



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

January 2021



THINK ON THESE THINGS – JANUARY 2021

I've never been much for setting New Year's Resolutions. Personally, I am more a goal setter and growth person which I consider ongoing. Growth isn't marked by a day on the calendar as much as a desire to want to improve. I see it as part of my discipleship as a follower of Jesus to continually grow.

In 2021, I am setting a goal of reading through the entire Bible in a year. I have done this before but it has been several years since I accomplished it. I encourage you to do the same. The reading program I follow comes from The Navigators. I have four areas of scripture each day for 25 days of the month. The four areas are: New Testament – two areas usually Gospels and Epistles and Old Testament is usually Wisdom Literature and Historical Books/Prophets. Google Navigators Bible Reading Plan or <https://www.navigators.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/04/Discipleship-Journal-Bible-Reading-Plan-9781617479083.pdf>. What I like about this plan is that you get a variety of readings so if one is boring (which they can be) a different part of the Bible will be read. Reading straight through Leviticus and Numbers is where many readers have stopped. I also like that you have some days at the end of the month to get caught up so if you are sick or something, you don't fall behind too far. Margin is a good thing.

For personal spiritual growth, reading the Bible is one of the best things. ***All Scripture is inspired by God and is useful to teach us what is true and to make us realize what is wrong in our lives. It corrects us when we are wrong and teaches us to do what is right. God uses it to prepare and equip his people to do every good work. – 2 Timothy 3:16-17.*** I am not reading it for work like sermon preparation. Nor am I reading it for a class. I read and study to spend time with God. At times, it is an act of devotion to set aside the time to read the Bible – obedience much more than pleasure. God honors that commitment. It also reminds me that I make time for who is important in my life. I want God to have the first priority.

Find a time and space that works well for you. I like to get up early in the morning and do quiet time. I also like to spend a shorter time during the middle of the day. For me, I am not a night time person. You will have to decide what works best for you and your schedule. I anticipate reading with joy the old stories I know so well. I look forward to new insights because I have changed since I read through all of the Bible last. In our times, there are apps that can download scripture to your device or inbox. Daily Bible reading tools are plentiful so find one that works for you and do it. Then, you will be prepared and equipped for every good work God has in store for you.

Pastor Dave



YOUNG ADULT
MINISTRY

Looking for Hope in the Advent Season

As I'm writing this, we are nearing the fourth Sunday of Advent, but by the time that you read it, this weekend will be over. Right now, I'm reflecting on this season of waiting as we move towards Christmas and celebrating the coming of Jesus Christ. This year is incredibly unique for me, and I'm guessing you, too, in that I am acutely aware of the process of waiting because we're also waiting for a vaccine – waiting for the end of the pandemic, to go back to "normal," to be able to hug friend again and spend time with the people we love. Up close. In person. Actually, being in physical contact. What a concept!



Early on in the pandemic, I thought a lot about who I would hug first when restrictions were lifted. I had no idea that 10 months later I'd still be daydreaming about hugging people. It's gotten so out of control at this point that I've actually caught myself trying to remember what my mother-in-law's laundry detergent smells like so I can more realistically remember what her hugs are like. It's gotten a little out of control over here.

That overwhelming sense of longing that so many of us are experiencing for hugs, or to gather with friends, to have "normal" Christmas, to get back into church, to not have to wear our masks or interrogate people about where they've been before meeting up - these things can serve as a reminder of what it's like to look forward to God's divine presence in our lives through the arrival of Jesus at Christmas. I imagine our anticipatory feelings about the vaccine and the end of this pandemic are similar to the feelings of excitement and relief that some of the people in the Bible narrative who were given information about the upcoming arrival of the Christ child.

As we long for Jesus' arrival, we are able to tap into the longing we have for everything to be made right with this pandemic and better understand; we're able to have a little taste of what it's like to wait for a Messiah that will right all of the wrongs, comfort the mourning, set the captives free and reign down the year of the Lord's favor. And so, we wait, but we keep our eyes on the prize. The Messiah is coming; get ready!

Kristen Howell

= 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.



Wish These Friends a
"Happy Birthday!"

2nd	Jack Spickelmier	21st	Joel Hubbard
3rd	Paul Estep		Barb Kempf
	Mary Catherine Perry		Elizabeth Un
4th	Kaki Kinard	22nd	John Aardema
6th	Chez Shafer		Mike Crow
7th	Norma Bray		Lois Kastner
	Alice Hall		Jennifer Ko
8th	Adriane Bakke	23rd	Leah Wiegers
10th	Laura Johnson		Adriana Yates
11th	Daniel Eyerly	25th	Bill McCollum
12th	Lynne Sepulvado	27th	Linda Landzettel
14th	Bill Shade	29th	Tony McNeill
15th	Tristan Tebbetts		Rick Sanders
20th	Margaret Elliott	30th	Mike Burkett
	Jim Wolfe		John Raines
			Verna Raines
		31st	Virginia Schalipp



2nd	Bill & Karen Kidder	34yr	23rd	Jeff & Ann Andrews	28yr
9th	Ron & Lou Ann Roggentien	14yr	30th	Mike & Trina Boyles	22nd
17th	Christine Corrison & Husband	33yr	31st	Jim & Jan Glick	51yr






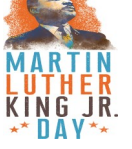

January 2021

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  Happy New Year! Offices closed	2  Samaritans' Buffet
3  Worship with Us	4	5	6	7 8:30a Staff Devotions and Planning Mtg.	8	9
10  WORSHIP THE LORD!	11	12 5:30p Young Adults 5:30p NOW ministries	13	14 8:30a Staff Devotions and Planning Mtg.	15	16
17  WORSHIP WITH US	18  MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. DAY Offices closed	19 2pm  Chief Support Group 6p SPRC & Trustees	20	21 8:30a Staff Devotions and Planning Mtg.	22	23  Samaritans' Buffet
24  Worship with Us	25	26 6p Church Council	27	28 8:30a Staff Devotions and Planning Mtg.	29	30
31						

COMMUNITY BLOOD DRIVE

Dec, 2020

Our church has hosted the Community Blood Center's December blood drive for many years. It should be noted that a vast majority of the blood needed to keep our hospitals adequately supplied comes from mobile blood drives such as ours. At the 08 Dec 2020 blood drive the Community Blood Center staff registered 56 volunteer donors and collected 54 units of blood which surpassed the set quota of 44 units! A letter from the Account Manager at the Center indicated this was the most blood collected at a Leavenworth community blood drive in a very long time.

Our church's volunteers included: Gary and Cheryl Rader, Kathi LaMoe, Marsha Gaffin, Cathy Landis, Teresa Hicks, Sue Peckham, Marguerite Hilscher, Maryann McAfee, Steve and Margaret Songer. And a special acknowledgement to Cheryl for volunteering to work two shifts to fill in a late-occurring vacancy. COVID-19 mitigation kept the New Life Seekers class from preparing and serving sloppy Joe's to donors in memory of Dave Serena as they have in the past, but hopefully we'll be back on track 07 Dec 2021.

KUDOS to all the volunteers!

Maryann McAfee FUMCL Blood Drive Coordinator



We will be offering two Grief Groups in January.

Group 1 is for widows or widowers only that meets the
3rd Tuesday of each month 2-4pm

Group 2 is for anyone experiencing loss
(parent, sibling, spouse, child or friend)

Meets the 2nd & 4th Wednesdays of the month
5-7pm

Sharing God's Love



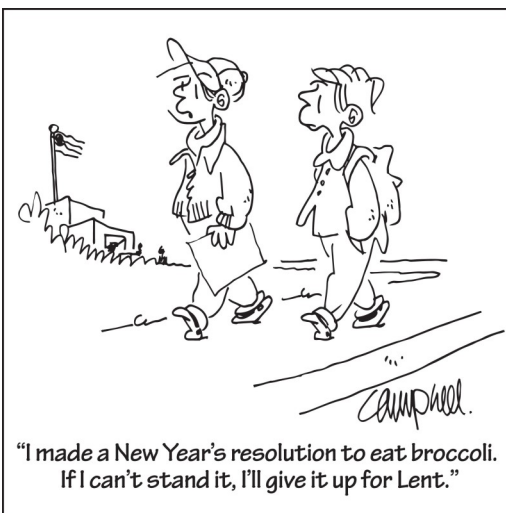
Thanks
for Your
Help!



Delivering the bountiful gifts to Anthony & David Brewer Schools was a blessing in itself. Your generosity in providing Christmas Gifts for 38 kids is a statement of your faithfulness. Thank you.



The **"Blessing Bags"** delivered to the First Responders, Hospitals, Nursing Homes and other locations where people are required to work on Christmas was a HUGE success. Your donations of cookies and treats filled these bags *fuller* than any other year! This exemplifies how our hearts overflow with the love of God.

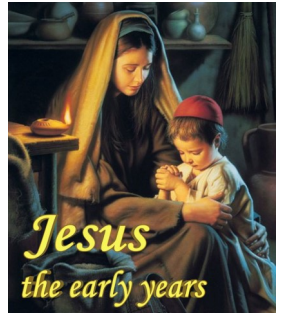




The goal of our children's ministry is for every child 4 to 12 years old to know that Jesus loves them and so do we.

Because of COVID-19, our children's ministry is home based. We send packets with Bible comics, activity pages and crafts every 5-6 weeks. If you would like to receive a packet, contact Sandy Wood at swood@fumclvks.org.

January 10-Feb 7 We will learn about Jesus' childhood, baptism, how he chose his disciples and how he began his ministry. Packets will be delivered January 8.



February 14—April 4 During lent church around the Kansas City area will be studying the book of Mark through the OneKC project. We will be joining the program in both our adult worship and our kids lessons. We will learn about the miracles Jesus performed that proved he was God and his crucifixion and resurrection.

The Greatest Commandment

When asked what the greatest commandment was, in Matthew 22:36-40, Jesus answered, "Love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul and mind and the second is love your neighbor as yourself." I believe the best way to teach our children how to follow these commandments is through deeds, not just words.



Here are a few ideas of how to share your love for God when you can't go to church

- Pray at meals or before school or at bedtime together as a family
- Read a short devotional at breakfast or dinner or at bedtime
- Choose a memory verse to learn as a family. Matthew 22:36-40 is a great one to start with
- Mention during day things that you are thankful to God for
- Sing praise songs in your car with your kids
- Allow your child to perform extra chores to earn money to give to a charity or the church
- Watch Bible story videos on YouTube

Here are some creative ways to love your neighbor, even during a pandemic

- Bake cookies for your neighbor
- Leave treats for package delivery people
- Pick up trash in your neighborhood or local park
- Write a thank you note for local police officers
- Send a get well card to someone who is sick
- Make dog treats for the local pet shelter
- Rake leaves or shovel your neighbor's sidewalk
- Draw a picture for someone who can't leave their home.
- Decorate a tree outside with bird feeders, such as peanut butter and bird seed pinecones or a popcorn and cranberry garland, oranges or bird seed baked into biscuits.



Seniors

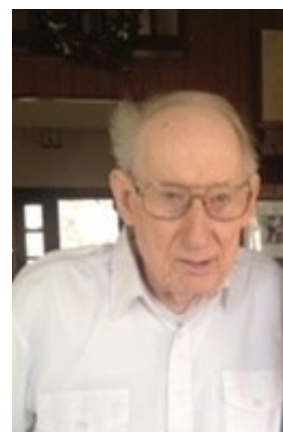
IN THE Spotlight



Eleanor Embree

Did you know that Eleanor has 17 harmonicas? And she plays them all! She purchased her first one with high school graduation money. Eleanor was raised on a 4,000 acre ranch in western Kansas. She met her husband Billy in college where they both obtained teaching degrees, hers in Home Economics and his in Industrial Arts. After teaching in Edmund, KS and Lost Springs, KS, they moved to Leavenworth in 1957, where Billy taught for the next 35 years at Leavenworth High School. Eleanor held a variety of teaching and other jobs while raising their daughter Liisa (yes, that's how you spell it!). She taught many craft classes and perused her lifelong love of genealogy. She has entertained many people with her music and still loves to play. And she has the best sense of humor! She spent many volunteer hours at the church, most recently helping in the office and playing with the DoWops. Unfortunately, driving is no longer an option, but if you give her a call she'll entertain you with lively stories about her life in Kansas. Eleanor's Angel is Brendale Taylor.

During WWII when Bob was only 18 years old, he was stationed with the US Army Infantry in Europe just south of where the Battle of the Bulge was taking place. He was a message "runner" in the combat zone. After coming home from the war, he was able to use the GI Bill to get his bachelor's and master's degrees in music. While a freshman, he met his wife Shirley, "the best thing that ever happened to me." They were married 73 years. Going back into the Army during the Korean conflict, this time as a member of the Army Band, Bob travelled all over Europe and the United States. After his second hitch, the Cowan's lived in Tulsa and Bob played for ten years with the Tulsa Philharmonic Orchestra, also playing any jazz gig he could find. The Cowans and their two sons moved to Leavenworth in 1956. Shirley taught music in the Leavenworth schools and Bob directed the Patton Jr High band. Shirley was also FUMC's choir director and soloist for many years, while Bob and his brass ensemble were well known throughout the Kansas City area. In 1973, they purchased the Toon Shop and managed it for 30 years. Bob was also on the faculty at St Mary's University, where he received his PhD. Bob counts himself blessed. He and Shirley had a wonderful life together, and he was able to earn his living doing what he loved, playing music. Bob's Angel is Marsha Gaffin.



Bob Cowan



Arlena Butler enjoys her goodie bag



Dear Itch'n to Stitch Ladies:

Thank you so much for the beautiful Honor Quilt. I know the time and love that went into making it and am deeply honored to receive it. As I use it, I will think of each of you and your dedication to bring warmth and love to others through the work of your hands. I will treasure this quilt always.

Carol Shafer

Dear Itch'n to Stitch Ladies,

Your beautifully hand crafted Quilt of Honor presented to me on Sunday is accepted with a grateful heart. Thank you for your ministry of service.

Kathryn West

December 2020

Thanks to everyone who puts together the streamed Sunday Services. I really appreciate all the hard work to keep us safe. Sincerely, Sheila Bailey

We appreciate the care and concern given to us by the church. The Christmas bag delivered to us by Carla Hamon was full of little goodies. We especially value your prayers.

Thank you, Doug & Alice Hall

Dear Church Family,

I Can't thank you enough for your generosity. The gift certificate to Leavenworth Paper Supply was extremely thoughtful and greatly appreciated. I was able to purchase items for my classroom, which made all the adjustments and changes we've experienced this year seem a little easier. My students are healthy, happy and provided for. This is a difficult time for everyone but having a supportive church family is a true blessing and a gift.

Jennifer Ko

Thank you so much for the beautiful, patriotic quilt! This is such a wonderful thing that you do, honoring Veterans in this way. My mom was a quilter and I am well aware of the time & Skill that is required to put these beautiful quilts together. Thank you for this beautiful, special gift, best gift ever! God bless the Itch'n to Stitch Ladies for blessing all of us Church Veterans in this way.

Sincerely, Shari Hansen



Dear Nurture/Care,

Thank you very much for the Christmas 'goodie' bag and the Upper Room. We can certainly make use of each item. John & I appreciate the work and devotion your committee to seniors of First Methodist.

Our thanks also to Donna & Roy Ramsey for delivery of our bag and Donna's calls to check on us. We also extend our appreciation to Cheryl Rader for her many calls to check on our well-being. God Bless Each of You. Virginia & John Hardaway



Such a day brightener!
Thank you for the
Christmas "goodie" bag.
Sue Peckham

The Jubilate

*Dear Methodist Friends - Thank you so much for the wonderful "goodie" bag you sent us. Now I know I am old!
☺ You are thoughtful in so many ways! How wonderful to be part of such a thoughtful, giving church! You all do so much for others, especially those in need. Love in Christ, Wilda & Ernest Wicke*

Thanks!

Season's greetings to one and all, As we go on from day to day, God will lead you through the day and heal you from your misery. Enjoy this season with anticipation, for Jesus Christ is born.

Thank you, dear friends in Christ, for the many cards and prayers you have sent. It puts a smile on my face to hear from each and everyone of you.

When my Mother passed, with joy and anticipation to spend with eternity with Christ, I worked through my grief, knowing I would see her again. I thank you for your many prayers and cards during that time. Your reaching out to me brought me comfort.

Special thanks to the Nurture & Care committee, and Theresa Hicks, Carol & Garry Russell, Alicia Moody, & Pastor Dave. I thank Marsha Gaffin for her many prayers and food deliveries when I lived in Lansing.

Wishing you many joys and a happy new year. May God Bless. Love, Your sister in Christ, Gayle Moore

My sincere thanks to the Itching to Stitch group for the stunning veteran quilt I received. It was an honor to serve and I will cherish with pride this beautiful quilt. May God continue to bless our church family and our great nation. LeRoy Hicks

Dear FUMC Quilters, I would like to thank you for the wonderful and thoughtful quilt honoring my service to this Great Nation. As I approach retirement from government service this December, it is so meaningful to have such a beautiful reminder. Thank y'all for the thoughtful gift. Joe Sepulvado

On behalf of the Alliance Against Family Violence (AAFV), I want to express our thanks for your Congregation's exceptionally generous gift of \$5,000 in support of our Alliance mission. We greatly appreciate your continued support of our operational efforts.

This wonderful donation also makes it possible to maintain our 24/7 hotline and will likewise provide the much needed police, hospital, and court advocacy to our clients. Similarly, since opening in April 2019, we have provided well over 650 days of safe compassionate shelter and advocacy to 73 plus women and children.

Your donation ensures that we will be able to continue to maintain full capability, operating comfortably within a governmental reimbursable system. Thank you again for your generous support of our Alliance.

Respectfully Yours, Stanley F. Cherrie, Vice President, AAFV

A Note from the Director of Operations



Happy New Year, my brothers and sisters in Christ. Thank you all for your continuous support and love during the most trying of times over the past year. The great news is the church has both spiritually and financially weathered the storm. Our online ministry and your generosity has put us in a position to continue to bring His Kingdom in 2021.

Things to keep on the radar for the coming year will be when we reopen, what will that look like? As a staff we will plan, prepare, rehearse and be ready for a glorious in-person reopening. When we get the go ahead to relaunch, you will be the first to know. Please let Libby know if any of your contact information has changed.

At my previous church, there was an initiative called – What if the Church? Well at FUMC of Leavenworth we proudly answer – We are the Church! Whether serving at the shelter, the mission, Samaritans Buffet, grief groups, Itch and Stich, AIR ministry, greeting, music ministry and on and on – we continuously demonstrate His rule and authority in every aspect of our lives. Thank you.

Last year, we accomplished major renovation projects using all available capital funds and now we will focus on fund raising for the next projects. We will plan to have events in the green space, continue to open the Education building to the community and serve and love on every outreach opportunity we can manage.

The next church committee meetings are scheduled for later this month, so I will be able to report where we are going and how we are allocating our assets to accomplish our collective goals and missions. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to reach out to me or any member of the staff.

In Christ

Ed Garven

Our FUMC-L Staff

Rev. Dr. Dave York

Senior Pastor

Ed Garven

Director of Operations

Kristen Howell

Director of Young People's
Ministries

Sandy Wood

Children's Ministries Leader

Praise Band Coordinator

Steven Shade

Virtual Ministries Administrator

Youth Coordinator

Libby Frashier

Administrative Assistant

Grant Zschoche

Maintenance Supervisor



First United Methodist Church
Leavenworth

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Educational Bldg.: 913-675-7495

E-mail: office@fumclvks.org

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)

*Worship
with us
from*
HOME

Until we can meet together again, join us for
worship every Sunday at 10am through our
Facebook page [www.facebook.com/](http://www.facebook.com/LeavenworthFirstUMC)

[LeavenworthFirstUMC](http://www.facebook.com/LeavenworthFirstUMC)

or our Webpage link:

www.fumclvks.org/live

If you don't have a computer, we can provide
a copy on DVD for you.

Just call the office at 913-682-5374 for a copy

Monday-Thursday, 9-3pm

or 9-noon on Friday.