



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

February 2021



THINK ON THESE THINGS – FEBRUARY 2021

Jesus told his disciples recorded in John 14:1-6, *“Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father’s house there are many dwelling places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. And you know the way to the place where I am going.”* Thomas said to him, *“Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?”* Jesus said to him, *“I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.”*

It’s fascinating to consider that God wants us to find our way home again. The prodigals are not only invited but given the way in which to do it. Jesus is the way. We find our deepest source of love, peace and contentment in the Father’s house, the home of our heart. It is here where we are best known and best loved. What is it that keeps us from coming back to God? Repentance has taken on such a negative image to some. It’s seen as harsh or punitive. However, coming back home to God the Father is Jesus’ primary sermon topic *“Repent, the Kingdom of God is near.”* No matter where you have been or what you have done, God wants you back! **NO MATTER WHAT!**

Some are too proud to go home again. They are sold on the idea that I can make it on my own. They left full of themselves and maybe have done well in material goods and wealth. But they lack peace that only Jesus can offer. Find your way again and be filled! Others are too ashamed to come home. In the distant wilderness, they have done things and said things that bring them great pain. So, they hide it away. But, like an infection that gets covered up, it doesn’t heal. It seeps into their souls deceiving them into thinking they are so shameful that God couldn’t love them. Nothing could be farther from the truth. God wants to forgive and be merciful. Will you find your way back home, wayward prodigal? Yet, there are more still who have been home the whole time but have fallen asleep in their love. The comfort and security of the Father’s house has warped their view. They see the Father’s house as only for them, not for others. They have forgotten their neighbors, enemies, friends and family don’t know the way. Like Thomas, they don’t know the way to the Father’s house. Sadly, the older siblings forgot that self-centeredness is its own sin that separates them from the Father. Is it possible that you can never leave home and still be lost to what God’s grace and forgiveness truly mean for his family?

On behalf of Christ, I invite you to find your way back home. Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, February 17. It is our 40-day restoration to the heart of God. The day calls for self-reflection and examination in parts of our life that may be painful or difficult to see. We do not journey alone. We are companions on the way with the Holy Spirit as our guide. Jesus is the way, the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through him. Find your way home again. Come home to the Father through the Son!

Pastor Dave



Young People's Ministry

Lent is fast-approaching, and we will soon begin the 40 days of preparation and reflection prior to Good Friday and Easter. Oddly enough, both Ash Wednesday and Lent have always been some of my favorite parts of the Christian calendar, which is certainly a bit counter-intuitive since they tend to be solemn and introspective. However, it's so important to the Christian life to take time to reflect on our lives and the places where we need to repent (literally meaning turn around) and find our way back to God. When we do that, God is always there waiting for us with open arms. To mark the season this year, youth and young adults will each have their own separate studies.



Although we will continue with our ongoing series on the Fruit of the Spirit in youth group (assessing where we are with and developing these traits is, in some ways an act of repentance in its own right), we will be taking some time off of our study of the Book of Revelation in Sunday School to join the church-wide study of Mark during Lent using ONE KC. This curriculum will be used by churches both in Kansas City and in Hong Kong. It will be fun to take part in something bigger than not only our Sunday school class, but also our church.



For young adults, we will begin meeting for Lent to study *A World Worth Saving: Lenten Spiritual Practices for Action* which focuses on the ways that we can follow Christ by engaging social issues around us such as racism, environmental issues, and community. It should be a really interesting study and a great next step after we finished our book study on antiracism just before Christmas. Right now, if you'd like to participate, please get a book prior to Lent and let me know if you'd like to meet weekly or bi-weekly.

We can go either way; I just want to get a feel for what you all would prefer. I look forward to studying with you!

= OUR MISSION=

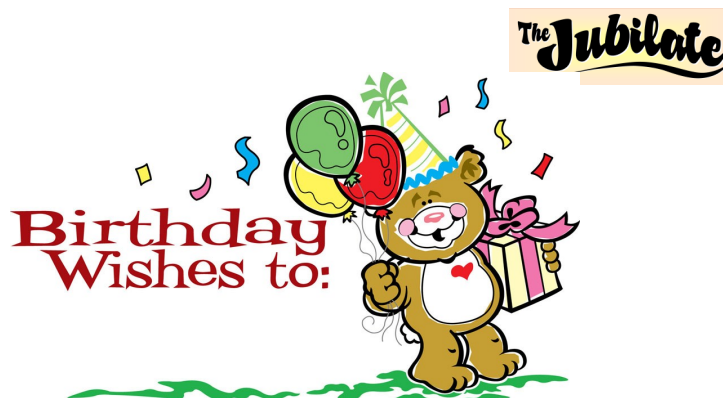
"We are a Church of the Ages, Serving the Present Age by making Disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of our community and world"

= 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.



2nd	Jamie Brettman	19th	Chris Wecas
	Daniel Kent	20th	Caitlin Bishop
3rd	Mary Eleanor McCluskey		Joyce Goss
4th	Bob Cowan	21st	Macy Bishop
6th	Hunter Resnick		Robert McKinley
7th	Emily Wecas		Dick Peiper
8th	Kyle Sanders	23rd	Hannah Banker
9th	Miriam Cade		Arlena Butler
11th	Cathy Landis		Sara Lamoe
13th	Joshua Gambrell	24th	Christine Coriston
	Carl Langley	25th	Bob Hale
15th	Anne-Marie Short	28th	Aiden Darby
16th	Barbara Peiper	(29th)	Kellie Galley
	Mitchell Ray		
17th	Tyler Morgan		
18th	Steve Coats		
	Madeline Nott		
	Jack Walker		



14th	Bill & Annette McCollum	21 years
15th	Michael & Karen Piper	35 years
18th	Dick & Barbara Peiper	60 years

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	2	3  1pm 6:30p Choir Rehearsal	4	5	6 
7 	8 1:30p AIR Ministry Support Group	9	10  1pm 5pm Grief Group 6:30p Choir	11	12	13
14 	15  Office Closed	16  2pm	17 1pm Heart & Soul 	18	19	20
21 	22 1:30p AIR Ministry Support Group	23	24  1pm 5pm Grief Group 6:30p Choir Rehearsal	25	26	27 
28 	Check with your Sunday School Teacher to see if they are meeting via Zoom.					



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.

February 14—April 4

We will be joining over 300 churches around the Kansas City area studying the book of Mark through the OneKC project during lent. Both adult worship and kids lessons will study similar topics so you can discuss what you are learning as a family. Check out OneKC.Bible to find a reading plan for lent and other resources.

We'll learn about the miracles Jesus performed that proved he was God. We'll also learn about his crucifixion and resurrection.



PARTY TIME!

We will have a Zoom Valentine party on February 14 at 1:00 pm. You will receive a zoom link in a later email. You will need 2 devices because we will be using a website to play a game similar to Uno. One device will be for the zoom and one device will stream the game.

We will have a special Easter celebration on March 28 at 1:00 pm. You will receive a zoom link by email at a later date. We will make two special crafts and play some games.



ESCAPE THE UPPER ROOM

EASTER PUZZLE ONLINE COMING SOON

Coming soon the to children's page of the church website, we will have an Easter online puzzle called, "Escape the Upper Room". Answer the Bible questions to open the next level and eventually solve the puzzle. You will find the puzzle link at the bottom of the children's page of the church website, fumclvks.org/children.

SMILE, YOU'RE ON CAMERA

We are making a special video for Palm Sunday. Since we won't be able to wave the palms in the church on Sunday morning, we're asking each family to make a 30 second video of your children waving the palm leaf in your packet. Sound does not matter because there will be music playing behind the video. Please send the videos to ssshade@fumclvks.org by March 7.



Seniors

IN THE Spotlight



Keith & Lorene
Richardson

Keith and Lorene Richardson live in Basehor, KS and joined FUMCL in 2017.

Keith grew up in the Kansas City, MO area and served two years in the US Army with assignments at Yuma, AZ and Camp Century, Greenland. He graduated from the Kansas City Art Institute in 1962. After working around the Kansas area, he found a job at American Yearbook Company in Topeka, KS.

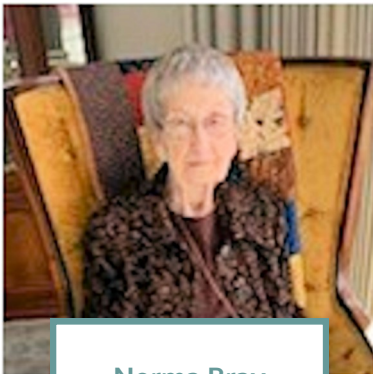
Lorene grew up around Topeka, KS, and she and Keith met at a new singles dance and married in December 1966 at the Community Baptist Church in Topeka. Shortly after their wedding, Keith was transferred to Visalia, CA, and from there they moved up to the San Francisco area where their son Lance was born.

Keith eventually went to work for the Department of the Army - Civilian as a Visual Information Specialist. During those Civil Service years, the Richardsons moved often (Tucson, AZ; Lawton, OK; Leavenworth, KS (1980 to 1982, where they attended the First Presbyterian Church); El Paso, TX; and eventually Indianapolis, IN. He was in the Army Reserves from 1990-1991 and was deployed six months during Desert Storm at Dhahran, Saudi Arabia. Keith retired from Civil Service in 1993.

Lorene worked various jobs over the years: 14 years for Santa Fe RR and Southern Pacific RR, two years as secretary for First Presbyterian Church, Leavenworth, and six years of Civil Service work.

After retirement, they moved to Springfield, MO for ten years, moving to Basehor, KS in 2015 and live at Pebblebrooke Villas Retirement.

Keith and Lorene's Angels are Jim and Kaki Kinard.



Norma Bray

My name is Norma Bray and I have been a member of this church for over 60 years. In the beginning I was born in a very small town in southeast Kansas. Coyville had only two churches, the Methodist and the Christian. Bruce, my husband-to-be, was Methodist and I belonged to the Christian. We met in the first grade. The war came and my family moved to Wichita. I attended Wichita University. If you had thirty credit hours, you could teach schools, so at the age of nineteen, I taught in a small community. I taught the first four grades. Bruce came home from the Army and we were married. We moved to Pittsburg for Bruce to graduate. Daughter Marcia was born there, and then we went to teach at Oswego. After five years we moved to Leavenworth. Our son Steven was only ten days old. The first thing we did was look for a Methodist church. We found our home. We both were on many committees. I taught various classes. My favorite was telling stories to the children. One time after I had read the story, the little girl said to me, "Read it again."

So now you know my story. Oh, yes, one other thing. My brother and family came to visit. On Sunday we parked across the street from the church. When Andy, my four-year-old nephew climbed out of the car, he just stared. He said excitedly, "It's a castle." I replied, "Yes, Andy, it is God's castle."



Thank You!



Pastor York & Church Members,
Thank you so much for helping Anthony families for Christmas. Your generosity and kindness is truly appreciated. Thanks for making it a brighter Christmas for our Students! Merry Christmas!

Thanks, Nicole McConnell, Anthony Elementary

*Dear Church Family,
On behalf of the Sheumaker family, I would like to extend our sincere and grateful appreciation for the many calls, cards, visits and meals during and after Dick's illness. You will never know how much you lifted my spirits and how blessed I feel to be a part of such a loving and caring church family.*

Brenda Sheumaker

Thanks so much for all you do to make virtual worship so meaningful. I especially enjoyed "Music Sunday"

Sincerely, Sheila Bailey



Dear FUMC Family:

We have been living in Lenexa for nearly four months and during that time we have received numerous cards and letters from our Leavenworth church family. We have enjoyed hearing from so many of you. The notes of encouragement when we first moved were truly special. This was not an easy transition for us. After living in Leavenworth 58 years and being part of FUMC all that time, it was difficult to say good bye. With God's guidance and help from our children, we made the decision to move to Lakeview Village, a retirement community that will provide us with life care whatever our needs may be. We are making friends and are looking forward to life after COVID when it will be easier for us to interact with the other residents through classes, group activities and dining. Being able to watch church services online is a great service and helps keep us in contact with our home church.

Thanks to all of you for the cards, the letters, the many years of friendship, and the hours you have given providing worship services.

Blessings for another great year at FUMC.

Norm and Nancy Dawson

Dear Nurture & Care, Looking back at prior messages, it has been three years you have been lifting my spirits with your kind attention. I know I am not alone. It has been over a month from your last Upper Room package with so many thoughtful items. Especially the stamped greetings cards. Bless you very much and thanks for your personal card.

Jim Stallings

Welcome to February, my brothers and sisters in Christ. Thank you all for your continuous support and love. Our online ministry and your generosity has put us in a position to continue to bring His Kingdom in 2021.

The Church Council and staff have begun planning for our glorious in-person reopening. We are calling the event – Reignite!

NOTE; DATES, TIMES, AND EVENTS ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE.



ACTS 2

⁴² They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. ⁴³ Everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs performed by the apostles. ⁴⁴ **All the believers were together and had everything in common. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, ⁴⁷ praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people.** And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.

Thursday June 3,2021: **Luminary Memorial Walk.**

Remembrance in Vigil and Prayer for the love ones we lost in 2020. Luminary and candlelight vigil. Located in the Worship Park from 8-10pm. **Details to follow.**

Friday June 4,2021: **Music in the Park -Ice Cream Social.**

Reignite together to enjoy a music with loved ones. Located in the Worship Park from 7-10pm. **Details to follow.**

Saturday June 5,2021: **Service Saturday with Samaritans Buffet/ Worship Park Afternoon Festival.**

Reignite in service to the community with Samaritans Buffet and an outdoor festival for our members and neighbors. Bouncy houses, games, live music, food trucks and more. **Details to follow.** Located in the Worship Park from 11am-10pm.

Sunday June 6,2021: **Two in-person Worship Services.**

Celebrate Communion Sunday live and in –person. Welcome Home. 8:30am traditional and 11am contemporary service. Sunday school classes in-between.

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.

Due to COVID we were not able to meet in person last year, but the investment the church made in our virtual online technologies has seen our online weekly attendance numbers exceeding our 2019 in-person attendance numbers. Please keep watching and invite your neighbors to watch.

The Education Building Underground (youth area in the basement) bathrooms, floors and ceilings are being replaced/refurbished, many thanks to the Tinkler Trustees and the dedicated work of your church staff. We are asking for volunteers to assist with laying new floor tiles in the large room. We will have to lay 1700 tiles.

Please welcome Mike Mix as the new Trustee Chair, Steven Shade as Trustee the Vice Chair and Deb Baeuchle as the Trustee Secretary. This dynamic trio is already up and running focusing on replacement of HVAC units, replacement/repair of the Education Building roofs, and design of the ADA front entrance ramp.

Please welcome Brendale Taylor as our new Outreach Ministry Lead. Brendale's passion and love for the Lord make her ideal for this position and the entire council is overjoyed with her acceptance in this vital ministry.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to reach out to me or any member of the staff.

In Christ - Ed Garven

A Call For Christian Revival in 2021

Writing recently in the *Wall Street Journal*, Tony Dungy and Ben Watson called for Christians to support each other and love another even when facing difficult of the pandemic. Dungy is a NFL Hall of Fame coach and Watson is director of NFL Programs for Pro Athletes Outreach. Their question for us is "If we live like the world, why should non-Christians listen to us? More importantly, why would they listen to God?"

They listed five practices for THE Church to follow in 2021:

Read the Entire Bible. How can we expect to share God's word passionately and accurately if we Christians are not Bible-literate?

Pray. Don't simply tell someone that you will pray for him. Stop and say, "I am going to pray with you."

Repent. Turn away from the direction one has been headed. If 2020 has exposed worry, jealousy, racism, pride, greed, or anger in our hearts, we must repent.

Return to our home churches. The relationships built in our local churches are critical for our growth and the growth of the church.

Give tithes and offerings. We all know God calls us to give and to give generously. Don't get stuck on the notion of whether it is Old Testament or New Testament. Since God is generous with us, we are called to be generous to others.



First United Methodist Church
Leavenworth

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

422 Chestnut
Leavenworth, KS 66048

Phone: 913-682-5374

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)

Ash
Wednesday

February 17th

The church will be open from 6am—6pm. for reflection and prayer.

If you are wanting to receive ashes on Ash Wednesday,

Pastor Dave will be available during this time.