

THE SPIRE

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
IN PRATT, KS

135TH YEAR OF MINISTRY

MAY 2020 NEWSLETTER



God moves us forward



In a conversation with Sherri recently, in which we were discussing our upcoming move to Texas, I remarked, “You know, I don’t think I looked far enough ahead when I went into this ministry thing.” That’s probably a good thing. If I would have known all the changes we would go through, the changes our Conference would go through, all the moves we would make, and now moving to a different Conference, I would have been scared out of my wits and probably said, “I don’t think so!” Believe it or not, I am actually a creature of habit and am very comfortable with routine and familiarity.

That’s probably why I find great strength and comfort in Paul’s letter to the church at Philippi, particularly chapter 3, verses 13-16: “Beloved, I do not consider that I have made it my own; but this one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus. Let those of us then who are mature be of the same mind; and if you think differently about anything, this too God will reveal to you. Only let us hold fast to what we have attained.”

The relationships that Sherri and I have attained in ministry with eight churches throughout our journey of ministry are relationships that we hold fast to. And we hold fast to the closeness to Christ that has developed through all of these relationships. It is never easy to move on, but with each step we have made in our journey, we have felt God working in our lives and calling us to move forward. I don’t think we ever forget what lies behind, but we have to be willing to let go. But a piece of what lies behind always goes forward with us.

During our remaining weeks of ministry together, I encourage you to look forward and press on. God has wonderful things in store for each and every one of us. Let your hearts and minds be open to what God may reveal to you, and if need be, be willing to let go of the familiar so that God can use new and wonderful things and people to bring you closer to Christ.

Grace and peace,

Pastor Marvin

HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES



JARRETT BATES

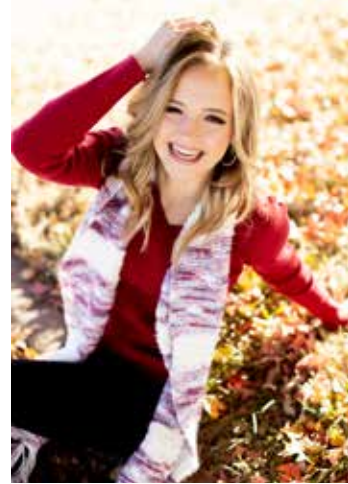
Parents: Lee and Gina Bates

Sibling: Marieigh

Graduating from: Pratt High School

Attending: Colby Community College

Plans: He will study in the Physical
Therapy Assistant Program.



BRENNA DOLEZAL

Parents: Chris and

Chandis Dolezal

Sibling: Cooper

Graduating from: Skyline High School

Attending: Pratt Community College
then Fort Hays State University

Plans: She will major in science and
ultrasound.

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ELLY FOWLER

Parents: Wakon and Brenda Fowler

Siblings: Emma and Evan

Grandparent: Georgie Fowler

Graduating from: Pratt High School

Attending: Eric Fisher Academy

Plans: She will study Esthetics
(beautification of skin).



NOAH MALONE

Parents: Jeff and Arica Malone

Sibling: Dawson Malone

Graduating from: Pratt High School

Attending: Kansas State University

Plans: He will major in Mathematics.

SENIORS 2020



GRANT MAY

Parents: Jason and Deb May
Siblings: Hayden and Grace
Graduating from: Pratt High School
Attending: Pratt Community College
for one year to finish
his associate's degree
then transfer to
Kansas State University
Plans: He will major in Biology.



BEAU MEYERS

Parents: Janet Meyers
Brian Meyers and
stepmom Tricia Meyers
Graduating from: Pratt High School
Siblings: Aubrey Meyers
stepsister Morgan Rogers and
stepbrother Blaise Rogers
Attending: Pratt Community College



KATHERINE SHANLINE

Parents: Jeffery and
Crystal Shanline
Sibling: Mackenzie
Graduating from: Pratt High School
Attending: Sterling College
Plans: She will be cheering and
graduating with dual majors in
communication and art.



MARK DAVID SCHMIDT

Parents: Dave and Michelle Schmidt
Siblings: Luke Schmidt and
Kaylen Ortiz
Graduating from: Skyline High School
Attending: Pratt Community College
then Emporia State University
Plans: He will major in Elementary
Education. Mark also wants to coach.



DAWSON SNIDER

Parents: Natalie King and
Cory Snider
Graduating from: Pratt High School
Attending: Kansas State University
Plans: He will major in Horticulture -
Landscape Design.



KATIE BUHLER

Parents: Don and Sue Buhler
Graduating from: Kansas State University
with a Bachelor's Degree in
Elementary Education and
Minors in Children's Literature and
Nonprofit Leadership Studies
Plans: She will be teaching Fourth Grade
at West Elementary School in
WAMEGO, Kansas in the fall.



COLLEGE
GRADUATES
2020



EMMA FOWLER

Parents: Wakon and Brenda Fowler
Siblings: Elly and Evan
Grandparent: Georgie Fowler
Graduating from: Wichita State University
with a BSN degree (nursing)
Plans: She will be employed at St. Luke's
South Hospital in Overland Park, KS.

CONGRATULATIONS
TO ALL
OUR GRADUATES

Humble Endowment Scholarship
Application due May 1, 2020

The Pratt First United Methodist Church Endowment Committee encourages members of our church to apply for the Humble Scholarship. Submit the application by May 1.
The application and scholarship information are on the church Website: www.prattumc.org.

Church activities will begin again when we are allowed

YOUTH and CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

Jesus and Me, Middle School and High School YOUTH Group

J.A.M. 4 years old through 4th Grade	4:00 P.M.
5th and 6th Grade Middle School Group	6:00 P.M.
7th and 8th Grade Middle School Group	6:00 P.M.
High School Group	7:15 P.M.



Continue to PRAY FOR OUR CHILDREN, OUR TEENS, OUR TEACHERS, OUR LEADERS, AND OUR FAMILIES AS WE MAKE THIS FAITH JOURNEY TOGETHER.



Bring a sack lunch
(finger foods)

\$5 for each child

from 10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

on Fridays



Men of Faith

Fellowship Hall

Breakfast, Devotions, Discussion

Ladies Bible Study Group

On Wednesdays at 10:00 a.m.

in the Heritage Room, a video study
by Priscilla Shirer, *The Armor of God*

Contact Peggy Ellison at 620 770-0469. Leave a message.

The Armor of God



Bible Study Will Resume Soon

WHAT WOULD CHANGE IF YOU REALLY UNDERSTOOD ALL THAT GOD HAS DONE AND IS DOING FOR YOU?

Sure we know in our head that God is for us, that there's great hope in his relationship with us and salvation for us, but sometimes these truths can be hard to believe in the midst of exhaustion, busyness, and a world of spiritual and physical opposition. *If God Is For Us* is a devotional Bible Study on Romans 8 designed to cement in your soul the great truths of our salvation and an understanding for how the Holy Spirit guides our new life in the Spirit, all found in this beloved chapter of Scripture.

Find out why so many Christians list Romans among their favorite books of the Bible—that Romans is packed with profound truth after profound truth which are then followed up with life-changing promise after life-changing promise.

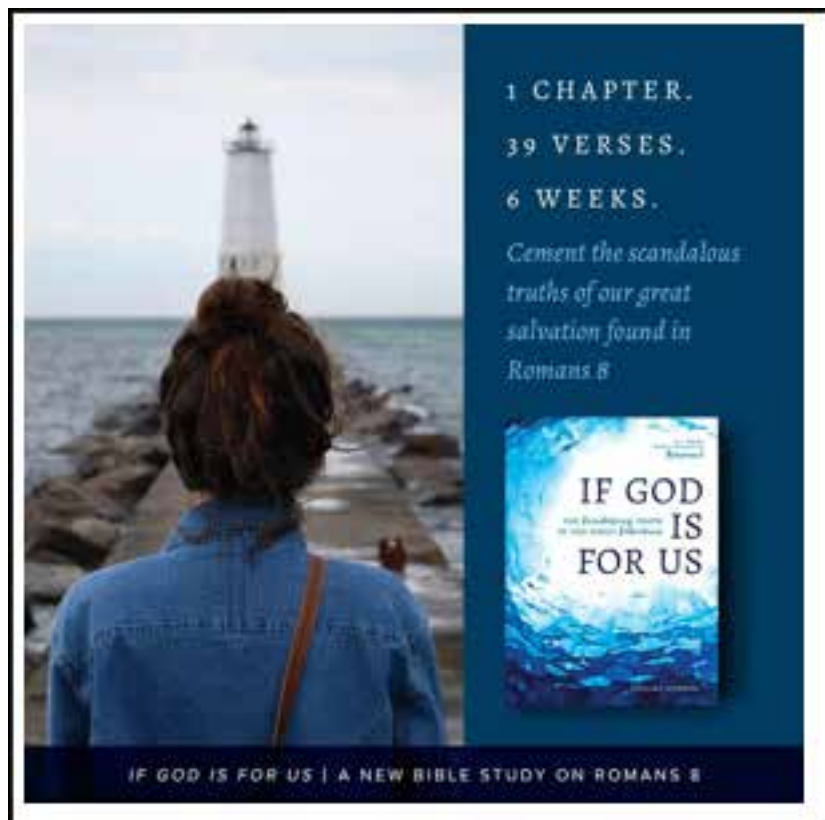
See you there...

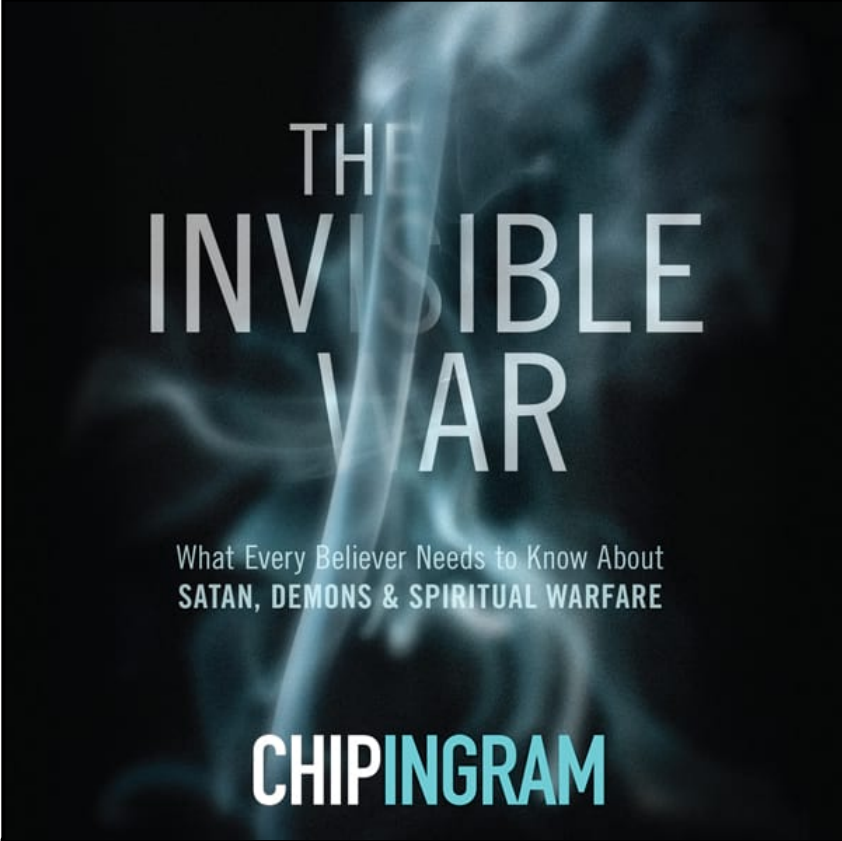
Wednesdays

6:00-7:00pm

First United Methodist Church Parlor.

If you have questions, contact Melanie Black 620-388-6920.



	<p>Beneath our tangible landscape lurks an invisible spiritual realm where unseen battles rage.</p> <p>It's real and it's dangerous.</p> <p>Are you prepared to uncover Satan's cunning deceptions, and resist his schemes?</p>
	<p>Wednesday 6pm</p> <p>Basement Come As You Are Room Tom Black 672-8000</p>
<p>Men's Group Study - Starting Soon</p>	

Seeking a Master's of Divinity?

The Pratt First United Methodist Church Endowment Committee would like to help you financially in reaching this goal. This committee is very aware of the need for additional ministers in our Great Plains Conference and of the cost of seminary education. Each year this committee places funds in a Seminary Scholarship. This fund continues to grow until a member of our church makes the committee aware that they are in seminary and requests funds to help them. A person interested should contact the church office at (620) 672-6473. Please leave your name, phone number and address. The office will notify Joyce Frazier, Chair of the Endowment Committee.

The Endowment Committee was pleased to award the Seminary Scholarship to Chelsea Shrack while she attended Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary in Evanston, Illinois. She received the Master of Divinity Degree and has returned to the Great Plains Conference serving K-State Wesley as campus pastor since July 1, 2017.

FUMC Member: Heather Wilson

March 31, 2020



My Covid19 Story:

Let me start by saying THANK YOU so much for outpouring of love shown to me over the past couple of weeks. All the prayers, kind texts, phone calls, the encouragement, and the concern were so important to my recovery and meant more than you'll ever know. I know several also reached out to my parents and siblings for updates and kind words, thank you to all my family and friends. I truly was overwhelmed by the outpouring.

I know there has been much speculation regarding whether my illness was Coronavirus, and this morning, eight days after being tested, my Covid19 test came back positive.

It is important to note that no one that I work with or have been in contact with is at risk of contracting the virus from me as I have not been on campus since March 11 and in a public setting since March 12. All colleagues/public are far outside of the 2-14 day window in which to show symptoms. I also want to be clear that I order my groceries and HAD NOT BEEN regularly visiting any businesses in town prior to my symptom date as I greatly limit my exposure during cold/flu season in an effort to protect myself and others.

It is unknown how I contracted this virus. I had not travelled or been around anyone known to have symptoms. I did not have any direct contact with students in the days leading up to my symptoms either. There is speculation that a coworker that I came in contact with may have been misdiagnosed with bronchitis a couple weeks prior to my diagnosis, but this has not been confirmed, only speculation as Covid19 was not thought to be in Kansas at that time. Again only SPECULATION and this person did nothing wrong, she stayed at home for over a week and visited a doctor and received a bronchitis diagnosis, started meds and reported back to work after being on meds for an extended period of time. (She does not live in our county.) I believe this virus has been circulating long before they were tracking it, so who knows where I picked it up.

I started having symptoms the evening of March 12. I had a sore throat, I drank some tea, thinking sinus drainage, and went to bed. I started chilling late in the night and woke up with what I thought to be influenza, horrible headache, body aches, sore throat. I called the doctor the morning of Friday, March 13 to explain my symptoms and asked for some Tamiflu, they did not think Tamiflu was necessary and I was told to manage my symptoms at home. No doctor visit required. Isolation from my family begins.

Sunday, March 15, I woke up and felt pretty decent. I was able to finish my 12 page paper and final project (due that evening) for a class I was taking. That night however I started chilling and felt terrible again. Still isolated.

Tuesday, March 17, feeling no relief, extreme fatigue, sweats, headache, earache, I called the doctor and made an appointment to be seen. I was masked at my appointment and was told I had pneumonia in one lung and ear infection, prescribed antibiotics.

Friday, March 20, I've spent my entire Spring Break isolated from my family, I was still feeling crummy, sweats, extreme fatigue, so I called the doctor. They prescribed a steroid to help with the pneumonia.

Monday, March 23, very ill, went to another doctor for a second opinion. I was swabbed for influenza, it was negative, blood work done, chest X-ray and chest CT performed. Chest CT confirmed bilateral pneumonia consistent with Covid19. Doctor swabbed me for the virus. (It was also known at that time that another co-worker was struggling with similar symptoms.). I was prescribed albuterol to use in my nebulizer, that's the only relief the doctor could offer. (Short supply of albuterol in the

...continues on next page

...continued

Tuesday, March 24, it's hard to breathe, contemplated going into the hospital. Instead sent my husband to buy an o2 monitor at Walmart, monitored my oxygen level at home to ensure I was above the advised threshold and started regular breathing treatments. Prayers were working and I managed my symptoms at home. Still isolated from my family.

Wednesday, March 25, decent day, oxygen level decent.

Thursday/Friday, March 26-27, exhausted, but managed to talk to the girls teachers about what to expect this week. Oxygen level holding up.

Sunday, March 29, woke up feeling more like myself than I had in MANY days. Still waiting on test results. Still isolated.

Tuesday, March 31, still feeling good, three days in a row, yea! Doctor called with test results, positive for Covid19.

Great I've got the diagnosis, now what? I'm good right, I've been isolated for 19 days, I'm far outside the ten days you're thought to shed the virus from onset of symptoms? WRONG!!

So much has been learned about this virus since it entered the US (and things change daily) but the CDC now is recommending that once you begin feeling well, no symptoms, that you must remain isolated for ten days. If you show any symptoms within the ten days you must start back at day one.

I'm currently on Day 19 since onset of symptoms, I'm going to say Day 2 of feeling good (as I did have night sweats on Day 1 of feeling good). I will need to isolate for 8 more days with no symptoms to be in the clear and come out of isolation. At that point I will have been isolated for a month.

Please be mindful and stay home. I have missed a month with my family, my husband, my kids. My girls have cried for me outside my door, they have been fearful of something very bad happening to me, it is heartbreaking to not be able to wipe away their tears or give them hugs of consolation, this weighs heavily on my heart. However I will say that if my family can remain healthy because I did what was necessary and recommended, this isolation will be so worth it. I try to remember that these days are so few when we look at the grand scale of our life.

This road has been rough, it's been scary, there were days my anxiety wore heavily on me. I know I made it through this because so many lifted me up in prayer and I'm so grateful. My journey is not over as I'm still recovering from my pneumonia, however I now see rainbows. Please continue to pray for me and my family. I would feel incredibly guilty and heartbroken to see them go through this knowing I was the cause. Please pray they stay healthy and that my recovery continues.

Thank you, thank you, thank you for all the thought and prayers.

My mother-in-law reminded me that today I made history, the first confirmed Covid19 case in Pratt County. I've said it before, but sometimes we must laugh our way through the storm.

This is my story, I thought it was important to tell so people understand how dangerous this virus is. Someone young and healthy is not immune to its fury. Do not live in fear but be smart in the choices you make when venturing out. Is the outing truly necessary?

In the coming weeks please reach out to me if you need anything. When I have fully recovered it will be my duty to shop for others as I now have a layer of immunity against this nasty bug.

Heather Wilson



VIM Project Calendar 2020

(Revised 12/17/19)

Contact Team Leaders for more information. All skill levels needed.Cost: \$150 individual/\$300 couple

The VIM project list is on hold during this time of Covid-19 precautions. The Camp Horizon project was cancelled and as each project approaches, a decision will be made prior to the project about cancelling or proceeding with that project.

- NEBRASKA, Chadron – Camp Norwesca****May 10-15, 2020**
Team Leaders: Rick and Annette Holbrook nonRV only
Rick: 316-765-4363 / imreholbrook8@gmail.com Annette: 316-648-4083 / imaholbrook8@gmail.com
- NEBRASKA, Fairbury – Camp Jefferson**.....**May 31-June 5, 2020**
Team Leader: Bob Moore RV/nonRV
712-789-1084/ bobmo509@netins.net
- KANSAS, Newton – Youthville**.....**June 21-26, 2020**
Team Leaders: Chuck & Linda Buchmueller RV/nonRV
Chuck: 620-770-0410 Linda: 620-770-0411 / clbuch@sbcglobal.net
- COLORADO, Bellvue – Buckhorn Camp****July 5-16, 2020**
Team Leaders: Bill & Janet Ward RV/nonRV
(H) 620-221-2973/ (C) 620-229-1393 / wguard@ispkansas.com
- KANSAS, Ottawa – Camp Chippewa****August 9-14, 2020**
Team Leaders: Rick and Annette Holbrook RV/nonRV
Rick: 316-765-4363 / imreholbrook8@gmail.com Annette: 316-648-4083 / imaholbrook8@gmail.com
- KANSAS, Scott City – Camp Lakeside****September 13-18, 2020**
Team Leaders: Chuck & Linda Buchmueller RV/nonRV
Chuck: 620-770-0410 Linda: 620-770-0411 / clbuch@sbcglobal.net
- KANSAS, Perry – Alpha Christian Children’s Home**.....**October 4-15, 2020**
Team Leaders: Chuck & Linda Buchmueller RV/nonRV
Chuck: 620-770-0410 Linda: 620-770-0411 / clbuch@sbcglobal.net

To see pictures of our past projects and follow our current projects:

[www.Facebook.com/VIMTeamKansasandNebraska](https://www.facebook.com/VIMTeamKansasandNebraska)

OR on your own Facebook page – In upper left search bar, key in: **VIM Team of the Great Plains UMC**

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

May 2 Faye Kuhn	May 11 Garret Smith	May 24 Ryan Blasi
May 4 Abigail Black	May 12 Brett Houdyshell	May 25 Kendall Davidson
May 4 Kay Lesh	May 13 Zackerey Beltz	May 26 Mike McFall
May 5 Pat Brant	May 13 Jeff Jones	May 27 Jesse Blasi
May 5 Delaine Riggs	May 13 Carla Stotts	May 27 Marvin Ewertt
May 5 Cale Thompson	May 16 Jim Nixon	May 27 Mary Gordon
May 6 Pat Barker	May 17 Adriana Briggeman	May 27 Dalene Hughes
May 7 Sam Bailey	May 17 Kallen Briggeman	May 28 Elize Cilliers
May 7 Daniel Prater	May 19 Wayne Parsons	May 28 Roger Harris
May 8 Sarah Blasi	May 20 Robert Pinkall	May 28 Barbara McCall
May 8 Arlan Hair	May 20 Connor Smiley	May 29 Lou Lynne Moss
May 8 Nikki Humble	May 21 Jerry Campbell	May 29 Hayden Riffey
May 9 Delories Moore	May 21 Andrew Hanvey	May 31 Nayeli Ingles
May 10 Kerri Boldt	May 22 Konli Sterling	May 31 Eric Larrison

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

May 1 Elly & Jayson Sneath	May 21 Jessica & Andrew Hanvey
May 2 Cassie & Weston Goyen	May 27 Mary & Pat Gordon
May 2 Phil & Rose Ann Lunt	May 28 Amy & Jeff Jones
May 5 Michelle & Dave Schmidt	May 31 Janice & William Keller
May 21 Carol & Michael Bonham	

THANK YOU

I have seen Jesus in so many of you this past year since losing Shirley, with words of comfort and concern, invitations to meals and fellowship, food to my door, cards and calls of well wishes. And now you offer transportation and companionship on my daily trips to Wichita for cancer treatments. God's Grace has showered on me!

Thanks so much! Ed Boots

May Calendar

If you have something that you would like to put in The Spire, please email Jane Bolen jane.bolen@yahoo.com or call her at 620 770-2110 by the 20th of the month before the next Spire.

April 2020	May 2020	June 2020
S M T W T F S	S M T W T F S	S M T W T F S
1 2 3 4	1 2	1 2 3 4 5 6
5 6 7 8 9 10 11	3 4 5 6 7 8 9	7 8 9 10 11 12 13
12 13 14 15 16 17 18	10 11 12 13 14 15 16	14 15 16 17 18 19 20
19 20 21 22 23 24 25	17 18 19 20 21 22 23	21 22 23 24 25 26 27
26 27 28 29 30	24 25 26 27 28 29 30	28 29 30
	31	

26	27	28	29	30	1 Humble Scholarship Deadline for	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10 Mother's Day	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25 Memorial Day	26	27	28	29	30
31	1	2	3	4	5	6

We hope that regular activities will resume soon

When we are able to resume regular activities.....

SUNDAY SERVICE TIMES

WORSHIP/FELLOWSHIP HALL AT 8:15 A.M.

WORSHIP/SANCTUARY AT 10:30 A.M.

Join us for Sunday School at 9:15 a.m.

MONDAYS

Quilters 9:30 a.m.
Monday Morning Moms 10:00 a.m.

WEDNESDAYS

Ladies' Prayer Group 7:30 a.m.
Ladies Bible Study 10:00 a.m.
J.A.M. 4:00 p.m.
Youth-5th & 6th Grade 6:00 p.m.

Puppets 5:30 p.m.
Snack Supper 5:00 p.m.
Men's Bible Study 6:00 p.m..
Ladies' Bible Study 6:00 p.m.
Youth Group-7th & 8th grade 6:00 p.m.
Praise Band 6:30 p.m.
Youth Group (High School) 7:15 p.m.

FRIDAYS

Mom's Day Out 10:00 a.m.

Join
DEVOHUB
provided by
Pratt FUMC

5
EASY STEPS
to your daily
devotionals

created by
LifeWay

COME TO CHURCH
Come to church with your favorite mobile device

GET THE APP
Go to the Apple, Google Play, or Kindle Fire app stores, search for "DevoHub" and download the app

SELECT ACTIVATE
The app will discover where you are - all you have to do is select "activate"

FULL ACCESS
You now have access to daily devotional content from multiple sources any time, anywhere

Quietud SIANOFIRM
-ft OmJOURNEY EESrenewdaily
DOWS ESSENTIAL CONNECTION

DIG IN

**ENJOY BOOKS
IN THE CHURCH LIBRARY**

We have many books in the Church Library that we hope you will enjoy.

If you have a type of book that you would like to have in our library, please call Marilyn Kennedy or Ginny Houdyshell.

Recycle at FUMC

REDUCE,
REUSE,
RECYCLE,
REJOICE!



NOW AVAILABLE!

Go to: www.prattumc.org

Click on the **ONLINE GIVING** tab and create your profile. Mobile app also available. "GivePlus" is the free download on Google Playstore / Also available at iPhone App Store

First United Methodist Church

The Spire
P. O. Box 316
100 N. Jackson
Pratt, KS 67124

Phone: (620) 672-6473
Pastor Marvin's cell (316) 655-1716
email: jjohnson@prattumc.org
Web site: www.prattumc.org



Temporary Office Hours:
9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.
Friday 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

You may pick up your copy of The Spire at the church. If you wish to have your name added to the email list, please

advise Jacqueline
jjohnson@prattumc.org or
Jane Bolen
jane.bolen@yahoo.com
of your address.

Staff

Pastor.....Marvin Ewertt
Business ManagerJacqueline Johnson
Facilities Coordinator..... Louis Keeling
Audio/Video Coordinator.....Sherri Ewertt
Organist/PianistJane Biles
Praise Band Director Don Buhler
Nursery.....Georgie Fowler