

74th Annual Kansas FCE Conference Program

Soaring To New Heights With FCE

October 6-8, 2026

First Presbyterian Church (302 N 5th Street) Atchison, Kansas



Kansas Association For
Family & Community Education

We promised to plan a FCE conference to make memories to last a lifetime!

Conference Purpose: To promote Kansas Association for Family and Community Education (Kansas FCE) programs, broaden Kansan's perspectives, celebrate achievements, present awards, provide leadership directions, share National FCE Updates, conduct the annual Kansas FCE business, elect officers and provide opportunities to connect with other FCE members.

Conference Headquarters: **First Presbyterian Church:** (302 N 5th Street, 913-367-2072;) Just 3 blocks from the hotel. Parking available behind church. **Conference begins noon-October 7.** Main entrance off the parking lot. Elevator inside. Use QR scan code on next page for additional conference details. Wheelchair ramp available.

Conference Hotel: **Atchison Holiday Inn Express:** (401 Main Street, Direct Line: 913-674-0033) ***NEW Reserve your room on the Conference Registration form.*** **NO RESERVATION CALL REQUIRED.** Hotel will match your roommate list and special requests to create your initial registration. (*More details with your confirmation email.*) **Quicker, easy check-in:** You will receive your room key after normal check-in process. **Receive special conference rate of \$149 per room + taxes.** Rooms sleep 1 - 4. **Room rate until Sept 15.** Rate includes hot breakfast, 24 hour freshly brewed coffee, in room refrigerator, exercise room and pool. Check-in starting at 3:00 pm. Overflow rooms at the Quality Inn. You are welcome to book other hotels or book directly but **NOT** at the conference rate. Rooms are limited in the community.



Phone Numbers: Amy Masters: 785-741-2490; amymasters403@gmail.com; Kathy Tharman: Ext. Office 785-985-3623; Diane Nielson 913-488-5179; fcedestinationatchisonconference@yahoo.com; **Amberwell Hospital:** 913-367-2131.

Conference Registration & Confirmation: Complete conference registration form including payment. **Registrations postmarked by Sept. 10, receive the Early Bird Rate.** Registrations accepted until September 25. When registering close to deadline; call to confirm. If registering *after Sept. 25, call regarding possible attendance; meals may not be available.* Email confirmation sent to each registrant with conference schedule and hotel confirmation. (Refer to Conference Hotel above.)

Late Registration/Cancellation Refunds: Registrations postmarked **AFTER** September 10, 2026, will pay the Regular Rate and make own hotel reservations. There are **NO Refunds** after September 10, except for major medical emergencies or the death of an immediate family member. However, after September 10, the registration fee can be transferred to another attendee. **Conference registrations will be accepted until September 25, 2026, , but cannot be guaranteed meals and the lodging reservations are the responsibility of attendee.** **NOTE:** If a tour or a special session is cancelled, other available options can be selected, or a refund will be issued.

Meals: The Registration fee pays the meals of October 7's luncheon and banquet and of October 8's luncheon. Please specify any special dietary needs when registering.

Conference Check-In Our flight crew will be available at the hotel and the church to assist you. Pick up nametag, schedule, driving directions to Welcome Event and conference bag at the church. 8:30 am - 5:30 pm Tuesday & Wednesday; 8:30 - 11:00 am Thursday.

Conference Welcome Event, October 6: *Amelia Earhart Hangar Museum & Dessert Bar. Come and Go from 6:00 to 8:30 pm* Nationally rated museum admission (\$13). Enjoy a dessert bar even without the museum tour. Limited seating Trolley departs from hotel lobby starting from 5:30 to 6:30 pm. Return trip from museum to hotel begins at 7:00. Find driving directions to 16701 286th Rd. Atchison in the conference bag.

Display Tables: Tables **MUST** be reserved by **Sept. 25**. **Contact:** DeLores Walden, 785-379-0666; wintersdj1@cox.net

Prizes by the Yard: Each unit or County Council is asked to provide a basket or item (\$20 value) for a drawing. Attendees buy a yard of tickets for \$10 or a single ticket for a \$1. Last year over \$850 was raised to help support two \$1000 Kansas FCE Scholarships. Drawings held Thursday morning.

Peace & Patchwork In The Pews Quilt Show: Join Kansas FCE members showcasing their talents, displaying vintage FCE or family quilts in church sanctuary. **Quilt Show Labels** available at quilt check-in on Tuesday 8:30-5:30 and Wednesday morning until 11 am.

Think Big, Act Small FCE Community Service *Developing early literacy skills put preschoolers on the path to success.* **Hearth Fire Series 40:** Books, the Other Channel **Stitch Times:** **Tuesday** noon-5:00 pm; **Wednesday** 9 - 11 am; 4 - 4:30 pm. This year's conference adds a new community service project. Drop off donations of craft/school supply collections and books when you check-in. Join the effort, pick up supplies to stitch together a Christmas stocking to keep your hands busy while chatting with FCE friends. Completed packages will be shared with each area to deliver to a location of their choice. Working together, FCE members can think big about literacy. At home, each of our small contributions encourages *literacy skills development* in local communities across Kansas.



Tours, Special Interest Sessions & More: **All day Oct 6 & Morning Oct 7** Read descriptions about tours, special interest sessions, make-n-takes, scavenger hunt, shopping & more information in this newsletter.

See more details on Kansas FCE web site: kafce.org or by scanning (open the phone's camera) the QR code. This action will generate an ULR for a website. Click the wording (ULR) on your phone's screen then watch information appear. Once that website (kafce.org) is open, click on the 2026 Conference Tab. We will be sharing additional conference information using scan codes. **All tours leave from the church parking lot, please arrive 15 minutes ahead of scheduled departure time.** It is possible to register for multiple tours as schedule allows for delays of earlier tours. **All Special Interest and Make-n-Take Sessions will be held at the church.** Be sure mark your choices for tours and special sessions on the registration form. Any conference questions regarding, text/call Diane Nielson 913-488-5179.

Tour A: Historic Rail Depot & History Trolley October 6, 9:00 am (2 hours); **Fee: \$15** includes museum admission and guided trolley tour. **Stop 1:** Atchison, Topeka & Santa Railroad Freight Depot, Home of **Atchison County Historical Society Museum**. **Stop 2:** Ride narrated tour of historic sites on the **Atchison History Trolley Tour**

Tour B: International Forest of Friendship & Historic Mt. Vernon Cemetery October 6, 11:00 am (2.5 hours); **Fee: \$15** includes an outdoor box lunch Dress casually and wear comfortable walking shoes **Stop 1 International Forest of Friendship** See trees from around the world and a salute to aviators. **Stop 2 Historic Mt. Vernon Cemetery** Impressive monuments and history.

Homes Tours **Select one of the choices below.** *Tours offer video viewing for those unable to navigate stairs.* The fee for each tour includes admission and guides. For added fun, make reservations for an optional afternoon tea. Text Diane 913-488-5179 for details by September 15.

Tour C: Amelia Earhart Birthplace Museum & Muchnic Art Gallery October 6, 2:00 pm (2 hours) **Fee: \$18**

Tour D: Evah Cray Historical Home Museum & Muchnic Art Gallery October 6, 3:00 pm (2 hours) **Fee: \$18**

Tour E: All 3 homes October 6, 2:00 pm (3 hours) Tour all 3 homes for a savings. **Fee: \$30.**

Tour F: Benedictine College Library & St. Benedict's Abbey October 7, 9:00 am (2 hours) **Fee: \$5. Stop 1 Benedictine College Library.** New library with replica of the Independence Hall Assembly Room and interactive

Humanities Kansas display of *Declaration 1776: The Big Bang of Modern Democracy*. **Stop 2 St. Benedict's Abbey** art work & Frank Lloyd Wright inspired St. Benedict's Abbey Church including frescoes by artist Jean Charlot.

Tour H6 & H7: Exclusive FCE Haunted Trolley Some say Atchison is the most haunted town in Kansas. October 6 or 7 at 9:00 pm (1 hour) **Fee: \$15.00.** Departure time from the hotel lobby may be adjusted due to prior FCE events being extended. Limited seating.

Special Sessions: Pull up a chair, listen & learn. Demonstrations, discussions and doing can describe the topics of the day. Refer to the Conference Registration form to reserve your seat. But don't worry, last minute sign-up at Conference Registration Desk check-in can be made.

#1: What I Wish I Had Known About Junk Journaling

October 6, 11 am; **Fee: \$3** Junk journaling is more than just crafting—it's a way to preserve memories, express creativity, help reduce stress and transform ordinary scraps into something extraordinary. The term "junk" can be misleading—it's not about trash, but about giving overlooked materials a second life. This session will provide practical advice.

#2: What I Wish I Had Known About Junk Journaling (Repeat) October 6, 1:00 pm **Fee: \$3**

#3: Rustic Fall Centerpiece – Make-N-Take October 6, 2:00 pm **Fee: \$10** Pumpkins are not just for Halloween. Show off your love of fall by crafting rustic pumpkins and adding a scarecrow to create a centerpiece to enjoy.

#4: Getting To Know Amelia October 6, 1:00 pm **Fee: \$3** We know Amelia Earhart was born in Atchison. It where she spent her early childhood years. Earhart is known around the world for her aviation achievements. But her story is much larger than her fame and tragic last flight, come meet Amelia.

#5: It's OK To Love All Bees - Including Honey Bees October 6, 3:00 pm **Fee: \$3** North America's bee populations are in trouble, but don't blame the honey bees. Bees help farmers grow the foods people love to eat, everything from apples to zucchini. Learn the tricks that are sweeter than honey about beekeeping in this session.

#6: It's OK To Love All Bees - Including Honey Bees (Repeat) Oct 6, 4:00 pm **Fee: \$3**

#7: Barn Quilts October 7, 9:00 am **Fee: \$5** includes handouts. Join Virginia Foley and Carol Lintner as they share the history of Barn Quilts. They have taught dozens of Barn Quilt classes and will demonstrate the step by step process of making a Barn Quilt.

While this class does not allow enough time to make your own quilt, you will leave feeling comfortable starting your quilt!

#8: FCE Officer Round Table October 7, 10:00 am **Free with snacks.** Stop by to say hello and get to know your officer team. Have a question about the Annual Business Meeting, elections, Bylaws, budget or other items on the agenda; let us chat. Think you might want to volunteer, to write an FCE lesson or to share a lesson topic idea, we will be here to listen. Considering taking your FCE leadership skills to next level; your FCE officers will answer your questions.

#9: Personalized Kitchen Towels Make-N-Take Oct 7, 10:00 am **Fee: \$10** for 2 towels. Additional towels may be available for purchase. Members of Harmony FCE are excited to offer a creative craft at this year's Annual Conference! Attendees will enjoy a fun stamp and stenciling activity, where you can personalize your own kitchen flour sack towel using inks and fabric paint. This hands-on project is a great way to express your creativity, and take home something useful and uniquely yours.

#10: Exploring War and Peace: A Look Behind the Scenes October 7, 10:00 am **Fee: \$3** Join retired Army Colonel Russell H. Thaden. He is a former military intelligence officer who served in five wars. During four of those wars, he was chief deputy or assistant deputy of intelligence. Russell will speak on the issues of war and peace in U.S history.

Self-Guided Options (More details at check-in)

#11: Tour Atchison FCE Scavenger Hunt

#12: Shopping. Riverfront. Cultural Center. Tea Time. Check your conference bag for more ideas

Check out the Conference Schedule Highlights. A complete schedule will be sent with the registration confirmation.

Tuesday, October 6

First Presbyterian Church: 8:30 am - 5:30 pm

Registration/Information Booth: 8:30 am - 5:30 pm

Educational Displays/Quilt check-in: 8:30 am - 4:30 pm

Prizes By The Yard check-in: 8:30 am - 4:30 pm

Tours departures from church parking lot.

Special Interest Sessions & Make-n-Takes.

Prizes By Yard /Quilt Raffle Sales: 12:00 - 5:00 pm

Conference Photo Booth 12:00 - 5:00 pm

On Your Own Options: Visit the Cultural Center. Shopping. Scavenger hunt & more. Mount St. Scholastica Monastery's Chapels house of exquisite blue stained-glass windows. **By Sept. 15, request details or reserve self-tour; Or an afternoon tea lunch. Text/call Diane, 913-488-5179.**

Lunch and Evening Meals On Your Own

Soaring To New Heights With FCE Welcoming Event at the Amelia Earhart Hangar Museum, 6:00 - 8:30 pm. Come-n-Go Dessert Bar and Museum. . Limited seating
Trolley departs from hotel lobby

Haunted Trolley Ride (H6) depart 9:00 pm, Hotel lobby. *Limited Seating. Must purchase a ticket.*

Smores with FCE Friends Hotel, 9 - 10 pm *Free.*

Wednesday, October 7

Inspiration From Amelia: 8:27 - 9 am (Optional).

First Presbyterian Church: 8:30 am - 5:30 pm

Registration/Information Booth: 8:30 am - 5:30 pm

Think Big, Act Small Community Service Supplies

Check-in & Stocking Stitching: 9:00 - 11:00 am

Group: 4:00 - 5:00 pm

FCE Displays Set Up: 9:00 - 10:00 am

FCE Officer Round Table: Q & A, 10:00 am

Tours departures from church parking lot.

Special Interest Sessions & Make-n-Takes.

Peace & Patchwork In The Pews Quilt Show 10:00 am – close, Church Sanctuary, (Accept quilts until 11 am).

FCE Conference Begins at Noon

Soup & Salad Luncheon

“Learning To Soar By Failing Forward” LaRochelle Young, Keynote Speaker & Atchison Mayor

Annual Business Meeting: 2:00 - 4:00 pm

Think Big Act Small Community Service Project: 4:00 pm
Decorating With Presley Pierce: 4:30 pm

Banquet & Awards: 6:20 pm, (PowerPoint of FCE Members/Awardees)

Musical Entertainment

Haunted Trolley Ride (H7): depart 9:00 pm, Hotel lobby. *Limited Seating. Must purchase a ticket*

Smores with FCE Friends Hotel: 9 - 10 pm *Free*

Thursday, October 8

Inspiration From Amelia: 8:27 – 9:00 am (Optional).

First Presbyterian Church: 8:30 am - 4:30 pm

Registration/Information Booth: 8:30 – 11:00 am

Prizes by Yard Bidding: 8:30-10 am

FCE Workshops-Classrooms:

Choice 1: 9 - 9:50 am;

Choice 2: 10:10 - 11:00 am

Celebrating 90 Years of FCE: Let's Party

Installation of New Officers & Recognition of Outgoing Officers: 11:30 am

Birthday Party Luncheon (Seating by birth month listed on registration.) *Look At What We Have Done: 90 Years of FCE -From Glenwood Canning Club to 2026 FCE PowerPoint (Created from pictures shared by members from Today and Yesterday.)*

Prizes by Yard Winners Announced

Tumbleweeds, Talent & FCE in Kansas Communities Ron Wilson, Humanities Kansas Keynote Speaker

Homeward Flight Soaring Across Kansas