



Sharing the good news of our congregation & community

Office hours: Monday-Thursday 8am-12pm & 1pm-5pm Friday 8am-12p m

June 2020



<u> Think on These Things – June 2020</u>

During times of change, I come back to a few fundamental questions: What am I learning?" Are there new concepts, people, or experiences that I can take with me as I move forward in order to grow? What grabbed my attention during the pandemic? What has been most impactful? Reflection and prayer are Christian practices that help me learn.

A few weeks ago, I served at the Food Pantry in the Leavenworth Community Mission on Spruce Street. They have a food pantry on Tuesday. I have driven past the Mission and Community Store every day in coming to the church but hadn't stopped to check it out. It's funny how our habits lead us to drive right past people and places on our way to somewhere else. I scouted out the Mission because we are looking for local ministry partners to serve with during the pandemic. I was not prepared for what I found.

From the Mission to Tenth St. traffic light to the east, up the hill and around several blocks, cars were lined up to get food. There had to be at least 70 cars waiting to pick up a shopping cart of groceries when the Mission opened up at 11am. When I parked my car and wandered over to the distribution spot, I introduced myself to Iris Arnold (pictured in center of photo below). She is the co-founder and director along with her husband, David. They began ten years ago. As members of the Shiloh Seventh Day Adventist Church, it is their vision to care for the community. The coronavirus has created even greater need in Leavenworth County. (continued on page 2)









I started helping out with unloading full grocery shopping carts. David Arnold was right there in the mix leading the loading process. Iris was directing all of the volunteers and trouble-shooting problems. We worked for over two straight hours putting groceries in every car imaginable and helping families of every kind. For me, it is a Wesleyan action of Practical Divinity by serving those in need and feeding the hungry. I was tired at the end of the shift. My arms and back were in need of rest and a couple of Advil, yet, my heart was full and my soul was lifted. I returned the next time and will continue to do so in the future. Serving at the Leavenworth Food Pantry will become part of my Christian discipleship habits. Works of mercy are ways to grow in grace. I am part of the greater Church of Jesus. The last time I worked six different churches were represented by workers serving in the name of Christ.

If it weren't for the COVID 19 crisis, I would have driven past the Food Pantry and Community Store every day without blinking an eye. I wouldn't have met new people who are showing me new ways of serving Jesus. I would be ignoring the Kingdom of God happening right in front of me. One of the blessings of slowing down while moving forward is stopping along the way and connecting with my community.

Pastor Dave



Here's a Big Shout Out to all those Stitchers that have been diligently sewing every day and all night to make face masks and other items in this historical year! Since the "stay at home orders", they have made over 525 face masks for church members, friends of church members, soldiers, rest home residents and workers! They have also completed 25 flannel blankets for Children's Mercy Hospital, 13 pillow cases, 10 adult bibs, 9 eye glass cases, 4 table top decorations, 11 throw size blankets, 50 Beads of Courage bags, and 23 walker bags.... and 2020 is not half over yet!

Our stitching ladies are just plain AWESOME! This is Itch'n to Stitch's outreach mission – these ladies do not sew for recognition, sewing is in their blood and is their mission.

> Join us Sundays for worship at 10:00am on our webpage <u>fumclvks.org</u> or our Facebook page: <u>https://www.facebook.com/LeavenworthFirstUMC/</u>

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1st	Walter Sepulvado	Nicole Expose			
4th	Norma Moore		London Urquilla-Bowser		
5th	Debbie Gebhardt	18th	Wilda Wicke		
6th	Shirley Cowan		Libby Frashier		
	Brenda Sheumaker		Alyssa Wiegers		
7th	Hank Keller		Kelsi Ko		
	Dale Roller	19th	Carolann Perry		
8th	June Baker	20th	Bill Bay		
	Shirley Nyhart		Gayle Moore		
	Steve Simms Happy	.	Gene Pepper		
9th	Steven Glick Birthday	21st	Peter Bakke		
	Jim Kinard	22nd	Carla Hamon		
	Makenzie Shepard	23rd	Sheila Bailey Diek Llangen		
10th	Karyn Dawson		Rick Hansen Madison Martin		
11th	Virginia Perry	24th	Erika Tebbetts		
12th	Sophie McNeill	2401	Tim Yenney		
	Zack Short	25th	Anya Anderson		
13th	Bethany Bond	2011	Jonas Anderson		
	Marguerite Hilscher	26th	Divya Hopkins		
	Mirinda Lowery	_0	Teresa Lewis		
14th	Jeff John	28th	Megan Briggs		
15th	Patty Edington		Robyn Kellogg		
	Scott Glick	29th	Frances Marshall		
	Sue Peckham	30th	Wilvina Aardema		
	Keith Richardson		Donna Ramsey		
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Did we miss **your** birthday or anniversary? Did we get it wrong? Please call the office to confirm that we have your correct information in our computer! We can't include it if we don't know it. (913) 682-5374

The Ilbila



Join us in celebrating the following anniversaries: June 3-Norm & Nancy Dawson-64 years June 6–Colvín & Karen Hooser–33 years June 6–Bob & Línda Landzettel–38 years June 8—Bob & Shírley Cowan—73 years June 8—Mary & Bob Seymour—51 years June 9-Chris Eckley & Christine Owens-2 years June 9–Mark & Somer Suhlsatz–19 years June 10—Arlen & Michelle Briggs—31 years June 14-Roy & Sandy Davis-50 years June 14–Dan & Sonía Wíley–34 years June 17—Aaron & Chris Wecas—25 years June 20—Steve & Brenda Coats—33 years June 20—Chet & Stacey Cole—22 years June 25–Gene & Sandy Pepper–37 years June 26–Jím & Kakí Kínard–49 years June 29—Bob & Joan Atwell—68 years



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	Heart & Soul meets at 1pm	4	5	6 Samaritans Buffet 11:am CURBSIDE FICK-UP ONLY
7 Join us 10:00am Online Worship	8	9	10 Heart & Soul 1pm	11	12	13
14 Join us 10:00am Online Worship	15 NEW Office Hours begin today 10am -2pm	16	17 Heart & Soul 1pm	18	19	20
21 21 21 21 21 21 21 21 21 21	22 1:00pm AIR Ministries Resumes	23	24 Heart & Soul 1pm	25	26	27 Ewert Wedding
28 Join us for worship 8:15 am 9:45 am 11:15 am All worship services are available online	29 1:00pm AIR Ministries	30			endar is subject to c check our onlin r at <u>www.fumclvks.o</u> up-to-date info	ne <u>rg/calendar</u> for



We hope you'll join Pastor Dave for a summer worship series on prayer. During the uncertain days of this time, more people are turning back to God for comfort, courage and hope. One day when Jesus was with his followers, one of his disciples said to him, "Lord, teach us to pray." Jesus' words are now called the Lord's Prayer and it will be our framework for learning how to pray.



- *June* 7 Why Pray: "Lord, teach us to pray"
- June 14 Adoration in Prayer: "Our Father in Heaven, Holy is your Name"
- June 21 Unanswered Prayers: "Even If He Does Not"
- June 28 Prayer: Glorious Partnership with God
- July 5 Prayers of Praise and Thanksgiving
- July 12 How Do I Pray for Others?: "Your Kingdom Come"
- July 19 Praying With Our Eyes Open: "On Earth as it is in Heaven"
- July 26 Fighting Back the Darkness: "Deliver us from Evil"
- August 2 Is it ok to Pray for Myself?: "Give us this day our daily bread"

In mid-August and September, Pastor Dave will begin preaching on forgiveness as a separate sermon series. "Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us." Whether we are worshipping online or have the chance to come together, prayer holds us in relationship with the Lord. Jesus prayed consistently to the Father so should we!

Dave highly recommends Pete' Grieg's The Prayer Course at <u>https://prayercourse.org/</u> This self-guided course will generally mirror our study. 24/7 prayer is a terrific resource.









I have 4 children. I always felt that my husband and I were the primary spiritual leaders of our children, and yet sometimes I struggled in that role. Family devotion time was often, "when I get around to it". If you find yourself in a similar situation, I am giving you a "round tuit" (you can even cut it out if needed) because it is especially important during this time to be the spiritual leader of your children. If you missed any of the Heroes of Faith lessons, you can find them on YouTube under First United Methodist church Leavenworth.

On May 29, I will be delivering a new 6 week study pack on Pentecost and the early church entitled "Act(ion)s of the Apostles". This will include a graphic novel for each Bible lesson, worksheets for various ages, videos and crafts. I will continue to send a weekly video lesson. Each lesson will also include a link to a website for more in depth family devotions. I hope that you will watch the videos together and then discuss them with your kids. The early church faced many trials and persecution. Yet this difficult time increased their faith and the gospel spread throughout the world as the early Christians fled Jerusalem because of persecution.

Even though the church is planning on reopening on June 21, children's ministry will open more gradually. It is very difficult to maintain social distancing with children. There will not be any children's Sunday school or Nursery until after Labor day. Kid's First Worship *may* resume on July 12, but that is dependent upon local regulations. After much prayer and soul searching, I am going to follow the guidelines set by the Methodist Great Plains conference and cancel our vacation Bible school this summer. This was a difficult decision, but the health and welfare of our children, visiting children and volunteers can not be compromised.

I continue to try to plan for children's ministry in the fall. I am excited about a new program that we are hoping to start in cooperation with the Salvation Army. On Thursday nights from 6-8 pm, we hope start an AWANA program. AWANA is a standardized Bible teaching and memorization program. We will start with a Kindergarten through sixth grade program. AWANA is used by 100 denominations in all 50 states. Because it is a standardized program, kids move frequently can pick up where they left off. It has reward systems to help motivate children and it has unique games and activities.

What does a night at AWANA look like?

Each week there is a theme such as crazy hat night or s'mores night. Large group time has a Bible lesson, worship and award recognitions. Activity time is for AWANA games or crafts to reinforce the lesson. Small group time is individual interaction and scripture memorization.

We are looking for adults that love Jesus and kids. Some volunteer position only require half an hour of your time. Contact Sandy Wood if you are interested in helping.

Please pray for this ministry as we prepare. We hope to start Sept 10, if COVID19 restrictions are eased.



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Young People's Ministry

What a time to be alive, huh? At the end of a very tumultuous 2019, I declared that 2020 would be my year. Never doing that again. Yikes. I hope you all are hanging in there, physically, emotionally, financially, spiritually... I know I'm trying. Anyway, I wanted to let you all know what I've been up to in the world of youth and young adults over in my little home basement office. Despite the fact that I've been hiding out from a pandemic, there's actually quite a bit going on.

Young Adults

We have some new updates in the world of Young Adults!

Fresh Expressions: Many of you may have heard about the coffee shop that we are putting together inside the small chapel in the Education Building. That's still happening! My plan is to start hosting a fresh expressions worship experience in that room beginning in August, pandemic-permitting. I need some people who are willing to help me get started by committing to attend for a specific period of time (young adult or not!). This way, we ensure that anyone new who comes to the ministry will be surrounded by people who are already engaged in the ministry. If you are interested in being one of those people, please contact me (khowell@fumclvks.org)!



Another kind of Fresh Expressions: Something that the pandemic has done for us is to show us that church does not just have to happen once a week in a church building in our favorite pew. Church is everywhere that Christians gather together. As we reconvene in person, we also want to provide you with another opportunity to experience church. For a variety of reasons – a desire for something new, for safety reasons, or just because it sounds like fun – you may be interested in our Fresh Expression House Church Model. This will be launching at the same time as we reopen our church building for Sunday morning worship. These groups will be 10 or fewer people who meet together in a home or at the church to watch the worship service online. They can either while the service is live, or they can view the recorded service asynchronously. These groups will be provided with discussion questions that pertain to that week's worship service so that they can participate in worship by sharing thoughts and experiences. These groups will be intergenerational and will seek to develop relationships within the congregation, as well as to help us spread out members of the congregation so that we are not all meeting at once in the church building. Although these groups are partially a response to the pandemic, I am part of a similar group on Wednesday nights and it is one of my very favorite ways to do church. The people in my Fresh Expressions ministry have become family. If you want to participate, please fill out this survey so we can get you placed with a group!



Facebook: I've created a new Young Adults Facebook page for details on all of our happenings in one place. This group is a meeting place for young adults ages 18-35 at our church and in the surrounding community. The purpose of this group is to have a place to chat and make friends, post local events and opportunities, and to provide information on young adult events and groups connected with the church. If you are a young person, please consider joining our group.

It, in addition to the FUMCL website will be *the* place to find social, service and study opportunities.

Visit it here: facebook.com/groups/fumclyoungadults.



Young People's Ministries—continued

<u>Young Adults Email</u>: In addition to Facebook, I am putting together a young adults email with up-todate information on events and opportunities for young people in our church and in our community. If you are interested in being included on this email, please let me know at <u>khowell@fumclvks.org</u>!



<u>Adopt a Grandparent/Grandchild</u>: Do you live far from home for school, work or the military? Missing your parents, grandparents, kids or grandkids? The idea for this program was born out of the need of our community for connections. In Leavenworth/Lansing, we have many opportunities for people to move to town and pursue education, a career, or any other number of things which may take them away from their family of origin. Especially with the military moving people in and out, people may find themselves across the country from their biological family. That's where an adopted family member (or two or three!) come in. We thought it would be a great idea to offer a way for people to make connections and lifelong

friends through an adopt a grandparent/grandchild program. We will match anyone who's interested up with someone of a different generation to create intentional relationships. Once you're connected, you can attend sports activities, learn a hobby, play a game or just hang out and talk – whatever floats your boat.

One of the best attributes of the church is that it is one of the few remaining places in society where all generations naturally gather together. We want to use it as an opportunity to pair you with someone from a different generation. Click <u>here</u> to for more information and for the opportunity to sign up!

Youth

<u>Mission Trip</u>: First of all, we are working to figure out what youth group will look like going forward. We know very little about what this disease will do to our existing systems except that nothing will really be the same. That can be said of our youth program, as well. Our mission trip has already been cancelled for the summer so we are looking for other opportunities that we can do in its place here at home. This will mean some sort of daytime activities that follow the government guidelines for social distancing. I'm not really sure what this will look like and we will have more details as we get closer. It will also be very dependent on what the disease is doing as we near July.





<u>Youth Group</u>: Additionally, not much has changed going forward for youth group at this time because we don't normally meet on Sunday evenings over the summer anyway. We do plan to meet again in the fall, but keep an eye out because things may look very different; this may mean bring your own meal or skipping dinner altogether, it may mean meeting in smaller groups, it may mean any number of things. We will have details for you on this, as well, as we near the school year. We do have every intention of being back in session, though!







<u>Sunday School and other gatherings</u>: Right now, youth Sunday school is on a hiatus. However, I plan to restart that digitally in the next couple of weeks. Please contact me if your youth would like to join us! I'd like to involve them in the details of determining when we will meet and what we will study! We normally have a monthly gettogether for youth throughout the summer. For right now, those will be hosted digitally on Zoom and may move to in-person as things begin to open back up. We had our first of these last Friday and plan to coordinate with the kids to determine what day of the week works best for them to plan our June meeting.

<u>Confirmation:</u> I've spent a lot of my time putting together confirmation curriculum for this summer. We will plan to meet beginning June 7 from 4:30-6 pm through the first week of August, either digitally or in person—whatever is considered safe at the time. As confirmation tends to be a smaller group, it should be pretty easy to social distance, so the plan at this time is to meet in person. We still have room for your youth! Call the office or let me know if they are interested!

Kristen Howell, Director of Young People's Ministries





Howdy all,

It's been a busy time for virtual ministries here at FUMCL. Our plans for this year already included upgrades to our IT infrastructure and the past few weeks were a great time to get them in. I've managed to get us up to ~99% WiFi coverage in the main building for modern devices. (If you got yours in or before 2006 it might be time for an upgrade.)

As you might have noticed, we've added a couple more cameras to the sanctuary for the service. They are working well, and are a great help to me so I can set angles ahead of time. I'm looking forward to being able to use the new choir angle, it's pretty sweet.

And as always, don't hesitate to request technical assistance. I have a relatively wide range of success stories, from hunting down the setting to re-enable a webcam to troubleshooting a variety of wireless printers. I also had a great time helping put together Lansing HS's virtual baccalaureate. You can reach me by email at: <u>sshade@fumclvks.org</u>





.Dear FUMCL Family and Friends,

With considerations to the state/local government and our Bishop's recommendations, <u>WE PLAN</u> <u>TO REOPEN FOR WORSHIP ON SUNDAY, JUNE 21</u>. Our Church Council and Staff conversations have been helpful and positive. I'm cautiously hopeful! First of all, WE LOVE YOU AND WANT WHAT IS BEST FOR YOU AND OTHERS! WE TRUST YOU TO MAKE WISE DECISIONS! If you are highly vulnerable or feel at risk, then staying home is the best way to not get sick. Second, if you really enjoy the online service, - great! It leaves more room for others in the sanctuary. You have our permission!! Hosting a watch party with your Sunday school class or small group is a way to worship together. We are limited to 90 people per service (KS state regulations).

If you attend physical worship services, here are some precautions you will see:

Our worship start times will shift to:

<u>8:15 am</u> <u>9:45 am</u> <u>11:15 am</u>

The extra time allows for sanitizing and disinfecting properly. Wiping down of door handles, pews, hand rails, etc. will be done before and after worship services. We are doing this and have been previous to now. This is not new for us.

- Our ushers will control traffic flow to/from our seats. It's important to use all of the seating to keep social distancing.
- We will change how we receive offering, serving communion, etc. Hugs and hand shaking are discouraged for obvious reasons.
- We suggest you pull up the scripture on your phone or bring your own Bible from home. Hymnals can be accessed online through Google or

Biblegateway.com – good site for scripture verses.

Hymnsite.com – good site for hymn lyrics.

• We will offer no children's ministry or nursery until further notice. Kids are always welcome with families in worship.

Here are general building practices we want everyone to practice:

- Hand sanitizer is always available. Use it consistently upon entering/leaving.
- Mask wearing is strongly recommended. We will have masks available on site.
- Office hours will be from 10am-2pm M-F. If you need access to the building, please come during this timeframe. Contact the office through phone or email during the day beyond these hours.

We'll move forward with common sense and courage knowing risk is part of life. Please make wise decisions for your health and wellness.

Blessed to be a blessing, Pastor Dave



RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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We're on the web! fumclvks.org

www.facebook.com/LeavenworthFirstUMC (worship services livestream every Sunday on either site)



Church member, Karyn Dawson, BSN, RN was recently awarded the VA Secretary's Award For Excellence In Nursing.
It is a Regional Lifetime Achievement Award. Congratulations! Karyn is the Daughter-in-Law of Gary and Carol Russell.



A memorial service for Gerald R. "Jerry" McCluskey will be held on June 5th at 2:30pm with a reception to be held following the services — BOTH events will take place at June's Northland (614 Pottawatomie). Friends and family are invited to both events.

= OUR MISSION=

"We are a Church of the Ages, Serving the Present Age by making Disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of our community and world"

= OUR VISION =

Transform lives through sharing Christ's love and being a thriving, spirit-filled church

=CONGREGATIONAL VALUES=

Primacy of Scripture, Devotion to Divine Trinity, Wesleyan Heritage, and Hospitality for All.