



RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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



Or visit us at [FUMCLVKS.ORG](http://FUMCLVKS.ORG)

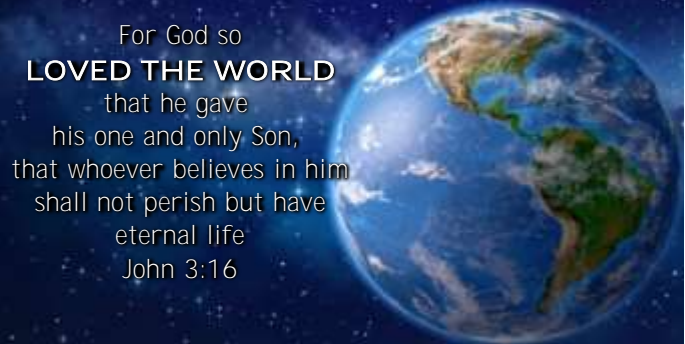
Sunday services stream at either site.

## June 2022

29 10:00 Worship	30 Memorial Day	31 10am Bible Study	1 6:30 pm Choir	2 8:30am Staff	3	4 Serve Day 
5 8:30 & 11:00 Worship	6 1:00 pm AIR Ministries	7 Blood Drive 6:30 pm Bible Study	8 6:30 pm Choir 5:00 pm Grief Group	9 8:30am Staff Annual Conference	10 Annual Conference	11
12 8:30 & 11am Worship	13 1:00 pm AIR Ministries	14 6:30 pm Bible Study	15 12 pm Lunch Bunch Luigi's 6:30 pm Choir	16 8:30am Staff 1:30 pm Itchin to Stitch	17	18 Juneteenth Sweet Exchange Bake Sale
19 8:30 & 11am Worship Youth Mission Trip	20 1:00 pm AIR Ministries Youth Mission Trip	21 2 pm Grief Group 6:30 pm Bible Study Youth Mission Trip	22 6:30 pm Choir 5:00 pm Grief Group Youth Mission Trip	23 8:30am Staff Youth Mission Trip	24 Youth Mission Trip Handbell Conference	25 Handbell Conference 
26 8:30 & 11am Worship	27 1:00 pm AIR Ministries	28 6:30 pm Bible Study	29	30 8:30am Staff Meeting	1	2 







It was good for me to take a mission trip at the end of May. I was in Romania for five days assessing needs of Christian homes including a new home with twenty-eight Ukrainian children. I went with two other pastors from Colorado who I have known for years. My goal was to see about the possibilities of partnering with a mission group called Global Hope. Their mission is to provide Christ-centered care for orphaned and

vulnerable children through global partnerships. Started in 1995 with a single home in Romania, Global Hope has grown to three nations including Kenya and India. Almost 500 children are cared for through providing shelter, food, clothing, education, medical care and most of all, LOVE.

My trip reinforced my worldview that the Kingdom of God is a global one. The United Methodist Church was our connection in Romania for the Ukrainian children. Their temporary home is called Nehemiah House. It is a summer camp owned by a German woman who generously provided shelter for the children. The kids lived in Kyiv before the war. Their parents are either unable to care for their children (social orphan) or they don't have parents alive. When the war came, they were almost kidnapped in a human traffic attempt but were rescued. For the two+ months, they have been in Prod, Romania, they have received the provision of Jesus Christ through Global Hope. Overall, the external needs are being provided for well. Internally, the trauma of war, fear, rejection, and broken relationships could take years to heal. The uncertainty of the future weighs heavy on the hearts and minds of many who care about these children.

The inner most character of the Church is worldwide. In the Nicene Creed, we say the Church is “one, holy, catholic (universal) and apostolic church.” The missional heart of the Lord is global, not limited to certain groups or nations. For me, it comes down to John 3:16 “For God so loved the world.” The Church has many races, ethnicities, languages, cultures, and nationalities. I thought it was interesting that Americans were going to Romania to visit Ukrainian children living in the summer camp of a German. We see God at work all over the world in these ways. The experience of the Church is definitely local – food, music, customs, language, architecture, etc. Each church is unique in its character even within a city or region. Yet, we are all one Church with the declaration that “Jesus is Lord.” How it is lived out is as varied as the place you are in and the people you are with.

The calling is to engage our neighbors BOTH locally AND globally. We almost need a new word like “glocal” to describe our mission to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. The hazard is becoming so focused locally that we fail to see God’s world in the whole world or being so globally centered that we won’t go down the street to serve and love our neighbors. I believe the sweet spot is somewhere in the middle of practicing loving our neighbor across the street and around the world.

*Pastor Dave*



If you would like more information about the mission agency that Pastor Dave visited, visit [GlobalHope.org](http://GlobalHope.org). To the right is Nehemiah House, the orphanage in Prod, Romania.



## JUNE Birthdays

4th	Norma Moore				
5th	Debbie Gebhardt	13th	Zack Short	22nd	Carla Hamon
6th	Brenda Sheumaker		Bethany Bond	23rd	Sheila Bailey
7th	Hank Keller		Marguerite Hilscher		Shari Hansen
	Dale Roller		Mirinda Lowery		Rick Hansen
8th	June Baker	14th	Jeff John		Madison Martin
	Shirley Nyhart	15th	Patti Edington	24th	Erika Tebbetts
	Steve Simms		Scott Glick		Tim Yenney
9th	Steven Glick	16th	Nicole Expose	25th	Anya Anderson
	Jim Kinard	18th	Libby Frashier		Jonas Anderson
	Makenzie Shepard		Kelsi Ko	26th	Divya Hopkins
10th	Karyn Dawson		Alyssa Wiegiers	28th	Megan Briggs
11th	Virginia Perry	19th	Carolann Perry		Robyn Kellogg
12th	Sophie McNeill	20th	Bill Bay	29th	Frances Marshall
			Gene Pepper	30th	Donna Ramsey



## JUNE Anniversaries

3rd	Norman & Nancy Dawson	66 years
6th	Colvin & Karen Hooser	35 years
	Bob & Linda Landzettel	40 years
8th	Bob & Mary Seymour	53 years
9th	Chris & Christine Owens Eckley	4 years
	Mark & Somer Stuhlsatz	21 years
	Brian & Cynthia Wepking	37 years
10th	Arlen & Michelle Briggs	33 years
14th	Roy & Sandy Davis	52 years
	Dan & Sonia Wiley	36 years
	Brian & Sandy Wood	35 years
20th	Steve & Brenda Coats	35 years
	Chet & Stacey Cole	24 years
25th	Gene & Sandy Pepper	39 years
26th	Jim & Kaki Kinard	51 years
29th	Bob & Joan Atwell	70 years

If we missed your birthday or anniversary, please contact the office so we can update our records.  
[swood@fumclvks.org](mailto:swood@fumclvks.org)

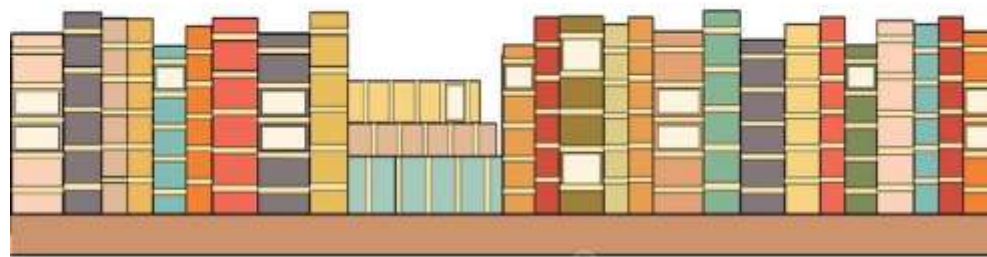
## UPCOMING Events





# Itchin' to Stitch

The summer project for Itchin' to Stitch is making 12 fleece blankets for Missy's Cancer Boutique at the Richard and Annette Bloch Cancer Care Pavilion in Westwood. This boutique was created to provide products and services designed for cancer patients. They will also be making 4 fleece blankets for each area fire truck to be used to warm people when they have a fire. Tying fleece blankets doesn't require any sewing experience. Visitors are always welcome. They will meet June 16 at 1:30 pm in the Fellowship Hall. Contact Teresa Hicks, [hickst@kc.rr.com](mailto:hickst@kc.rr.com) for more info.

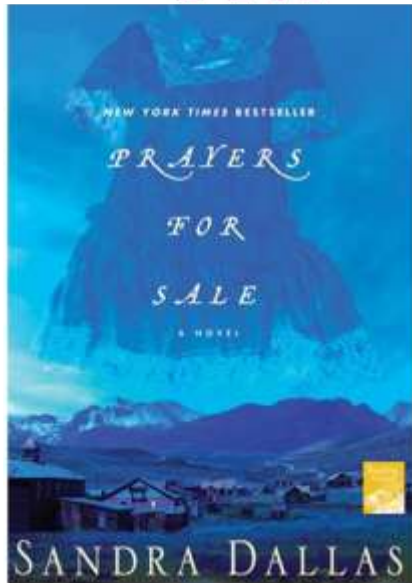


**JULY 26  
1 PM**

If you love to read, we invite you join our book club. This summer we are reading "Prayers for Sale" by Sandra Dallas. We will meet July 26 at 1 pm to discuss the book, so you have plenty of time to read. "Prayers for Sale" is available on Hoopla, Kindle and through the Leavenworth Library.

The story is set in 1936 and the Great Depression has taken its toll. Up in the high country of the snow-covered Rocky Mountains, 86 year old Hennie Comfort has lived in Middle Swan, Colorado, since before it was Colorado. When she first meets 17 year old Nit Spindle, Hennie is drawn to the grieving young girl. Nit and her husband have come to this small mining town in search of work, but the loneliness and loss Nit feels are almost too much to bear. One day she notices an old sign that reads prayers for sale in front of Hennie's house. Hennie doesn't actually take money for her prayers, never has, but she invites the skinny girl in anyway. The harsh conditions of life that each has endured create an instant bond, and a friendship is born, one in which the deepest of hardships are shared and the darkest of secrets are confessed.

Sandra Dallas is a New York Times bestselling author of more than a dozen adult novels, several children's novels, and numerous works of non-fiction about Western subjects. In this book she has created an unforgettable tale of a friendship between two women, one with surprising twists and turns.



**Congratulations!**

Congratulations to Jeff and Debbie Eyerly who have a new granddaughter, Lyla Lynn Eyerly. She was born on May 19 to Daniel and Cheyenne Eyerly and big brother, Hunter. She weighed 7 pounds and 1 ounce and she was 18.25 inches long.



Faces of the children living in Nehemiah House in Prod, Romania





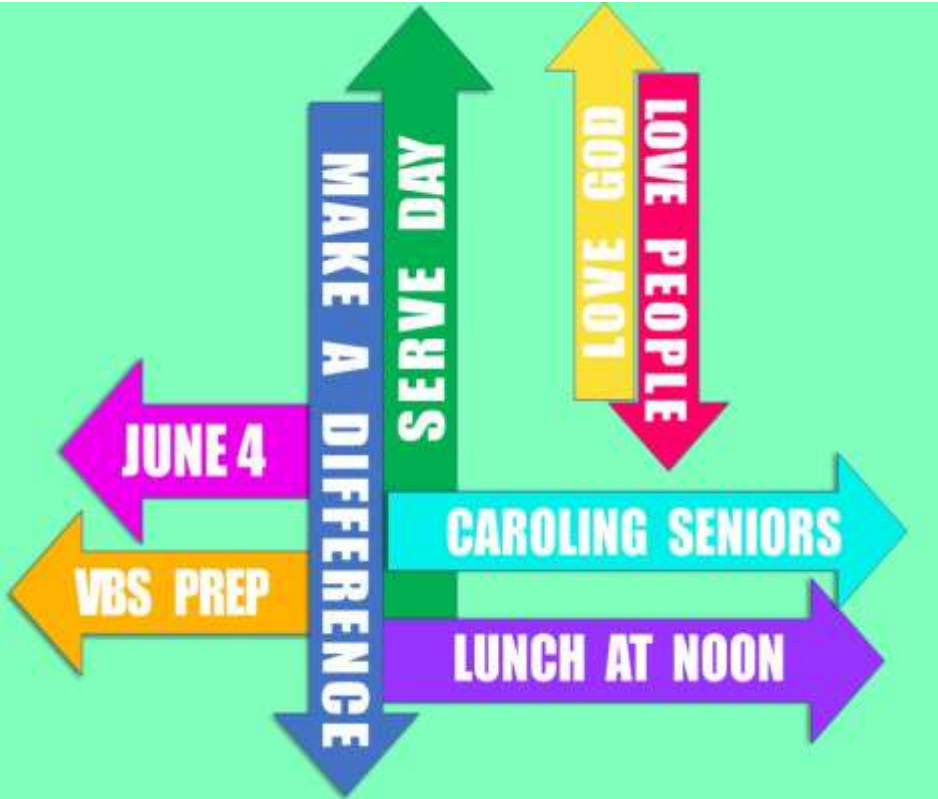


Greeting and love in these times of hardship and confusion. As I write this article 19 children were massacred in Uvalde, Texas yesterday, the war in the Ukraine wages on, violent crime is up 40% in our country and with a continuing increase in social unrest and distrust we as a people are losing faith in our institutions and each other. According to the Pew Institute study, “75% of Americans identified as Christian in 2011—in 2021, that number shrunk to 63%, a 12% decrease”. This is where we are, not who we are! We are children of God, loved and commanded to love others. We have to find hope and strength in our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ in all we think, say and do.

**The Apostle Paul wrote: “And now, dear brothers and sisters, one final thing. Fix your thoughts on what is true, and honorable, and right, and pure, and lovely, and admirable. Think about things that are excellent and worthy of praise. Keep putting into practice all you learned and received from me—everything you heard from me and saw me doing. Then the God of peace will be with you.” Philippians 4:8-9 NLT**

So where do we go from here?

1. Prayer: The avenue we have to converse with the Father so we can receive co-laboring instruction on his will to impact all of mankind. Prayer is not just asking but hearing and obeying our Father. We live down here on earth, but work through Him in heaven.
  2. Observe and Act: Watch what is going on around you as you move throughout your day. Many times opportunities to live out your faith take place right in front of us; a helpful gesture in the grocery store, a kindly smile to someone obviously in pain, a phone call to a friend you have not talked to in a while...
  3. Ask: If the pandemic has taught us anything is that once we isolated, some never recovered. If you know of a friend or loved one that seems withdrawn or in distress, please ask them what they need and continue to pray and observe. If the response is “I am fine”, and you know better, call the office. We are here to help or find help. Too many times we see the signs and believe our actions won’t help, our inactions can be far worse. Our focus must remain on Him.
- “And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.” Romans 8:28 NIV
- In Christ *Ed*



If you are looking for a way to live out your faith, Samaritan’s Buffet will be serving lunch to our community on June 4. They need desserts and helpers. If you can help, contact Jim Wolfe at [jwolfe7971@gmail.com](mailto:jwolfe7971@gmail.com)

We will also have a Serve Day on June 4. At 10 am, we will meet at the church to visit church members who can no longer attend and sing hymns to them. We will come back to the church at noon to eat lunch together. At 1 pm we’ll meet at the Education building to build and paint decorations for Vacation Bible School. Please wear paint clothes for this activity.



## SCOUTS CELEBRATE ACCOMPLISHMENTS

The pace is picking up and success is in the air. This month both Troops 173 and 6173 conducted a dual Eagle Court of Honor to award Robert Chaar and Esa Lozoya their Eagle Scout rank. **Robert’s Eagle Project** was working with FUMC under the guidance of Ed Garven to provide safety and helping services for octogenarians. **Esa’s project** was building owl habitats under the guidance of the County Extension office with K-State. Esa is a founding member and the second young lady from Troop 6173. She is a Junior at Leavenworth and will continue to support the Scouting Ministry. Robert graduated from Leavenworth the next day and after attending summer camp, will head off the USMC boot camp then into aviation maintenance.

The Cub Scouts of Pack 3109 enjoyed a great Blue and Gold banquet at the C.W. Parker Carousel Museum. The Cub Scout leaders presented literally over 100 awards and Cub Scout advancements. The First United Methodist Church recognized Cub Scout Pack Leader, Richard Barbuto with the Cross and Flame award, thanking him for his years of service in the Scouting Ministry and asking him to continue to serve. Madison Bradley chose to continue on the Scouting trail and bridged over from Cub Scouts to Scouting BSA into Troop 6173.

The Tinklers are still making a difference in the youth of today at First Church. Because of their generosity and the incredible stewardship of the Tinkler Trustees, no scout is denied going to summer camp because of financial hardships. The Trustees provided 50% scholarships for the Scouting Ministry this year and the Scout Leadership and several friends of the Scouting Ministry stepped up to help fill in any financial gaps for the Scouting families. What an incredible blessing and blending of talents, time and treasure. Throughout June both Troops and the Cub Scouts will attend camps. A Scout is Reverent. The Scouting Ministry is THANKFUL for the continued support of FUMC and the total youth program.



  
LEAVENWORTH INTERFAITH  
COMMUNITY OF HOPE

**WISH LIST**

**Summer 2022**

Donations can be brought to:  
Community of Hope  
311 Kiowa Street  
(Corner of 3rd and Kiowa)  
Sunday-Saturday  
8:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

For more information visit our  
website at:  
[www.lvcommunityofhope.org](http://www.lvcommunityofhope.org)

Please donate only items  
that are new or gently used,  
in good condition.

Personal Items	Food Items	Shelter Supplies
Sunscreen	Bottled Water	Kleenex
Bug Screen	Sugar	Toilet Paper
Rain Ponchos	100 oz. Cans of Vegetables	Paper Towels
Sports Bras	Milk	HP414X Toner-Cartridge
Men’s Boxer Briefs Sizes Medium-XL	Eggs	1.8 Inch Masking Tape
Men’s Mesh Shorts Sizes Medium-3XL	Cheese Slices	Business Envelopes
Pre-Made Casseroles		
Cleaning Supplies	Special Requests	Items Not Needed
Glade Air Freshener Spray Refill	Stamps	Women’s Clothing
Pine-Sol All Purpose	Gift Cards (Sonic, Taco Bell, or Other Local Locations)	Socks
Toilet Bowl Cleaner	Electric Skillet	Large Containers of Shampoo or Soap
Laundry Detergent	Furnace Filter 20x20x1	8 oz. Cans of Vegetables

We are in need of Night Shelter volunteers. Many of you already volunteer so we need your help spreading the word.

The Community of Hope is able to operate because of a network of volunteers. It takes 70 volunteers each week for our night shelter to be fully operational. As a volunteer, you can choose your day of the week, and shift time. Night shifts are 3 hours each as listed below:

Shift 1: 8:00 p.m.-11:00 p.m.  
Shift 2: 11:00 p.m.-2:00 a.m.  
Shift 3: 2:00 a.m.-5:00 a.m.  
Shift 4: 5:00 a.m.-8:00 a.m.

Our volunteer training session is June 13. The training will last from 6:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m. It covers policies and procedures, provides a tour of the facility, and time to ask any questions you may have. No preregistration is necessary. If you have any questions or need training at a different time, please contact Margaret Del Debbio at 913-704-8053 or by emailing [margaretdeldebbio@gmail.com](mailto:margaretdeldebbio@gmail.com).





June is National Alzheimer's and Brain Awareness Month. An estimated 6.5 million Americans age 65 and older are living with Alzheimer's in 2022. Seventy-three percent are age 75 or older. About 1 in 9 age 65 and older people has Alzheimer's, and almost two-thirds of Americans with Alzheimer's are women.

In 2021, caregivers provided more than 16 billion hours of care valued at nearly \$272 billion. About 30% of caregivers are age 65 or older. Approximately two-thirds of caregivers are women; more specifically, over one-third of dementia caregivers are daughters. Approximately one-quarter of dementia caregivers are "sandwich generation" caregivers — meaning that they care not only for an aging parent but also for at least one child. Alzheimer's takes a devastating toll on caregivers. Compared with caregivers of people without dementia, twice as many caregivers of those with dementia indicate substantial emotional, financial and physical difficulties. Of the total lifetime cost of caring for someone with dementia, 70% is borne by families — either through out-of-pocket health and long-term care expenses or from the value of unpaid care.

AIR ministry helps provide much needed respite for local caregivers.

## June Schedule

 **June 6 - World Ocean Day**

 **June 13 - Field Trip Mini Golf**

 **June 20 - Animal Day**

 **June 27 - USA Day**

 **July 4 - NO AIR (Independence Day)**

Every week AIR ministry does an activity to serve our community or our caregivers. Our friends love being able to still contribute to the world around them. Above are some photos of our service projects in May. We filled teacher appreciation bags, planted flowers for church members who needed some encouragement and baked cupcakes for Samaritan's Buffet. We also made some lovely silk scarves for our caregivers. This summer we'll start filling appreciation bags for local first responders. We would appreciate any donations of individually wrapped cookies, candy, crackers or Crystal Light drink packets.

*Sandy*

## JUNE COLLECTION ITEM: CONDIMENTS & BEANS

With grocery prices rising, food pantries become even more vital to a lower income community. When you only have a limited income, you have to buy the basics first and sometimes you don't have enough money left for the condiments that make food taste good. So this month we're collecting ketchup, mustard, mayo, salsa and other condiments that make food tasty for the HUB, the United Methodist mission in Argentine. We always accept donations of any type of canned beans. Please bring your donations to the wooden box in the foyer or 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.**

When a spouse dies, his/her partner loses so much more than just a spouse. Think about it. There are dozens of secondary roles that pass away along with their loved ones that cannot be easily replaced. A few are:

- Lawn maintenance person
- Financial advisor/bill payer
- Cook and meal planner
- Housekeeper
- Car maintenance and repair person
- Travel companion
- Someone to sit with
- Errand runner and shopper
- Snow removal person
- Best friend

The "team" has been dissolved, and there's only one brain left. To complicate matters, the surviving spouse is often left with a reduced income and can't always hire someone to perform those tasks. And it's so hard to have to ask others to help. So, if you know somebody who has been widowed, be proactive. Ask for ways you can help them. Anticipate their needs and offer a willing hand. Helping others rewards the helper. You provide a blessing and are blessed in return.

If you or someone you know 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](mailto:marshagaffin@gmail.com) or (913) 547-0286.

*Marsha*

# BLOOD DRIVE



**June 7, 11am – 5pm**  
**Maryann McAfee at (913)651-2484**  
**[mbmcafeelv@outlook.com](mailto:mbmcafeelv@outlook.com)**

**ALL ARMS ON DECK! OUR GOAL IS 100 UNITS**  
**MAKE AN APPOINTMENT TODAY AT**  
**[SAVEALIFENOW.ORG](http://SAVEALIFENOW.ORG)**

## Kansas City Area Blood Emergency

Community Blood Center has announced a blood emergency. There has been an alarming drop in donations in May. The blood supply currently stands at a 2-to-3-day level, with types O and B at just a 1-to-2-day supply. This is well below the ideal inventory of 5-7 days. The local blood supply has still not recovered from the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and isn't able to sustain significant drops in donations.

It only takes 1 hour to donate, and a single donation can save multiple lives. Roughly 1 in 7 hospital admissions require a blood transfusion. Those in need include: cancer patients, accident, burn, or trauma victims, transplant recipients, surgery patients, chronically transfused patients suffering from sickle cell disease or thalassemia, and many more.

Walk-ins are welcome, but appointments are preferred. Make an appointment at [savealifenow.org](http://savealifenow.org).





Kids First Worship is for kids 3 - 12 years old. They meet during the 11:00 service each Sunday. Kids start in the service with their parents and are dismissed to room 105 in the Education building after the Children's Moment. In June we will continue our focus on the book of Acts. Jesus' followers are ready to take the gospel message to the world!

June 5 – Happy Birthday Church!  
June 12 – Peter and John Heal a Beggar  
June 19 – Paul and the Bright Light  
June 26 – Peter Escapes Prison



Sunday School meets in the Education building in room 204 on Sunday mornings from 9:45 – 10:40 am. During the summer, all ages will meet together. With the Bible as our foundation, we'll be using science, art and activity to not just tell the story, but learn what it means for us.



VBS is a howling good time!



Vacation Bible School is coming in July and it's going to be MONUMENTAL! Kids will learn about Joseph and his family and how God did amazing things in difficult times. Kids from 3 to 12 years old. We need LOTS of volunteers to teach, play games and prepare snacks. Children and volunteers can register now by using the QR code or going to [vbspro.events/p/fumclvks2022](https://vbspro.events/p/fumclvks2022).

Here are a few details you will need for the week:

**Each day we will wear a different color. If you don't have the color, no need to make any special purchases!**  
Monday - Purple, Tuesday - Red, Wednesday - Green, Thursday - Blue, Friday - Brown (VBS shirt)

We have a limited number of t-shirts for our staff and our participants. They are our gift to you. As soon as you register and select a shirt size, one will be set aside for you. They will be available for pick up on Monday, July 11! If you do not pre-register, available shirts will be distributed on a first come, first serve basis.

For our mission project we will be collecting school supplies and monetary donations for our local schools.

Monday - Package of No.2 pencils, Tuesday – Box of Crayola crayons (16 count or 24 count), Wednesday – Box of Facial Tissue, Thursday – Glue sticks (2 or 4 count), Friday – Wide Ruled Notebook paper.

Please invite friends and neighbors to VBS and begin praying now for God to work through every activity.



What a Wonderful year of Building Relationships and Making Memories with your children at Wonderful Wednesday!! We wrapped 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 definitely did amazing things at Wonderful Wednesday! We will take the summer off and start up again next fall.

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.



John, Leighann, Iris, Opal and John V Pelham have been with our church family for two years as John completed both CGSC and SAMS. John V was born during his family's stay in Leavenworth on October 4. He was baptized here in January. The Pelhams are moving to Fort Hood in Texas. When asked what John would say to other military families moving to Leavenworth, he said, "I'd tell them that you all are a wonderful and welcoming community of faith." John's favorite memory of the church is taking Iris to vacation Bible school last summer.

Gerald, Morgan, Tripp and Jessi McClain are headed to Fort Polk, Louisiana. They really enjoyed their time here. Everyone was so welcoming. Their favorite memory was helping with Samaritan's Buffet. Their family really enjoyed helping putting together and handing out the meals.



Many of our military families mentioned how welcome they felt here at First United Methodist. This is especially important for military families because they will usually only live in Leavenworth 9-10 months. They need to find a church family quickly and first impressions really do matter whether you are a military family or not. Currently the next class of CGSC families are moving into our area. We can expect visitors anytime this summer. So here are some tips to help any visitor feel at home.

- \* **The 3 minute rule.** Sometimes when we come to church we get so caught up talking with our old friends, that we forget to look for new people. Hospitality is not just the responsibility of the greeters. We all need to be friendly and welcoming. It can be very intimidating to come into a large building full of people when you don't know anyone. The 3 minute rule says, "Look for new people to greet the first 3 minutes that you enter the church, before you get caught up in other conversations and activities."
- \* **Smile.** The "Experts" say that someone needs five smiles in the first 15 minutes of arriving at a new place to feel welcome. Even if you're shy, you can smile.
- \* **Help visitors find restrooms and the nursery.** We all know there is coffee and doughnuts in Wesley Hall, but a visitor doesn't. We also have hard to find restrooms and children's areas. If you see a new family with kids, offer to walk them downstairs and help them find their way to the nurse. Studies have shown that many families choose a church based upon their children's needs and we have a wonderful children's program, so let's help them find it.
- \* **Remember names.** If you meet a new family, make a point to write down their name so you will remember it the next week. Nothing makes a person feel more welcome than someone remembering their name.
- \* **Look for ways to go the extra mile.** If someone is coughing, bring them a bottle of water. Let them know about our newsletter or the Upper Room. If there is a church function coming up, give them a personal invitation. If you really want to go the extra mile, invite them to lunch after the service.

This church is filled with loving and generous people. Let's help visitors discover all we have to offer.





Living in a military community means every year new families join our church family. We learn to love them, and then they move to their next duty station. We hope they take a little bit of us with them as they go and we know that we are better because of knowing them. This year we say goodbye to four very special families. Please pray for them as they search for their next church family.

Ian, Georgia, McKenna, Hunter and Caroline Bolser are moving to Fort Gordon in Augusta, Georgia. Ian said, **“This church feels like family. We were accepted on day one, no judgement, no guilt, no awkwardness. Come as you are, you are family here. My kids love all of the congregation, we have become part of the community. The first Sunday the Bolders attended, we announced Serve Day. They came to serve the next Saturday and helped both local first responders and those who need help locally. They said it is a great place to serve.**

One of their favorite Memories is when Pastor Dave was talking about the United As One service in September with all the churches meeting together and brought up a bouncy castle in church, Caroline shouted “YAY!” to which the whole congregation laughed and while she was embarrassed, she was immediately endeared to the congregation. She got a lot of hugs, and an extra donut after the services. Ian and Georgia also enjoyed watching McKenna and Hunter be the candle lighters, and McKenna reading scriptures for service.

Ian said, he would remember Pastor Dave's sermons. **“For whatever reason his message seems to hit every time we need to hear it the most.”**



Jason Hong’s father is a Methodist pastor, so he has experienced many congregations. He said he appreciated our community outreach programs like collecting items for the HUB. His wife, Claire, gave birth to a beautiful baby girl, Ji-Eun Elliot Hong on May 6. She weighed 6 lbs, 15 oz. Several church members gave them **baby gifts.** Jason said, **“Through their generosity, the FUMC congregation continues to show me the positive impacts that the love and fellowship in the Body of Christ can have on our lives.”** They are moving to Fort Sill in Oklahoma.



## Serving Christ by Serving Our Community

Leavenworth is a transitory community; can I get an Amen? When we moved here in 2006, we did all the things that every other family does when they move to a new location. Checked out the schools, grocery stores, restaurants, and hair salons. The two most important decisions for us were finding a church home, and finding a pediatrician for our kids.

Finding a church was relatively easy. We knew we wanted a Methodist church; we knew we wanted a church that would help us raise our children, we knew we wanted a church that was filled with music, we knew we wanted a church that had opportunities for Bible study. In His wisdom, God led us here.

The pediatrician was a little more difficult. Not long before we moved, we had a very difficult situation with a pediatrician, so we were already apprehensive. This was also before the Google/Yelp/Facebook era, so no easy way to look up doctors and their ratings.

God provided for us again through this church. While at choir practice, I asked the people beside me about doctors and pediatricians. Donna Ramsey shared that **“Our Claudia is a pediatrician.” Thank you, Donna! I felt a peace in my heart and called “Our Claudia”, formally known as Dr. McAllaster, to make appointments for my three children.**

I knew right away that this pediatrician was different, and in a good way! Not only were my children seen at their actual appointment time, Dr. McAllaster spent actual time with them. She went through every aspect of their well-being, **of course all the usual physical checks, but also motor skills and talking with them. She was what I call “the fastest shot in the West”. She could give four vaccinations and have them bandaged before the child could say, “Ouch!”**

She made diagnoses that were both logical AND intuitive and chose the most effective form of treatment that considered all factors including what time of year it was (**“Nobody needs to be sick over Christmas!”**) The best part was that I knew her faithfulness to God and watched her love on my children and grandchildren, doing what was best for them. **She is now retired from her medical practice, but I wanted to take the time to say, Thank you “Our Claudia”!** *Nancy*



Christy Wiley said, **“I love working with kids. I have been helping with kids at church since I was a kid. I wanted to find a career where I could use my scientific brain with kids.” So, pediatric nursing seemed like a perfect fit.**

Christy graduated from Leavenworth High School, then graduated from Kansas State University in 2019. She attended Vanderbilt University. She was a little nervous moving to Nashville, but when she attended an introductory event she met a young woman. They hit it off and became roommates. Christy felt that was a real **“God moment” because they were both studying pediatric nursing. She really needed a good friend, because while she was working on her degree, the pandemic hit. Christy was actually in New York doing a specialty rotation when COVID 19 hit New York. Things got crazy after that. All of her classwork went online. She was on zoom for 8 hours a day working on case studies and simulations. She even had to do her last rotation, labor and delivery, online. Finally for her capstone project she was allowed to work in the hospital wearing masks. She was able to do internships with Dr. Mills and Dr. Heidgen here in Leavenworth. That was special to her because they were her pediatricians when she was a child. She also worked her second year at Stormont Vail hospital in Topeka.**

Christy graduated in August 2021 and she is currently a Pediatric Nurse Practitioner working in Oklahoma City, OK, at a private practice. As a Nurse Practitioner, she can diagnose, assess and treat patients. She can even prescribe medication. She especially loves working with newborns and giving advice to first time parents. Someday she would like to work at a baby nursery in a hospital. She is even thinking about going back to school work on her doctorate in nursing, so she could teach at the university level. But for now, she is happy to be keeping kids healthy, helping parents care for their children and serving her community.





June 21, the summer solstice, is the longest day of the year. It's the day with the most light so the Alzheimer's Association chooses to fight the darkness of Alzheimer's through fundraising that day. In Leavenworth, 20 year old, Morgan Belardo chooses to use her baking skill to fight Alzheimer's with her Sweet Exchange Bake Sale. But the story of her amazing bake sale starts nine years ago when she was only 11 years old. Here's her story.

Morgan's parents are Jose and Elaine Belardo. They met at an Army hospital. Jose was a hospital administrator and Elaine was a nurse. They were married in 1993 and had three children. Jose started working for the United States Public Health Service and Elaine was a stay at home mom. They had a wonderful marriage and their oldest child was starting college. Life was good. They were a family that celebrated every holiday and special event, but in 2013, Jose completely forgot their 20th wedding anniversary. This was very unusual because he usually went over the top with flowers and special dinners and special gifts, but he seemed to have no memory of it at all. When Elaine gave him her present, he began to cry because he had forgotten. Elaine chalked it up to stress, lack of sleep and overworking. They went to the doctor and he was diagnosed with mild cognitive impairment, the doctor suggested stress management but didn't mention that mild cognitive impairment is on the dementia scale. Jose took the doctor's suggestions, but nothing improved.

In 2015, Jose was deployed to Liberia for 5 months during the Ebola outbreak. Elaine began to notice something was different about Jose. He had always taken great pride in his uniform, but now, he would be missing pieces of the uniform, or it would be worn wrong. Right after his return, they drove to Virginia for a family reunion. As he was driving, Elaine noticed that he had no recollection of the familiar places where they had lived. He was a different man. Elaine called his office and spoke to his coworkers. She began putting the pieces of the puzzle together. Something wasn't right. Jose went to Walter Reed hospital and was diagnosed with early onset dementia. He was only 50 years old. The deeper Elaine dug, the worse the situation got. Jose had been in charge of the finances their entire marriage. He managed their rental house in Virginia, but he had not collected rent or paid bills in months. Everything was in disaster mode because Jose had to immediately quit work and stop driving. But these were all tell tale signs of Jose's growing dementia. Organizational skills are one of the first skills that someone with dementia loses.

Elaine, with her nursing background began to consume information about dementia. The prognosis was not good. Jose couldn't deal with all the information, so Elaine began to have separate meetings with doctors, nurses and social workers. She was experiencing deep sorrow, as she mourned the life she thought they were going to have. But Elaine refused to cower in a corner and cry. Even though she felt grief, she knew she couldn't live there. She knew her children were watching how she would deal with adversity.

As Elaine looked deeper into the window of dementia, she realized that "the end doesn't start from the beginning". She saw that there were still things that Jose could do. She decided to celebrate the time they had left. They took, (and continue to take) family photos. They celebrated all special occasions. Jose spent a lot of time with Morgan, who was now starting high school. One of the things they loved to do was go shopping for ingredients for Morgan to experiment with baking. Jose may forget to take the groceries out of the trunk when they got home from shopping, but they were still spending time together. He loved the sweet treats that she would make for him. Jose was even able to dance with Morgan at her sweet 16 birthday party. That meant a lot to her. But life is not easy for a family caring for someone with dementia.

Elaine found a nonmedical social engagement program in Prairie Village called Jeanne's Place. She would take Jose there twice a week. They had art and music activities. Jose loved to dance. They also had service projects like making peanut butter and jelly sandwiches for the homeless shelter and making blankets for foster kids. Jose had spent his whole life helping people and he was so happy to still be able to do that. Jose felt empowered.

One day, Elaine asked Jose, "What are we supposed to do now?" He said, "I still want to help people." So, Elaine and Jose looked deeper into the window of dementia and they realized that there were very few resources for families living with dementia in Leavenworth County. Elaine had to drive almost an hour to find Jeanne's Place. She knew how much that



## Scholarship winners



Our church family gave away \$7,750 in scholarships to youth in our community this year. Applications are distributed through Leavenworth county high schools. We also gave away two non-traditional student scholarships. Recipients will be recognized June 19th in the second service. Here are the scholarship winners and where they're going to school.



Corbin Holyfield  
KCKCC



Caleb Shade  
Johnson County Community



Katie Short  
University of Kansas



Nevan Snider  
MidAmerican Nazarene



JaiKuan Darthard  
Kansas Wesleyan University



Kamryn Farris  
University of South Dakota



Moe Fischer  
University of Nebraska



Austyn Hill  
University of Kansas



Jackson Oberndorfer  
Oklahoma Christian University



Aaron Brown  
Missouri University of Science and Technology



Bobbie Connel  
Purdue Global University



Jacob Wood  
University of Kansas





Pastor Dave meets monthly to mentor area United Methodist pastors. Pictured here from left to right are Dr. Alice Koech, pastor from Easton UMC, Rev. Tom Brady, the Kansas City District Superintendent, Rev. Tim Hutabarat, pastor at South Heights UMC, Dr. Dave York, our pastor and Rev. Orlando Gallardo Parra who pastors both Crossroads UMC in Lansing and Trinity UMC in Leavenworth.

Our Easter Offering raised over \$10,000 for the Alliance Against Family Violence in Leavenworth. They were thrilled when we presented them the check, especially because a recent lightning strike damaged their resident home. Pictured are Pastor Dave York, Mike Trapp, AAFV Director, Katie Irvin, Grants Manager for AAFV and Representative Pat Proctor from the AAFV Board of Directors. They wrote us a **thank you note, “We greatly appreciate your generous donation! Without supporters like you, we wouldn’t be able to keep our doors open. Thank you! - AAFV Team**



# JUNE TEENTH

PARADE & FESTIVAL

**Saturday, June 18, 2022**

FEATURING

LIVE MUSIC ★ GAMES ★

VENDORS ★ FOOD & FUN

Parade starts at 10:30am Festival 12:00pm

Free event

Bob Dougherty Park, 2nd & Kiowa, Leavenworth, KS. leavenworthnaacp1941@gmail.com

**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 Mon. June 20th off.

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 booths, craft and food vendors, and live music. There will be fun for all ages!

Dear Itchin’ to Stitch,  
Thank you for giving to Joy Meadows. Your gift helps foster children in Kansas find joy in the journey to healing and home! We are grateful.  
The Joy Meadows Team.

Dear Friends at First United Methodist church,  
Thank you so much for the cute little plant I found at my front door along with the nice card! It is a wonderful reminder of how my church family has been there for us the last 8 years and then for me the last 6 months since Jim passed away! Thank you again for your love and concern. Your thoughtfulness is appreciated.  
Best always,  
Debbie Gebhardt

program had helped Jose, but it had also helped her a great deal. The time that Jose spent at Jeanne’s Place gave her time and space to get her life back on track. God planted a seed in their heart to start something similar in Leavenworth county. Jose and Elaine wanted to help other people to look deeper into the window of dementia and see that a diagnosis **doesn’t stop all capabilities at once. They wanted to give hope to people.**

As Elaine was looking for a location for her new organization, she came to First United Methodist church. After many meetings with Elaine, AIR ministry was born. She, in fact, gave AIR ministry it’s name. AIR stands for Arts, Inspiration and Respite. Elaine was and continues to be a strong supporter of AIR ministry. But God had additional plans for Elaine.

St. Casimir Catholic church had a whole building available at 729 Pennsylvania. Elaine began renovating the building to create a special place for families living with dementia. The Deeper Windows ribbon cutting ceremony was March 11, 2020. Then the pandemic hit. All of her plans for helping families were put on hold and Jeanne’s Place also ceased operation. Both Jose and Elaine were confined to their home. Morgan graduated from Lansing High School a couple of months later. Once again the family seemed to be mourning the loss of dreams. Elaine saw a quick decline in Jose during the isolation. She also felt the weight of 24/7 caregiving without any respite. It was a difficult time in their life, but it also strengthened Elaine’s resolve to provide resources here in Leavenworth.

The problem was that Jose’s dementia had progressed to the point that he was nonverbal and could no longer function in a social engagement setting. This greatly limited the time Elaine had available to work on Deeper Windows. Then God sent Sister Vicki Lichtenauer to Deeper Windows. Sister Vicki had a passion for working with people with dementia because her father had died from dementia. In Oct. 2020, she started the “Rolling With Sister Vicki” program every Tuesday through Deeper Windows. Each Tuesday 12 people take a field trip around the area in a van from the Council on Aging. Recently Deeper Windows started a day program on Thursdays from 11:30 am to 3:30 pm called “Our Place” where they are served a hot lunch and have drama therapy and art activities. Deeper Windows also has a caregiver support group on the first and third Wednesday.

All these services require funds to operate which leads us back to Morgan and her bake sale, The Sweet Exchange. In the midst of living with dementia, Elaine wanted to empower her kids. She said, “We don’t have to watch this disease happen to us. We can be a force against the disease to effect change.” For years the Alzheimer’s Association has held “The Longest Day” fundraiser. So when Morgan was 16 she turned her family’s kitchen into a bakery and with the help of her friends, they baked like crazy. Elaine invested \$500 in ingredients and Morgan turned that investment into a \$3,758 donation for the Alzheimer’s Association.

When Morgan’s Girl Scout leader, Carla Wiegers, heard what she had accomplished, she said the next year, that could be her Gold Award project. So an annual event was born. Morgan now uses our kitchen here at First United Methodist church for making her amazing sweet treats. She takes advanced orders for her specialty cakes like Chocolate Ganache or Strawberries and Cream. If you would like to preorder a cake, call (913) 704-5156 by June 11. The rest of the goodies are available by donation on June 18 from 7 am to 7 pm at the Deeper Windows building at 729 Pennsylvania. Last year her bake sale raised \$3,000 for the Alzheimer’s Association and \$9,000 for Deeper Windows. Since graduating high school, Morgan earned a Culinary Arts certificate from KCKCC and she recently finished her first year at Johnson and Whales University in Charlotte, North Carolina. One of her professors is even contributing items for the Sweet Exchange this year. After she graduates, she hopes to open her own pastry shop, but until then she will continue raising money to fight a disease that changed her father’s life.



## Sweet Exchange Bake Sale

June 18, 7 am – 7 pm

729 Pennsylvania

DEEPER Association



# ART FEST @ FUMC

May 7, our community gathered in our green space to celebrate art & music.

