

Sharing Good News with the Presbytery of Northern Kansas

January 2, 2023

I write to congratulate Sunrise Presbyterian Church of Salina, Kansas for their excellent year since their previous pastor, Rev. Dr. Martha Murchison, retired on January 30, 2022. Our Session, Deacons, and full membership stepped up to not only keep the church afloat but to move it forward.

Specifically, Elder Mark Zimmerman found pulpit supply for every Sunday and welcomed each speaker with a bottle of wine and a loaf of bread.

Betty Kerr and Jean Adam from the Deacons accepted the role of caregivers for all those who were hospitalized or suffered losses during this past year. They kept us apprised of folks who needed support and found help for all those families who lost members throughout this period. They also kept up with the need for ushers and greeters. Elder Clarke Sanders made sure there was a lay leader to assist the speaker each Sunday.

Events like Castle (our summer program for grade school youth from our local school) and the Traveling Day Camp went off without a hitch due to coordination with our Nurture Committee and our partner, First Presbyterian Church. We worked with almost 100 kids during Castle and provided a camp experience for about 30. Dave and Julie Parks hosted the staff of counselors for a swim party during the week.

Our music program has continued under the leadership of Matt Schwan, Sue Will, Carolyn Hofer-Zimmerman and the choir. Matt enlisted former students to enrich our choir for the Christmas Cantata and we were very pleased with their support for our aging voices. The Zimmerman kids have given us such pleasure with solos, duets and special music.

Jane Alsop and Val Coberly led the adult Sunday School class and maintained a consistent attendance throughout the year.

Many, many members provided food for funeral luncheons, Thanksgiving Dinner and special events throughout the year. Numerous folks stepped up to serve at coffee hour. Pat Breeding has come early on Sundays to put coffee on. Katie Weis has decorated our Multi-purpose room for special events, funeral luncheons and to raise our spirits. We even hosted the Presbytery's PNK Education Day in September!

Our Nominating Committee has been able to fill our Session, Deacons, Nominating and Memorial Committees. We are grateful for those who have stepped up to serve.

We have a new group of volunteers who have volunteered to serve meals to the homeless on Fridays at noon. They plan and divide the duties and the foods among them and serve between 40 and 50 each Friday.

Kenny Hancock, Jack Gillam and Mark Zimmerman have worked tirelessly to maintain our virtual presence so members who cannot join us in person can still worship with us. Ed Viar has contacted Presbyterian Manor to re-start the bus service that had to be cancelled during the pandemic.

A group of our women led a retreat in August that was attended by many of our women and was hailed as a great success. Our PROFs (Sunrise Men's Group) and Out to Lunch Bunch and Women's Circles have also continued regular meetings and activities.

Nine of our members pitched in to move our transitional pastor into her new home in 1 hour as we welcomed the Rev. Deb Schmidt who joined us in ministry on January 1, 2023.

Thanks be to God for our church – Elder Mary Lee Arnold, Sunrise Presbyterian Church of Salina