhonda@salinafirst.com](mailto:rhonda@salinafirst.com) or by calling the church office 785-825-0228.



## *To Mars and Beyond, Vacation Bible School*

*coming to Salina First United Methodist Church  
July 15-19 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.*

Registration will be made available in June. Once again, we have lots of opportunities for volunteers from preparation to working directly with the children. Please prayerfully consider helping. Contact Rhonda or Brenda Geist.

# Connect at Salina First this Spring & Summer!

Salina First United Methodist Church is committed to raising up the next generation of Christ-like leaders. As a truly intergenerational faith community, we offer discipleship opportunities for all ages. Let's grow together!

## FIRST KIDS (Pre-K–5th Grade)

Wherever your child is on their journey, we are ready to come alongside them and help them to grow, make friends, and learn about Jesus. **Sunday mornings**, First Kids gather in Room 300 at 9:40 for check-in and a time of singing & fellowship. Then we divide into Sunday School classes by age, where the children learn Bible stories and enjoy fun activities. First Kids also gather for **Wednesday Grow Nights** at 6:00 p.m. to grow together and enjoy fun and fellowship. Visit [salinafirst.com/children](http://salinafirst.com/children) &/or email [rhonda@salinafirst.com](mailto:rhonda@salinafirst.com) to learn more.

## SHINE (4th & 5th Graders)

Shine is a youth fellowship for 4th & 5th graders. We gather the 2nd Sunday of every month from 5:00–6:00 p.m. for fun, games, and Bible study. SHINE serves as a bridge program for 4th & 5th graders as they transition into Middle School and @First Youth.

## @FIRST YOUTH (6th–12th Grade)

We create a space for teenagers to explore their faith and find a community of peers and leaders to walk alongside during their Middle & High School years. **Middle School Youth meet Wednesdays at 6:00 p.m.**; **Senior High Youth meet Sundays at 6:00 p.m.** To learn more, visit [salinafirst.com/students](http://salinafirst.com/students) or contact Scott Jagodzinske ([scott@salinafirst.com](mailto:scott@salinafirst.com))

## SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES & SMALL GROUPS (Adults)

Our Sunday School classes and small groups provide opportunities to grow spiritually, study scripture, and connect with others in Christian fellowship. Quite a few classes meet each Sunday morning from 9:40–10:40 a.m. If you are looking for a warm and welcoming community, we encourage you to connect with us. **As a church that values community life and discipleship, we want to help you find the class or group best suited for you. Please email [connect@salinafirst.com](mailto:connect@salinafirst.com) &/or visit [salinafirst.com/grow](http://salinafirst.com/grow) to fill out the classes & groups interest form.**

## TUESDAY BIBLE STUDY GROUP (Adults) [April 23–May 28]

The Tuesday Bible Study group is beginning a new study soon, and all are welcome to join us! We will explore crucial moments in the lives of five Old Testament figures—Queen Esther, Gideon, Hosea, Malachi, and Nehemiah. Join us Tuesday afternoons at 1:00 p.m. in the Conference Room. Contact [rhonda@salinafirst.com](mailto:rhonda@salinafirst.com) to learn more.

## THE RED LETTER GROUP (Younger Adults)

A Bible Study for Young Adults, College Students, and Young Professionals. Every Wednesday at 6:15 p.m. we meet to explore scripture, share stories, and enjoy fellowship together. Contact Aaron Miller ([aaron@salinafirst.com](mailto:aaron@salinafirst.com)) to learn more, or simply stop by Wednesday evening and visit with us. (Room 304)

Music  
for Life



Pam, Amy & Kevin Kraus will be traveling to Uganda in June to visit the "Music for Life" primary school where they will be working with the 18 children Amy chaperoned from African Children's Choir 43. In addition, they will visit the children from Choir 44 (Amy helped with this choir for 6 weeks) and Choir 47 who performed in our sanctuary in August 2017. They are gathering items from a wish list provided by Music for Life to be used in the primary school. If anyone would like to donate items on the wish list, contact Pam Kraus 785-823-6710 or [shkandpjk@hotmail.com](mailto:shkandpjk@hotmail.com). Cash donations are also welcome so items can be purchased and to help defray baggage fees.

Music for Life Primary School Wish List:

- NEW underwear for all ages, including adult.
- Deodorant!
- School supplies—especially new boxes of crayons (12 or 24), new pens, pencils, rulers
- Small gifts for rewards—novelty stationary, small games, stickers, story books.
- Small Lego kits for rewards!
- Also basic Lego blocks
- Soccer balls (deflated)
- Soft firm foam balls for gaga ball (a new kind of dodgeball that is popular)
- New shoes—athletic or black dress shoes in young adult (ages 12-15) sizes
- Dutch blitz! Many packs for camp, aunties, & uncles
- Volleyballs and volleyball nets

## Take the Readiness 360 Survey!

### What?

**Readiness 360** is a tool our church will be using to ask some important questions about your experiences in the life of our church. It begins with a simple but comprehensive congregation-wide survey. We really want your voice included in the information that's gathered, as it will help guide the ministries of our church.

### Why?

The results of this **Readiness 360** survey will help us to identify what we are uniquely positioned to do as a church and how we can better lean into our strengths to multiply our impact. Your participation can play a vital role in shaping the vision and future of Salina First UMC.

### How?

The **Readiness 360** online survey only takes about 20 minutes to complete.

To take the survey now, visit [www.readiness360.org/login](http://www.readiness360.org/login)

Click "Get Started"

Then enter our church's survey code: **9547541470**

Questions? Call the church office at 785-825-0228.

# May 2019 Calendar

## Salina First United Methodist Church

**SUNDAY**

**MONDAY**

**TUESDAY**

**5**  
 8:25AM - Worship  
 9:40AM - Sunday School Hour  
 11:00AM - Worship  
 5:00PM - Yoga  
**6:00PM - High School Youth Fellowship**

**6**  
 12:00PM - Red Cross Blood Drive  
 5:30PM - Children's Discipleship Team Meeting  
**5:30PM - SPRC Meeting**  
 6:00PM - Faith Not Food

**7**  
 9:00AM - Sewing Concerns  
 1:00PM - Tuesday Bible Study

**12**  
 8:25AM - Worship  
**9:30AM - Graduation Reception**  
 9:40AM - Sunday School Hour  
 11:00AM - Worship  
**5:00PM - SHINE (4th & 5th Graders)**  
 5:00PM - Yoga  
**6:00PM - High School Youth**

**13**  
**5:15PM - Finance Meeting**  
 6:00PM - Faith Not Food  
**6:30PM - Trustee Meeting**

**14**  
 9:00AM - Sewing Concerns  
 1:00PM - Tuesday Bible Study

**19**  
 8:25AM - Worship  
 9:40AM - Sunday School Hour  
 11:00AM - Worship  
 5:00PM - Yoga  
**6:00PM - High School Youth Fellowship**

**20**  
 5:15PM - Foundation Meeting  
 6:00PM - Faith Not Food  
**Adult Discipleship Team Meetings**  
 5:00PM - Share  
 5:30PM - Journey

**21**  
 9:00AM - Sewing Concerns  
 1:30PM - Friendship Connection

**26**  
 8:25AM - Worship  
 9:40AM - Sunday School Hour  
 11:00AM - Worship  
 5:00PM - Yoga  
**6:00PM - High School Youth Fellowship**

**27** Memorial Day (Church Closed)  


**28**  
 9:00AM - Sewing Concerns  
 1:00PM - Tuesday Bible Study

**CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL**  
**(K-5TH GRADE)**  
 Every week  
**9:40-10:40AM**  
 Check in at Room 300.

**YOUTH SUNDAY SCHOOL**  
 Every week  
**9:40-10:40AM**  
 Check in at the Youth Room (1st floor).

# WEDNESDAY

# THURSDAY

# FRIDAY

# SATURDAY

**1**

1:00PM - Prayer Group  
5:00PM - Adult Handbells  
**5:30PM - Midweek Dinner**  
6:00PM - *First Kids Grow, Middle School Youth, The Red Letter Group, Choir Rehearsal, Chair Yoga.*

**2**

12:00PM - UMW General Meeting  
6:00PM - Yoga

**3**

**4**

8:00AM - UMM (Methodist Men's Group @ McDonald's)  
10:00AM - Salina District Lay Servant Ministries

**8**

1:00PM - Prayer Group  
5:00PM - Adult Handbells  
**5:30PM - Midweek Dinner**  
6:00PM - *First Kids Grow, Middle School Youth, The Red Letter Group, Choir Rehearsal, Chair Yoga.*

**9**

6:00PM - Yoga

**10**

6:00PM - Crafty Friends

**11**

8:00AM - UMM (Methodist Men's Group @ McDonald's)

**15**

1:00PM - Prayer Group  
5:00PM - Adult Handbells  
**5:30PM - Midweek Dinner**  
6:00PM - *First Kids Grow, Middle School Youth, The Red Letter Group, Choir Rehearsal, Chair Yoga.*

**16**

6:00PM - Yoga

**17**

**18**

8:00AM - UMM (Methodist Men's Group @ McDonald's)

**22**

1:00PM - Prayer Group  
5:00PM - Adult Handbells  
**5:30PM - Midweek Dinner**  
6:00PM - *First Kids Grow, Middle School Youth, The Red Letter Group, Choir Rehearsal, Chair Yoga.*

**23**

6:00PM - Yoga

**24**

6:00PM - Crafty Friends

**25**

8:00AM - UMM (Methodist Men's Group @ McDonald's)

**29**

1:00PM - Prayer Group  
5:00PM - Adult Handbells  
**5:30PM - Midweek Dinner**  
6:00PM - *First Kids Grow, Middle School Youth, The Red Letter Group, Choir Rehearsal, Chair Yoga.*

**30**

6:00PM - Yoga

**31**

# Scott's Scribbles

If you find it challenging to talk with your teen about God and spiritual issues, you are not alone. It's not that parents don't want to talk about faith with their kids, but rather that they don't know how to get started. Here are five practical suggestions to get faith conversations started in your home.

1. Be yourself. You don't need a seminary degree to talk to your kids about God. You don't have to speak like a pastor giving a sermon. Just be yourself in conversations with your teenager. Share your understanding of who God is and why He matters to you in a way that reflects the real you.
2. Don't limit your faith conversations to Sunday mornings. Don't get caught in the trap of compartmentalizing faith issues to certain days or times. Let your kids know that spiritual issues are important in your life all of the time! Don't go overboard, but make faith issues an ongoing discussion with your family.
3. Let your kids catch you in the act of doing something spiritual. Spending time alone with God is great, but how will they know about the value you place on spiritual disciplines if they never see you engaged in them? Let your kids "see" you involved in these disciplines. Your actions teach your teenagers much about your faith, and likely communicate more than your words.
4. Look for natural opportunities to engage in faith conversations. Be on the lookout for opportunities along the road of life where issues almost beg to be discussed in light of your Christian commitment and faith. Try utilizing news items and entertainment media sources as springboards for faith conversations.
5. See yourself as a "fellow-learner" rather than a teacher. Taking the posture of a "fellow-learner" takes much of the pressure off of you and sends the message that you don't claim to know everything about the Christian faith. It's truly healthy when your teen asks a faith question that you need to reply with, "I don't know the answer. Let's figure it out together."

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## WHAT ARE @FIRSTYOUTH LEARNING?

### COMING IN MAY: "FAMILY FEUD"

Every family feuds. Whether the latest feud is about curfews, chores, harsh words, someone's attitude, or someone else's questionable choices, everyone knows what it's like to experience conflict with a family member. Although some families may have more struggles or conflict than others, every family can learn how to fight more fairly. In this 4-week series, we'll challenge students to let their relationship with God transform their relationships with their family members as they seek to be more patient, forgive more often, be more honoring, and show love more freely.



### JOIN US:

**WEDNESDAY NIGHTS 6-7:30PM (MIDDLE SCHOOL 6-8TH GRADE)**

**SUNDAY NIGHTS 6-7:30PM (HIGH SCHOOL 9-12TH GRADE)**

Two of the best things that happen in youth ministry are happening this May! Graduation and Confirmation. Both are times of next steps and passing on of opportunities, faith and maturity. Each of these events allows the church to celebrate our youth as they grow, mature and move forward in their faith journeys. Graduation Sunday is May 12th and will include a Reception in between service in the Fellowship Hall. Confirmation Sunday is May 26th and will include the students taking their membership vows in the early service, reception in between services and a recognition of Confirmands at the 11:00am service.

### Summer Youth Ministry 2019

Watch for a poster being sent to you with all of the awesome opportunities this summer for Youth!



United  
Methodist  
Women

FAITH • HOPE • LOVE IN ACTION

*We invite all women of Salina First UMC to become a part of United Methodist Women, an organization that will soon celebrate 150 years of serving women, youth, and children around the world. If you would like to learn more about UMW, call the church office at 785.825.0228, or email rhonda@salinafirst.com.*

The First United Methodist Women (FUMW) Executive Board and General Meetings were held on April 4, 2019. FUMW members gathered to enjoy a delicious luncheon. The program was presented by Karen Brassea, KWU Theater Professor and Dalena Dutton KWU theater major. We also contributed to our monthly Penny Jar Fund that supports local missions. Bev Petty, Journey in Action stated that our mission focus this month will be supporting the Salina Rescue Mission's Outreach program by donating bottled water, Gatorade, granola bars, small chip bags, deodorant, bath soap, tooth brush and paste and comb) We were also invited to volunteer at the Mission's Outreach Program.

### UMW SAVE THE DATES:

**Thursday, May 2, 2019** 10:45am UMW Executive Board, 12:00 noon Luncheon and General Meeting. Our program will be the Memorial Service and Prayer and Self-Denial (this year's theme is Building a Thriving Generation of Children and Youth Worldwide. UWM members prayerfully select an item to give up each day for a set amount of time, such as a cup of coffee or Pepsi and save the money to donate to Prayer and Self-Denial.)

**May 3-5, 2019:** Great Plains Conference UMW Spiritual Retreat, Camp Comeca and Retreat Center, Cozad, NE. Billie Blair presenting. Contact Circle leader or Barbara Houdek for further information.

### June 30, 2019: UMW Sunday

**July 1, 2019:** Nomination Deadline for the Eunice H. Harrington Award of Leadership, Service & Advocacy. Contact Circle leader or Barbara Houdek for further information.

## Introducing Richard & Cathy Fitzgerald

*Beginning in July, Richard Fitzgerald will serve as the pastor of Salina First United Methodist Church. We look forward to extending a warm welcome to Richard and his wife Cathy this summer.*

**Richard Fitzgerald** was born on May 19, 1963 (his father's birthday) to Lila and Ralph Fitzgerald. He has been a life-long Methodist and United Methodist. His father was a United Methodist pastor until his death in 1984.

Richard has been in active pastoral ministry since 1987 when he became the associate pastor at a new church start in St. Joseph, Missouri. For the past 12 years, Richard has been a member of the Kansas East Conference and the Great Plains Conference. He has served at Wellsville, Garnett/Greeley, and Johnson. Over the past year, Richard has provided some preaching and sacramental oversight to Richfield. He also oversees three lay speakers who provide the bulk of the preaching and pastoral care for the small congregation.

Richard received his Bachelor of Science in Computer Science and Bachelor of Science in Mathematics from Northwest Missouri State University, Maryville, Missouri. He then attended RHEMA Bible College, Broken Arrow, Oklahoma, before taking his associate position in St. Joseph. He received his Master of Divinity from Saint Paul School of Theology, Kansas City, Missouri. And his Doctor of Ministry from Ashland Theological Seminary, Ashland, Ohio. His work at Ashland was in Wesleyan Practice, and his dissertation is on discerning the way forward in difficult times through Christian conference.

Richard loves reading, riding his bicycle, playing with his dog Quantum, playing his new Yamaha grand piano, ballroom dancing, geocaching, swimming, and dabbles in fiber art.

**Richard's blog:** <https://www.raqadnu.com/blog>

**Cathy Fitzgerald** grew up in Jacksonville, Florida, and both of her parents were educators. Cathy has taught Health and Physical Education in Florida, Missouri and Kansas; she coached swimming, volleyball, and track. She also taught English as a Foreign Language in China (as an undercover missionary). She knows American Sign Language and is active with Special Olympics in Missouri. Cathy currently works in Syracuse, Kansas as a high school interrelated special education teacher.

Cathy loves adventure, new experiences, talking with friends, singing, swimming, hiking, bike riding, various water sports, and watching Britbox. Her passion is to help people find their strengths and spiritual gifts. The Fitzgeralds have a Border Terrier named Quantum, but no natural children.



# May Birthdays & Anniversaries



5/2 Brad Byquist, Leora James, David McDaniel (B-days) | Kristina & David Litchman (Anniv.)  
 5/3 Gladys Boyce, Rex Matlack, Marcella Smoot (B-days)  
 5/5 LilyAnn Wilson (B-day)  
 5/7 Jerry A. Scott (B-day) | Randy & Diane Shandy (Anniv.)  
 5/8 Darla Simpson, Janice Stanton (B-days)  
 5/9 Clay Bridge, Keith Lassman, Jody Nutter, Collin Rook (B-days)  
 5/10 Tom & Teresa Martin, Marc & Melinda Taddiken (Anniv.)  
 5/11 Steve Griffin (B-day)  
 5/12 Jessica Martin (B-day)  
 5/13 Judy Hammon, Cadence Langley, Maddison Shriver (B-days)  
 5/14 Anlyn Arb (B-day)  
 5/15 Marie Scott, Steve Wilderman (B-days)  
 5/17 Neola O'Neal (B-day) | Daniel & Angela Botz, Mark & Kathi Mitchell (Anniv.)  
 5/18 Carol Sheppard (B-day)

5/19 Bryan Anderson, Charleen Fekas, Bryant Stateham (B-days) | Cassandra & Daren Storer (Anniv.)  
 5/20 Kristy Foster, Shirley Wilderman (B-days)  
 5/21 Amanda Gutierrez, Ken Jennison, Joyce Marrs (B-days)  
 5/22 Kelly Brown, Carly Redding (B-days) | John & Gig Jones, David & Janet Nease (Anniv.)  
 5/23 Linda Okeson (B-day)  
 5/24 Teresa Martin, Candy Siko (B-days) | Harvey & Delores Kohr (Anniv.)  
 5/25 Madi Helm, Chuck Leahy (B-days) | Larry & Frances Coates, Anne & Kevin Dreiling, Janice & Dennis Gillberg, Randy & Dalene Johnson (Anniv.)  
 5/26 Rick & Judy Hammon (Anniv.)  
 5/27 Deb Gordon, Jo Kraus, Susan Lueth (B-days)  
 5/28 Janet Nease, Bev Olson, Jarod Simpson (B-days)  
 5/29 Caroline Fields, Eli Rider (B-days) | Timothy & Janie Hicks (Anniv.)  
 5/30 Suzanne Wilbur (B-day) | Aaron & Jessica Martin (Anniv.)  
 5/31 Linda McClaskey (B-day | )Loren & Donna Marler (Anniv.)

Return Service Requested

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