



RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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Educational Bldg.: 913-675-7495

E-mail: office@fumclvks.org



Office Hours—M-Th 9a-3p, Friday—9a-noon



Or visit us at [FUMCLVKS.ORG](https://www.fumclvks.org)

Sunday services stream at either site.

December 2021

28 8:30 & 11am Worship 4pm Bells	29 1pm AIR Ministries	30 9:30am Heart & Soul 10am Women's Bible Study	1 3:45pm Wonderful Wednesday 5:30pm Gathering 6:30pm Choir	2 8:30am Staff Meeting 6:30pm Discipleship & Women's Study	3	410am Dick Sheumaker service 
5 8:30 & 11am Worship 4pm Bells 6pm Youth	6 1pm AIR Ministries	7 9:30 am Heart & Soul 10am Women's Bible Study	8 3:45pm Wonderful Wednesday 5pm Grief Group 5:30pm Gathering 6:30pm Choir	9 8:30am Staff Meeting 6:30pm Discipleship 6:30pm Women's Bible Study	10	11 Serve Day 1pm Choir practice
12 8:30 & 11am Worship 4pm Bells 6pm Youth	13 1pm AIR Ministries	14 9:30am Heart & Soul 10am Bible Study 11:30 Ladies lunch 2pm Grief Share	15 3:45pm Wonderful Wednesday 5:30pm Gathering 6:30pm Choir	16 8:30am Staff 6:30pm Discipleship 6:30pm Women's Bible Study	17	18
19 8:30 & 11am Worship 6pm Youth	20	21	22	23 8:30am Staff	24 5:30pm Christmas Eve 7pm Christmas Eve 	25 Christmas
26 Facebook Worship NO Bells NO Youth	27	28	29	30 8:30am Staff Meeting	31 Office closed	1





The time-worn phrase, “You don’t know what you’ve got until it’s gone” certainly rings true regarding Christmas. Christmas Eve 2020 was one of the more memorable because of what it wasn’t. No one was here! Due to COVID, we recorded all of the service and many of you watched it at home with family and friends. Definitely unique.

Memories matter. It’s one of the joys of Christmas. Songs bring back thoughts of people and places of love. Certain foods like Christmas cookies or gingerbread make us think of days long ago. Christmas Eve candlelight services warm our hearts like no other because we remember those who have come before us and the calling to be the Light to the World. I am so looking forward to the celebration of Christmas in 2021!

Throughout the pages of our December issue, you read stories and features on Christmas from our church family. We have great ministry planned for 2022 as well. God has been so good to us! Let’s be joyful and grateful in our celebration!!

Pastor Dave



Zach, Katie, Abel and Aniston Rolf light the candle of Hope on the first Sunday of Advent. We hope that you Christmas season is filled with hope, peace, joy, love and most importantly Christ.



1st	Karah Bryant	11th	Brian Wepking	22nd	Steve Wieggers
	Lindsay McKinley	12th	Samantha Martin		Jim Yates
2nd	Olivia Hansen	13th	Clay Holyfield	23rd	Ellie McNeill
3rd	Matthew Weilbacher	14th	Gary Rader	24th	Carol Russell
	Michael Weilbacher	16th	Daniel Watson	25th	Aurora Gray
5th	Isaac Herbek	17th	Benjamin Coats		Lorene Richardson
	Isaac Ruble		McKinley Ray		Aniston Rolf
7th	Marti Crow	18th	Jonathan Coats	27th	Verity Varnal
	Forrest Holdeman		Eleanor Embree		Merry Weeks
8th	Colton Lauber	19th	Stacey Cole	29th	Nina McNeill
	Laura Seigel	20th	Rita Wood	31st	Mark Bercume
9th	Carl Nelson	21st	Karen Hooser		Tylor McNeill
	Landon Stuhlsatz		Austin Wiley		
11th	Bob Atwell		Emma Zeck		
	Doug Hall	22nd	Bob Seymour		



7th	Lynn & Joyce Goss	25 years
	Ralph & Norma Moore	58 years
14th	Rodney & Adriana Yates	19 years
16th	Keith & Lorene Richardson	55 years
21st	Mike & Martha Nielsen	36 years
27th	Rick & Robin Sanders	34 years
28th	Clay & Alisha Holyfield	25 years
30th	Jim & Debbie Gebhardt	51 years
	Cape & Laurie Rust	27 years
	Jim & Judy Wolfe	41 years

Did we miss your birthday or anniversary? Please help us update our records. Send an email with your current address, phone number and birthdays to swood@fumclvks.org.





Working Together

How do you improve on an amazing ministry like Samaritan's Buffet that feeds hundreds of people in our community twice a month? You reach out to young people and mentor them through the ministry. Samaritan's Buffet has recently reached out to the Pioneer Career Center which has a Culinary Arts program. Students there are studying to become the chefs of tomorrow. They need practical experience to exercise the skills they are learning, so the volunteers at Samaritan's Buffet are working one on one with four students to pass on their knowledge and they are building relationships with the students as well. They are not just helping with the cooking and the serving, they are learning how to plan meals and order supplies as well.

Samaritan's Buffet also recently worked with the Scouts. During the One Homeless Night out, scouts experienced what life might be like without the comforts of home. Saturday morning, they helped prepare and serve food to people in our community.

Samaritan's Buffet has many faithful volunteers that work tirelessly to make sure people in Leavenworth have not just healthy, but good tasting food. They are always in need of more volunteers and people to donate desserts. If you are interested in helping, contact Jim Wolfe. jimwolfe@kc.rr.com.



LEAVENWORTH INTERFAITH
COMMUNITY OF HOPE



There is still much to be thankful for in 2021, even during the challenges of a global pandemic! Staff and faithful volunteers show up daily to serve the unseen, sit with the unheard, and serve those we believe Jesus chose to serve. On a daily basis we are supporting individuals with rental and utility assistance, helping them apply for IDs and birth certificates so they can seek employment, making connections with mental health and medical services, and providing the only free transportation in Leavenworth through programs at Welcome Central. We are providing a safe warm or cool place for unhoused individuals to stay at our Night Shelter, as well as providing a safe space for the unhoused to access facilities that meet basic needs through our Day Center.

Because of your generosity so far in 2021 we have been able to:

- Feed those in need by serving 10,644 meals to the unhoused and those living in poverty.
- House 15-40 individuals each night, filling 4,300 beds and providing a safe place for 145 unique individuals coming through our Night Shelter.
- Provide over \$130,000 in assistance through Welcome Central.
- Provide over 650 rides to locations in our community including grocery stores, pharmacies, medical appointments, banks, jobs and more. Also trips to Kansas City to get individuals onto a Greyhound, or to Wichita for rehab, or Lawrence for court, or around the State of Kansas to help them enroll and be accepted into long-term programs.
- Pay for Relocation Services (typically a Greyhound) for over 25 individuals to get back home or to a safe family member when they have landed in Leavenworth without being a Leavenworth County resident.
- Implement evening programming, in which individuals may enter at 6:30 pm, eat dinner, learn Life skills, and more prior to the Night Shelter opening at 9:00 pm.
- **Partner with St. Vincent's Medical Clinic, ensuring every guest has sufficient medical care available to them.** In addition, we have partnered with Care Beyond the Boulevard, a medical van that visits our building once a month to provide on-site acute and chronic medical care. We have also recently partnered with Family Eye Care to ensure guests receive proper eye care.

Some of our top goals for 2022 include:

- Increasing our security through camera updates and ensuring there is a camera close to entry points, and purchasing at least 2 HD monitors. In addition, we will be evaluating an option for secure entrance into the building.
- Operating programming 7 days a week especially through the winter months. This allows guests to get the vital skills they may need to get back on their feet, and it provides additional safety and security while also getting dinner.
- Continuing to increase our partnerships, especially in the area of legal services, dental care, mentorships, long-term programs such as rehabilitation, and employment/training programs. Additionally, we are excited to add an on-site case manager through a partnership with the Guidance Center.
- Updating our van or adding an additional vehicle, especially for longer trips, as it is having regular mechanical issues.
- Adding an additional shower and bathroom to our facility.

Thank you for your continued financial and volunteer support!

Myranda Agnew, Executive Director





Greetings and love to everyone that reads this incredible newsletter.

The Lord is at work in FUMC of Leavenworth Kansas. Financially we are holding steady, thank you everyone. 2021 was a Kingdom building year – we provided tens of thousands of dollars and thousands of man-hours to serving our mission partners and our community a whole. The Trustees received approval from the church council to have a construction document prepared for the renovation to the front of the church – the inclined sidewalk. The annual Church Charge Conference took place and the church is healthy both spiritually and financially. But 2021 is rearview and 2022 is our clear-view. **“Bringing Kingdom” is still our primary focus for 2022. Born on our scriptural foundation of loving our**

Lord Jesus Christ first and foremost and loving our neighbors as ourselves, we will continue to reach out and love Leavenworth driven by the Holy Spirit.

A perfect example of us listening to the Lord:

*The Congregational Care Ministry is working with the Scouting Ministry to assist our Octogenarians who could use a little extra help for Safety and Winterization in and around their homes. We are looking to see who wants help with issues such as replacing lightbulbs and furnace filters, fixing handrails, installing smoke or CO2 detectors or batteries, draining hoses, and raking leaves in areas that will keep them safe. **Everybody’s situation is different.** If you would be kind enough to look at the attached checklist and determine if it would be appropriate for any congregant. Scouts and Serve Saturday volunteers will help with the repairs, replacements, etc. No Youth will enter any homes; only trusted adults approved by the home owner or representative will be permitted to assist inside the home. Any ideas you have for a better way to help would be appreciated. If you could reach out and connect with those in need, and get the survey information back by Monday, December 6, 2021, that would be a huge help as we assess the needs. Please call Ed Garven at the church, 913 682-5374 or send an email: egarven@fumclvks.org*

The love this congregation brings on a daily basis is steaming ahead this coming year. Feeding the hungry (Samaritan’s Buffet, Leavenworth Mission Volunteers, Backpack Buddies), housing the homeless (Leavenworth Interfaith Community of Hope), and loving unconditionally on our neighbors not for individual/collective recognition but to bring glory to our Lord Jesus (Itch’n to Stitch, Grief Share, AIR, Youth Mission, Kids First Worship, Bible Study Groups, Sunday School, Scouts and Music) are all opportunities for you to serve and love.

If you would like more information on these service ministries or you have an idea or other area where you believe we need to serve, please contact me @ egarven@fumclvks.org.

In Christ

Ed



Meet the Haddock family; Austin, Emily and baby Halcey. They have been attending second service and Halcey was baptized on Nov. 28. Many of their extended family were able to come to the baptism. It was a joyous occasion.

Austin was born in Leavenworth and grew up in Easton. After he graduated from KU he worked in Topeka and St Joe before returning to Leavenworth. Emily grew up in Little River, Kansas. She went to school at Washburn before migrating farther east to the city. They originally met at a hog roast, but later reconnected through work and started dating a year later. They have been together ever since. Austin is a Branch Manager for the Sherwin Williams Commercial store in Olathe. He has been with the company for nine years. Emily is very fortunate to be able to stay home with Halcey and watch her grow and learn each day.

Speaking of Halcey, her favorite toy is a little stuffed Alpaca it goes most places with us. Right now she enjoys tummy time and spinning on circles on her belly. She is sooooo close to getting ready to crawl. Hal loves anything to do with her daddy. Her favorite part of the day is when he comes home from work.

They are very close to their extended family. They love to spend time outside and go camping. They also love going on road trips, going to concerts and doing projects around the house.

They are so grateful to have found an inviting, welcoming church here in town. Everyone is always so nice and has a smile on their face. They are very excited to grow with and raise their family at First United Methodist Church.

Below, Pastor Dave is giving the baptism charge to the congregation and then presenting the Haddock family with a baby quilt made by Itchin to Stitch.



GriefShare is a friendly, caring group of people who will walk alongside you through one of life’s most difficult experiences. You don’t have to go through the grieving process alone.

As the holidays approach, many of us are facing “firsts” - Thanksgiving, Christmas and a new year without our loved ones. It’s helpful to have support during this stressful time, and GriefShare provides a safe place where we can be authentic about our feelings and learn coping strategies. If you are experiencing grief, please join us. In December our meeting times have been adjusted. For December only, **the Spouses group meets on the second Tuesday, December 14 at 2 pm. The other grief group will meet only once this month on Wednesday, December 8 at 5 pm.** Please call the church office or Marsha Gaffin (913-547-0286) for more information or to enroll.





Christmas is such a fun time for children. In Kids First Worship, the students are learning about how Jesus was born in a manger and how the angels announced his birth. Abel Rolf and Carlos Vasquez rehearse a Christmas skit about the shepherds. Kids First Worship meets during the second service.



During Sunday School children are working on an angel song for the Christmas Music Sunday on Dec. 19. McKenna and Caroline Bolser, and Violet and Valancy Varnal are practicing with Nancy Shade and Jan Mix in the photo above. Sunday School is from 9:45 – 10:40 a.m. in our Education Building. We currently have two classes. Class 1 – Room 105 Pre-K through 1st grade. Class 2 – Room 202 2nd – 6th grade



Students recently participated in a competition to see who could make the tallest tower of marshmallows and popsicle sticks. The winner was able to withstand being dropped from two flights of stairs. This winter we will be taking the youth to Alabama to visit civil rights monuments and museums as well as other local attractions. The dates of the trip are Dec 27th-31st.

We will be staying in Birmingham due to its central location, but will be driving out to many areas in the state including the Equal Justice Initiative museum in Montgomery. Please email sshade@fumclvks.org or reply to this email to indicate your youth's interest in attending.

Due to ongoing uncertainty in the levels of Covid in the state, we will be waiting until closer to the time of the trip to confirm all details, including the possibility of cancelling the trip. Many of the locations we intend on visiting are the most likely to close in the case of a significant outbreak. Thank you for your continued patience.

The youth Christmas party will be December 19 at 6 pm.



During the month of December, we are traveling with Mary and Joseph to Bethlehem. We will be experiencing what their lives were like by carrying water on our heads, making bread, and doing basic woodworking. We will also “travel” to Bethlehem to participate in a census. We will not meet on Dec. 22 and 29 for Christmas break.

Dear Itchin to Stitch & church friends,
Thank you very much for the awesome quilt. It is very beautiful and I will treasure it. This really means a lot to me. Thank you again.

Daryl Brandt

Thank you!

Dear Friends at First United Methodist Church,

I wanted to thank everyone involved in the making of the quilt given to me for my military service. I and my family will enjoy its use and warmth for years to come.

Tim Burkett



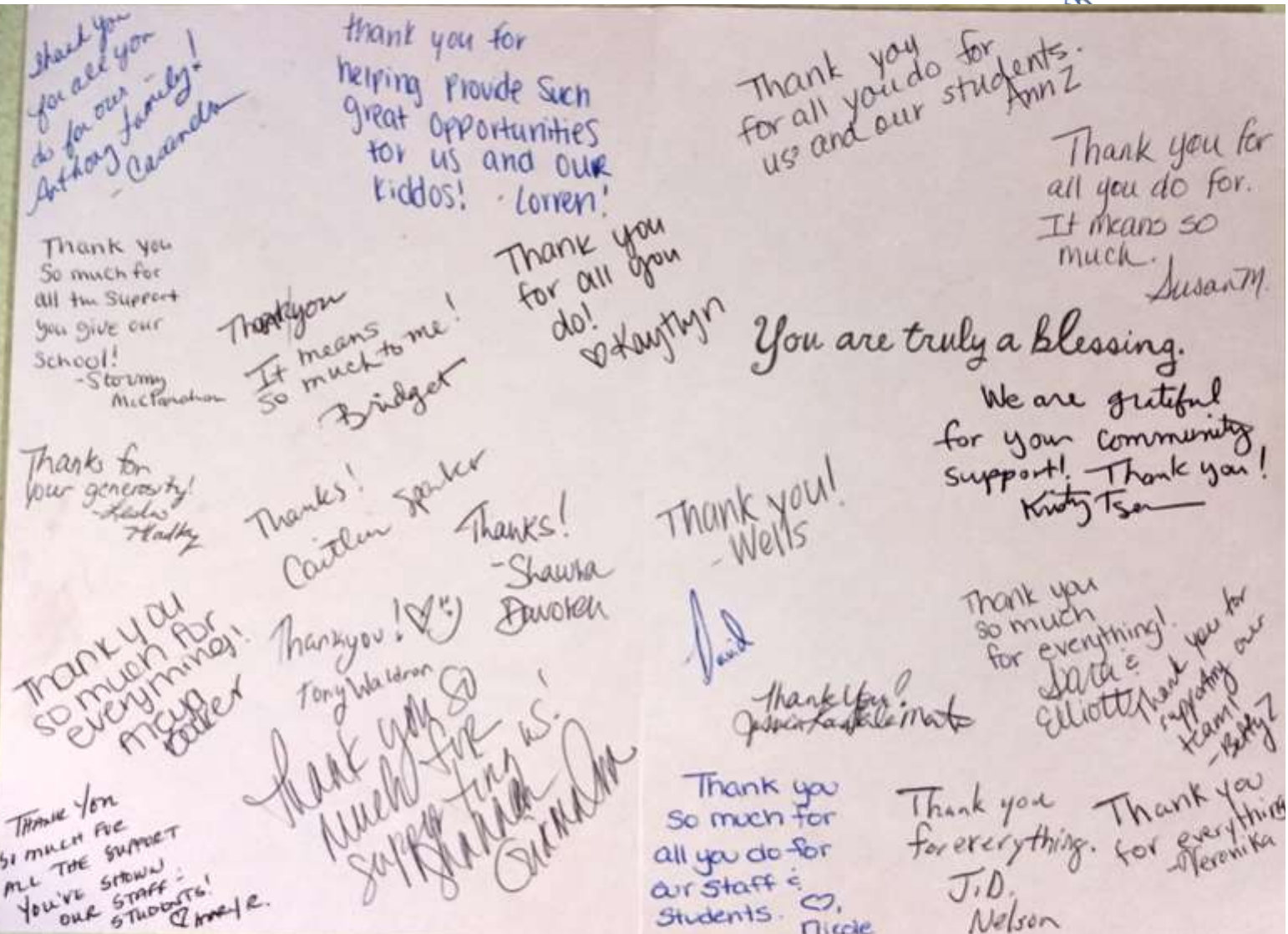
To the members of Itchin to Stitch,

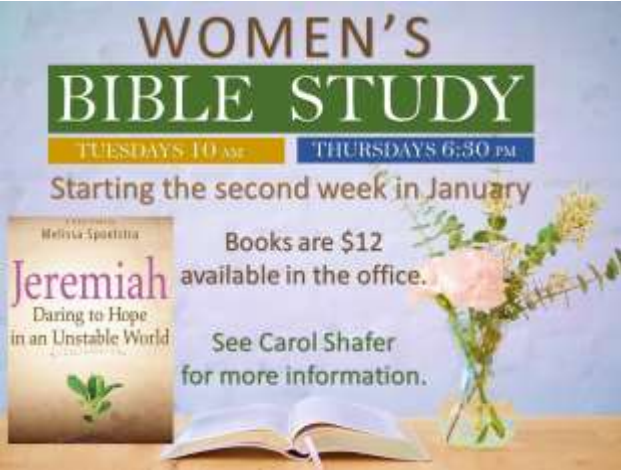
I would like to express my gratitude for being so fortunate to receive such a wonderful quilt. It is a useful gift that I will treasure. Thank you for honoring the veterans in our church.

Mark Lauber




Below is a thank you note from the teacher and staff of Anthony Elementary school for the dinner we provided for them during parent teacher conferences.






Carol Shafer, the Bible study leader said, "In every Bible study I have done, there are always prayer requests about our country and our leaders and COVID. I wasn't really looking for an Old Testament Bible study, but when I saw the title, "Daring to Hope in an Unstable World", I thought this is what we need because we need to know where to find hope in today's world." Jeremiah also lived in an unstable time when he was called to share God's message of mercy and love. His words are just as relevant to us as they were to the wayward people of his time. This six-week Bible study will not only help you explore the meaning of Jeremiah's message, they provide practical life applications you can use to start experiencing intentional living now! The same Bible Study is offered on Tuesdays at 10 am and Thursdays at 6:30 pm. It will start the week of January 11. Books are \$12 and will be available in the office at the end of December.


Do you love to read? Join our book club! We read a new book every 6 to 8 weeks and then get together to talk about it. Our next book is "The Prayer Box" by Lisa Wingate. Here is a summary of the story. When Lola Anne Poole, an old-timer on Hatteras Island, passes away in her bed at 91, the struggling young mother in her rental cottage, Tandi Jo Reese, finds herself charged with the task of cleaning out Lola's rambling Victorian house. Running from a messy, dangerous past, Tandi never expects to find more than a temporary hiding place within Lola's walls, but everything changes with the discovery of eighty-one carefully decorated prayer boxes, one for each year. Copies of the book can be checked out from the library, or purchased online. We will meet to discuss it Jan. 11.



BOOK CLUB



JAN 11
1 PM



WINTER IS A GREAT TIME TO READ.
THIS BOOK IS AVAILABLE DIGITALLY
OR HARD COPY AT THE
LEAVENWORTH LIBRARY, AMAZON
& CHRISTIAN BOOK DISTRIBUTORS.

Serve Day is Dec. 11. We have three opportunities for you to share the joy of Christmas with your community. We will be singing Christmas carols to members of our church family who may not be able to come to church. We will be wrapping the gifts donated for kids at Anthony Elementary and we have a cooperative project with an Eagle Scout to help older church members winterize their homes.

A survey is currently being taken by octogenarian angels to find out their needs. Robert Chaar, an Eagle Scout will help ensure that all supplies needed are ready. Volunteers that can change lightbulbs and smoke detector batteries, and rake leaves are needed. But we also need more skilled volunteers to help with fixing handrails and fall hazards. If you are able to help. Please contact Ed Garven at (816) 805-4771 or egarven@fumclvks.org so we can assign work crews for each project.

1 Peter 4:10
Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms.



AIR
MINISTRY
Art • Inspiration • Respite
HOPE FOR PEOPLE LIVING WITH DEMENTIA

MONDAYS 1-4 PM



We had a busy month in AIR ministry in November. We mailed thank you cards and packages to our active veterans. Matthew and Michael Weilbacher sent us photos with their cards. We also packed 33 Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes. Thank you to everyone who donated items for the shoeboxes.





HOPE
DEMENTIA SUPPORT GROUPS
for people living with dementia
and their care givers

First and Third Wednesdays
5:45-7:30 pm

729 Pennsylvania,
Leavenworth, KS, US



Schedule for December 11

- 8 am - 12 pm Winterization and Safety work in older church members homes.
- 8 am - 10 am Wrapping donated presents for Anthony students
- 10 am - 12 pm Christmas caroling - meet at the church to divide into groups
- 12 pm Lunch provided by the church for all volunteers
- 1 pm - 5 pm Winterization and Safety work

DECEMBER SCHEDULE



December 6 - St. Nicholas Day

December 13 - Christmas Party

December 20 - Field Trip to see lights - 4:30-7:30 pm



December 27 - NO AIR - Christmas break



Itchin' to Stitch

For six years, Itchin to Stitch has been using their talents to honor veterans who are member of our church with a beautiful quilt. They started in 2015 with the oldest living veterans and each year they have move to the next age category. November 14, they honored 11 veterans from age 50-60+. So far they have gifted 83 quilts to veterans.

This is not the only way they use their talents. They give each child **baptized a baby quilt**. They also make items for Children's Mercy hospital, the Joy Meadows Foster Community and nursing homes. They are not meeting in December, but they will meet January 20 at 1:30 pm. Visitors are always welcome.

Veterans Honored This Year

Daryl Brandt	US Army	22 Years
Timothy Burkett	US Army	26 Years
Frank Gieb	US Army	2 Years
Rick Hansen	US Army	23 Years
Mark Lauber	US Army	20 Years
Jef Peckham	US Navy	20 Years
Jeff Perry	US Army	22 Years
Rick Sanders	US Army	22 Years
Carla Wiegers	US Army	30 Years
Steve Wiegers	US Army	23 Years
Dan Wiley	US Air Force	4 Years



Scouts Helping Others

Almost 10 years ago, returning from the Negro Baseball Museum, our Scouts saw kids sleeping under a bridge in Kansas City. **It turns out that they were "homeless"; some by choice and others by circumstances.** The Scouts did research and found the Synergy House that focused on the homeless youth and we partnered with them in what is known as One Homeless Night. We still keep up that awareness on the first weekend in November. Carla Weigers came out to join us for a while. Usually we have boxes, but when our source for boxes disappeared, the Scouts were encouraged to make due with what was available in the church green space. Dinner was provided in a soup kitchen environment with grace that asked God for his blessings on those less fortunate. Upstairs we watched a first person documentary on youth homelessness. **In the morning Scouts helped with the Samaritan's Buffet, which rounds out the experience.**

Veterans' Day is always an event for the church and the two Scout Troops and Cub Pack marched as a group in the Parade. It was very nice to have a clear, sunny morning with no snow this year. The Cub Pack 3109 conducted its award ceremony in the sanctuary where the Scouts Leaders honored the Cub Scouts with patches, achievements, awards, and/or Bobcat rank earned since September.

This will be a fast month with a Christmas party before school lets out for the holidays. We're starting a partnership with the Congregational Care Ministry working with the Scouting Ministry to assist our Octogenarians who could use a little extra help for Safety and Winterization in and around their homes. You would be an Angel to help out on our next Serve Saturday, December 11. A Scout is Helpful.

Bill Kidder



I ♥ MY CHURCH

The Church Council meets monthly to make decisions about the future of our church. As Council Members prepare to lead in 2022, we asked them two questions. What are their favorite things about our church and what would they like to accomplish in 2022? Here are their answers.



Michelle Briggs, Lay Leader - I feel as the Lay Leader that I need to say "the people are my favorite things". AND they are! But I also appreciate that when I walk into the sanctuary I can feel the calming presence of the Lord and be in a Holy place.

Since my area concerns listening to laity and laity involvement, I would like to see our church continue to be involved in serving our neighbors, and staying connected to God and each other. There are so many opportunities to practice being Christ to the world within each of our own realms of influence - every interaction is an opportunity, every conflict is an opportunity, every joy is an opportunity!

Marti Crow, Finance Chair - My favorite thing about the church is the people. We have the best people. We really do have the best people.

I want to get the front of the church done so that everyone can come in the front door together. That is my goal.



Carole Hoffman, Staff Parish Relations Committee Leader - My favorite thing about our church is the people and how welcoming and loving they are. The members of our church have such God centered hearts and it shows in how involved we are in the community.

In 2022, I would like to see SPRC find a Youth Director to take over and continue leading our Youth. We are so blessed to have an amazing church staff that actually make the SPRC job easier.



Bill Kidder, Nurture Leader - I like that Rev York brings Jesus to FUMC. I like that every day there are opportunities to help others. In Scouting terms, that is doing a good turn daily ... or is that being Reverent?

I would like for our church to build stronger children and youth programs and be the community resource for Grief Share.



Christmas Memories



At the Women's Bible Study on Tuesday morning our leader, Carol Shafer, asked us to share a favorite Christmas memory. I had my Christmas memories rolling around in my mind, trying to decide which one to share.

Some were funny – My mom and Aunt LorRetta discovering "loose pecans" on the pecan pie, which they promptly "cleaned up" by eating them. When the pie finally made it to the table, there were exactly ZERO pecans left on the pie! Much laughter ensued and a tradition was born.

One Christmas my mom remarked, "We don't have any babies for Christmas this year." which was promptly followed the next year with all three of her daughters having new babies. "I didn't mean all of you at once!" was her joyous response.

Some were sad – Saying goodbye for the last time to my Grandpa Keyser in a nursing home on Christmas Eve. The first Christmas without mom.

Some were precious – Watching my Grandma and Grandpa Keyser at their last Christmas together, sitting side by side in their wheelchairs quietly holding hands and watching the joyous chaos. So many family memories, but a lot of church memories too.

Singing "Silent Night" on Christmas Eve as candles are lit. Loving Jesus, loving my family, loving my church. As Paul said, "The greatest of these is love." May love fill you this Christmas.
Nancy Shade



Some of my most favorite memories are of the children's Christmas programs I have helped with. Children have such a simple, sweet understanding of what Christmas means. One year in particular stands out, when Miss Colby Jane (one of our Angel Choir) was SOOO enthusiastic in her singing. Every time we came to the chorus, you could hear her joyful "IT'S CHRISTMAS!" resound through the sanctuary. Her exaltations were innocent and pure, and brought smiles to all who heard them. May we ALL be so excited that Christmas is coming and baby Jesus will be born.
Kathy McKinley



Christmas memories! All of us have so many! I have been a Joyful Ringer since the group was organized. There are several of us that can say that! But, through the years we've seen ringers come and go. You know though, whoever those six ringers were, we were always Joyful! One of our favorite events was community outreach. Especially during Christmas!! Our area care facilities welcomed us and our bells. 6 ringers, 3 music stands, 12 bells, and off we went! I had us scheduled to get to as many places as we could in an evening. This event always turned into being a Christmas gift to ourselves. We all received JOY from going to ring! Often the residents would sing along! What a JOY to bring JOY to others!
Cindy White

Love Your Neighbor

For 15 years, Maryann McAfee has organized the Community Center Blood Drive at our church. Maryann knows the importance of having a safe and full blood supply. She was a flight nurse for the Air Force Reserves for 27 years and she worked at the VA hospital for 37 years. She helped open the coronary care unit of the ICU at the VA in the 1970s and she facilitated the nurses who were going into cardiac intensive care. She has logged 3,000 flight hours, mostly from training exercises and the 3 years of active duty when she flew patients who had been wounded in Vietnam from the hospital in Japan to home.

Maryann knows that the Community Blood Center needs to collect 580 pints of blood every day and over 200,000 pints of blood annually to serve our local hospitals. In the Kansas City Metro area, someone needs a blood transfusion every 4 minutes. Red blood cells only last 42 days and platelets must be used within 5 days, so the need for blood donors never stops. The holidays are especially important for blood drives **because people get busy and don't give. But it is also a heavy travel time which means there are more car accidents** and a trauma patients can use up to 50 pints of blood.

Maryann took over leadership of the blood drive from Donna Ramsey who started the blood drive in 2002. Both Donna and Maryann see the blood drive, not only as important for the physical health of our community, but also as a way to show hospitality and Christian love.

The church opens up the Fellowship Hall to the Community Blood Center who brings in specialized medical personnel to do all the screening and collecting. Our church has 4 teams of 3 volunteers that work an hour and a half. They greet donors and provide snacks for people after they give blood and help the blood center team as needed.

If you had been restricted from giving blood in the past because you lived in Germany in the 80s and 90s, you are now eligible to donate. People restricted because they lived in the UK are still restricted. If you have any questions about your eligibility, you can call 1-800-688-0900.

The goal for the blood drive is 50 units. Last year we collected 54 units. It is usually busiest from 11 am to 12:30 pm. You can walk in, but they prefer appointments. You can make an appointment at savealifenow.org/group and enter the code BD. If you have questions, you can reach Maryann at (913) 683-0208 or mbmcafee@outlook.com. Won't you consider giving the gift of life this Christmas by donating



Kathi LaMoe, Witness Leader - I love Sunday Morning Worship - 8:30 or 11:00, in person or online; the love and inspiration found in the FUMC Sunday morning Worship services are easily and hands down my favorite thing!

I would like to add more volunteers to our Hospitality Teams and create a year long calendar of Witness events and opportunities. I would like to add Witness Ministry as a tab on our website and give descriptions of upcoming Witness events and how to participate. I would also like to create a wish list of Witness events or activities our church would like to host or seek out in the Leavenworth community



Mike Mix, Trustee Leader - Jan and I found so much in common with the people here at First Church. We share a history with native Kansans, growing up just 1 1/2 hours North of here. We share a view of the world with so many well seasoned international travelers. Most of all, though, we felt a spiritual **connection that made First Church feel like "home"**.

At the end of 2022, I'd love to look back over a busy but rewarding series of Trustee lead efforts, including but not limited to: the inclined sidewalk project, our organ repair, HVAC upgrades, additional sidewalk and parking lot work, and any other facility upgrades that are identified through the year.

Carla Wieggers, President - My favorite thing about our church is how visible our members are throughout our community. Our congregation makes things happen by showing up and giving of resources - time, talents, treasure. Our members strive to walk that path of righteousness in their daily choices in the workplace, as members of various civic organizations, in supporting our community as positive citizens and servants and Christians. First United Methodist Church Leavenworth is woven into the fabric of Leavenworth history, and it is exciting to be a part of such a vibrant and generous congregation of doers.

I am so impressed by the front church yard initiative. The committee led by Mike Mix is a strong multi-generational group of church members collaborating and serving as a sounding board to ideas that could culminate in everyone coming through the front door of our church! These group members are serving the future and are being careful stewards of resources and truly giving research and thought to changing the look and function of the entrance to our church. Their decisions will have a physical and lasting impact into the next several decades. Also, since our church building is over 100 years old, several of our congregates are volunteering their time to begin the process towards applying for recognition on the national registry. With this initiative, we are seeking project documents from Kaaz Construction and sifting through our own archives to locate images of the church prior to 1969 when the church faced East, and the major reconstruction that switched the altar to face the North as we know it now. When seeking national registry status, accounts of people with long-standing attendance (generations of families) is so important to justifying how significant our sacred structure is. If you have a special story of what this church has meant to you, consider letting the church office know and we could include your testimony in our efforts.



Thank you to the Church Council Leaders and all the volunteers that work with them through the year. They are the people working behind the scenes to get things done. We appreciate all your hard work and dedication.

BLOOD DRIVE 
December 7, 11am – 5pm
Savealifenow.org/group code BD
Maryann McAfee at (913)683-0208

Each Christmas Eve, we deliver bags of cookies to those faithful first responders that spend the holidays working for the community instead of celebrating with their families. This year as you bake your favorite holiday treat, make a couple dozen extra and bring them to the church office. We will compile all the goodies into bags. They will be available for church members to drop off of police stations, fire stations, and hospitals on your way home from the Christmas Eve service. It is a simple and delicious way to share love at Christmas.

**DONATE COOKIES FOR
FIRST RESPONDER
CHRISTMAS EVE BAGS
BY DECEMBER 19**



LIFE @ FUMC

Looking for a place where you belong? Check out one of our many groups where we learn, love and laugh together.



Sunday School is a great way to make friends. Pictured here are the Cornerstone class and the Family Matters classes.



The Koinonia Sunday School class dives deep into the Old Testament.



The New Life Seekers class recently had Sister Vickie talk to them about Attainable Housing in Leavenworth. You are welcome at any of these groups. We also have Sunday School classes for children and youth. If you have questions about Sunday School, contact Sandy Wood at swood@fumclvks.org.



The top photo is Heart & Soul that meets at 9:30 am on Tuesday. The center photos are of Carol Shafer's morning and evening Bible Study classes. All ladies are invited to meet for lunch once a month. Our next lunch is Dec. 14, at 11:30 am at Baan Thai.



Our choir meets on Wednesday night at 6:30 pm. Anyone who loves to sing is invited to join us. The Wesley ringers is the most exclusive group in our church. You do need some musical skill and experience to join them on Sunday nights at 4 pm. Contact Kathy McKinley if you are interested in either choir or the bells. TexMcK@aol.com. You don't need any skills to join us for the Gathering potluck on Wednesday nights at 5:30 pm. Wednesday activities end for the year on Dec. 15.

