



First United Methodist Church
of
Leavenworth
422 Chestnut St. • Leavenworth, KS 66048

The Jubilate



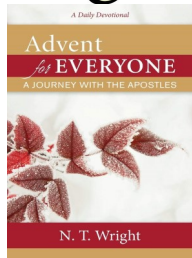
Sharing the good news of our congregation & community

Office hours: Monday-Thursday 9am-12pm & 1pm-3pm Friday 9am-12p m

December 2020



THINK ON THESE THINGS – DECEMBER 2020



I'm really looking forward to 2021. We want to grow next year – more deeply in our relationship with God and others. We want to grow in maturity. We want to grow in numbers of those coming to know God's grace through Jesus Christ. One of our focused goals for 2021 is the primacy of Scripture. According to the Willow Creek research project called Reveal, nothing helps makes disciples more than reading the Bible and studying it intentionally. Spiritual growth was defined as “an increasing love of God and others.” In 2021, we'll focus on Scripture as a Church. Starting in Advent, I am encouraging each person to read *Advent for Everyone: A Journey with the Apostles* by NT Wright. It's a daily devotional leading to Christmas.

In 2021, I'll challenge the congregation to read through the entire Bible in a year. Many Christians have not read the entire Bible, only focusing on what is preached on Sunday or favorite passages. With the various genres, styles and stories, reading all the Bible will be a trial for some, comforting for others. My hope is that we will see the Scriptures as God's story with the people of God, climaxing with the incarnation of Jesus. Keep in mind that 2/3 of God's story is the Old Testament. Many plans exist to help us stay in track. My favorite is the Navigators Discipleship Plan: <https://www.navigators.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/04/Discipleship-Journal-Bible-Reading-Plan-9781617479083.pdf>. Many people use technology and smart phones to have reading dropped in their mail box daily. Read Scripture is an app that is useful for daily reading.

During Lent, we'll join thousands of churches in the KC area, Hong Kong and Accra, Ghana in studying the Gospel of Mark. Our goal is to have 300 churches join the process. Church of the Resurrection is just one of the UMCs on board already. We'll have chance to have watch parties and daily readings that will pull us together as the Church around the world – focused on the Word! Finally, my hope is that God's word will revive us as a congregation and followers of Jesus. During the summer, I plan to teach on the Minor Prophets. These men spoke for God and have much to say to us during this season of our lives. The Prophets are usually neglected by church members so they deserve our attention.

Is there any better growth plan for 2021 than to dive deeply into the Bible? For those of you familiar with the Scripture, it will refresh and renew your faith like visiting with an old friend. You'll read with new experiences and wisdom gained from your own years. If you are new, think of what you will learn as you experience the Lord through the words and stories of Scripture! 2021 could be your best year yet!

Pastor Dave



Well, it's happened again; at the suggestion of our bishop, we've locked down in-person church services and activities until the end of December. We're embark on an Advent Season in the life of the Church that was going to be odd, at best, but which will now be downright strange. I'm not surprised it happened and I know it's for the best, but I must admit that I've mourned this shut down perhaps even a little more than the initial one. Our youth and young adults have been a little slice of normal in this year. It has been such a gift to get to spend time with each youth and young adult that has attended our in-person gatherings.

The good news is that if we're going to have an international health crisis, this is the best time of any for staying connected. In 1918, the last time we had one of these situations, there were no cell phones, internet, video calls or online church. We may have to be physically separate, but we won't be apart. This past weekend was our first digital youth group and it went well. We had the opportunity to check in, see each and every one of the kids' wonderful faces (well, at least the ones who turned their cameras on) and also basically every single dog that was in any of the households. We played digital games and had a productive lesson where we talked about healthy conflict resolution (an appropriate discussion for a year that has both an election and everyone forced into close quarters with family). We will do the same with our young adults' book study next week.

I'm sad and I'm going to be sad because I'll miss getting to see my people in-person. Maybe you're sad, too. But I'm reminded that we follow a God of abundance and creativity. We live in a wonderful time where we are able to see one another. We know that although it so special to get to meet together in a building and be with people we love, the Church exists outside the building, too. In the meantime, we'll look for creative ways to connect with each other and to support those in our communities who most need to experience God's love and someday soon, we'll be able to get together again, filled with the stories of the way God was faithful, even during this difficult time. If there is anything I can do to support or serve you during this time of shutdown, please don't hesitate to reach out. I'm so grateful for each of you and for being a part of this church family.

Kristen

DECEMBER

Birthdays



Wish These Friends a
"Happy Birthday!"

1st	Karah Bryant
	Lindsay McKinley
7th	Marti Crow
	Forrest Holdeman
8th	Thomas Lauber
11th	Bob Atwell
	Doug Hall
	Greg Nakata
12th	Samantha Martin
13th	Clay Holyfield
14th	Gary Rader
17th	Benjamin Coats
18th	Jonathan Coats
	Eleanor Embree
19th	Stacey Cole

20th	Rita Wood
21st	Karen Hooser
	Austin Wiley
22nd	Bob Seymour
	Steven Wiegars
	Jim Yates
23rd	Elliana McNeill
24th	Carol Russell
25th	Aurora Gray
	Lorene Richardson
	Aniston Rolf
27th	Merry Weeks
29th	Nina McNiell
31st	Mark Bercume
	Tylor McNeill

DECEMBER

Anniversaries



7th	Lynn & Joyce Goss	24yr	27th	Rick & Robin Sanders	33yr
	Ralph & Norma Moore	57yr	28th	Clay & Alisha Holyfield	24yr
14th	Rodney & Adriana Yates	18yr	30th	Jim & Debbie Gebhardt	50yr
16th	Keith & Lorene Richardson	54yr		Cape & Laurie Rust	26yr
21st	Mike & Martha Nielsen	35yr		Jim & Judy Wolfe	40yr











This calendar is subject to change—please check our online calendar at www.fumclvks.org/calendar for up-to-date info

Join us for

SUNDAY SERVICES:

At 10:00am online at www.fumclvks.org

		1 10am Women's Advent Study	2 1pm Heart & Soul Bible Study 6:30p Choir	3 8:30a Staff Devotions and Planning mtg. 6:30p Women's Advent Study	4	5  6p Youth D&D
6 	7	8 10am Women's Advent Study  11a Blood Drive	9 1pm Heart & Soul Bible Study 6:30p Choir	10 8:30a Staff Devotions and Planning mtg. 6:30p Women's Advent Study	11	12
13 	14 6:30p Young Adult Group	15 2p Grief Group	16	17 8:30a Staff Devotions and Planning mtg. 6:30p Women's Advent Study	18	19
20 	21	22	23	24  Christmas Eve SERVICE 5pm & 7pm online	25  Christmas Day Offices Closed	26 11am Samaritans' Buffet
27 	28	29	30	31 New Years Eve Offices Closed  Thanks for a GREAT YEAR!		



Thank you all.

I know people feel isolated by the physical distancing and lack of fellowship associated with the reinstated restrictive environment. As the body of Christ we have to engage in new and innovated ways to stay connected. The online Sunday Service is a true blessing. I know that we have a lot of multi-generational families in the church. I encourage families and/or friends, who feel safe and comfortable with each other, to come together on Sundays at one home to watch, worship and fellowship right along with us. Please feel free to send videos or photographs of your watch parties and praise gatherings.

Thank you to everyone who have sent in pictures and videos; please keep them coming. We are continuing to build The Daily Touch library with our congregants and our mission partners. The Daily Touch is a series of informative testimonial and praise videos focusing on how we are bringing the Kingdom of God to our families, church and local community



I know we have members of our church and the community that may not have the technology resources needed to receive our on-line message. If you know of someone in this category, please contact me.

Pastor Dave's End of the Year letters are a great foundation for what we collectively accomplished in 2020, and reinforce where we are going in 2021. Kingdom building is the theme – a demonstration of His rule and authority in every aspect of our lives. COVID is a challenge, but also an opportunity for us to redefine how we will initiate, nurture and expand our community to help spread His Good News. As we travel this path together, I appreciate your feedback on how we as a staff can serve you better. I am truly thankful for each of you.

Ed Garven, Director of Operations

= 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.

Reverse

Advent Calendar

Each day add an item to a box or bag.

On Christmas Eve donate the contents to a food bank.

		1 Cereal	2 Peanut Butter	3 Stuffing Mix	4 Boxed Potatoes	5 Macaroni & Cheese
6 Canned Fruit	7 Canned Tomatoes	8 Canned Meat (Tuna)	9 Cake, Brownie or Cookie Mix	10 Apple sauce	11 Canned Sweet Potatoes	12 Cranberry Sauce
13 Canned Beans	14 Box of Crackers	15 Package of Rice	16 Package of Oat-meal	17 Package of Pasta	18 Pasta Sauce	19 Chicken Noodle Soup
20 Tomato Soup	21 Canned Corn	22 Canned Mixed Vegetable	23 Canned Carrots	24 Canned Green Beans	 <i>A Season for Sharing</i>	

November was a busy month for AIR Ministry. We took a field trip to Weston to look at the beautiful leaves. We filled Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes and cards and pillows for the veteran's at the VA Hospital. We loved the time we were able to spend with our friends. We will have a **virtual Christmas party on Nov. 30 at 1 pm.** For a Zoom link, email Sandy Wood at Swood@fumclvks.org. Unfortunately, due to the rising COVID rates, we will not be meeting during December. We hope to start again as soon as it is safe for our friends to be together again.

AIR MINISTRY





Ava Connell is building a marshmallow wall as she learns about Nehemiah. Manna, Canon and Remy are writing what they are thankful for on their Thanksgiving wreath. Just because we can't meet in person doesn't mean that children can't have fun learning about Jesus at home.

A Different Kind of Christmas

Every year we talk about how busy the Christmas season is; shopping, parties, preparations. This year will be different because of COVID, so why not embrace the change? The first Christmas was an intimate family time with no fancy decorations, no huge feast, no busyness, just togetherness. This year I am going to give my family the gift of time. I'm going to set up my own advent wreath and focus on the best gift of Christmas, Jesus. I wish you all a blessed holyday season.

November 29 - January 3

We have learned about the prophets that told the Israelites the Messiah was coming. Now we are going to see how God fulfilled the prophecies. Packets are filled with Bible comics, worksheets and crafts. If you would like to receive a packet, please contact Sandy Wood swood@fumclvks.org.





Make an Advent Calendar
To count down the days to Jesus birth

**CHANGED TO A
ZOOM EVENT
NOVEMBER 29,
AT 1 PM**

Families with children will receive the supplies with their lesson packets.
If you don't receive a packet, but would like to make a calendar, contact Swood@fumclvks.org





A special thank you to the FUMC Itch'n to Stitch members, Teresa Hicks, Sheila Bailey, Carol Shafer, and Donna Ramsey. They participated in a DAR project making 8 quilts on Saturday October 10th to donate to Veterans. We local DAR are grateful for their participation and time-consuming effort. Blessings to each of you Mary Eleanor McCluskey

Dear Nurture and Care Team

Words cannot express my sincere appreciation for the beautiful prayer shawl you presented me with at the passing of my father, Elmond West. He was a Christian and is in a much better place. I know I will see him again! Thank you -Rebecca Beasley

I have had Covid for probably the last 10 days. My church family has been so kind and caring. Food has arrived along with many calls, texts, and emails. I feel very blessed. It is hard to be sick when u r alone. However, our church family made sure I never felt alone. Thank u all for caring.
Lea Ann Weilbacher

Thank you for all the prayers, and the mantle for my praying! Bill passed away Tuesday the 10th very peaceful. I know he is in good hand now—no more pain. He had cancer that moved fast on him and I know God didn't want him to suffer any longer. Thanks again for all your prayers & God bless.
Pat Blount

Recently, I received the most wonderful gift from the United Methodist Church. Due to the help of two of our members, Steven Shade installed a DVD system into my TV. MaryAnn McAfee presented the idea to some church members. Between the two of them, not I can have the Sunday services. They both instructed me how to use it. MaryAnn came to my aid many times. She even wrote step-by-step what to do to get the program. I want to thank you for making it possible to have this project. I have been a member for 63 years and my husband and I served on many committees. I am 84 years old and can no longer attend church. What a blessing to be able to be in touch each Sunday and hear and see your sermons. Thank you again.
Norma Bray



I would like to say a great big thank you to the Itch' n to Stitch Ladies of 1st United Methodist Church for the wonderful Quilt they made for me for Veterans Day. What a wonderful surprise. Unfortunately I was out of town, training soldiers at Fort Carson Colorado this last Veterans Day but my wife, Linda accepted it on my behalf and took pictures of the many beautiful quilts you made for all of us. I have to say that while the others are very nice I think mine was the prettiest ☺ This quilt is a keepsake that I will treasure the rest of my life and I am sure will get passed down to my grandchildren. I have an idea of how much work goes into such a project as my Grandmother was an active quilter up until her last days. She always joked about how her whole house was in pieces and her quilting rack always had a prominent place in her home, normally by a big window for light and for the view while she worked on the quilts she made. Once again thank you and May God bless each and every one of you.
Sincerely Bob Landzettel



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Leavenworth

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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Office Hours—M-Th 9a-3p

Friday—9a-noon

We're on the web!
fumclvks.org

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

Angel Tree



We are partnering with Anthony Elementary and David Brewer schools to help make Christmas special for some of their kids. We've created a site to sign up online for the gifts also.

You can find the link on our webpage below the offering links or come in during business hours or call the office and we'll pull a tag for you.



We need your Cookies & Treats

We will be delivering Blessing Bags to our local First Responders and Care-givers at local hospitals & nursing homes. Please bring in your treats by
Monday, December 21