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Or visit us at FUMCLVKS.ORG

Sunday services stream at either site.

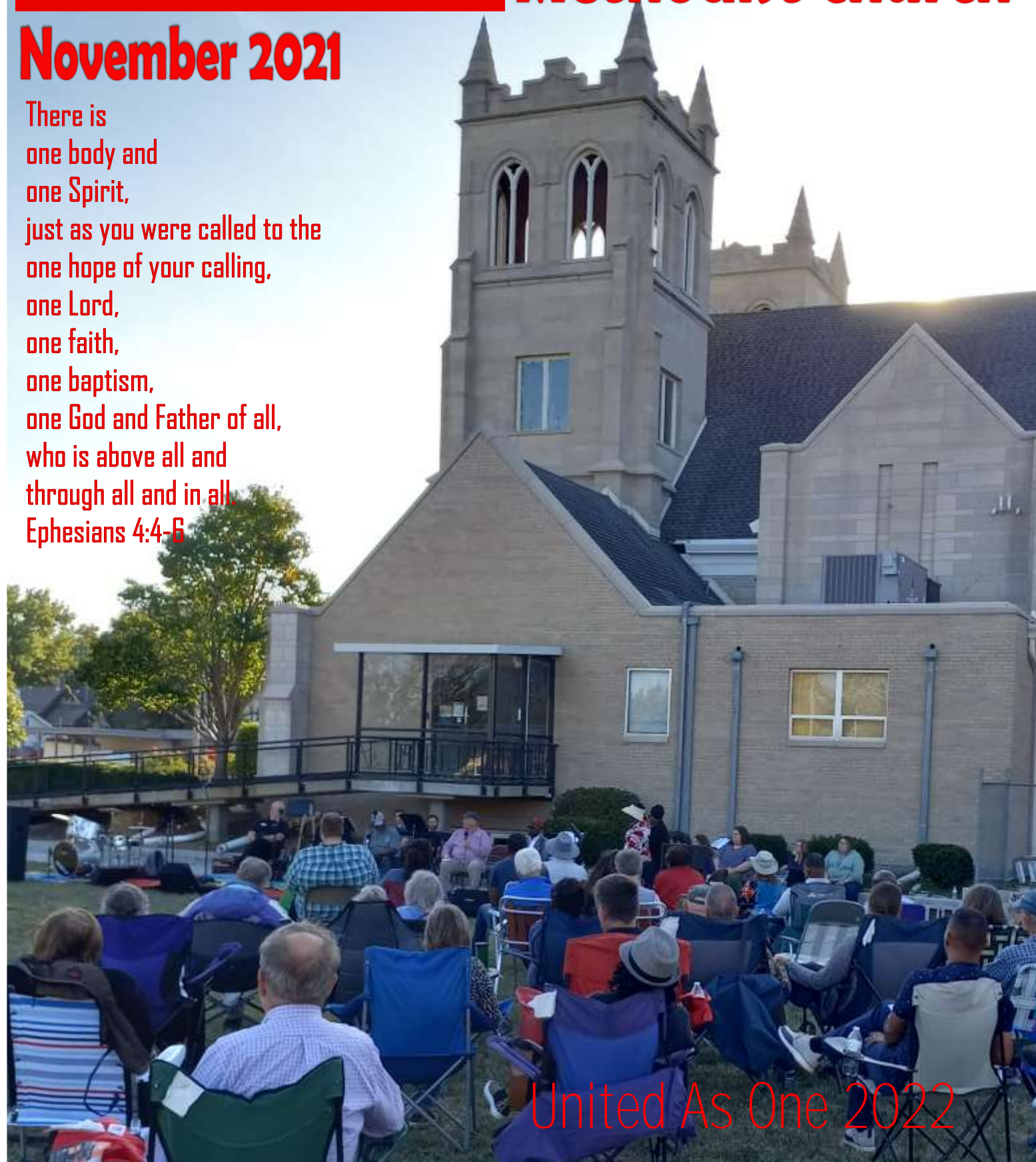
November 2022

30 9:45 am Sunday School 8:30 & 11am Worship 4 pm Bells 6 pm Youth	31 1pm AIR Ministries 5 pm Fall Festival	1 10 am Women's Bible Study 6:30 pm James	2 1:30 pm Heart & Soul 3:45 pm Wonderful Wednesdays 6:30 pm Choir	3 8:30am Staff Meeting 6:30 pm Women's Study	4	SET CLOCKS BACK Samaritans' Buffet
6 9:45 am Sunday School 8:30 & 11am Worship 4 pm Bells 6 pm Youth	7 1 pm AIR Ministries	8 10 am Women's Bible Study 6:30 pm James	9 1:30 pm H & S 3:45 pm Wonderful Wednesdays 5pm Grief Group 6:30 pm Choir	10 8:30am Staff Meeting 6:30 pm Women's Bible Study	11 Veteran's Day Church office closed	12
13 9:45 am Sunday School 8:30 & 11am Worship 4 pm Bells 6 pm Youth	14 1 pm AIR Ministries	15 10 am Women's Bible Study 12pm Lunch Bunch 2pm Grief Share 6:30 pm James	16 1:30 pm Heart & Soul 3:45 pm Wonderful Wednesdays 6:30 pm Choir	17 8:30am Staff Meeting 1:30 Itchin to Stitch 6:30 pm Women's Bible Study	18	19
20 9:45 am Sunday School 8:30 & 11am Worship 4 pm Bells 6 pm Youth 5:30 pm Praise, Prayer & Pie	21 1pm AIR Ministries	22 10 am Women's Bible Study	23	24 Thanksgiving Church Office closed	25 Church Office closed	26 Samaritans' Buffet
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November 2021

There is
one body and
one Spirit,
just as you were called to the
one hope of your calling,
one Lord,
one faith,
one baptism,
one God and Father of all,
who is above all and
through all and in all.
Ephesians 4:4-6



United As One 2022



Think on these things. . . .

Much rumor and speculation are swirling around the United Methodist Church and our future. These are turbulent days for congregations. What does it mean for FUMCL? What might it mean for you as an individual? A little back story first.

Over the last five decades, the UMC has been divided over issues of same-sex marriage and ordination. Currently, our Book of Discipline, the United Mehtoist rule book, prohibits pastors from officiating same sex marriage and ordaining practicing homosexuals. It affirms that all people are of sacred worth. Since 1972, the

denomination's governing body, The General Conference, has sustained this

position every four years it has been revisited. While LGBTQ+ issues are the presenting issues, the foundational divide is much greater. Methodists are not likeminded on the authority of scripture and its trustworthiness. Some **hold a high view of scripture as God's Word and others see it much differently. Lack of enforcement of our Book of Discipline** have led churches and individuals to want to leave the denomination. A new expression of Methodism called the Global Methodist Church (GMC) started this year. Some churches have chosen to leave the UMC and join the GMC through a process called disaffiliation.

Disaffiliation is a process created so that churches can leave the denomination with their property and building. In the Great Plains Conference, out of the over 900 UMCs, 55 have left so far. They are required to pay two full **years of mission shares (formerly called apportionments) and their unpaid liability for pastor's pensions.** It is expensive to leave but that is the price tag some are willing to pay. A church vote must be called for by at least 10% of the professing members, submitted to the District Superintendent and held within 120 days of the submission. A 67% majority must vote to disaffiliate – that is a very high standard. Many of the churches that are leaving are smaller congregations that are extremely like-minded on the issues. Once they leave, they are either independent or join another denomination. An appointed pastor will no longer serve which has long term implications for clergy supply. Churches that leave will have to find their own pastors.

So, what does that mean for us? As your pastor, I have several things for your consideration.

1. Pray that God's will is done in our congregation. If we want to stay in the UMC, nothing needs to be done. Most churches who are leaving were ready to go a long time ago. Disaffiliation gave them the process by which to leave. I do not sense a strong desire to leave the UMC.

2. I AM STAYING IN THE UMC AND WOULD LOVE TO STAY AT FUMCL FOR A LONG TIME. I took an oath to be loyal to the UMC in my ordination. While the conflicts are real, I believe I can be of most use to God and the Kingdom by staying here. If I quit the UMC, I am disconnected from Kingdom building in Leavenworth. I believe God has called me to serve you and this community during this season. For me, it is obedient to stay right here!

3. For each of us, we choose to be part of FUMCL. Some may choose to leave as families or individuals. While I would be saddened to see anyone depart, I will respect and honor the decision. My fear is that you will go dormant in your faith and growth in your discipleship. We all lose if that happens.

4. The relationships and ministry of FUMCL are valuable. If you choose to leave, those things are drawn to a close. To me, what we have at FUMCL is more valuable than the doctrinal issues of the denomination. Yes, those are important. But, the people I love and the call on my life is more significant.

5. Recognize that our issues with same sex marriage and ordination have been around for a long time. 1972 is as close in our past as 2072 is to our future. We are not in agreement, but we are not in agreement on other issues, too.

6. I am available to listen, ask and discuss anything in these areas. Let's talk – make an appointment or let's get together for coffee or lunch.

Leadership during these days is challenging. For me, it is critical to FOCUS ON OUR MISSION of making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. How are we bringing Kingdom to Leavenworth County? How are we bringing Jesus to people? Distraction in the chaos can get us sidetracked. Trust in the Lord and lean not on our own understanding.

Pastor Dave



2nd	Pamela Gephart	12th	Marsha Gaffin	25th	Valynn Schmierer
	Pat Long	14th	Kevin Bond	26th	Michael Ralls Jr.
	Lea Ann Weilbacher	16th	Sandy Davis		Rhonda York
3rd	Kyle Lauber	17th	Kay Hale	27th	Jeff LaMoe
4th	Jeff Andrews	18th	Cindy White	28th	Madison Christy
	Cheryl Rader	20th	Kristen Howell		Madison Mohan
7th	Norman Dawson	23rd	Jo Burkett		Kaelyn Mohan
	Sy Nyhart		Dan Wiley		
8th	David Landis	24th	Emma Yates		



13th	Bill & Sheila Bailey	57 years
22nd	Ollie & Kathryn West	36 years
25th	Rod & Kathy Huskey	21 years
30th	Mark & Sherry Lauber	26 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.



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.

November is traditionally a month when we pause to be grateful for what we have and to give thanks. But how can you give thanks when you are grieving the loss of a loved one? The answer to that question is unique to each person. But I would like to share a thank you note that one person in our group wrote to me. I have removed anything personal and am omitting their name. I also obtained permission to share this. I also want you to know that I take no credit for this. All the credit goes to the excellent curriculum and God working in the lives of each participant.

Hi Marsha,

I won't be attending GriefShare. (Note: By the way, I consider it a "success" when someone is ready to move on and not attend GriefShare, it means that they have worked through their grief to the point that attending our group is no longer necessary.) I feel that no longer need to attend grief counseling or a support group. Of course, if I struggle, I know they are available. I don't want to say goodbye. I learned this from military families to say "See you later". It made the end of the year for me much more bearable. Please leave a spot open for me as I may once again need this group. After all, life is very uncertain.

Marsha, thank you for everything. You my friend, are a gem. You are perfect for leading GriefShare. The GriefShare family was a gift from God. I learned so much. For one, I learned I wasn't crazy, LOL, or at least not crazy in how my family sees me—ha ha. I also learned that grief is a process and it varies from person to person.

I've come a long way. My grief was so overwhelming that I would sometimes cry so hard and for so long, that I would sleep for hours. I also remember that feeling of being overwhelmed and not wanting to live. I prayed to God, that he would take me to be with _____. My first time with the group, I spent most of the time sobbing. However, as time passed, I got a little better. After a few months, I was able to look at _____'s things without crying—baby steps. Soon after, I could talk about _____ without sobbing—baby steps. Although difficult, I was able to go through most of _____'s things. It was hard, but I did it. Grief is a process.

Everyday, I remember that my time on earth is minuscule, compared to our time in Heaven. I rejoice that someday I will be reunited with _____ and all the family and friends that I love. This gives me great solace.

My retirement is not the retirement I planned; however, I am adjusting to "Plan B". Since _____'s death, I no longer sweat the little things. I also appreciate and don't take ANYTHING for granted. My children miss _____ terribly; however, they are happy, contented, and above all, they love Christ, they love each other, and they love me. I know this could change in the blink of an eye, but know this, I thank God, that at this present time, all is pretty darn good in their world.

I'm sorry for the long text. I want you to know that your leadership in GriefShare played a part in my recovery. For this, I will be eternally grateful to you. I plan to give a small donation in the hopes that your church continues this worthwhile and necessary program.

God Bless,
Name Withheld

We have two groups. The Spouses Group meets every third Tuesday of the month at 2pm. Our group for anyone experiencing grief meets on the second and fourth Wednesdays of the month at 5pm. **You don't have to be alone in your sorrow.** We can help you get through it. Call the church office for details or Marsha Gaffin at 913-547-0286.



Scott and Cathy French came to visit our church and tell us about Global Hope on October 16. They brought cards for the Ukrainian children living at Nehemiah House in Romania. We had several church members become Godparents of children. The church council voted to fully sponsor one child for one year. The child chosen is Boris Shepel. He is 13 years old. He loves to play soccer outside in the yard at Nehemiah House. Boris wants to be a cook when he grows up. If you are interested in becoming a Godparent, there are still children's cards in the church office. Sponsorships start at \$39 a month.



Recently the ladies at Itchin' to Stitch heard about some needs in the community. They used their talents to reach out to the individuals hurting to bring them hope and encouragement. The first recipient was Robert. He's the evening custodian at Lansing Elementary School. He was recently diagnosed with stage 4 pancreatic cancer. Itchin' to Stitch made him a custom quilt using plaid material like men's work clothes. If you look close at the stitching pattern, you can see tools in the stitches. Robert was touched by the amount of work and detail put into his quilt.

Itchin' to Stitch also heard about a ten year old boy in Tonganoxie, named Garrett that was diagnosed with Legg-Perthes disease. It is a childhood condition that occurs when blood supply to the ball part (femoral head) of the hip joint is temporarily interrupted and the bone begins to die. This weakened bone gradually breaks apart and can lose its round shape. Garrett loves sports, so they made his quilt with Chief's Football on one side and Royals baseball on the other side. He LOVED it. Teresa Hicks told him to think of the quilt like a big ole hug whenever he used it.

Garrett's treatments are in Dallas, TX, at the Scottish Rite Children's Hospital. They placed a petri cast on both legs completely immobilizing him and he underwent a STEM cell transfusion into his hip to hopefully get the hip bone growing and regenerating. The good news is that Garrett will walk by himself again but it's going to be a long time of bracing and non weight bearing crutches/wheelchair. His cast comes off November 14 ! Then, a year or so of being in a wheelchair. They will find out in January if the stem cell transplant is doing it's job and the femoral head is regrowing — all prayers welcome!





Greetings and love to everyone that reads this wonderfully incredible newsletter. Financially we are holding strong even with paying the big ticket item, the construction cost of the front entry-way and significant volatility in the stock market.

The thing I am extremely thankful for is the freedom to serve. With my identity in Jesus Christ, I receive the love and grace from our heavenly Father and then have the freedom to obey all he commands. We are a service focused church!

James 2:14-17

What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if someone claims to have faith but has no deeds? Can such faith save them? Suppose a brother or a sister is without clothes and daily food. If one of you says to them, "Go in peace; keep warm and well fed," but does

nothing about their physical needs, what good is it? In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead."

We are truly blessed with many of our members that love to serve. Remember treasure is giving, talent is encouraging and time is serving. Serving is the true manifestation of our love of the Lord and our neighbors. Serving is more than doing, more than giving, it is loving.

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.

As we continue to love our neighbor's with this servant focus, more and more opportunities come our way. Please read the articles in this newsletter on Stronghold Food Panty on Fort Leavenworth, Trinity House and Global Hope – Nehemiah House Romania. 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. The Lord is at work in FUMC of Leavenworth Kansas. Thanks be to God.

in Christ Ed



Community Thanksgiving

On Thanksgiving Day, Nov. 24th, 2022, a coalition of Leavenworth, Ft Leavenworth, and Lansing churches, and congregations, will provide home delivery, takeout, or dine in full Thanksgiving Day meal which we call the 7th Street Feast.

For the 21st year the 7th Street Feast will help the people of Leavenworth & surrounding communities celebrate our blessings. They'll deliver meals from the St. Joseph Catholic Church cafeteria or provide takeout service in the St. Paul Lutheran School gymnasium at 7th Street & Osage in Leavenworth. Also, for 2022, they are re-introducing a full sit-down dinner in the St. Paul School gym.

They provide each meal or meals at no cost to the patrons. In keeping with their beliefs and practices they do not ask for donations. They provide a meal or meals to each who asks.

As they have for each of the previous 20 years, Leavenworth's Veterans Cab will provide free transportation to and from the St. Paul Lutheran School's gym for those coming for either takeout meals or sit-down dinners.

Diners may order a meal or meals delivered by calling (913) 290-0527 beginning November 1 until 10 AM on November 24th. Deliveries will begin at 11:00 AM on November 24th. Takeout service and sit-down dining in St. Paul Lutheran School's gym will begin at 11:30 AM on November 24th and run until 1:00 PM on November 24th.

If you would like to volunteer to help with the feast, you can sign up online at [Bit.ly/7thfeast](https://bit.ly/7thfeast) or you can call Joey Denney at (913) 306-6651.



Debra McGrew and her family moved to Leavenworth from Houston, Texas, this summer. Her daughter, Kylah, and son, Aiden, attended VBS in July. They had such a wonderful experience that they decided to become a part of our church family. Debra teaches 2 through 4 year olds at Kingdom Christian Academy at Harvest Christian Center International here in Leavenworth. She loves to cook and makes everything with TLC, especially her homemade brownies, macaroni and cheese and green chicken enchiladas. (She will have to make some for the next potluck!)

In Houston, Debra was a CASA volunteer and is interested in working with CASA here. She has always wanted to be a foster parent because she believes all kids deserve to be loved the right way. She loves sitting around the table with her five kids, talking and laughing. They love to sing karaoke and play Jenga, Uno and Connect Four.

Debra's oldest son is Tristan. He is 19 years old and is studying business at KCKCC. He wants to be an engineer. Her oldest daughter is Stacie. She is a sophomore at Leavenworth High School. She is shy, and very creative. She is very good at drawing and writing. She is a member of DECA which prepares leaders and entrepreneurs for the future. Kylah is her second daughter. She is 10 years old and a 5th grader at Warren Intermediate. She loves singing, acting and volleyball. Aiden is her second son. He's 8 years old and a 3rd grader at Henry Leavenworth Elementary. He is athletic, fast, smart, energetic and funny. Aiden and Kylah are both busy practicing for "The Christmas Carol" play at Leavenworth High School. Kylah is playing Nancy Smythe and Aiden is playing Tiny Tim. The play will be on December 10th and 11th at Leavenworth High.

Debra's youngest is McKenzie who is 8 months old. She is a very happy baby. She said, "What I love about this church is the people. They are so nice, and sincerely care! I love worship time, my kiddos love the Sunday school here, it reminds us a little bit of our church in Houston. She also loves how there is no traffic in Leavenworth. Welcome to the family, McGrew family!

John Thomas Hersey was baptized on October 16 with his parents Fred and Elizabeth and their parents, Mike and Julia Rothwell and Sherrie Goorley. Welcome to the family, John!



Brendan and Ellaura Jamerson were married in August at Powell Gardens and then enjoyed a honeymoon in Alaska. Ellaura is an ICU nurse at St Luke's on the Plaza and Brendan is working on his doctorate in Occupational Therapy at the University of St Mary.





Kids First Worship meets during the 11:00 service each Sunday on the lower floor of the main building. In November we'll be in the Old Testament book of 1 Samuel learning about the David, the man after God's own heart. During the season of Advent we will be focusing on "Just Jesus" – seeing how Old Testament prophecies of the Messiah point straight to him!

November 6 – David Chosen to Replace Saul
November 13 – David and Goliath
November 20 – David and Jonathan
November 27 – Advent Begins! – Isaiah's Prophecy

Sunday School meets on Sunday mornings from 9:45 – 10:40 am. We have two classes, one for non-readers and one for readers. With the Bible as our foundation, we will be using science, art and activity to not just tell God's story, but learn what it means for us. Our lessons will be a deeper dive into the story of David and the Prophecies of the Messiah.



Wonderful Wednesday is a fantastic way to remind children that God is not just for Sundays, he is for EVERY day. This year, your children ages 3 years through 6th grade will access and instruction in all the tools that God has provided us to

NAVIGATE

Each week we will be discovering how God provides guidance for us in His Word, through other people, and through the Holy Spirit. At home, at school, on the playground, wherever we are: WE NEED GOD! This month we will be focusing on prayer and thanksgiving. To register, go to: FUMCLVKS.ORG/WW

Each month, on the second Wednesday, we'll be providing care for children ages birth through school age. There are three groups: Nursery, Toddlers and Preschool. Space is limited, so register now by going to: FUMCLVKS.ORG/MMO



Refuge Youth is for any student from 6 - 12th grade. They meet at 9:45 am on Sunday and they are studying hope. At 6 pm on Sundays, they are doing lessons that follow the lectionary, which means that every week they are studying something different! Dinner is provided. They recently sent a survey to students and parents. Please return your survey to help them build a better program.

They're so excited for their winter trip this year to San Antonio! They will leave 7 am December 26 from the church and return late evening on December 29. Cost is free with lodging, meals, and activities included, but please bring money if you want to purchase souvenirs. They will soak up warmer weather while spending time at The Riverwalk, The Alamo, and Six Flags, among other activities. Please let them know if you plan to attend and please invite your friends. The more, the merrier! Questions? Contact Kristen (khowell@fumclvks.org) or Steven (ssshade@fumclvks.org).



Dear Members of FUMCLV,

This is late, but never too late, I hope to thank you for all you do for me and so many others! The Octogenarian dinner was so thoughtful! Gary and Cheryl and those who helped to fix a wonderful meal. You do so many things for this community! I can not find words to tell you how proud I am to be a part of your congregation! Thank you!
Love in Christ,
Wilda Wicke

Dear Pastor Dave, Ed and FUMC Family,

Thank you so much for serving food at our Family Fun Night. It was so nice to not worry about food service. I'm so grateful for a successful and FUN evening for our families.

We very much appreciate your community support/partnership. It is a huge help and our students love it! By the way, I loved seeing Jim Wolfe. We taught together many moons ago. We served on several committees together.

Thanks again!

Kristy Tsen &
Anthony Elementary Staff



Dear Pastor Dave, and church family,

I want to say "thanks" to you, Rev. York and the members of FUMC for the rewarding years of fellowship here at this church. Keith and I enjoyed attending services here and felt blessed. I will be moving to Fishers, Indiana next week to live closer to my son, Lance.

Lorene Richardson
12101 Sunrise Circle
Fisher, IN 46038



Dear friends,

Thank you for your very generous snack bags you provided to the Leavenworth Sheriff's Department. It's great "fuel" to keep the officers going. They never refuse food! Your thoughtfulness is greatly appreciated, and please continue your prayers for us.

God bless each of you.
The staff of the LVSD



Thank You!

Dear Church Family,

We are so blessed to have a family church that we are able to lean on during difficult times. For those of that don't know Bea has had some health issues and Tim had a mild stroke which the doctor says can happen again. Thank you so much to everyone who has helped us with meals, transportation and even the little things. Thank you.

The Yenneys



Dear Church Family,

Thank you so much for the gifts of cards, kind words and goodies for my birthday and pastor appreciation month. My mail box was never empty with some kind of generous and thoughtful act of love. YOU ARE THE BEST! I am blessed beyond measure by your kindness.

Pastor Dave





To the 13 campers that went to Camp Horizon it was: inspirational, fellowship, satisfying, helpful, very worthwhile, a blessing, awesome, magnificent, fun and rewarding. A few of the things we did were: cut trees and trim others, painted, office work, weeded flower beds and planted flowers, built benches around a fire pit, laid out two pickle ball courts and painted them, sprayed, and fellowshiped with each other. You would hate to miss out on such a trip next year, so plan to join us Sept. 24-28.



Back row from left: Mary Lou Anderson, Cheryl Rader, Edie & Jim VanMaanen, Don Gaffin, Mike Mix, Front row from left: Claudia McAllister, Kathi LaMoe, Wilda Wicke, Gary Rader, David Gaffin, Dave Landis, Jan Mix

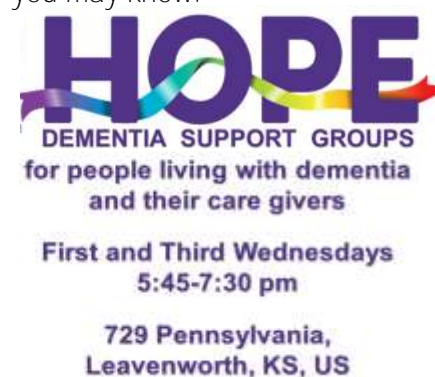
Congregational Care

I am fluent in two languages. The first one is Southern. Those idioms that are unique to the southern dialect roll off my tongue with the ease of many years of frequent usage. When hard pressed, I can even understand Gullah and Creole. The second language I am quite conversant in is Christian. I grew up in the church and attend regularly as an adult. **If I had a dollar for every sermon I've heard, I could treat everyone to lunch and still have money left over.** I know how to fill in the answers to Bible study questions. I can even come up with a salient answer when asked for "Christian" advice. But is familiarity enough? Does God want me to be familiar with Him? I would hazard a guess that maybe familiarity is a start. **But wouldn't it be better if I were intimate with Him?** Like David was. David, the Bible says, sought to know God. Really know Him. And God counted David a friend.

I think of my own friendships. **I have "friends" that leave all the work to me.** If I want to hear from them I have to contact them myself, initiate getting together with them myself. That is unless they want something. Then I hear from them at once. On the other hand I have friends who call me just to check in. They genuinely want to know how I am doing and they do little things for me that show me how much they care about me. **They are my intimate friends. Maybe that's the kind of relationship God seeks with me.** The kind where I love Him so much that I can't wait to do whatever I can to know Him better and it becomes a pleasure to serve Him. **Just because.** I have a long way to go in that department, but I'm going to try. How many languages do YOU speak?



Dementia affects the whole family. It is 24/7 and can be exhausting both physically, mentally, and spiritually. One of the purposes of AIR ministry is to provide support and respite for caregivers. November is National Family Caregivers Month, a time to recognize the struggles family caregivers face and the importance of the care they provide. Several of our caregivers have been having an especially difficult time and would appreciate your prayers and perhaps a card or call. Here are a few other ideas to help you support caregivers you may know.



Octogenarian Dinner
Sept. 19



Ten Ways to Support a Caregiver

1. Offer to run errands, i.e. take the car for an oil change or mail a package, or pick-up groceries.
2. Do something special for holidays or birthdays. People with **dementia don't remember these special days.**
3. Offer to stay with their loved one when they have an appointment or just need a break.
4. Listen. Sometimes caregivers just need to talk to another adult and feel heard. They also need confidentiality.
5. Help with seasonal home maintenance such as mowing, raking leaves or shoveling snow.
6. Bake an extra batch of cookies or other treat and surprise them.
7. Encourage them to attend a support group or offer to attend with them.
8. Schedule a special day to pamper them
9. Offer to do a special house cleaning day.
10. Pray for them.

NOVEMBER SCHEDULE



November 7 - Veteran's Day



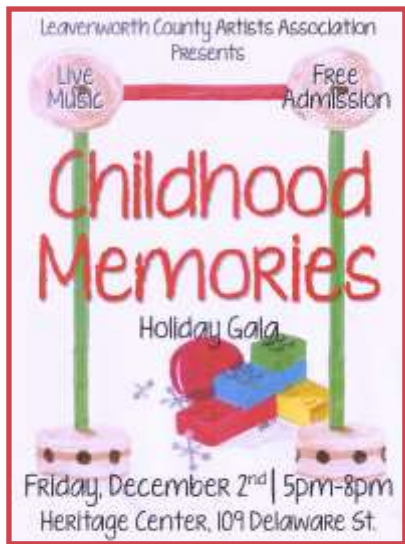
November 14 - Mickey Mouse Birthday



November 21 - Thanksgiving



November 28 - 50s Sock Hop



HOLI DAY ART GALA

Our church family is fortunate to have many talented artists. Some of these artists, including Heidi Eaton, Libby Frasier and Ron Roggentien are a part of the Leavenworth County Artist Association. They're holding the Holiday Art Gala December 2, from 5-8 pm at the Heritage Center. This is a free event and a lot of fun.

You're invited to come enjoy over a hundred pieces of art. The artist's theme is Childhood Memories and the artists will be bringing toys for CASA. You will see all types of art; watercolors to woodworking, paintings to pottery, stained glass to shawls. You will also hear the band Penny Black and enjoy yummy treats. Each entry will be judged by an art professor from St. Mary's. Come and pick out your favorite.

Sara Mulford is Staff Member of the Month for Lansing Elementary School



Sara Mulford was nominated for Staff Member of the Month in October by her peers for her teamwork, knowledge, and always going above and beyond to help others. While most of the teachers were enjoying traveling and relaxing this summer, Sara was creating a yearlong calendar for second grade. The calendar contains every subject matter WITH LINKS to the actual resource. Each member of the second grade team has access to the calendar and is using it to keep them all on the same pace. She included extra resources for things such as their Monarch butterfly unit, and their PRIDE characteristics of the month."

As if that weren't enough, Sara has gone above and beyond for their first field trip this year, Mahaffie Stage Coach Stop Farm. Sara has been in constant contact with the program director at Mahaffie, and includes the team in weekly updates to ensure every part of the field trip is well organized and runs smoothly. She has provided the team with a checklist for the day of the field trip, organized the permission slips, and reconfigured grouping when special education busses were not able to be used at a certain time. Sara is the literal brain of the second grade team, and they do not know what they would do without her. Not only does she do so much with behind the scenes organization, but she is so willing to jump to anyone's aide as needed. She has been providing teachers with fresh milkweed for their caterpillars, checked in on everyone's caterpillars when they had subs, and offers pictures and videos to teachers whose caterpillars didn't make it. Sara is an amazing teacher and team member. It is their great honor to recommend her for the board of education outstanding staff member."

"Sara is a happy teacher! She speaks to and treats staff and students with respect. She is a phenomenal teacher. She really goes above and beyond in the classroom. She is here early and stays late each day! She is also the coordinator for the 2nd grade field trips. This is a huge job to coordinate! She is extremely organized."



October was a busy month for the scouting ministry.

You know, sometimes the Scouting Ministry is just Plain FUN! This month we thought we would try the "a picture is worth a thousand words" approach. In October we conducted our Family camp out where the Scouts made dinner and served the family. The Scouts lead the semi-annual court of honor to recognize scouts who earned rank advancements and those who earned merit badges from summer camp. The Scout leadership conducted a flag retirement ceremony.

Nov. 4-5, will be the annual One Homeless Night, to help our youth be aware of those in the greater Kansas City area who are homeless. In the morning we will work with the Samaritan's Buffett to round out the experience of helping others.





As we approach the season of thanksgiving, we asked the staff for their grateful thoughts. What are you thankful for this year?



Pastor Dave - I am grateful for work that makes a difference. As a pastor, I make a living and a life in the service of the LORD. It is a good life. Blessed beyond measure. I use my **abilities, skills and experiences to bring Kingdom every day. It's good work when you get it.**

Furthermore, I am richly blessed to work with people I admire, respect and most of all, like! It is a joy to come to work at church and within the community. Laughter, kindness, effort, patience and wisdom come to mind when I think of the people I collaborate with – Faithful followers of Christ.



Ed Garven - I am thankful for the ability to confess and repent. Though our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ died to atone for my sins, confession and repentance are regularly scheduled maintenance required to remain in a healthy relationship with Him and the renewing of my mind to be in alignment with His will and not that of the world.



Nancy Shade - There are so many beautiful cycles that God created in our world. **The life cycle of the butterfly, or the water cycle. One that I didn't learn about until I was much older was the family cycle.** Just like genetic traits are passed down in families, so are emotional and psychological traits. If your family is filled with happy, well-adjusted people, then this is great for you. Most **families do not have this history. Even the story of God's people is filled with dysfunction. Just look at the family of Abraham going from "she's my sister" to Jacob cheating Esau, to Joseph's brothers selling him to travelers from Egypt.**

The reason I took you down that path leads directly to what I am thankful for. I am thankful for cycle-breakers. Those people who have the wisdom and strength to follow God, rather than the dysfunctional path bequeathed to them by their families. My mom was one. She turned a family legacy that was plagued by substance abuse and physical abuse to one of love and care for others. My husband is another. He changed the trajectory of our **children and grandchildren's lives by being open to the love and wisdom of God.**

Neither one of them came to these paths by themselves. My mom was taken to Sunday school by a kind neighbor. My husband was introduced to God by his best friend. Yes, I am thankful for cycle breakers. I am thankful for those who God placed in their lives to influence them. I am thankful for a loving and forgiving God who never gives up on us.

Libby Frashier - I think the main thing I'm thankful for this year is medical technology and good friends.

I appreciate medical technology more and more as I get older. You've heard the saying "Getting Old Isn't For Sissies" - well, let me tell you that's proving itself to be more and more true. I've told my husband, Keith, that if he were a cat, he should be worried. Our daughter, Niki, is fighting a number of health issues and would not be alive if it weren't for the Doctors and health professionals she's seen recently.

I love working here at FUMC because all of the people here are like family.



We laugh a lot! When something goes wrong in our lives, we all pray for one another and check up on each other to make sure we know we are loved. Keith and I attended his 50th class reunion last month. While we were there, we visited with friends we have known for decades but we also recognized many of his classmates that they've lost over the years. One never knows if you'll see your friends or loved ones again. It's important to cherish those you love and let them know.

Steven Shade - I am thankful for kindness. There are ever increasing opportunities for people to affect each other's lives. Without kindness the negativity feedback loop would be unbeatable. With kindness it's only as difficult as we let it be.

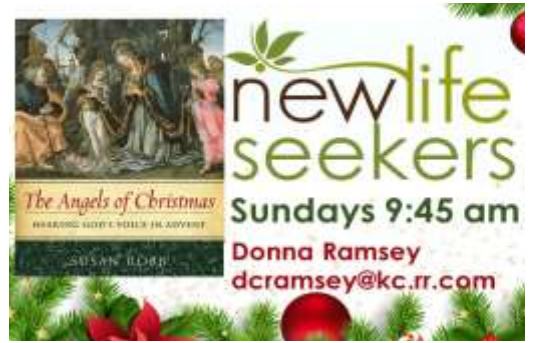


Prepare your heart

As you're decorating your tree and buying presents, consider preparing your heart for the Christmas season. There are three Advent opportunities available this holiday season. Both the Ladies Bible Study and the New Life Seekers Sunday School class will be studying "The Angels of Christmas" by Susan Robb. In this study, the reader will explore the angelic visits surrounding the birth of Jesus with Zechariah, Mary, Joseph, and the shepherds. They'll also look at Gabriel and others angels in the Bible. These messages hold meaning for us just as they did to the listeners long ago.

Donna Ramsey is leading the New Life Seekers Sunday School class. They meet in room 203 at 9:45 am. If you have questions, you can contact her at dcramsey@kc.rr.com. Carol Shafer leads the Ladies Bible Study. The Study meets Thursday Evenings at 6:30 pm starting on Nov. 17 through Dec. 15 or Tuesday mornings at 10:00 starting Nov. 22 through Dec. 20. For more info, contact Carol Shafer at cshafer@lvnworth.com or 913-683-5444.

Heart and Soul is another Ladies Bible study that meets on Wednesdays at 1:30 pm. They will be studying "The Redemption of Scrooge" by Matt Rawle. It is based on Charles Dickens's "A Christmas Carol", and will explore the world of Ebenezer Scrooge, Tiny Tim, and the Cratchits, with an eye to Christian faith. Along the way you will meet the Ghosts of Christmas Past, Present, and Yet to Come and learn about living with and for others in a world blessed by Jesus. Marti Crow leads this study. You can get more information at marticrow@gmail.com.



It's a Beautiful Day to Read a Book

There is nothing like snuggling up with a cup of something warm and a good book on a chilly day. If you enjoy reading, you're invited to join the Book Club. We are reading "The Simple Faith of Mr. Rogers" by Amy Hollingsworth. Mining personal interviews and correspondence, Hollingsworth goes beyond Rogers's gentle manner and signature red sweater to reveal the deep faith that sustained him in his many roles---television personality, educator, philosopher, and minister. Eight years before his death, Fred Rogers met author, educator, and speaker Amy Hollingsworth. What started as a television interview turned into a wonderful friendship spanning dozens of letters detailing the driving force behind this gentle man of extraordinary influence. The book focuses on Mr. Rogers' spiritual legacy. It shows us a man who, to paraphrase the words of St. Francis of Assisi, "preached the gospel at all times; when necessary, he used words."

We will meet at 1 pm on Dec. 7 to discuss the book. New readers are always welcome.

HELP WANTED

The Community of Hope shelter is hiring Intake Coordinators. They receive and screen guests at low-barrier homeless shelter and work cooperatively with volunteers to provide guests with 'a safe place to sleep' for the night. Intake Coordinator is a position shared by 4 people. It's a part-time position totaling 15 - 20 hours a month. Work hours are 6 am to 8 am and 8 pm to 10 pm in the evening. They need weekend help; Saturdays and Sundays. The wage is \$11.00 per hour. If interested, please contact Margaret Del Debbio, 913-704-8053.



Alayna Parvin, the acoustic guitar player for the Praise Team in the 11 am service, has been selected for the National Choir for the third year in a row. She is traveling to Washington DC to perform at Gaylord Convention Center in National Harbor, Maryland with 250 other talented kids. She said, "I am most excited to get the experience to sing with like minded people." Alayna has also been selected for District and State choir the last three years. We are proud to have such a talented young woman on our praise team.





Say Thanks With Giving



Each Thanksgiving, our church family has a designated offering for a local charities. This year our gifts will help feed our community through Trinity House food bank, the Stronghold food bank on Fort Leavenworth and Meals on Wheels. If you would like to contribute to the Thanksgiving offering, please make sure to designate on your envelope or check.

Trinity House is a community food bank and clothing closet for any Leavenworth resident. They accept donations of clothing, especially warm coats, gloves and hats this time of year. Trinity House is located at 2101 10th Ave and is a mission of Trinity Lutheran church. They are open Tues-Thurs from 10 am to 1 pm. We have several church members who volunteer at Trinity House, including Marsha Gaffin and Sherry Lauber.

The Council on Aging operates the local Meals on Wheels program. They deliver over 400 meals to seniors who are over the age of 60, have difficulty preparing meals or have no one available to prepare a noon-day meal, and are homebound. They deliver meals 5 days a week and several of our church members help deliver those meals. Georgia Moore, the director, said, **“The cost of 400 meals a day is roughly \$2,600. We ask for a \$2 donation, but 40% of their customers can not afford even that. But we will never refuse to give someone a meal. We are more than a meal. We are a daily smile and welfare check. Some people tell us we are the best part of their day.”**



Here at FUMC Leavenworth we have a long tradition of living and loving on our military families. Many of our church members are active duty, **military retirees or veterans' families that were called to service this proud nation. At this year's Fort Leavenworth Spouses Signup Day we met Monica Bassett, the founder of Stronghold Community Food Pantry on Fort Leavenworth and the 2022 Army Spouse of the Year. Monica's passion is advocating for military families who are dealing with food insecurity and providing food and resources for those military families in need.**

Food insecurity has existed for decades in our US Military Community and according the Center for Strategic & International Studies Household Pulse Survey: Food Insufficiency and the Child Tax Credit the percentage of Active-duty households with children who reported sometimes or often not having enough to eat was 23% versus 11% for all US households with children.

Our call to action is simple: James 2:14-26

What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if someone claims to have faith but has no deeds? Can such faith save them? Suppose a brother or a sister is without clothes and daily food. If one of you says to them, “Go in peace; keep warm and well fed,” but does nothing about their physical needs, what good is it? In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead.

This is a list of great food pantry essentials

Peanut Butter	Jelly	Pasta	Pasta Sauce	Canned Soups
Canned Vegetables	Canned Fruit	Canned Stew	Canned Tuna	Canned Beans
Canned Chicken	Rice	Granola Bars	Instant Oatmeal	Cereal
Whole Grain Crackers	Nuts			

They are also planning Stretch Your Thanksgiving Meal Baskets. It will contain a recipe for Stronghold Turkey Soup and all the items needed to make the meal. Families can be sponsored for \$20 (items included will be (but not limited to) fresh carrots, onion, celery, garlic, ginger, thyme, a bag of egg noodles, and chicken broth).

For Christmas they will be distributing The Gift of Family. This will be all items to bake and decorate Christmas cookies as a family and enjoy hot cocoa. They would like to give these away in a family Christmas stocking. Families can be sponsored for \$20. They will also gladly accept donations of Christmas stockings.

Sandy Wood - As a woman, I am grateful to live at the time I live and the place I live so that I could receive an education and be able to read. There are many countries even today, where women are not valued and not allowed to receive an education, or they live in such poverty that education is not available.

I am also thankful to own multiple copies of the Bible. I even have the Bible on my phone! There are places in our world where Bibles are illegal or too expensive to own. I was very moved by a video I saw where Voice of the Martyrs smuggled Bibles to an underground church. The people receiving the Bibles were crying and kissing their new treasure. May I never take the privilege of reading my Bible for granted.

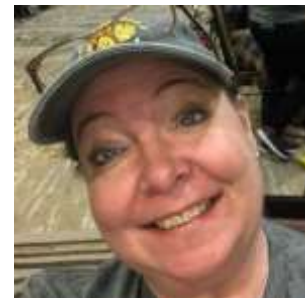


Kristen Howell - **I'm thankful for the gift of parenting my girls — especially my toddler. What I didn't expect about parenting is that I would also be parenting myself while parenting my kids. I've decided that two is the best age and the worst age so far. Junia is at a place where her adorable, hilarious personality is shining through. She has interests and opinions and unfortunately, a toddler-sized ability to manage her own emotions. Add to that Mom and Dad disappearing to the hospital for two weeks with complications at the end of my pregnancy and a new sibling to share attention with, and you've got a storm of feelings. Navigating tantrums and helping Junia to work through her own emotions in a safe and healthy way has been a lot of work, but I didn't realize that work was also bleeding through into my own life.**

I had been in the hospital for almost a week and the end was nowhere in sight because my blood pressure kept **creeping up out of control and I couldn't go home until it was managed. Marsali was down in NICU and my parents came to visit. A nurse who was a lovely woman but who did not play well with my anxiety was in charge of me and because my blood pressure was high, she forbade me from going with the rest of my family to visit my daughter. Almost by surprise, I realized I was upset. For days I'd been in medical facilities on medications that I wouldn't wish on my worst enemy, I had my baby at 33 weeks pregnant via emergency c-section and didn't get to meet her for over 30 hours because I wasn't allowed out of bed. My body was battered by surgery and fatigue and this was the final straw.** My frustration became tears which became inconsolable rivers of disappointment, fear, and the loss of the way I had wanted this birth to go. I missed my house, my cats, and most of all, Junia.

Immediately, I felt shame. How could I be so weak? How embarrassing! But then I began to think about Junia and her emotional outbursts. Thankfully, I have more emotional regulation than a 2 year-old, but I began to realize that we had more in common than I had thought. I regularly extend grace and love to my daughter and in this moment, **I needed that same grace and love extended to me. I started to speak kindly to myself like I do to Junia. “Of course you're upset and disappointed. You've had an extremely challenging week. You're separated from both daughters, one of whom is currently on oxygen. You're scared and tired and it feels like you're never going home. It's okay to cry.” And then I did, for as long as I needed. Of course I've cried before, but that freedom to do so without apology and to really own my emotions has been such a wonderful gift that I have gained through parenting.**

Grant Zschoche - A phillips screwdriver and a phillips head screw, simple-small things. Yet I am thankful for these "simple" things in my everyday work life. We often overlook but need to be aware of the "simple things". Be thankful that someone holds open a door when your hands are full, or someone picks up something you dropped. The simple/small things we need to be thankful for may help others. Be thankful that you are able to walk, even though you parked far away from the entrance. Be thankful you can smile and speak as you smile and say hello to a stranger as you pass each other. Be thankful for time, the time it takes to talk or greet someone, even though we "think" we don't have the time. "Simple, small" thankful things add up in everyday life, ours and hopefully by what we do, someone else's!



Kathy McKinley - It is easy to be thankful for the good things. I am also thankful for the **times I've struggled. It helps give me perspective...and character.**



LIFE @ FUMC

Bible stories, games, candy and costumes! It was a beautiful October day for our Fall Festival. Kids played games while they learned about Bible heroes like Daniel, David, Noah and Jesus. Thank you to all our volunteers!



UNITED AS ONE PANEL DISCUSSION