



RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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E-mail: office@fumclvks.org

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



Or visit us at FUMCLVKS.ORG

Sunday services stream at either site.

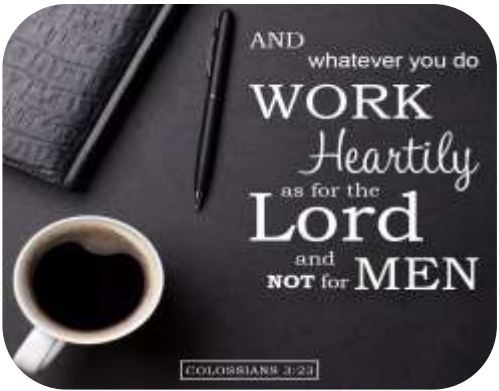
January 2023

1 One service only 10 am	2 Church Office closed	3	4	5 8:30am Staff Meeting	6	7 
8 18:30 & 11am Worship 9:45 am SS 4pm Bells 6pm Youth	9 1 pm AIR ministry	10 10 am Bible Study	11 8:30 am MMO 12pm Ladies Lunch 3:45pmWW 5:00pm Grief Group 6:30pm Choir	12 8:30am Staff Meeting 6:30 pm Bible Study	13	14
15 8:30 & 11am Worship 9:45 am SS 4pm Bells 6pm Youth	16 Martin Luther King Jr. Day Church office closed	17 10am Bible Study 6:30 pm Bible Study	18 1:30 pm H & S 3:45pmWonderful Wednesday 6:30pm Choir	19 8:30am Staff 6:30pm Women's Bible Study	20	21
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Think
on these
things...



It seems appropriate that the first Sunday of January is New Year's Day. Every new year is a chance for a fresh start with the turning of the calendar page. Personally, I'm not much for New Year's Resolutions. I'm more of a consistent goal setter who keeps track of them little bit at a time. I am eager to see what the new year will bring. Here are a few things in the life of the church that I am setting as goals for me:

Leading a mission team to Romania. We are working with Global Hope to take a team of FUMCL disciples to Romania and work with our kids at Nehemiah House. From past experiences, I know that international travel on behalf of the Lord is transformational. Our target dates are late June/early July for about ten days. Put it on your calendar if that is something that you might consider. Cost is the airfare round trip and approximately \$700/person in country. My goal is six people from FUMCL.

Leading confirmation class this winter and spring. Confirmation is a time when our young people take on their faith in Jesus for themselves. They confirm the promises made at their baptism. We haven't had a class in several years so now is the time. What a great opportunity for us as a church to rally around our young disciples. We'll start in January and go until April. My goal is at least six students from sixth to ninth grade.

Completing the Community Remembrance Project for the Equal Justice Initiative. Our last event of the EJI project is placing a historical marker commemorating the lynching death of Silas Wilson, Richard Wood and Fred Alexander. These men were lynched in Leavenworth County between 1881-1901. I believe it is time to right a wrong and remember this sad and brutal part of our history. As Christians, justice is God's idea of what is good, right and fair about society. It may make some people uneasy about the past but lynching should make all of us feel this way. Perhaps we make sure that this type of behavior will not be passed on to any more people who live in this space. Our goal is to place the marker in late April/early May.

My greatest goal is to continue to serve the Lord through being pastor of this church, loving God and others in all I do. Preaching and teaching a gospel of good news of great joy because of Jesus! Every Sunday, my goal is to worship with passion and enthusiasm since our God is so good.

Pastor Dave



Pastor Dave will start a new sermon series called "Talk the Talk, Walk the Walk, Living a Life That Promotes Jesus" in January. It will cover such topics as "Being Beautiful When the World is Ugly", "How Daily Conversations Spread the Gospel" and "Facing Life's Challenges as a Witness for Christ".

GLOBAL
HOPE
Mission Trip
June 12 - 22
Approx. \$3,000



If you're interested in visiting Nehemiah House in Sibiu, Romania, contact Ed Garven, egarven@fumclvks.org. You will need a passport that requires at least 2 months to process and approximately \$3,000.



2nd	Jack Spicklemier	14th	Bill Shade	25th	Bill McCollum
3rd	Paul Estep	15th	Tristan Tebbetts	27th	Linda Landzettel
	Mary Catherine Perry	16th	Alex Burkett	29th	Tony McNeill
4th	Kaki Kinard	20th	Jim Wolfe		Rick Sanders
6th	Chez Shafer	21st	Joel Hubbard	30th	Michael Burkett
7th	Gini Geib		Barbara Kempf		Helen Pepper
	Alice Hall	22nd	Mike Crow		John Raines
8th	Adriane Bakke	23rd	Jennifer Ko		Verna Raines
8th	Emily Hansen		Leah Wieggers	31st	Brooke Frederick
11th	Daniel Eyerly		Adriana Yates		Virginia Schalipp
12th	Lynne Sepulvado	24th	Leona Sanford		



2nd	Bill & Karen Kidder	36 years
9th	Ron & Lou Ann Roggentien	16 years
23rd	Jeff & Ann Andrews	30 years
31st	Jim & Jan Glick	53 years



Chili & Soup Potluck



**January 8,
12:00 pm**

We will meet after the 2nd service. Please bring a pot of chili or soup and either a dessert or a side for soup.



WED. JAN 11, 12:00 pm
Luigi's Italian Restaurant

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.



It was the best of times.... It was the worst of times.....

December is a busy time for families and trying to find time to do everything gets a bit complicated. Pack 3109 had a great Christmas party early in the month with each Scout getting their Pinewood Derby car, doing some crafts and maybe a little something else from family elves. Troops 173 and 6173 watched a movie, ate 10 pizzas, cookies, cake and got what every kid wants... something to start a fire! No, seriously.... The Scouts got the ferrous rod and striker. This time of year lets hope they are not needed.

Wreaths Across America is an annual holiday event at all VA National Cemeteries and is Community Service for our Scouting Ministry. We met under the flag pole at the Cemetery around 10:45am. This was a day to dress warmly as temperatures were plenty cold. There are never enough wreaths for every grave, so sections are rotated each year. But this year was more meaningful for me, inspired by Mary Eleanor McCluskey. She had asked me to make sure her husband's grave was honored with a wreath. That got me to thinking and with my wife's help, we located other graves of former service members who were part of our congregation. Mary Eleanor had purchased a wreath for him and I picked it up and placed it. But I also was able to find and decorate other graves that were not part of the selected sections, and sometimes, these were the only ones honored with a wreath. Next year will be even more special, with plenty of time to plan ahead.

Sadly, the Scouting family conducted a celebration of life for Ms. Christine Davidson, who died early in December. Eagle Scout Shawn Sullivan played taps from the balcony, echoing the notes through the church. The benediction was powerful as the Scouting family locked arms and circled the family members. invoking "The Great Scoutmaster" to watch over her until we meet again. A Scout is Reverent.

CONGREGATIONAL Care



January is traditionally the month for making resolutions. For me, this usually involves something revolving around diet and exercise. Body image dissatisfaction has always been part of my struggle. Maybe you can identify with me. Our bodies are amazing and we often forget to appreciate all they do for us when we are struggling with negative body image thoughts. Sometimes we focus on our perceived flaws, instead of seeing our own beauty. It's a challenge to live in a society where diet culture thrives and tells us we need to look a certain way to be considered beautiful.

God's word tells us that our bodies are beautiful because they are made in God's image. These verses challenge those critical thoughts in your mind. Beauty lies in the eyes of the beholder, God Himself. You are beautiful, and your body is perfect just the way you are right now.

Psalms 139:14 – "For you formed my inward parts; you knitted me together in my mother's womb. I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made."

Ephesians 2:10 – "For we are God's masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things he planned for us long ago."

1 Corinthians 6:19-20 – "Do you not know that your bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; you were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with your bodies."

1 Samuel 16:7 – "The Lord sees not as man sees: man looks on the outward appearance, but the Lord looks on the heart."

Genesis 1:26-27 – "God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them, and it was good."

Think about this. God loved us so much that he sent his only Son to inhabit a human body and dwell with us. He sent His Holy Spirit to live in us. My new resolution is to remember that my body was created to praise and serve my Maker with the talents and gifts that he placed within me. I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Happy New Year, *Marsha*



Dear members of AIR Dementia ministry,
What a joy you brought to my home by singing those beautiful Christmas carols for me! Thank you so much for getting out on a cold blustery day to sing. It made a real difference in my holiday season! You are dear friends who make a difference with the melodious voices you sang.
In Christian love,
Alicia Moody

Thank you!

Dear FUMC family,
Thank you so much for the prayers, warm wishes and the gift card to Pullmans. It was a welcomed treat to go out as a new family of 5!
The Rolf Family

Thank You!

Dear First United Methodist church members,
We want to thank you for the Christmas sack of thoughtful gifts you gave us and for our very special 'elf' that delivered it to us. You are so good to us octogenarians, always thinking of us with treats and the wonderful dinner in September.
Love in Christ
Wilda and Ernest Wicke

Thank You!

Dear First United Methodist church,
The Council on Aging wishes to thank you for your generous donation to the Meals on Wheels program. Your donation will assist those seniors who cannot afford to donate towards their daily Meals on Wheels lunches. As you know, the past two years have been especially difficult for the senior population. Many have faced new issues such as isolation from their families and friends on top of other concerns such as food insecurity and financial challenges. Your donations is sure to brighten their days and ensure Leavenworth county seniors feel loved and appreciated. Thank you for your support. We are blessed by your kindness.
Sincerely,
Connie Harmon
Council on Aging
Executive Director



Dear First United Methodist church,
I wanted to reach out and thank you and the church again for all of your help with the Christmas presents for David Brewer students.. The families were very appreciative, but more importantly, I think it showed the truth of Christianity and the real gift of love that we were all given on that first Christmas.
Merry Christmas!



Darren M. Bradfield, LSCSW
School Social Worker

Dear First United Methodist church members,
Thank you so much for helping Anthony families for Christmas. This is a huge blessing to these families and will help alleviate some stress. Thank you for all you do for us here at Anthony Elementary.
Merry Christmas,

Nicole McConnell
Anthony Elementary
Social Worker



Dear Alicia and Nurture and Care Team,
Thank you so much for the lovely response for prayers for Darlene. I shared it with her and she was deeply, deeply moved.
God bless you all,
Betty Gaumer

thank you

Dear Congregation Care Committee,
Thank you so much for the Christmas "goodie" bag. I know each of you contribute to these bags and all items are useful and much appreciated. Even the bag was decorated! Thank you all for your hard work. My special thanks to Donna Ramsey who always delivers my Bags to me and checks on me.
Merry Christmas & God bless,
Virginia Hardaway.



Dear First United Methodist church,
Thank you so much for helping make our 2022 Holiday Art Gala a success. We would not be able to do it without your help.
Leavenworth County Artist Association

HOLIDAY ART GALA

Ron Roggentien, Libby Frasier and Heidi Eaton are members for the Leavenworth County Artist Association and each displayed their art at the Holiday Art Gala in December. Heidi's tiger scratch art (seen over her shoulder) won a prize and Libby also won a prize for her painting of the Savannah river.





Happy New Year, my brothers and sisters in Christ Jesus. Thank you all for your continuous support and love during the past year. The great news is the church has both spiritually and financially strong. Our online and in person ministries and your continuous generosity has put us in a position to further bringing His Kingdom in 2023, serving and loving our neighbors as ourselves.

Financially, we met our forecasted goals for 2022. Though everyone took a beating in the stock market, our financial position is strong and our pledges for 2023 are rising as is our love.

The single largest expense we accrued in 2022 was the renovation and revitalization of the front entrance way. This project also provided us with a joyous day of service and fellowship. Early on the week of Sept 17th the call went out for volunteers to help lay sod for the new front lawn. Anticipating only a handful of helpers, dozens showed up! From children to elders, from novices to experienced, dozens of joyful, wet, sweaty, mud laden loving children of God worked tirelessly through the rain to put in the grass. I stood across the street at the Education Building entrance and listened to laughter and the voices of fellowship team together to accomplish this task. Sod was cut, rolled, and stapled down. Flowers were planted and mulch spread. Pizza was eaten and the area cleaned up, then the watering began. Hugs and high fives were exchanged and the servants of the Lord departed, and I thought to myself **this is what Heaven feels like. "The Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to till it and keep it."**

Post pandemic, 2022 allowed us to serve our community with joyful hearts and renewed focus to impact all mankind. **We are the Church!** Whether serving at the shelter, the mission, Samaritans Buffet, Grief Share, Itchin' to Stitch, AIR ministry, greeting, music ministry and on and on – we continuously demonstrate His rule and authority in every aspect of our lives. We collected tons of essentials for the Hub, Stronghold and Trinity House. We provided thousands of manpower hours to our community partners and we approved over 20% of our budget to financially support them. We can never out give God - thank you.

In 2023, the newest event on the horizon, is a global mission trip to Nehemiah House Orphanage in Romania. We are planning for June 2023 and need to have this plan finalized by the end of the month. The group, hopefully will include both adults and youth – more details to follow. New and exciting things are happening for our children his year from confirmation class with Pastor Dave, to VBS, to the restart of Fusion 56(fifth and sixth graders), to the Bridge Ministry (for middle schoolers) to the Youth Ministry, please feel free to contact the office to learn more. As a staff we will plan, prepare, rehearse and be ready for a glorious new year.

The next church council meeting is scheduled for later this month, so I will be able to report where we are going and how we are allocating our assets to accomplish our collective goals and missions. If you have any questions, please **don't hesitate to reach out to me or any member of the staff.**

In Christ, Ed

BLOOD DRIVE REPORT

Our church hosted the annual community blood drive December 6. The collection goal set by Community Blood Center was 60 units.

Final report from the center indicates these statistics:

Registered: 61 donors

Deferred: 10

First time donors: 2

Double red cell donation: 6 donors, 12 units **Collected: 57 units**

Our church's volunteers included: Roy and Donna Ramsey, Sheila Bailey, Gary and Cheryl Rader, Marguerite Hilscher, Teresa Hicks, Jim Wolfe, Kathy Landis, Maryann McAfee, Steve and Margaret Songer. Kathi LaMoe remained **on call the entire day as did Deb Baeuchle part of the day.** Also Grant Zschoche and Ed Garven assisted the center's crew. Plus---what has now become a traditional part of the day, the New Life Seekers Sunday School Class sponsored sloppy Joes (prepared by Cheryl). All certainly enhanced our mission of welcoming our guests (center crew and donors) and assisting the crew. A very successful day. KUDOS to all our involved members.

Maryann McAfee

FUMCL Blood Drive Coordinator



We would like to welcome Tyler and Katie Thornton to our church family. **Tyler's father was in the Army and was stationed at Fort Leavenworth when he was a child so moving here felt sort of like coming home. His parents retired from the Army in South Carolina so that is where he officially calls "home".** South Carolina is also home for Katie. She grew up in a small town called Ninety Six, SC. They met in college through a mutual friend; the typical Citadel cadet marries College of Charleston girl. They moved here from Lexington, VA. Tyler taught freshmen ROTC at Virginia Military Institute.

Tyler is a CGSC student. He works in Army Logistics. Before getting married, Katie worked for a caterer as a wedding and event planner. Now she is fortunate to be able to stay home with her four children. Adeline will be 7 years old on Jan 12th. She was a 3 lb preemie who proved very early she is a fighter (in a good way!). She loves arts and crafts and all the stuffed animals. Jack is 5 years old and he loves to read, throw football with his dad and trade Pokémon cards. Twins Bennett and Charlie are 2 years old. They were a shock as twins don't run in their families. They love playing monster trucks, can name all the Paw Patrol pups, and scooting on their scooters outside. They also had a fur baby, Brody, who was a 70 pound lap dog. He was a happy boy who loved to beg for snuggles until you sat on the floor with a blanket and allowed him to curl up on you like a cat. They lost him in December to a sudden heart attack and they miss him dearly.

They love football. They follow the Tennessee Titans, Citadel Bulldogs and Clemson Tigers. They also love Atlanta Braves baseball. They enjoy the outdoors; hiking, kayaking, beaches, mountains, etc. They are also amateur woodworkers and enjoy refinishing furniture. They love traveling. They lived in Hawaii for 3 years and enjoyed getting to island hop to Maui, Big Island, and Kauai. They are planning a trip next summer to Ireland and Scotland for their 10 year wedding anniversary. They dream of buying a camper and travelling with their kids to National Parks across the country.

Katie likes the smaller town feel of Leavenworth. After trying several churches in the area, it was our church that felt like home to them. The friendly faces and warm welcomes drew them in quickly. Welcome to the family!



Youth had a great time on their trip to San Antonio, TX, on their Christmas break.





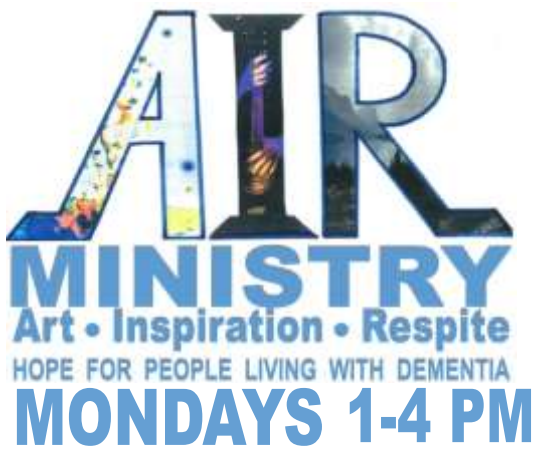
A new year has arrived, and if you are struggling with grief you may find it hard to get motivated and move forward. Here are a few New Year’s Resolutions you might can incorporate into your routine.

- 1. Go easy on yourself. This may sound obvious or even cliché, but it is easier said than done. Don’t place expectations on yourself that you may not be able to live up to. Whenever possible, try not to set timetables on when elements of your life (like work or other activities) will be back to ‘normal’. Don’t pressure yourself or allow others to pressure you into feeling like you should be ‘over’ the loss. This may not feel like a resolution but really, being kind to yourself may be the best New Year’s resolution a griever can make.
- 2. Spend time with people you like. Life after grief can be isolating. Resolve to put a little effort into connecting with people who make you feel happy and well supported. You may gravitate towards individuals who have also experienced loss, or you may want to spend time with people far removed from your experience. Also, you may choose to distance yourself from those who have not been helpful or supportive. Think about what you need; an escape, the absence of judgment, people who are fun, people who understand, or people who remember your loved one. Then plan accordingly.
- 3. Engage in a hobby or activity that makes you feel good. Exercise does wonders for your mental and physical health, so if the hobby you enjoy involves physical activity, then ten bonus points for you. But any hobby that you find enjoyable can be beneficial to your mental health. Hobbies can provide you with all of the following:
 - An escape
 - An outlet for difficult thoughts and feelings
 - A means for connecting with other people
 - An excuse to have alone time
 - Feelings of accomplishment, productivity, and fulfillment
- 4. Be honest about how you feel. A few weeks or months after a loss, many people feel compelled to start putting on a ‘happy face’ for their family and friends. You may want people to start treating you like you’re “normal.” You may be worried that if you keep talking about your loved one’s death, you will alienate those around you. Perhaps you so desperately want to be okay again that you try to fool even yourself. This pretending can become stressful. There are valid reasons why you may not want to tell your co-worker or your cashier at Walmart how your day is really going, but finding ways to express your true feelings in places where you feel safe can be beneficial. Keep speaking your loved one’s name. Remember them on holidays with family and friends, write about them in e-mails or letters, recount stories. It can make you feel much closer to those who are no longer here.
- 5. Embrace your loved one’s values. Think of one thing that your loved one really cared about or wanted, and then find a way to make that passion a part of your life. It may feel great to carry out a dream or passion that started with your loved one. Maybe you think your husband would have wanted you to have a companion, so you get a little kitten. Possibly your vacation savings were wiped out by months of cancer treatments. Get the jar back out and start saving again.
- 6. Support someone else. When you’re ready, look for ways to support others who are grieving. Try going to a support group with the intent to give as well as receive support; offer support and suggestions to others in online support forums or social media sites; or send a card to someone who has recently been through a loss.

Grief changes us forever. You may eventually find that it has given you wisdom, strength, and insight; share these gifts with others in need.

Peace, *Marsha*

GriefShare is a friendly, caring group of people who will walk alongside you through one of life’s most difficult experiences. The spouse grief group, meets on the 3rd Tuesday of every month from 2-4 pm. The second group is for everyone who is experiencing grief and meets from 5-7pm on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays. For info, contact Marsha Gaffin at 913-547-0286.



I wanted to share a letter we received this Christmas.

May each of you have the warmest, loving, joy-filled and hopeful Christmas ever. I thank each of you for the part you play in the AIR program.

Maybe you are one of Sandy’s volunteers, I call you “The Angel Crew”. You share your precious time with those we love. You sing, bake, help create art masterpieces, assist those who have physical challenges and magically, you turn them into a wonderful choir filling the halls with a joyful noise unto the Lord (Psalm 98:4). You do all of this with a smile, your passion and boundless energy. My deepest gratitude for each of you. Thank you precious Angels.

Or you may be one of the Caregivers. Caregivers are Angels too. We make sacrifices to see our loved-one be a part of the AIR program. It’s not easy to deliver “ Mom, Dad or Honey” clean, dressed and ready to have fun. And On-Time. OK I don’t score well in that category. I too celebrate 3-blessed hours “Off-Duty”. Relieved Dwain is in good hands. He’s safe. He has fun. Gets a snack. Laughs. Gets a little exercise, although he fights that. As we walk up to the Education Center he asks “do I have to go in that first room and move my hands and feet”?

As a fellow caregiver, I, like you, reinforce the lessons learned at AIR. You compliment your spouse or mom or dad on their artwork: terra cotta painted flowerpots, all-natural doggie treats, delicious sugar cookies, circus snow cones, colorful tissue paper flowers from their Fiesta, decorated pumpkins and Christmas ornaments. You acknowledge your loved one for their part as a community service volunteer. When they make PB&J sandwiches for the Community Food Kitchen and cupcakes for the community Art Fair.

One of the best parts of 2022 is joining the AIR program. This year, Dwain, for the first time in 4-years, looks forward to Monday. After what is often a “Long Weekend” alone with Dwain. On Monday, he’ll ask me, are we going to Leavenworth today? I am blessed and relieved to say, yes, we’re going to the Methodist Church for your class. You’ll see your friends there and have fun.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to our AIR Family.

Sending love to you, your family all of those you love.

Mary (Dwain’s wife)

January Schedule



Jan 9 – Elvis Presley birthday (Jan 8)



Jan 16 – NO AIR Martin Luther King Jr. Day



Jan 23 – Snow Day



Jan 30– Kansas State birthday



A big thank you goes to our volunteers who are so faithful and dedicated to this ministry. Mary Lou Anderson starts our Mondays with exercise fun. Kathi LaMoe provides us a delicious snack each week and helps us with our activities. Marti Crow keeps the conversation lively and helps our friends with their projects. Marsha Gaffin puts a smile on our face and a song in our heart each week. Libby Frashier helps us express our creative side through arts and crafts each week. Sandy Wood organizes a service project so we contribute to our community each week. It is a joy to watch these ladies work in harmony each week to serve their community.



Kids First Worship meets during the 11:00 service each Sunday on the lower floor of the Sanctuary building. We will be discovering Jesus as a child as well as celebrating his baptism by John.
 January 1 – No Kids First Worship – One worship service at 10:00a.m.
 January 8 – Wise Men Visit
 January 15 – John Baptizes Jesus
 January 22 – Flight to Egypt
 January 29 – Jesus in the Temple

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 Jesus as a child.



Wonderful Wednesday is a fantastic way to remind children that God is not just for Sundays, He is for EVERY day. 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!** In January we'll focus on what happens when we make mistakes. Learning from the examples of Adam and Eve we will explore unintentional mistakes and on purpose mistakes. We will begin on January 11, at 3:45 pm. To register, go to: vbspro.events/p/8447fe



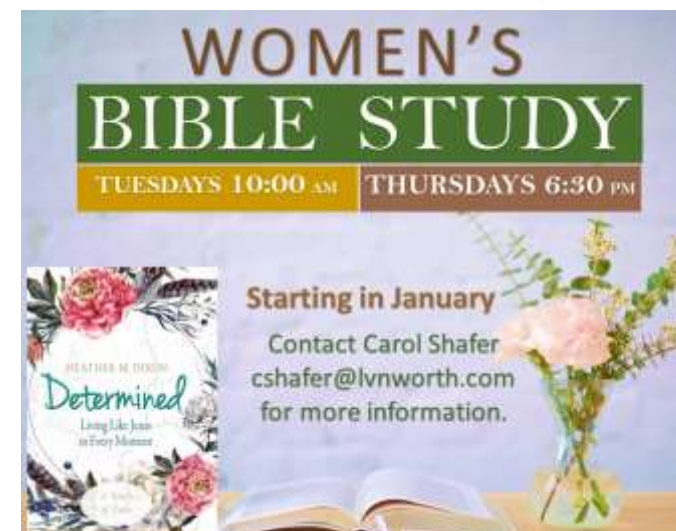
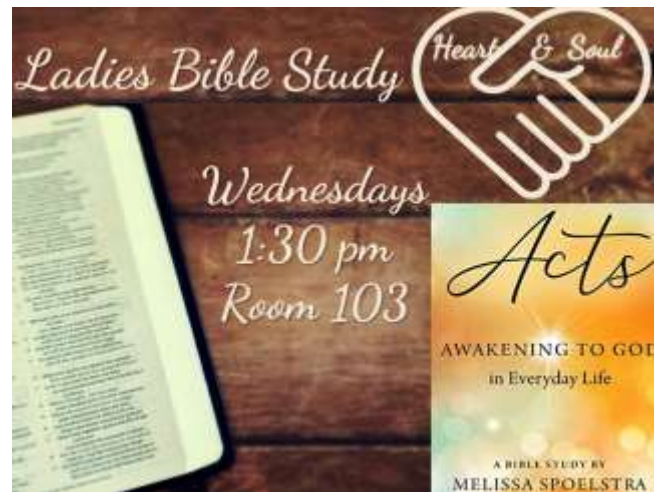
VBS is Coming! Mark Your Calendars now to join us for a Stellar event!
 July 24-28, 9:00 am – Noon



Mothers Morning Out registration is already full for January and February. This has been a very successful outreach for our community. There are a few spots open for March. If you would like to volunteer to help with Mothers Morning Out, contact Nancy Shade at nshade@fumclvks.org.

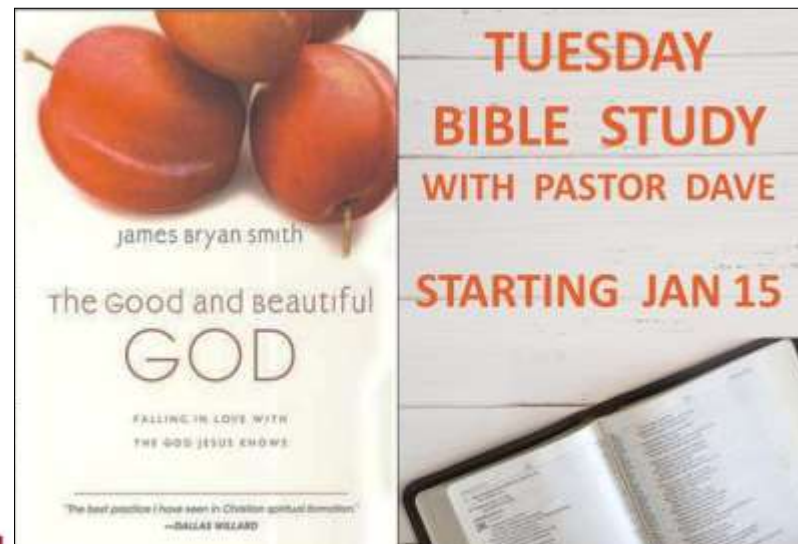


There are several Bible Studies that meet during the week. Heart and Soul meets at 1:30 pm on Wednesdays. They will be studying Melissa Spoelstra's book, "Acts - Awakening to God in Everyday Life". This study examines the first followers of Jesus and the growth of the early church through spiritual awakening to the power of God's Spirit, message, freedom, grace, mission, and direction. It will help you attune your own spiritual heart to experience God's presence, hear God's voice, and see God at work all around. It will help you face daily battles, be able to discern the messages of our culture and be ready to share God's love with others always. Marti Crow leads this group. For more info, contact her at marticrow@gmail.com.

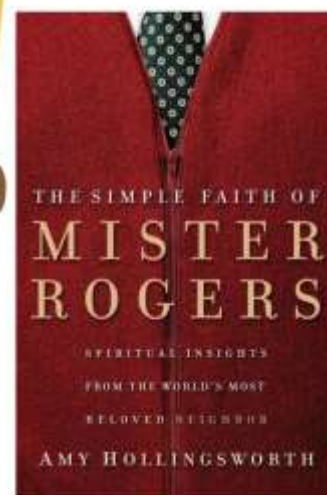


We have another Women's Bible Study that meets on Tuesdays at 10 am OR Thursdays at 6:30 pm. They will be studying "Determined, Living Life for Jesus in Every Moment" by Heather Dixon. This six week study of Luke, will follow the life and ministry of Jesus as you consider the choices He made on His way to the cross. You will intimately connect with a Savior who remained laser-focused on His mission to love the world. In return, You will receive a model for intentional living that you can replicate to ensure we are living each day to the fullest and making a difference for God's kingdom. You can determine to embrace the abundant life we are promised in Jesus. Classes start Jan 10 & 12. For info, contact Carol Shafer at cshafer@lwnworth.com.

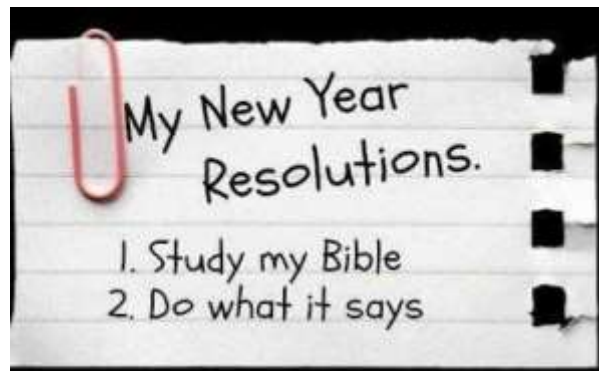
Pastor Dave will begin "The Good and Beautiful God" Bible study by James Bryan Smith on January 15. It meets on Tuesday nights at 6:30 pm. This transformative book will help you discover the narratives that Jesus lived by--to know the Lord he knew and the kingdom he proclaimed--and to practice spiritual exercises that will help you grow in the knowledge of our good and beautiful God. At the end of each chapter you'll find an opportunity for soul training, engaging in spiritual practices that reinforce the biblical messages on your mind and heart. For more info, contact Pastor Dave at yorkyorkdave@comcast.net.



**JAN. 18
1 PM**

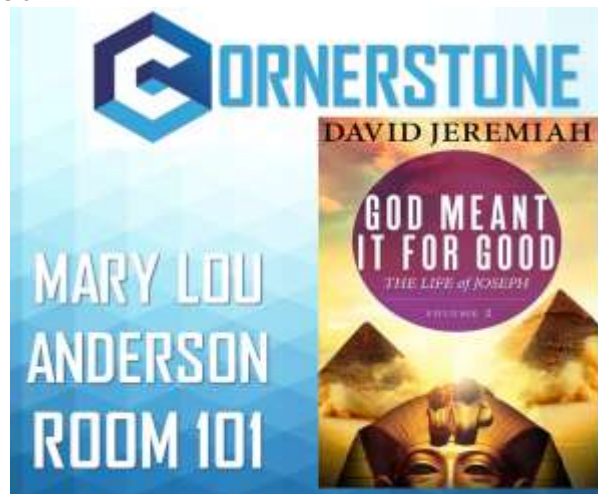


The Book Club is not a Bible Study, but our book choices have Christian themes. This month we are reading "The Simple Faith of Mr. Rogers". The book focuses on Mr. Rogers' spiritual legacy, but it is much more than that. It shows us a man who, to paraphrase the words of St. Francis of Assisi, "preached the gospel at all times; when necessary he used words." Mr. Rogers was an ordained Presbyterian minister. He felt his television program was a ministry. His calm demeanor and quiet insight influenced generations of children. We'll discuss the book on Wed. Jan. 18. at 1 pm. For info, contact Sandy Wood at swood@fumclvks.org

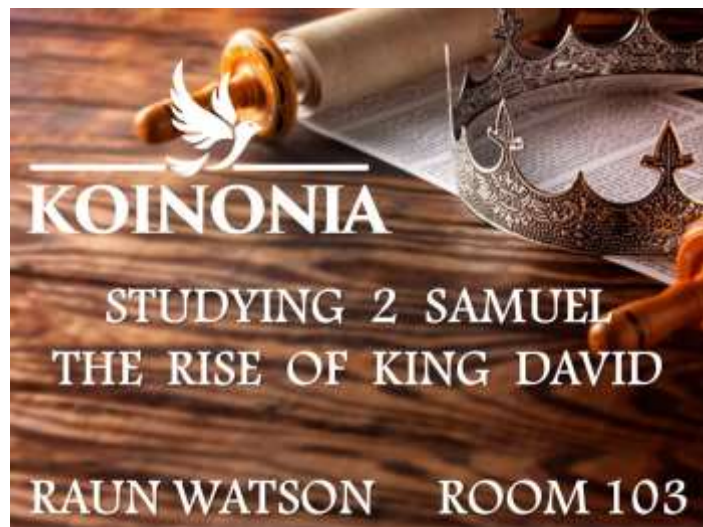


Is your new year's resolution to grow deeper in your spiritual walk? Bible study is a great way to do that and Sunday School is a great way to study the Bible with friends who are on the same journey. January is the perfect time to get started in a Sunday School class because all of our classes are starting new studies. Here's a preview of our classes to help you decide which class is best for you.

The Cornerstone class is a smaller class led by Mary Lou Anderson. They are studying the life of Joseph and how God worked through the difficult circumstances of his life. This class has a comfortable, conversational style.



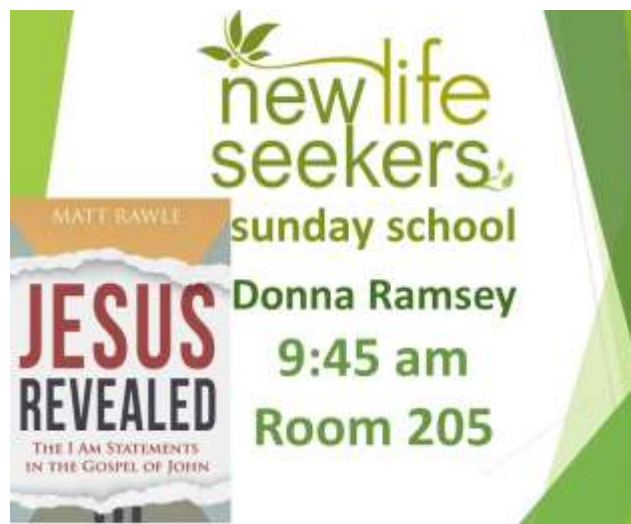
The Koinonia Sunday School class enjoys digging deep into the Old Testament one verse at a time. If you join this class you will receive a Bible Atlas with Charts and Biblical Reconstructions that help you gain historical insights in the context of Biblical times. The name "Koinonia" is a Greek word that means "having in common partnership and fellowship" through a participation and study in God's Word.



As the name implies, the Family Matters class focuses on how to be a Godly parent. They take turns leading discussions on parenting Bible studies. They are currently using a book by Dr. Gary Smalley and his son, Greg, called, "The DNA of Parent-Teen Relationships." They enjoy brunch together the first Sunday of each month. If you would like more information, you can contact Arlen and Michelle Briggs at ammkm@yahoo.com.



The New Life Seekers Sunday School class is starting a new Bible study called, "Jesus Revealed" by Matt Rawle. Discover the person of Jesus and God's narrative for our lives in the "I am" statements found in the Gospel of John. This class also is involved with community service and often has guest speakers like Sister Vickie Perkins from the Alliance for Affordable Housing in Leavenworth. Donna Ramsey is a contact person at dcramsey@kc.rr.com.



New Opportunities for Middle School Students

In Genesis 1 and 2, there are at least two Hebrew words that are used for "create". They are bara (בָּרָא, to create) and asah (עָשָׂה, to make or do). They make a distinction between creating something from absolutely nothing (bara) and creating something new out of existing materials (asah).

When Sunday School and Kids First Worship were learning about creation, we tried to do both. I gave them a lot of different materials and asked them to make something new by putting them together. They were very creative and came up with a lot of interesting "creations". They "asah-ed". I then made a big show of giving them some "nothing", having them hold out their hands while I put "nothing" in them and asked them to create something with their "nothing". I explained that it had to be something real, that the rest of us could see or touch. They were also very creative with this. One put their hands together to shape their "nothing" into a heart. Good try, but they used their hands. Another said they were creating thoughts in their mind. Another good try, but they were using their mind AND it wasn't something the rest of us could see or touch. It was so cool to watch them come to the realization that they truly could not do it. They could not "bara". We discovered together that ONLY GOD can "bara". We are created in his image, which I believe includes the capacity for creativity. Unlike God, however, our capacity is limited. We can only "asah".

In this New Year, Children's Ministry here at FUMCL is going to do a little "asah-ing". Before the pandemic hit, we had a group specifically for 5th and 6th graders called Fusion 56. Beginning this month, we will be kick-starting a re-created "asah" version of this ministry.

Here's how you can help:

Pray for the ministry – for leaders, for God's guidance in it's creation, for the children we will serve.

Let us know if you know any children in this age group. They do not already need to be a part of the church, they just need to be in 5th or 6th grade.

Stay tuned for future announcements, schedules, and a full description of the ministry.

Volunteer to help. We will need help with meals and activities.

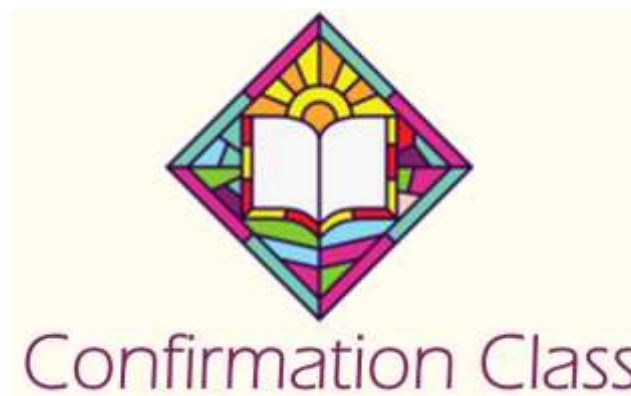
Contact Nancy Shade, nshade@fumclvks.org with any questions or suggestions.

I know it's hard to discern emotions on a written page, so I am letting you know that I am SUPER-DUPER EXCITED! Our first time together will be a Lunch Bunch here at the church. We will meet in Fellowship Hall on Sunday, January 29 from 12:00 – 1:30. All 5th and 6th graders and their family are invited!

Middle School Lunch Bunch



Students sixth grade and older are invited to Confirmation classes with Pastor Dave on Sundays from noon to 1:30 starting January 15. They will be using the book, "The Good and Beautiful You" by James Bryan Smith. This is an exploration of the fundamental beliefs of the Christian faith. This class will help students understand their faith and make it their own.

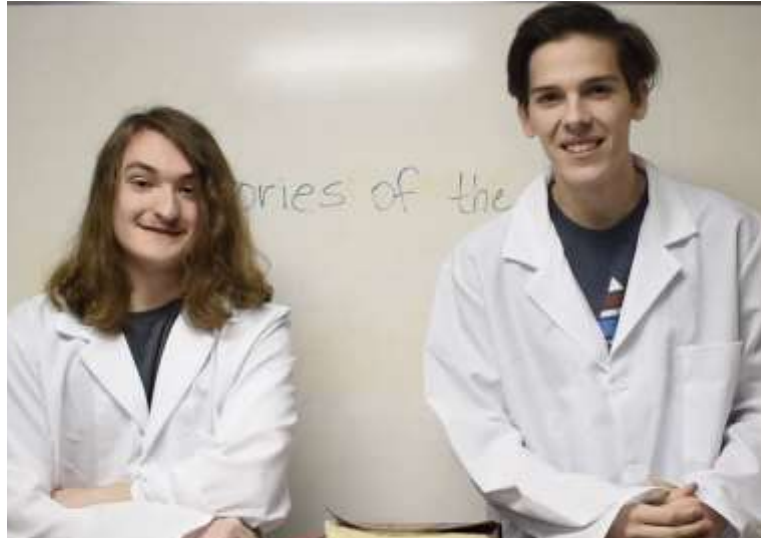


CHRISTMAS @ FUMC

One way we celebrate the gift of our Savior at Christmas is by giving to others. Pictured below are the delivery of Christmas gifts to David Brewer and Anthony elementary. Our church purchased gifts for 44 kids. Also, through our Thanksgiving Offering, we were able to give over \$6,400 to Meal on Wheels, Trinity House and Stronghold food pantry.



AIR ministry got into the Christmas spirit by caroling and baking Christmas cookies for First Responder Christmas Eve bags. Caleb Shade and Wyatt Brown starred in our Christmas day special "Stories of the Savior". Children singing and Advent candles were highlights.



Music is a beautiful way that we celebrate Christmas here at FUMC. Our all music Sunday was Dec. 18. The choir, the bells and the Praise Team expressed the names of our Savior; Dayspring, Root of Jesse, and most importantly, Emmanuel, God is with us. Christmas Eve service is always a beautiful and meaningful highlight of the season. This year the Leavenworth Brass choir played carols for us in between the two services. We appreciate their gift of music. We hope that the Holy Spirit spoke to you this Advent season and we look forward to seeing how God works in our church family in 2023. Happy New Year!

