

First Presbyterian Newsletter June 2026

Season of Change – by Jodi Dodds

This season brings change to our church family as we say thank you to Rev. Kimby for her years of faithful service and begin a new chapter together.

While we prayerfully wait for the Lord's direction for the future, church life continues — through worship, fellowship, service, and caring for one another.

Thank you for your patience, encouragement, and continued support. It has been a blessing to see our congregation continue to come together with faith and kindness.

Please continue to keep our church leadership, search process, and church family in your prayers.

“God is not absent in the waiting, nor silent in the changing of seasons.” - Unknown

A Farewell to Our Faithful Shepard

For every quiet prayer you prayed,
For every burden gently stayed,
For every hand you held through pain,
Our hearts will never be the same.

You stood beside us through the years,
Through joyful songs and sorrowed tears.
You spoke of grace when faith felt thin,
And helped lost souls come home again.

A shepherd's work is rarely seen
In all the spaces in between—
The hospital rooms, the late-night calls,
The steady faith when darkness falls.

You taught us more than words alone;
You showed us how God's love is shown.
In kindness given day by day,
In humble service along the way.

And now a different season starts,
Though you will carry all our hearts.
For ministries may change with time,
But faithful love leaves lasting signs.

So may God bless the road ahead
With peace surrounding every step.
And may you finally pause and see
The lives you shaped so faithfully.

Thank you, Pastor, for your care,
For every sermon, every prayer.
Though retirement now begins,
Your ministry will never end.

Scripture and Sermons

June 7 – Rev. Dale Jackson - The Possibility of Figs – Luke 13:6-9

June 14 – Rev. Aaron Stauffer - TBD

June 21 – Greg Mullinax - TBD

June 28 – Rev. Amgad Megally - TBD

One week of combined service at 10:00 a.m.

June 7 at 10:00 a.m.

On June 7 we will gather in one worship service. The Presbytery staff leader will come to offer words of encouragement as this time of transition begins. On June 14, we will return to two services for the rest of the month.

Guest Preachers for June & July

Worship Pillar has arranged for guest preachers for the upcoming months.

June 7 - The Rev. Dale Jackson - Presbyter for Vision and Leadership

June 14 - The Rev. Dr. Aaron Stauffer - Associate Presbyter for Congregational Vitality

June 21 - Greg Mullinax – Commissioned Ruling Elder – Stated Clerk of Heartland Presbytery

June 28 – The Rev. Amgad Megally – Pastor for the Arabic Christian Fellowship of Heartland

July 5 – Music Celebration and Communion

July 12 – Rev. Jill Burris Linn – Member at Large from Olathe

July 19 – Rev. Paula Isgrig – Hospice Chaplain

July 26 – Rev. James E. Gordan

Monthly Financial Report

At the end of April 2026 our records indicate:

Total income for April is \$ 25,629.85

Total expenses for April are \$ 24,481.88

The session and finance/operations pillar thank each of you for your contributions to the church – financial or any other contribution. A complete line-by-line expense report is available upon request. We will close finances for the month of May after June 1.

PW Fellowship group - ALL Presbyterian Women are welcome to join us the First Wednesday of each Month, at 10:00am in Fellowship Hall, for Devotions, Fellowship, and Goodies. We usually meet from March-November. Sign-up Sheet in the Narthex. Paula Waters will lead the devotion on June 3rd, and Vera Beach will provide refreshments.

Presbyterian Women's Book Club plans to read ‘The Orphan Train-Where We Belong’, by Kim Vogel Sawyer. We will meet on June 17th, 2026, at 6:30pm at Paula Waters home.

All women are invited to Divine Mercy Catholic Church's Annual Ladies Community Luncheon, Saturday, June 13th, at 11:30am. Doors open at 11:00am. Located at Divine Mercy Parish's CFC Hall. Sign-up Sheet is in the Narthex.

The young adult group is headed to Philippi and Moatsville, West Virginia June 13-21. We will be serving at the World Vision site in Philippi, and the New Vision Village in Moatsville. A presentation date will be announced later.

From Mission Pillar - Heart to Heart International is a non-profit humanitarian disaster relief and health care provider that travels the world to help those in need. Since 1992, Heart to Heart has delivered medical supplies and send volunteers for domestic and international crises. Charity evaluators rate Heart to Heart very high.

Heart to Heart delivers medical supplies and hygiene kits during natural disasters. Under resourced areas receive medications to their clinics and hospitals.

For the last several years, the members of this church have gone to the Heart to Heart headquarters in Lenexa to assemble hygiene kits that are distributed to disaster victims. Last year alone, we made approximately 1500 kits in about two hours' time. We had 32 volunteers and we worked quickly as a team. This year, we will go to make kits on June 27th at 10:00am. We will need volunteers again and we are asking anyone who is interested to sign up to go. Travel to and from will be discussed closer to June 27th. Let me know if you have questions.

Lynn Moldrup

Traveling Day Camp is June 15-19 - Sign up to help with food

Camp is full again this year. If you would like to help or if you have a teenager who would be willing to help, please contact Marsha Cooper or Robin Tropansky.

Children bring their own lunches, but volunteers provide the snacks. We also provide all meals for the Heartland Staff. If you would be willing to help with food by providing breakfast, lunch, dinner, or snack, please contact Marsha, Robin, or Linda Wolf or sign up on the following link for specific food items [Travel Day Camp Food Sign Up](#)

Guest Pastor Bios



June 7 - The Reverend C. Dale Jackson

I was raised in Wichita, Kansas. After I graduated from high school, my parents and sister moved to the small town of Marion, Kansas. Later, I also moved there and lived at home while I completed my course work at a small liberal arts college. It was in Marion that, at my sister's and my urging, our family learned about Presbyterians, joined the local congregation, and I found my true spiritual home. I was active as the leader of the local youth group and well-connected with the Presbytery of Southern Kansas youth ministry, serving as a camp counselor and on the Presbytery Youth Council. As I was finishing college, I felt a call to ministry and with the encouragement of the co-pastors in Marion, I attended LPTS. I have served churches in Indiana, Illinois, and Missouri. I worked for the PCUSA national offices and for a time with the Presbyterian Association of Musicians. I have served on COM in two different Presbyteries and find the opportunity to work with congregations and pastors in times of transition to be particularly rewarding. Two weeks of Transitional Ministry training has convinced me that every congregation is in a transitional or liminal time. COVID has taught us that for the church to

be relevant we must be willing to try new approaches to worship, meeting and education. In the fall of 2012, my partner, Dennis Cobb, and I celebrated a civil union on Magic Island, Honolulu, Hawaii, which has become one of my favorite places in the world! We have family in Kansas, Texas, Kentucky, Oklahoma, and Illinois. Ask about our grandchildren and I can show you any number of pictures and videos. I love the theater, cooking, and firmly believe that chocolate makes all things better!



June 17 - The Rev. Dr. Aaron Stauffer

Aaron is an ordained Teaching Elder in the PC(USA) and was most recently the associate director of the Wendland-Cook Program in Religion and Justice at Vanderbilt Divinity School. Previously, he was the Executive Director and then Special Advisor of [Religions for Peace USA](#), where he helped launch a national anti-Islamophobia program based in the southeast, along with organizing national senior religious leaders on issues of common concern such as mass incarceration, immigration, and climate change. Before his doctoral work, Aaron was an organizer with the Industrial Areas Foundation in San Antonio, Tx.

June 24 - Greg Mullinax



I was raised in northern Wyoming and to this day, I am happiest outdoors or with my horses. I moved to Kansas City to attend a liberal arts college with full intentions of returning to Wyoming. Maybe I will retire there! But for the meantime, God has had other plans.

Raised Catholic, I had little knowledge of Presbyterians until after college. What seemed initially like a welcoming church has become my home more and more as God has led me deeper into the ‘decency and order’ that is our denomination!

I have been a Commissioned Ruling Elder pastor for nearly eight years and am now serving my first term as Stated Clerk of Heartland Presbytery. My newfound hobby is traveling our large presbytery to visit our many congregations – the diversity of which is amazing to experience!

And, I still find time for the horses. Grace and Peace! -Greg

June Ushers

Tina Fraser, Paula Waters, Devon & Judy Mason

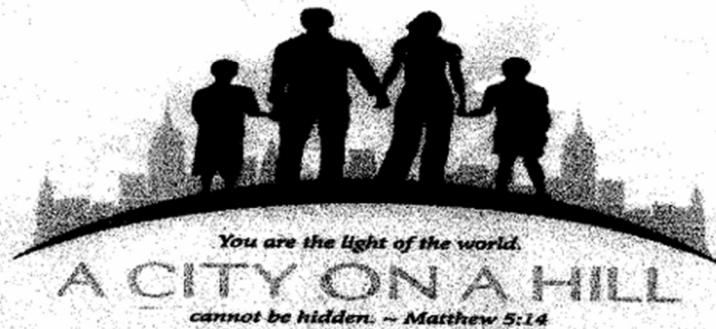
June 7 Communion Servers for 10:00 a.m. Service

Mitch McSwane, Paula Waters, Eric Gourley, Lynn Moldreup, Vera Beach, Devon Mason

June Worship Assistants

June 7 10:00am	Karl Allen
June 14	1 st Robyn Forkner/2 nd Vera Beach
June 21	1 st Carl Frahme/2 nd Dave Rollf
June 24	1 st Paula Waters/2 nd Dean Faulk

A message from Leone Knabe – ‘A City on the Hill’ poem was submitted by Leone Knabe for inspiration at this time of transition. It was written by Gay Spalding a few years ago.



Gardner, KS

***A city on a Hill as a light for all to see
A garden of the Lord full of beauty and rest to be***

***A city of twelve spiritual gates fully open wide
where his love and presence will forever abide.***

***A city where division and competition no longer reside
where every evil and dark thing has had to subside.***

***A city where oneness and unity have found their way
where every tongue, culture, and tribe are welcome to this day.***

***A city where Kingdom business, farming and prosperity never cease
where employer and employee/city and farmer have a life of peace.***

***A city of creativity and purpose beyond compare
where craftsmen, artisans, and worship musicians fill the air.***

***A City where family salvations are common every day news
where freedom brings healing for every heart wound and bruise.***

***A City where the glory of the Lord shines so bright
that testimonies of healings, signs, and wonders are heard into the
night.***

***So what is the secret of such a place?
Lord Jesus rules and reigns without an opposing case.***



Store Hours
MONDAY 10 – 7
TUESDAY 10 – 7
WEDNESDAY 10 – 4
THURSDAY 10 – 7
SATURDAY 10 - 2



2026

Thanks to all who contributed to the
 JOY Closet Scholarship Fund.

March \$1,557.41
 April \$2,723.45
 Quilt Raffle
 \$76.00

This is the fourth year that JOY Closet has awarded scholarships to GEHS graduating seniors. This year, we awarded six seniors with a \$2,000 scholarship for their first year of college or a trade program.

**Congratulations 2026 GEHS
 Joy Closet Scholarship Winners**



Meila Happines Clara Cooper Cade Alyvia
 Inglesse Auko Schneller Peyton Halton Kelly

**Congratulations
 2026 Wellsville High School
 Joy Closet Scholarship Winners**



Caleb Vicek



Jacob McConnell

This year we awarded two graduating seniors from Wellsville with \$2,000 scholarships for their first year of college or a trade program.

Congratulations to all!

Volunteer Opportunities:

Joy Closet is in need of volunteers! Come and talk to one of our managers. We need more volunteers and also special assistance in Toys and Adult Clothes. Chances are, you might see an old friend here and, just as exciting, you have the opportunity to make **new** friends!

**Speak with a manager on how to get started:
Ginger, Cindy, Cathy, Margaret, or Amanda**



**Thank you to everyone
who came out and gave their time on Gardner's City Wide
Garage Sale. Hard working volunteers working together makes
for amazing progress. We love you for caring about our mission!!
THANK YOU!!**



**Thank you to nurses and those that
comfort and help heal.
People who love others so well
deserve to be celebrated!**



**PYF followed up the next day by doing more
work including building a display area for
small art work!**

Thanks, PYF!



**WE L♥VE
OUR VOLUNTEERS**

Helping the Community Youth

JOY Closet is busy helping in many ways in our community. **Gardner Gold** creates opportunities for youth in our community with special needs and talents to participate in a variety of activities and competitions.

Another non-profit that supports special needs kids is **Superkids**. They focus on a special event: kids and their families attending a pre-season Chiefs game.

Families of special needs students often incur health and therapy that is not always covered by insurance. Seeing these families enjoy this event is a way of showing that others care for them.

Gardner Edgerton Youth Theatre Academy

JOY Closet was able to help GEYTA to purchase wireless units for their theatre program. We are proud to help these talented kids excel in the arts creating memories together.

JOY Closet loves to help youth...and their families!

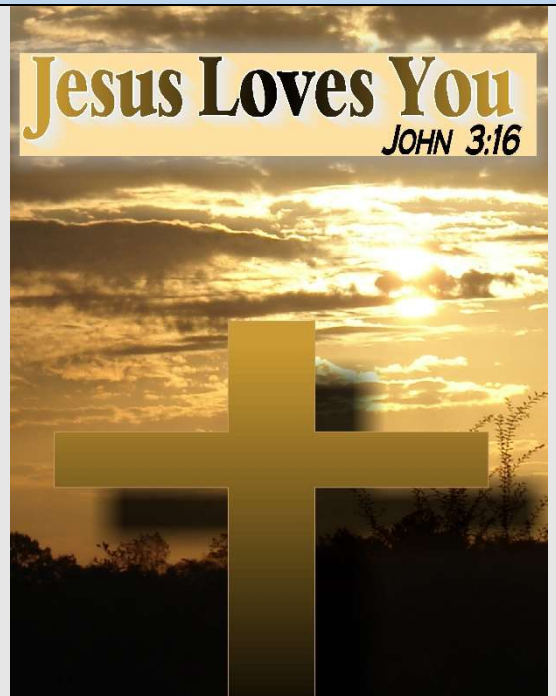
For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me.

Matthew 25:35-36 NIV

*JOY Closet Is a ministry of
First Presbyterian Church of Gardner, KS
Serving our community since 2013*

John 3:16
For GOD so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten SON, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting LIFE.

Jesus Loves You
JOHN 3:16





From random donations to organized, usable merchandise!

Visit the front of our store and appreciate the work that goes into making merchandise available for shoppers.

Vouchers available for customers in need at churches and area schools.

Paying customers make our thrift store thrive economically.

All merchandise is donated.

All volunteers donate their time.



Extra Volunteers Appreciated!!

Saturday, May 2nd, anytime in the afternoon to assist with donations!



March & April Designated Donations will go to the Joy Closet Scholarship Fund!

In May, JOY Closet will honor six high school seniors at GEHS with scholarships in the amount of \$2,000 toward the first year of college or technical school.

This year, we have expanded the program to also award two high school seniors from Wellsville.

May Designated Donations will be given to the **Starfish Project** in Olathe. They serve people in a variety of ways from basic food and clothing needs to social services. More information here: [Starfish Project](#)



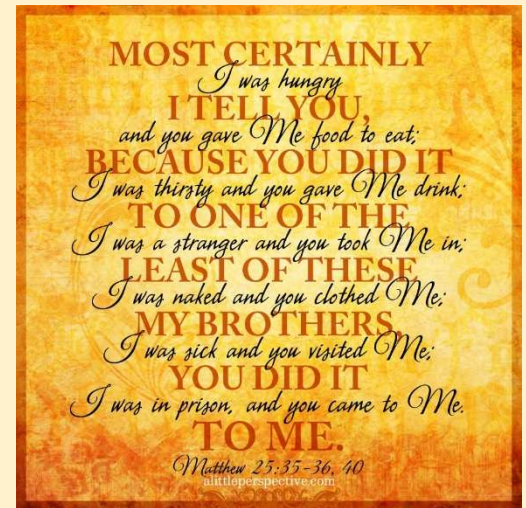
JOY Closet Board hosted our volunteers to the **annual dinner** at Warren Place on April 24th. A great meal was provided and many volunteers brought dessert to share. People were surrounded by old and new friends and an enjoyable evening was shared. Cathy Cochran highlighted the various duties of each of our managers. It takes considerable organization to accomplish what JOY Closet does on a daily, weekly, and monthly basis.

Part of Cathy's message centered on being 'called.' When we say yes to volunteering, we are helping in the ministry of serving others. There are shoppers amongst us who really cannot afford new shoes, and a voucher lets them choose what they need with dignity. Remember, you have been called.

Read the scripture on the back of the JOY Closet shirt.

For I was hungry, and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty, and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes, and you clothed me. Matthew 25:35-36.

Jesus calls us to serve. There is no job more joyful than to give of yourself and to make the life of someone else better...**to love our neighbors as ourselves.**



For I was hungry, and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty, and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes, and you clothed me.

Matthew 25:35-36 NIV



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