



RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Phone: 913-682-5374

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

Sunday services stream at either site.

May 2022

1 8:30 & 11:00 Worship 4:00 pm Bells	2 1:00 pm AIR ministry	3 10am Bible Study	4 3:45 pm WW 5:30 pm Gathering 6:30 pm Choir	5 8:30am Staff 6:30pm Women's Bible Study	6	7 Community Art Festival 10am-2pm 
8 Mother's Day 8:30 & 11:00 Worship	9 1:00 pm AIR Ministries	10 10am Bible Study 12 pm Lunch Bunch @ The Depot	11 3:45 pm WW 5:00 pm Grief Group 5:30 pm Gathering 6:00 pm Bells 6:30 pm Choir	12 8:30am Staff	13	14
15 All Music Sunday 8:30 & 11am Worship 4:00 pm Bells	16 1:00 pm AIR Ministries	17 10am Bible Study 2 pm Grief Group	18 3:45 pm WW 5:30 pm Gathering 6:30 pm Choir	19 8:30am Staff 1:30 pm Itchin to Stitch	20	21 Lawrence Community Handbell Choir concert 7 pm
22 Graduation Sunday 8:30 & 11am Worship 4:00 pm Bells	23 1:00 pm AIR Ministries	24 10am Bible Study 2 pm Grief Group	25 5:00 pm Grief Group	26 8:30am Staff	27	28 
29 10 am Worship	30 Memorial Day Office closed	31 10am Bible Study	1 6:30 pm Choir	2 8:30am Staff Meeting	3	4 Serve Day 





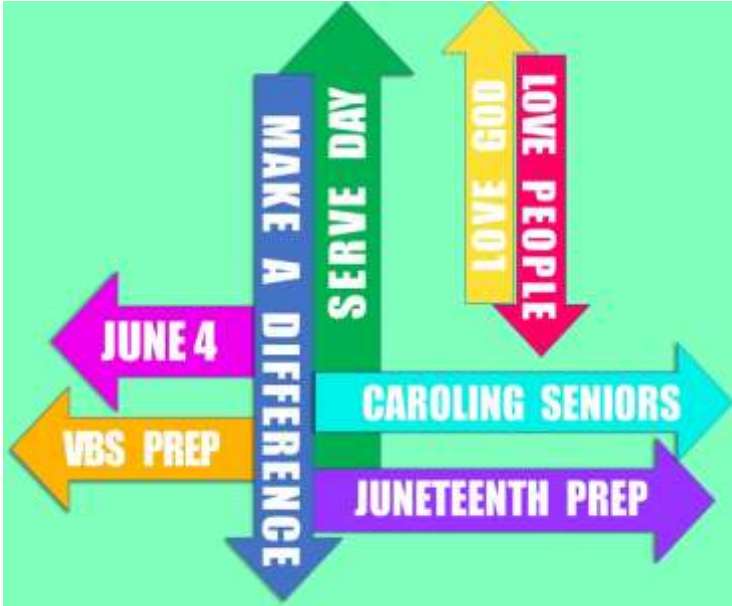
One of the biblical principles by which I live is a Matthew 25 vision. “When did we see you hungry, naked, thirsty, stranger, sick or prisoner, the righteous will ask the King.” Jesus said, “Whenever you did it for the least of these members of my family you did it for me.” We live out the fullness of our Jesus vision in looking to serve others. I consider this attitude part of my spiritual formation and discipleship in Christ.

Maudy Thursday reminds me of the new commandment that Jesus gave his disciples, “I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another” (John 13:34-35). “As I have loved you” is done through service for the sake of others. Jesus washed the disciples’ feet to model how servanthood should be done. It is a sign of our love for Jesus that we love others. Loving our neighbors is love in action. We need practice in bringing this belief to life.

I enjoy serving in our community with others. This can be done in small or large ways. It may be a consideration of your own talent, resources, time and passion. As we grow to be more like Jesus, mature disciples serve others as an act of devotion to Christ and to be a blessing to others. The great thing is that we receive a blessing from serving as well. When you give of yourself for the sake of others, that is a sign of spiritual growth.

Jesus taught his disciples that the greatest among you will be a servant (Matthew 23:11). How are you aspiring to be great for the Kingdom of God? Who are you using your talent, time and treasure to serve in Jesus’ name? My hope for FUMCL is that we will be known as a church that serves our neighbors with generosity and devotion. We’ll be a church that is always willing to help and support ministries. It may seem foolish sometimes to give ourselves away like we do but I’d rather be known for being foolish for Christ than being a church that only cares about itself.

Pastor Dave



If you are looking for ways to serve, here are two opportunities to make a difference that only require a few hours. May 7 we will have our Community Art Festival and we need volunteers to help set up at 8 am, play with kids at 10 am and help clean up at 2 pm. If you can help please contact Sandy Wood, swood@fumclvks.org.

Serve Day is a great way to serve. We usually have a choice of three events. Each event usually last around two hours. In June we will be preparing for Vacation Bible School at 9 am. At 10 am, we will visit homebound church family members and sing hymns with them. At 1 pm, we will prepare for the Juneteenth parade and festival. All activities are family friendly so kids are encouraged to help as well.

MAY Birthdays



1st	Ainslee Frederick	14th	Michael Piper	20th	Donna Cade
	Matthew McKinley	15th	Lucien Rader		Sandy Pepper
2nd	Megan Rust	16th	Ollie West		Sheryl Reddell
5th	Dean Hamon	17th	Dinah Zeck	21st	Lois Morris
	Sarah Williams	18th	Don Gaffin	22nd	Penny Bowen
8th	John Chapman		Isaac Papineau	23rd	Sarah Lauber
	Tammy John		Luke Papineau	25th	Dana Piper
9th	Esther Polson	19th	Michael McKinley	28th	Susanna Banker
12th	Natalie Heim		Kauv Un		Vera Hrabak
	Connie Poe		Cynthia Wepking	30th	Jef Peckham
14th	Jan Glick		Bea Yenney		Susan Williams

MAY Anniversaries

18th	Richard & Suzanne Gray	27 years
	Dae & Jennifer Ko	20 years
23rd	David & Christine Varnal	7 years
24th	Jim & Cynthia Walley	47 years



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

UPCOMING Events





I recently read about a long term study of 678 Catholic sisters 75 to 107 years of age who are members of the School Sisters of Notre Dame congregation. It began in 1986, to examine the onset of Alzheimer's disease and was conducted at both the University of Minnesota and the University of Kentucky. Similar environmental influences and general lifestyles among the participants make the nuns an ideal population to study. One of the sources of information studied were the sister's autobiographies written just before they took their vows, which, for most sisters, was between the ages 19 and 21. After coding these archives, several themes arose. Positivity was closely related to longevity, as well as idea density. Idea density is an analysis which measures ideas in speech and writing. Upon review, it was found that an essay's lack of linguistic density (e.g., complexity, vivacity, fluency) functioned as a significant predictor of its author's risk for developing Alzheimer's disease in old age. However, the study also found that the nuns who wrote positively in their personal journals were more likely to live longer than their counterparts. The researchers found three indicators of longer life when coding the sister's autobiographies: the amount of positive sentences, positive words, and the variety of positive emotions used. The less positivity in writing correlated with greater mortality. Roughly 80% of nuns whose writing was measured as lacking in linguistic density went on to develop Alzheimer's disease in old age.

May Schedule



May 2 - Cinco De Mayo Fiesta



May 9 - Field Trip to Arboretum



May 16 - Garden Day



May 23 - National Strawberry Day



May 30 - Memorial Day - NO AIR

In AIR ministry, we know it can be very difficult to keep a positive attitude when you are living with dementia or caring for a loved one with dementia, especially if you are living in isolation. On Mondays we laugh and encourage each other. We tell jokes and sing songs. We exercise and we express ourselves creatively with art and contribute to our community with service projects. Care-givers are also offered a time to talk with people who are living with the same challenges. AIR ministry also believes maintaining vocabulary through social interaction is very important. We were made for relationship, no matter what age we are. It is a joy to be a part of this ministry. Thank you for your support.

Sandy



**MAY COLLECTION ITEM:
CANNED BEANS, SOUP &
RAMEN NOODLES**

We're partnering with the HUB, a United Methodist mission in Argentine, by collecting supplies for their free food and necessities pantry. The church's response has been amazing. This year we've taken carloads full of toilet paper, paper towels, soap, shampoo and conditioner. Thank you for your generosity. In May we are continuing to collect any type of canned beans, soup and ramen noodles. Drop donations in the wooden chest in the foyer or in the church office.



Grief Share 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.

Just about all of us know someone who has lost a loved one. We want to be there for them, but often we feel uncomfortable. What do I say? What can I do? Below are some universal statements that NEVER help bring comfort.

At least she lived a long life, many people die young.

He is in a better place, he's your guardian angel now.

She brought this on herself.

There is a reason for everything.

Aren't you over him yet, he has been dead for awhile now.

You can have another child still.

She was such a good person God wanted her to be with him.

I know how you feel (actually, you don't)

She did what she came here to do and it was her time to go.

Be strong.

Instead, you might want to use one of the following statements.

I am so sorry for your loss.

I wish I had the right words, just know I care.

I don't know how you feel, but I am here to help in any way I can.

You and your loved one will be in my thoughts and prayers.

My favorite memory of your loved one is...

I am always just a phone call away.

Give a hug instead of saying something.

We all need help at times like this, I am here for you.

I am usually up early or late, if you need anything.

Saying nothing, just be with the person.

If you are experiencing grief, GriefShare might be for you. It's a support group where you can share with others and learn coping strategies through videos, homework, and discussion. Please consider joining us. We have two groups, one for spouses only on the third Tuesday of each month at 2 pm, and one for anyone who is grieving loss on the second and fourth Wednesdays of the month from 5-7 pm. For more information, contact Marsha at marshagaffin@gmail.com or (913) 547-0286.

Marsha

*Sometimes the best
gift you can give
someone grieving
is your presence.*



**BLOOD
DRIVE**



June 7, 11am – 5pm

Maryann McAfee at (913)651-2484

mbmcafeelv@outlook.com

You Can Save 3 Lives in 1 Hour

We will be hosting a Community Blood Drive on Tuesday, May 7. Blood reserves are currently being stretched as the United States reaches out to help Ukraine. Our goal for this blood drive is higher than it has ever been. We hope to collect 100 units of blood. Please consider giving blood and if you are able to volunteer, please contact Maryann McAfee.

To find out if you are eligible to give blood, go to savealifenow.org for guidelines. There's no deferral period for people who have received the COVID vaccine.



Greeting and love to each and every one of you.
The Church Council convened on April 26th and organizational activities, thoughtful conversations and discernment was achieved. The financial status of the church remains strong – thank you for your faithful giving.
We have two positions on staff we are looking to fill in the near future. Logan Hamilton our organist has departed for Kansas City and Kristen Howell will leave her youth post as she and Ryan are expecting their second child this fall. Please pray that the Lord calls devoted individuals to fill these vital positions. If you know of anyone interested in these ministries, please do not hesitate to reach out.

Your trustees have their plate full with finalization of the inclined sidewalk plan, completion of the renovations to the basement in the Education Building (looks good – please check it out!) A special thanks to Sandra and Francois with Projects by Apollo for your magnificent work. The council approved immediate funds to address our broken dishwasher and other main kitchen improvements.

Your Nurture and Care Team continues to reach out to our church family with heartfelt compassion and love through **Grief Share, Itch'n to Stitch, Scout Ministry, phone calls and the scholarship team. Of note, our next blood drive is June 7th** – we need lots of blood, please tell your friends. The restriction prohibiting individuals who lived in Germany from giving **blood has been lifted. As per Bill Kidder we need “all arms on deck.”**

Your Witness Team is focusing on hospitality lessons learned from their hospitality seminar with COR last month. We want to be a church where you know we know your name, whether you are a first time guest or have been a member for decades.

Your Outreach Team has provided tens of thousands of dollars to our outreach partners like: Backpack Buddies, the Interfaith Community of Hope and over \$10,000 to the Alliance against Family Violence.

The Church Council also discussed the future of the United Methodist Church in relationship to the newly formed Global Methodist Church. We will have more information on this topic after Pastor Dave and Michelle Briggs attend the Annual Great Plains Conference in June. If you have questions or concerns on this matter please send them to me at egarven@fumclvks.org and I will share them with the church leadership.

The Lord spoke of the future in Matthew 6:34 NIV, “Therefore, do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.”

For the mouth speaks what the heart is full of. You can't enjoy the present if you fear the future. Don't dwell on what you don't know about the future. It won't do you any good to worry about it. Whatever your concerns for the future, trust that God will be there with you when the future happens. In the meantime, enjoy the present. Our tomorrow will reflect what we achieve today, and today we must continue bringing His Kingdom. Our identity in Jesus allows us access to commune with the Father and out of that interaction we obey His will and in return receive love.

In Christ, *Ed*

The Gathering on Wednesday nights is a great way to enjoy a great meal and make a new friend. Everyone is welcome to join us. We have added themes to make it a little more fun, but you are welcome to bring whatever you like or just join us. We will save a seat for you!

- May 4 Quatro De Mayo (Mexican Night)
- May 11 **Mom's Secret Recipe**
- May 18 Bible Story theme (Angel food cake, fish, lentils)

The Gathering will break for the summer after the 18th, so join us before it ends! You can bring anything to share.



SCOUTING GRAND SLAM HIGHLIGHTS

The Scouting Ministry would like to highlight a Scouting family with four students in our Scouting Ministry. Meet the Chaars. Trixie is a fifth grader who is in Pack 3109 as a Webelo II and will bridge over to Troop 6173 this Fall. Her little brother is John, a 4th Grader and Webelo I. Henry is a First class Scout in Troop 173 and a Freshman at Leavenworth High. And the oldest, Robert, just finished his Eagle Scout requirements last month. You are welcome to join him in his Eagle Scout Court of Honor at 6 pm here on Friday, 20 May. The next day he will graduate from High School and later in the fall will head off to the USMC boot camp. Dad works at the IRS and Mom is a registered nurse (wearing that mask 8 hours a day) and is the Troop Treasurer.

Last Saturday Pack 3109 went to the races with the annual Pinewood Derby. The really unique aspect is the brand new aluminum track purchased by the Tinkler Trust; dubbed The Tinkler Track. Just so you know that YOU are always free to participate in the open section with your own car, if you want to make one.

Special note: Esa Lozoya from Troop 6173 passed her Eagle Board of Review this month. The Scouting Ministry is humbled to be a part of the fellowship of love and reverence in the First Church.

Bill Kidder





Building Relationships & Making Memories

What a Wonderful year of Building Relationships and Making Memories with your children at Wonderful Wednesday!! These are photos of kids making fluffy slime. We will wrap up the school year with a Celebration theme. Every time God did amazing things for his people, they would celebrate and remember his goodness. He has definitely done an amazing thing at Wonderful Wednesday! Our May sessions are:

May 4 – Celebrating Mothers,

May 11 – Celebrating Birthdays (Ours and the Birth of the Church),

May 18 – Celebrating Fathers.

We will take the summer off and start up again next fall.



Kids First Worship meets during the 11:00 service each Sunday. In May we will continue our focus on “Easter and Beyond”. Jesus appeared to many people after his Resurrection and before his Ascension. Each one was an encounter filled with love, restoration and empowerment.

May 1 – Walk to Emmaus

May 8 – Jesus Appears to His Disciples

May 15 – NO Kids First Worship (All Music Sunday)

May 22 – Jesus’ Ascension

May 29 – NO Kids First Worship (Memorial Weekend)



Sunday School meets on Sunday mornings from 9:45 – 10:40 we have two Sunday school classes for children. Our younger group (non-readers) will be experiencing God and Jesus with a variety of “hands-on” lessons. Our older (readers) group will be paralleling Kids First Worship, focusing on “Easter and Beyond”. Each week we will dig into the Gospel stories, discovering What Happened, Why Did It Happen, and What It Means For Us.



Be sure to look for Nancy’s online program “On Track” every other week on our YouTube channel, FirstUnitedMethodistChurchofLeavenworth. She and Flame’ always have fun stories and activities for kids.



Juneteenth, The New Federal Holiday

June 19, has been the day of celebration by African Americans because it was the middle of June, 1865, when the enslaved black people in Texas found out about the Emancipation Proclamation, which freed them, was signed by President Lincoln 2 years earlier. Juneteenth celebrations originated in former slave holding states. As former slaves migrated north, the celebrations spread to northern states, and eventually throughout our country.

The word “Juneteenth” is blend of the words June and nineteenth. The holiday is referred to as “Freedom Day” because it is when all Americans were finally free. Federal employees will have Monday, June 20th off because the 19th falls on Sunday, this year.

The Leavenworth NAACP is bringing the celebration back to our city. We strongly believe that sharing traditions with fellow community members create strong bonds that transcend differences. This year our celebration will include a parade followed by a festival at Dougherty Park on June 18th, 10:00 am to 5:00 pm. The festival will include traditional Juneteenth red foods, games, community group information booths, craft and food vendors, and live music. There will be fun for all ages!

Music Notes

The choir will be participating in Bethel AMEs Choir Jubilee on May 14. They will be singing “Sing With One Accord”. Other community choirs will also be singing and you are invited to come and listen.

On May 15, we’ll be celebrating all of our amazing music ensembles at both services. The choir, the bells and the praise team will all be making a joyful noise. Music has always been a large part of the life of this church.

Even those who are not in an ensemble have favorite hymns they enjoy hearing and singing. SO...throughout the month of May we’re asking people to send in their requests. What is a hymn or song that really moves you, or reminds you of something or someone, or comes to mind when you need a pick-me-up? Let us know! Don’t worry if you don’t know that hymn number... we can find it. We can probably even figure it out even if you only know the words. Send your requests to Kathy at kmckinley@fumclvks.org or drop them in the offering plate on Sunday morning. We will be compiling a “Top 10” list and adding your favorites to the services over the summer. Kathy



Dear FUMC family,

I am still humbled and blessed to have served a kind & fruitful congregation. You all have helped me know Jesus through your actions, words of encouragement & diligent service to your church & community. I hold you all in the highest regards and pray that all your cups overflow.

In Christ’s Love,
Logan Hamilton (organist)

Dear FUMC,

On behalf of my mother, Betty Dye, my late father, Walden, and our whole family, we have cherished our time at FUMC in Leavenworth.

I believe my parents joined around 1958 and were active members from SrMYF sponsors, Fishermen, Admin board, baptisms, weddings, funerals, Martha’s Circle, Blood mobiles, Boy Scouts & Chicken Noodle dinners. I always enjoyed the monthly potlucks in the 60s & 70s. The physical church has a very special place in my heart. I remember when the church was remodeled and the little choir loft in the balcony for the children’s choir was no longer there and I had just gotten old enough to sing the “Bell” choir.

We’ve been members of Grace UMC here in Olathe for about 30 years & are happy mom has decided to transfer her membership to Olathe. Thank you so much for the blessings we’ve had at FUMC.
Sincerely, Annette Dye



Serving Christ by Serving Our Community

Tony McNeill served on the Lansing City Council for 12 years before being sworn in as the Mayor in January of 2021. During his years on the council, Tony has had the opportunity to lead the city through several projects to develop better infrastructure and establish long range plans for the future of Lansing.

The path that led Tony to the Mayor office may have started in church. As a man of faith, Tony believes in treating everyone with dignity and respect. He also learned the importance of serving both in the church **and in your community. He has served as a teacher and an elder in previous churches. He said, "People of strong faith are often good leaders. I think faith has a bearing on how successful a person is. A person who is trying to do the right thing will typically do well."**

But there were other influences that helped him become a strong leader. He has a Bachelor degree from the University of South Dakota and a Masters Degree in Human Resource Management from Webster University. He also served as an officer in the Marine Corp for 24 years and that gave him lots of leadership experience. After retirement, he became a Government Service Civilian employee. When he was the Deputy Director of the Electronic Warfare Proponent he helped to develop detailed plans 10 to 15 years into the future. That experience has helped him forecast needs for Lansing.

Tony currently works full time as the Deputy Director, for the Army SHARP (Sexual Harassment/Assault Response and Prevention) Academy on Ft. Leavenworth. His position as mayor pays a very small stipend, but is mostly voluntary and demands a lot of **his time, but he feels it is worth it to develop Lansing into a "city with a future". One of the things he likes about local politics is that change can be made without the party politics that larger scale government struggles with. He's currently working with developers and city leaders to bring positive economic growth to the city and to develop the infrastructure needed to support that growth.**



Carla Wieggers began her term on the Lansing School Board in Jan. 2022. She said she ran because she wanted to model positive civic engagement to our children, youth and young adults. In her campaign, she used social media to recognize accomplishments and affirming stories of students in Lansing. And she walked door to door and listened to people talk about their impressions of our schools. Carla is finding that the election process was very different than functioning on the school board. It is even different from her military leadership experience. It is a much more collaborative experience where there are seven agendas and perspectives at play, **"seven members on the Board, and each member has an equal vote."** She said, **"members must use all the research and information they can gather to positively influence the other leaders to consider action on the same issues that they see."** She hopes to nurture honest discussion across the district about change and improving the school system, instead of just keeping the status quo. **She said, "COVID has revealed that education can be delivered by many different methods. We need to empower our educators to employ the best ways to help**

students learn and be academically and vocationally prepared for today's world and to help them set goals for their future. If we don't challenge our students, we rob them of discovering their full potential through problem solving and gaining grit to persevere."

One of the accomplishments of the new school board was the approval to go forward with a long term strategic plan to deliberately focus on establishing vision for the entire district. It will kick off in September and include input from administration, teachers, staff, parents, students and the community. Carla wants to make sure the school system strives to be fair and supportive to everyone and mindful of the resources provided by the community. One of her own agenda items is to encourage the adoption of capstone projects for seniors. She has admired this educational tool in other area school districts and has seen the benefits to students. **"Eagle Scout projects, Girl Scout Gold Take Action projects and 4-H projects require youth to develop, research, and follow-through on a plan with community engagement and service. Why not adopt such a project at school to challenge all students?"** For example, Carla explained that a senior project could involve job shadowing with local partnering businesses in the community, leadership, career experience or a creative endeavor. Students would demonstrate research techniques, presentation skills, and by completing the project, would gain confidence to tackle projects beyond high school.

Carla has had a lot of experience working with the school district and with kids. She served as a Site Council leader for the school district for many years. She has worked with Girls Scouts for many years, and she often substitute teaches in area schools. She has also had experience working with kids through our church. She has been a youth sponsor, Sunday School teacher and a mission trip chaperone. When I asked her how her faith has most influenced her time on the School Board, she said, **"Service to others and striving to make decisions infused with integrity is an important part of the process. I want to model positive life skills for both students and adults and improve student outcomes. I hope to help cultivate sustainable change to influence solid policy to create an environment that nurtures our children and youth to grow into productive adults who will positively contribute to our community and world."**



The Lawrence Community HandBell Choir (LCHBC) formed in the fall of 2016 with the purpose of focusing on advanced ringing techniques of Handbells and Handchimes in addition to educating and thrilling audiences with the various sounds produced by this group. LCHBC is based in Lawrence, Kansas, and currently performs throughout eastern Kansas. They have a combined ringing experience totaling over 334 years.

Their music repertoire includes: Sacred, Secular, Popular and Show tunes. They will be performing a concert at our church on May 21 at 7 pm. Some of the pieces they will be performing include, And All That Jazz. This arrangement of the hit song from the Broadway musical "Chicago" is a sure hit with our ringers and audiences alike. Cluster of Stars, This Embellish edition was written for the handbell ensemble "Pleiades" of Yokohama, Japan, and their director Mrs. Sachiko Tanaka. Wherein composer Lee Afdahl brilliantly combines various techniques and weaves them into a musical fabric that's both lively and zestful. The inner sections of this original work are encapsulated by a pulsing rubato figure at the beginning and the end. Louisiana Triptych, by Karen Puckett. This concert is the premiere of an original commissioned piece in honor of Artistic Director Carol Fleeger and husband John's 50th wedding anniversary by their daughter Elizabeth Fleeger Mulkey. It features famed accordionist Jane Christison. It is a very lively cajun three movement piece. If you love handbell music, you will want to attend!

Itchin' to Stitch

The Ladies from Itchin' to Stitch exemplify using their time, treasure and talent to glorify God. On April 24, the church blessed 11 quilts they had made for the Joy Meadows Foster Care Community. They will go to teenagers who have turned 18 and are aging out of the foster care program. What a wonderful way to wrap a young person up in God's love as they face the world.

They are planning on having a booth at the Community Art Festival if you would like to stop by and see some of their handiwork.

Itchin' to Stitch will meet on May 19 at 1:30 pm, but much of their work is done in their own homes on their own time. They are currently making walker bags and baby quilts and military quilts. Often they share material and resources. If you would like more information about how you can use your sewing skills to help our community, contact Teresa Hicks at hickst@kc.rr.com.





Loving our Neighbors as ourselves

April 24 was Blue Sunday, a day of prayer for neglected and abused children. Deborah Liles, the volunteer coordinator for CASA visited with me about how they are helping children in Leavenworth and Atchison county.

CASA stands for Court Appointed Special Advocates. A judge actually assigns a child a CASA volunteer when they feel the child has been abused or neglected and needs someone to be the child's eyes and ears while the child is in the judicial system. Judge Wiley said, "Services CASA provides to the domestic court are necessary, generally invaluable, and difficult if not impossible to replace."

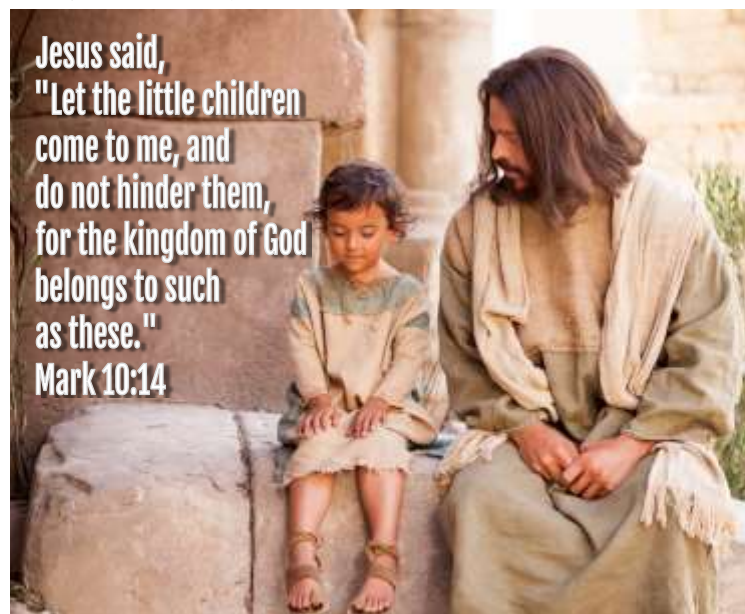
There are 3 different types of volunteers through the CASA program. The first type is the CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocate). This position requires 30 hours of specialized training over an eight week period. A CASA volunteer works with the child they are assigned by attending court dates, meeting with foster care agencies, working with the Kansas Department for Children and Families, keeping records for use by the court. Currently there are 23 CASA volunteers in Leavenworth and Atchison county. Last year, those volunteers worked over 5,000 hours, so the need for more volunteers to help is great.

The second type of volunteer needed at CASA is the Child Exchange and Visitation Center monitors. They provide a safe environment for children and parents to visit. These volunteers need 15 hours of training. Our counties monitored 119 children last year.

The third type of volunteers does not require training and it involves helping in the office or with fund raisers or special events. **Speaking of fund raisers....CASA will hold a fund raiser on May 6, called Nite at the Races at the Riverfront Community Center.** They will also hold a Super Hero Fun Run on August 27.

CASA also offers three parenting classes to our community. General Responsibilities for Separating Parents (GRASP) is a class that may be court mandated for parents who need strategies to raise their children through the divorce process. Love and Logic: Adults Supporting Youth with Challenging Past is often a court mandated class for children with a traumatic past when the child is transitioning back into the home. Parenting in the Twenty First Century is a class that helps parents and caregivers focus on the different dynamics of the family structure. This class may be court mandated, but is also available to the general public.

One final way CASA serves the children of Leavenworth and Atchison is by hosting an Open Closet for families in need of clothing, toys and household items on June 7. If you are in need of items, you must make an appointment to "shop" the closet at the CASALVKS.ORG. If you would like to donate new clothes or toys or household items, they can be dropped off at the CASA office on Tuesdays between 10:00 AM - 6:00 PM or you can call to make an appointment to bring items. They do not accept stuffed animals.



Corbin Holyfield graduating from Lansing High School. He plans to attend KCKCC for his general studies and will continue his college path by studying to be a software engineer game designer. He currently works at Sonic as a cook. **Corbin's favorite memories involve being there with family and helping his dad with ushering.**



Matthew Preston is graduating from Leavenworth High School. He plans to go to community college or possibly the military. He enjoyed how welcoming the church was when they first came here.



Caleb Shade is graduating from Leavenworth High School. While there he participated in marching band and concert band. He is working towards an Associate Degree of Applied Science in Game Development at Johnson County Community College. The youth trip to Alabama this past winter was a nice reprieve from the cold and to consider the equality of all peoples.



Katie Short is graduating from Lansing High School and will attend the Kansas University in the fall to major in finance. Her favorite memory at the church is the 2018 mission trip in Chattanooga, TN.



Nevan Snider is graduating from Leavenworth High School. His school activities included Computer Graphics team and the Broadcast team. He plans to attend MidAmerica Nazarene to study Computer Science. His favorite memory of the church is being on the Youth 2019 trip.



Jim Yates is graduating from Leavenworth High School. At the Technology Student Association contest he won 1st in Scientific Visualization and 3rd in CAD Engineering. He plans to go to K-State and study engineering.

Aurora Gray is graduating from Kansas State University with a Bachelor's of Science in Electrical Engineering. She accepted a position with Burns & McDonnell in Kansas City in the Energy Department which will start in July.

Sara LaMoe graduated from Kansas State University in December. She was commissioned a Second Lieutenant Cyber Operations. Her first assignment will be Keesler, Air Force Base in Biloxi, MS for 6 month Cyber Training.

Colin Mott will graduate from Drake University with a Bachelor's Degree in Law, Politics and Society. Colin lettered in football for the Bulldogs football team. He was a Dean's List honoree, and was invited to join Delta Theta Phi professional fraternity for legal students. He will be attending Creighton University School of Law in Omaha, He plans to work as a professional sports agent.

Christine Varnal graduated in December 2021 with a MA in History from Emporia State University. She is a facilitator for the Leavenworth Virtual School for USD 453 and is in her 9th year of teaching. Her goal is to pursue a doctorate in order to be able to teach history at the collegiate level.

Leah Wiegers is graduating from the Air Force Academy with a degree in Civil Engineering. She ran two marathons with the marathon club. She helped plan the Falcon Fifty race four years. She played percussion in the orchestra. As a **Second Lieutenant she'll be stationed at Luke Air Force base near Phoenix, AZ.**

Taylor York is graduating from KCKCC with an Associates Degree in General Studies. He was involved in the Jazz and Chamber choirs. He will attend the University of Kansas to study English in pursuit of becoming an author.



HOLY WEEK @ FUMC

After two years under COVID restrictions, it was a joy to celebrate the Savior's crucifixion and resurrection together as a church family. Here are a few holy week highlights.



Eighteen kids learned about Jesus' final week and crucifixion at TGIF. They also got to have an Easter egg hunt.



Maundy Thursday we had 75 church family members enjoy a meal, foot washing, singing and scripture.



Wesley Ringers played "Fanfare for Easter" with Logan Hamilton.