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

Sunday services stream at either site.

## April 2023

26 8:30 & 11:00 Worship 9:45 am Sunday School 4:00 pm Bells 6:00 pm Youth	27 1:00 pm AIR ministry	28 10am Bible Study	29 1:30 pm Heart & Soul 3:45pm Wonderful Wednesday	30 8:30am Staff 6:30pm Women's Bible Study	31	1 
2 8:30 & 11:00 Worship 9:45 am Sunday School 4:00 pm Bells 6:00 pm Youth	3 1:00 pm AIR Ministries	5 10am Bible Study 1 pm Book Club	5 1:30 pm Heart & Soul 3:45pm WW 6:30pm Choir	6 8:30am Staff 5:30 Maundy Thursday	7 8:30 am TGIF 7:00 pm Good Friday	8
9 Easter 8:30 & 11am Worship 9:45 am Sunday School	10 Church Office closed	11 10am Bible Study	12 8:30 am MMO 1:30 pm H & S 3:45pm WW 5:00pm Grief Group 6:30pm Choir	13 8:30am Staff	14	15
16 8:30 & 11:00 Worship 9:45 am Sunday School 4:00 pm Bells 6:00 pm Youth	17 1:00 pm AIR Ministries	18 10am Bible Study 2 pm Grief Group	19 1:30 pm Heart & Soul 3:45pm Wonderful Wednesday 6:30pm Choir	20 8:30am Staff 6:30 pm Women's Bible Study	21	22 City Clean Up 
23 8:30 & 11:00 Worship 9:45 am S School 12 pm Lunch Bunch 4:00 pm Bells 6:00 pm Youth	24 1:00 pm AIR Ministry	25 10am Bible Study 12 pm Ladies Lunch @ Tampico	26 1:30 pm Heart & Soul 3:45pm WW 5:00 pm Grief Group 6:30pm Choir	27 8:30am Staff Meeting 6:30 pm Women's Bible Study	28	29

# LIFE @

## First United Methodist church

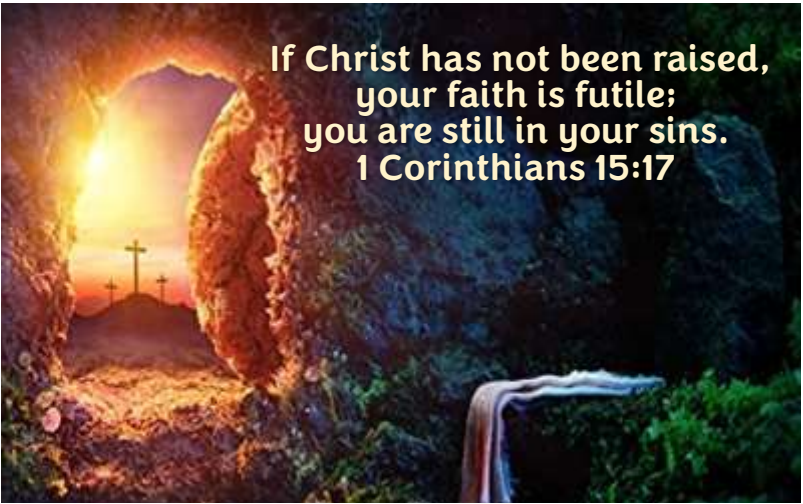
### April 2023

# He is risen!





Think  
on these  
things...



One of the significant activities we do as a staff is our spiritual formation time on Thursday morning. We grow as disciples of Jesus in a small group focused on Christ. I have told them I consider it one of the most important times of my week. If the pastor and staff are not growing **as Jesus people**, it is hard to lead anyone else to do so. In our latest book, “The Good and Beautiful You” by Jim Smith, a question has captured my attention. “How does the resurrection apply to our everyday lives?” As Smith writes, “This question gets to the heart of the matter” (p. 124).

As we approach Resurrection Day (Easter), we reflect on the cross and Jesus’ death taking away our sins. The cross is final – our past, present and futures sins are covered by Jesus. But, what about the life we are living NOW? Dead people, those of us dead in our sin, need new life that is found in the empty tomb. Our sin has made us spiritually asleep or dead to the pain and hurt we cause the Lord and others. We are as oblivious to sin as we are ignoring the noise of the television or disregarding junk mail that comes to our post box. We may be physically alive but spiritually we are dead or perhaps dormant? The resurrection offers us new life found in Christ. As Paul, “For as in Adam all die, so all will be made in alive in Christ (1 Corinthians 15:22).

The reality of the resurrection is that God gives us new life in Christ. Smith writes, “When we acknowledge Jesus as our Lord and surrender our lives to Christ, we are awakened into a life with God” (p. 127). How can you tell if you are becoming more awakened or alive in Jesus?

- Our spiritual senses awaken.
- The Bible begins to make sense.
- We hunger to be in fellowship.
- Former sinful actions begin to leave us empty.
- We feel a peace that passes understanding.

**Wouldn’t you want to become like this!** My hope is that we will grow into the image of Christ and grow out of being un-Christ-like Christians. My prayer is that you will grow in maturity and joy that comes with following Jesus. My dream for FUMC is that we mature into a new life that starts at the empty tomb. Join us for this journey of a lifetime! *Pastor Dave*



Pastor Dave’s Tuesday night Bible Study will start again May 2. They will study Barb Roose’s book, “Finding Jesus in the Psalms”. Combining an interpretation of the psalms with real life stories, the study moves through the familiar words of Psalm 23 toward the painful cries of Psalm 22 uttered by Jesus on the cross. The study includes reflections on the life of King David and the life and death of Jesus the Messiah.

Pastor Dave will start a new sermon series after Easter about Heaven. If you have questions about what heaven will be like you will want to be sure attend in April.

**Pastor Dave’s Bible Study**  
**Tuesdays 6:30 pm**  
**Starting May 2**

# APRIL Birthdays

1st	Grant Zschoche	11th	Laurie Rust	21st	Brendale Wakeley
2nd	Sarah Yenney	13th	Joni Hopkins	23rd	Keith Frashier
3rd	Virginia Hardaway		Teresa Hicks	25th	Ann Andrews
4th	Lauren Hooser	15th	Deb Baeuchle	26th	Colvin Hooser
	Mark Lauber		Bobbie Burkett		Eliza Resch
	Betty Nakata	16th	Pam Bay	27th	Arlen Briggs
6th	Daryl Brandt		Pat Hessenflow	28th	Richard Gray
7th	Rachel Serena	17th	Kelsi Briggs	29th	Linda Martin
	Sandy Simmons		Thomas Hastings	30th	Kelley Perry
8th	Corbin Holyfield	18th	Isla Hastings		Lisa Plants
		21st	Caroline Hedrick		
11th	Lee Perry		Bob Landzettel		



# APRIL Anniversaries

10th	Tim & Bea Yenney	30 years
20th	Mike & Marti Crow	55 years
21st	Harold & Connie Poe	44 years
23rd	Joel & Lyndsay Hubbard	18 years
24th	Mike & Robbie Helm	2 years



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

# UPCOMING Events





Receiving a diagnosis of dementia is difficult for the person diagnosed and for their caregivers. Fear and questions are common responses. To address this, the KU Alzheimer's Disease Research Center has produced a film titled, "Why". This insightful new film about early stage dementia includes commentary from KU's co-director, Dr. Jeffrey Burns, and the director of KU's Cognitive Care Network, Michelle Niedens as well as Deeper Window founder, Elaine Belardo. Elaine said, "This film seeks to change the trajectory of how we see this disease. It is filled with inspirational stories of how people are approaching dementia. I felt it was a high honor to participate in the film because they are using it as a tool to inspire and encourage people where there hasn't been hope before."

This film will premiere at our church on April 20, at 6:30 pm. The entire team from the KU Alzheimer Research Center will be there to answer questions after the film. There will be other agencies that work with the elderly, such as the Council on Aging and AIR ministry at the event as well. This event is open to the public and we hope that if you know anyone living with dementia, that you will invite them to the premiere.



# April Schedule

- April 3 - Easter
- April 10 - NO AIR
- April 17 - Tulip Field Trip
- April 24 - Pretzel Day



APRIL COLLECTION ITEMS:  
TOILET PAPER,  
SNACKS & BEANS

In March 2023, The HUB average grew from serving 50 families per week to 65 families per week at the Community Market. In addition to the market, they have an after school program so they are in need of healthy snacks. This month they are in need of toilet paper, individually wrapped snacks and any type of canned beans. The church's support of the HUB has been outstanding. Thank you for your generosity. Donations can be brought to the office, or the wooden box in the foyer.



**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.**

I am writing this article on Monday, March 20, the first day of Spring. Even though the temperature is 59 degrees, the sun is blinding and the cardinals are hopefully perusing the grass under the empty bird feeder, intent on finding a seed or bug. Courageous daffodils are bursting out of the soil in the front yard, with the irises not far behind. An Amazon truck zooms past with its load of cargo bound for a neighbor's house. Life is going merrily along.

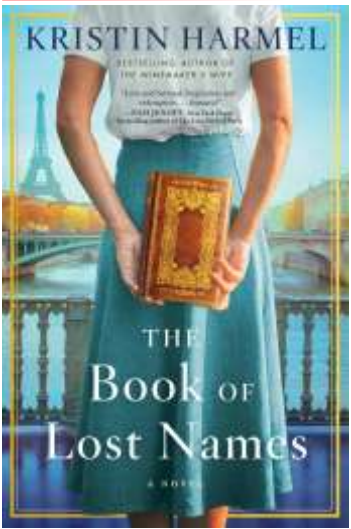
But not so, me. My heart is heavy. Our dear friend and church sister, Kari, went to be with the Lord last night. I don't get it. Why? She was around my daughter's age, so young, with so much potential. She leaves behind a husband and children whose life trajectory has been permanently altered. A mother who never expected to bury a child. Students and faculty at the high school where she was a counselor. So many friends, and her brothers and sisters in Christ, and a church where she was involved with everything from bells to Bible school. It doesn't seem fair that someone with so much to live for has been taken from us so suddenly.

There is something in us that says, "that's not right" when we face unexpected pain and tragedy. We have an inkling that this is not how the story was meant to play out, and yet if we are able to have the faith to trust the author of the story, we may yet see that there is an end coming which will make sense of it all. As Christians, we know that life does not end when our bodies die. We live with the hope that we will see our loved ones again and there will be no more sorrow, no more pain.

There is a poem that I first heard in Grief Share that was often quoted by Corrie Ten Boom. Corrie was a survivor of the concentration camps of WWII, and was well versed in pain, suffering and death. I think it sums up some of what I feel, maybe it will speak to you as well.

*My life is but a weaving Between my God and me.  
I cannot choose the colors He weaveth steadily.  
Of't times He weaveth sorrow; And I in foolish pride  
Forget He sees the upper And I the underside.  
Not 'til the loom is silent And the shuttles cease to fly  
Will God unroll the canvas And reveal the reason why.  
The dark threads are as needful In the weaver's skillful hand  
As the threads of gold and silver In the pattern He has planned  
He knows, He loves, He cares; Nothing this truth can dim.  
He gives the very best to those Who leave the choice to Him.*  
Grant Colfax Tullar

Peace, Marsha



# BOOK CLUB MAY 2, 1 PM

We are reading "The Book of Lost Names" by Kristin Harmel. Set in World War II, a graduate student, Eva, was forced to flee Paris after the arrest of her father, a Polish Jew. Finding refuge in a small mountain town in the Free Zone, she begins forging identity documents for Jewish children fleeing to neutral Switzerland. But erasing people comes with a price, and along with a mysterious, handsome forger named Rémy, Eva decides she must find a way to preserve the real names of the children who are too young to remember who they really are. The records they keep in The Book of Lost Names will become even more vital when the resistance cell they work for is betrayed and Rémy disappears. We'll discuss the book on Tuesday, May 2, at 1 pm in Wesley Hall. For info, contact Sandy swood@fumclvks.org.



Greetings and God's grace to all.

March was a most difficult month for our family, both financially and physically. Giving is off the first quarter by 20%, as unexpected repair expenses have gone up. The unexpected repairs included a new rinse booster for the dishwasher, numerous light fixtures and the new hot water heater. Financially the church is still strong, but the reduction of the revenue is of concern. We have always been a very faithful and generous congregation, and I know we will be back on track in the quarters to come.

We can never replace a loved one. We can celebrate every day that they were, even for a brief time, in our lives. We can celebrate their talents, their treasures and the times

**we did have together. This celebration doesn't immediately diminish the pain of the love lost, but it refocuses us on the comfort in Christ. The comfort of the reality and hope of the resurrection. The resurrection was God's fulfillment of hope** for each of us. Hope not just for the future, but hope that we can use as a strength to accomplish what He has for us today. In these times of loss, we as a family come together to comfort, support and love those most immediately impacted. Your congregational care team, loves on folks with visits, meals, cards, and genuine faithfulness.

This body of Christ truly and faithfully loves and serves each other and our community with a reverent passion to glorify God. Here is a word for all servants. Sometimes, it's easy to get wrapped up in taking care of the people around us. You may find that you're always giving, taking care of the children, working overtime at the office, or helping that friend who is struggling. All of this is good. But if you're not careful, you can end up feeling run down. That's why you have to take time every day to get filled back up. Your first priority should be taking care of yourself and making time to get into the presence of Jesus. Throughout Scripture, we see that in God's presence there is fullness of joy, fullness of peace and fullness of victory. In His presence, you're refreshed and restored. That's why it's so important to take time every day to read your Bible and meditate on His promises. We have to be diligent to have that quiet time with Him. To-day, take time to get alone with God and just say, "God, I love You today. Thank You for my life, for my family, for the opportunities You've given me. Lord, I know every good thing comes from You." When you live like that, with your mind filled with His Word and His thoughts toward you, you'll be refreshed, restored, re-energized and filled up for the journey ahead!

We all have the power of prayer. If you currently are not the church prayer chain, please contact the office. Matthew 5:6 "Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled."

in Christ, Ed



MARK YOUR  
CALENDAR!



We are partnering with the Presbyterian church to clean up our little corner of Leavenworth. We'll meet at 10 am at the church for our assignments. You may want to bring gloves. Many hands make light work.



## Scouting Ministry March 2023

If you don't like the weather, hang out with the Scouts!

**JUSTICE CENTER:** The Cub Scouts started the month with a tour of the Justice Center. We were thrilled to have the Sheriff host our tour and he enjoyed meeting all of the Cub Scouts as well as their parents. The Sheriff encouraged all participants to ask as many questions as they had about the Justice Center. It was an exciting and educational experience.

**PINEWOOD DERBY:** Currently tentatively end of April; but we have been working on those cars! Thank Mr. Christian for joining us and helped to cut out cars.

**WEATHER SAFETY:** If you feel your hair standing on end, it is time to immediately seek lower ground. The Cub Scouts really enjoyed the the weather safety presentation. It was wonderful to have our emergency management experts with us at the FUMC classrooms instead of having to travel on a Dark and Stormy night.

**ARROW OF LIGHT (AOL) CROSSOVER:** Monday, April 3, we will cross our AOL Cub Scouts over to the Troops and present AOL awards at 7 pm. This is a great opportunity to celebrate our 5th graders that have worked so hard: Abel Stephenson, John Chaar, Lucas Woods, Chelsea Zishka, and Wesley MacMahan!

**CAMP UPDATE, CAMPERSHIP :** Teammates, the FUMC Scouting ministry through the Tinkler Trustees, gives us a very generous opportunity to enjoy camp at a very reduced rate. They are generously covering camp for youth campers and only requiring a \$25 deposit, as a Scout is Thrifty. Amazing!

**CAMPING:** The primary goal of March's camp out was for the Webelo II 5th Graders who are crossing over to join the Scouting Ministry. We camped out at the Kidder's. Classes for the day were Fireman (build a fire) and Tot-in' (handle a knife and sharp tools) chips, required for camp. The Scouts also cooked the meals. The Troop provided tents and troop gear (chuck box, dutch ovens, stoves, etc) for the Scouts. For some adults this was the first camp out in their lives and especially with their son or daughter. It rained two days before and the night of the campout, but Saturday afternoon was blue sky perfect.

And all of this worked around Spring Break!

*Bill Kidder*





The halls of the Education Building were filled with animal sounds as we learned all kinds of things about the farm at Mother's Morning Out in March. Each age group made a different farm animal for their craft, so quite a few parents went home with a barnful! Wonderful volunteers were tired, but a "good" tired after a morning of playing, singing, gluing and eating! It's not too late to join in on the fun! This summer we will be including school age children, so we will need a lot more caring to people to shepherd the kids through the morning! If you would like to volunteer, just contact Nancy Shade nshade@fumclvks.org

This past month in Sunday school and Kids First Worship we followed the OneKC plan with the parables of Jesus. For the Good Samaritan, one of the things we did was make some "First Aid" Bags filled with goodies and how to use them. My favorite was "Chews to be kind to someone," attached to a piece of chewing gum. The children were shocked that the priest and the Levite didn't stop to help the man.

At Wonderful Wednesday we had some special guests help us to learn about what our church is doing to help others in the community. Mary Lou Anderson took us to the Shelter of Hope. The kids were very observant and asked lots of really good questions. Jim Wolfe led us through a typical Samaritans Buffet, and we had lots of fun making a dump cake for the March 26 meal. On March 29, Marsha Gaffin took us to Trinity House to see their clothes closet.



I don't know about you, but as a child growing up in the church, we sort of jumped right from Palm Sunday into Easter. One week waving palms in the Sanctuary, the next hunting for Easter eggs and getting an Easter basket, along with the obligatory Easter attire (dresses, hats, gloves, suits, shiny shoes). I sort of get it. So much of the rest of Holy week is difficult – Jesus telling his disciples on of them would betray him at their last meal together; Jesus being distressed to the point of sweating blood while he prayed in the Garden of Gethsemane; his arrest and trials; the crucifixion; his death on the cross. Not really the fuzzy, fluffy bunny easter that seems to pervade childhood.

I see children each week as they find understanding at their own age and developmental level of all the other stories, both good and difficult. So often, they give me new insight with their child-like trust in the goodness of God, even when the story is hard. That's one of the reasons I am so glad that Thank Goodness It's Good Friday (TGIGF) has become an integral part of our children's

ministry. Yes, part of our thinking was to be able to give parents a safe and caring place for their children to be when schools are closed on Good Friday, but that was just icing on the cake. The main reason was to share the entirety of Holy Week with our children. The day is filled with all kinds of fun and interesting things to see, experience and do, all with the goal of helping our children gain an age-appropriate understanding of everything that Jesus was willing to do for them, for us, for all.

There are some things that we repeat each year: a video that explains the difference between saving and redemption; resurrection rolls – an amazing snack that they get to make and eat; an Easter egg hunt filled with treats that are designed to point them toward Jesus, closing with a Tenebrae worship experience. There are others that are new each year – specifically designed with the children that currently attend the church. It is an amazing day, filled with fun, love and lots of Jesus. I would love for the halls and rooms of the Education building to be bursting at the seams with kids!



Alex and Kelsey Loring have been attending here this year while Alex was in CGSC. They are both from O'Fallon, IL, about 20 minutes from St Louis, MO. They went to high school together, but they weren't high school sweethearts. They actually starting talking and dating our senior year of college!

Alex previously was Field Artillery, but switched to Marketing and Economics.

Kelsey works in the Customer Success for a software company called EHS Insight. She helps onboard customers to the software and ensures they have all of their questions answered and issues resolved. Alex is a Cardinals fan and Kelsey is a Cubs fan. They have a dog named Yadi (named for Yadier Molina of the St Louis Cardinals). They both like reading, running, and cooking.

Their daughter, Eleanor, is 7 and in first grade. She loves art, Lego, and asking a million questions a day. She's extremely curious and inquisitive. Their son, Simon, is 3. He loves puzzles, helping mom bake, anything superhero and Power Rangers. He also loves music and often pretends to play guitar along to songs by Weezer and anything with an epic guitar solo. They are expecting another son at the end of June! They will get to stay in Leavenworth until the baby comes and then they are headed to Ft. Knox, KY.

They came to Leavenworth from the Columbus, OH area, so the first thing they noticed was how quiet it is and the slower pace of life. They enjoy being so close to Kansas City, Legends, and Zona Rosa. They love their neighborhood and the families they've met on their street!

Eleanor came to our VBS last summer, Alex and Kelsey came to a service afterwards, and they enjoyed it and noticed how friendly everyone is! They also were encouraged by how willing people are to serve and volunteer, so it's been a blessing to participate in service and various activities as the parents of two small children. Ther also grew up in Methodist churches, so it felt familiar. Kelsey enjoyed being in Dave's small group and getting to know various people that way as well.

Dear Itchin' to Stitch,

Thank you to Teresa Hicks and the Stitchers for the beautiful walker bag. It makes me smile every time I look at it and see the Florida sea shells. It encourages me to keep marching along, so I can get back there and swim in the warm pool.

Fondly,  
Doty Marsh

Dear FUMC church family,

I feel so blessed to be a part of the wonderful church family. During my surgery, pain & suffering I felt your love & prayers & concerns. Your warm wishes, cards and visits saw me through. The wonderful meals were greatly appreciated & very tasty.

Love you all!  
Rosemary

Dear FUMC church family,

Thank you to the friends who gave me the blue church cup and all the sweet goodies in it! Thanks for the lovely welcome from this blessed church community.

Marcia Myers

Dear Samaritans Buffet Crew,

You are all tremendous preparers of lunch for so many. This past week's spread was really delicious and I thank you for filling me up. May God bless.

Alicia Moody

**Thank You!**





# ROOTS & WINGS

Leah Wieggers is the daughter of Steve and Carla Wieggers. She currently serves as an Asset Management Plan (AMP) Manager of the 56th Civil Engineering Squadron over at Luke AFB in Arizona. Her role as AMP manager includes facilitating maintenance and repair projects. Her parents wanted her to become engaged in academics early in life, and so when her teachers informed her about the possibilities of STEM

(Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) programs, her parents encouraged her to explore the idea of becoming an engineer. As a high school student at Lansing High School, Leah participated in both the Future City Competition, which provides a forum for students to use Engineering Designing Process (EDP) and project management skills to explain their solutions to a citywide sustainability issue, and the Society of American Military Engineers (SAME) U.S. Air Force Academy STEM and Engineering Camp at Colorado Springs, Colo. Inspired by these experiences, Leah went on to graduate from the Air Force Academy in 2022.

Leah's life came full circle when she became a student mentor January 2023 during the Future City Competition in Phoenix. She believes that attending the event in the U.S. Air Force uniform helped the students understand the links between personal growth and development and all the opportunities the STEM programs have to offer. "The students asked me to visit and make comments about their presentations," she said. "They liked asking questions, and they shared with me ways in which they worked together as a team. The students were very impressive in that they were able to understand one another's strengths and weaknesses and how to work together in filling in any gaps. The ability to work effectively with one another is essential in the field of engineering. I was pleased that the students quickly grasped that concept and were successful."

In the future, Leah is considering applying to the Airfield Pavement Evaluation Team, a geotechnical graduate school program through the Air Force, with the hope that she can use an experience like that to continue mentoring young people. "I would like to continue my involvement in Future City," she said. "Another goal is to be a cadre for a future STEM camp if my career allows. I'm also currently involved with a local Girl Scout Troop."

Another additional mentoring idea she suggests is the creation of an online Rube Goldberg competition, where students can develop YouTube-type videos of their presentations. To advance the idea of sustainability, she would encourage competing teams to incorporate the use of recycled materials.

When asked what she appreciates about the SAME-supported STEM programs, Leah highlighted the professional relationships she has made along the way. "I still keep in contact with students who I attended STEM camp at the Air Force Academy with. Many have gone on to become engineers."



## Itchin' to Stitch

The ladies of Itchin' to Stitch love to create beautiful, unique and useful works of art to give to people in need in our community. They've made blankets for foster children, walker bags for people in nursing homes and amazing quilts for babies, veterans and families. Now they are going international. In March they began making book bags for 27 Ukrainian orphans who now live in Nehemiah House in Romania. Our church family members who are going on a mission trip in June will deliver the bags. Each one is unique and made with material that matches their hobbies. Kristi Edington is making name tags for each bag. They will finish the bags on May 18, at 10 am. Bring a lunch and come join the creating fun!





## New Beginnings ALLIANCE AGAINST FAMILY VIOLENCE

April is Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention month. One in four women will be a victim of domestic violence or sexual assault in her lifetime. Sexual assault affects women of all races, socio-economic and education levels. Often women feel alone and helpless and they lack the **resources to change their situation. That's where the Alliance Against Family Violence comes in.**

The mission of the Alliance is to provide compassionate, consistent, trauma-informed services to every member of Leavenworth and Atchison counties impacted by sexual and/or domestic violence, stalking and human trafficking. They provide a 24 hour shelter for families. Last year they housed 94 unique individuals with 2,959 nights of shelter. They also man a 24 hour hotline and work with police officers when they receive domestic violence or sexual assault calls. AAFV also provides safety planning and support with Orders of Protection and court appearances. They also help women with a fresh start by helping them find housing or jobs and helping create a new life **for their families. These are classified "Non-residential services". Those types of services have increased from 13 in 2021 to 349 in 2022. Last year they were able to help 7 families achieve independent housing. Mike Trapp said, "It's a beautiful thing to watch people build new lives and watch the 'Firsts' like the first paycheck, and first apartment."**

**Often a survivor doesn't even realize they are in a domestic violence situation until a crisis erupts. They just think they have relationship problems, but deeper investigation can reveal that there are actually multiple issues happening. Besides domestic violence, there may be mental health issues or substance abuse problems or past traumas that have led to the current situation. These co-occurring disorders may need different levels of care, and AAFV attempts to help with all these issues. Crisis creates an opportunity for change, but there is a narrow window. If a victim doesn't receive help while the crisis is happening, they will fall back into old habits and often blame themselves for abusive behavior.**

The Alliance was recently certified by the Kansas Coalition for offering the 25 core services for domestic violence and sexual assault advocacy. They have continued to improve their services. Mike said his dream for the future is to end domestic violence. That means educating the public about how to identify potential abuse and offering counseling to help people control their anger. The Alliance has already started. In 2022, they had over 600 people attend trainings.

If you are wondering how you can help, there are several ways. Although AAFV receives some government funding, they also depend on donations. Last year, our Easter offering really helped the Alliance through a difficult transition and helped them stabilize care by hiring essential personnel. So, monetary donations really help. But they could also use some help with maintaining their facility. The facility is at an undisclosed location to keep residents safe.

AAFV is also looking for dedicated people to help their mission. Volunteers receive 40 hours of training and must pass a police background check. They are looking for hospital advocates that would respond to sexual assault victims and police response advocates that would respond with police to domestic violence calls. Volunteers comfort victims **during a cold, dehumanizing event. If you're interested in volunteering, you can call the hotline at (913) 675-7217.**

AAFV has a website, AAFVKS.ORG and a Facebook page. If they need donations for specific items, they will list those on their Facebook page. Donations, they can be taken to Double D's Barbershop at 504 Delaware or the Kansas Country Store at 728 Cherokee Street.

Our Easter Offering will be going to the Alliance Against Family Violence. Please either use the special envelope or **mark the memo line of your check or you can give online. Mike Trapp said, "We wouldn't be able to keep our doors open without the Leavenworth community. Thank you for your gift."**



## Congregational *Care*

Last month, I promised to give practical ways that each of us can provide congregational care to one another. Then life got in the way. So, instead, I want this to be a love letter from me to you.

During the last month, our congregation has faced its share of grief, pain and suffering. And I have to tell you, the caring and concern shown by each of you for one another has comforted and sustained me during this time. Here **are a few of the things that I know of, and most likely there are many more acts like these that I haven't been made aware of.** But if you have been on the receiving end, you know how much it meant. Such as:

- \* Over 1,000 meals were prepared in our church kitchen by loving hands, and served to the community with no strings attached.
- \* Of that 1,000 meals, one tenth were picked up by church volunteers and delivered to our shut-in families in the congregation.
- \* At least 23 home cooked meals were prepared and delivered to families who were experiencing illness and surgery recovery.
- \* Help was provided for a family in crises. If you helped, you know who you are.
- \* You responded to an appeal to help Trinity House by bringing food and clothing to get them through the month.
- \* You accompanied people to doctors visits and provided transportation to Kansas City Hospitals.
- \* You brought home-cooked soups, salads and desserts to the Lenten suppers, so much so that I was able to take nourishing meals to several people who were ill.
- \* You wrote notes - get well wishes, birthday cards, sympathy cards and notes of encouragement.
- \* **You volunteered to help with children's ministry and with our ever growing nursery little ones.**
- \* You cared for and provided activities for infants and preschoolers to allow their mothers a day out - free of charge
- \* You provided a safe environment for caretakers to leave their spouses with dementia so that they could have an afternoon off.
- \* You visited members of the congregation who are confined to their homes
- \* You took the time to volunteer and sing or play an instrument in the choir, both services
- \* You prepared and led Bible studies.
- \* You taught Sunday School, some of you for years.
- \* You sewed, crocheted and quilted numerous projects, including baby quilts for our newborns.
- \* You cared for animals for church members who were too ill to take care of them.
- \* You served on numerous committees which oversee the smooth operation of our church.
- \* **You called and emailed me, with the message "if there's any way I can help please let me know."**
- \* **You volunteered to visited our octogenarian church members as their "angel".**
- \* You delivered meals on wheels to the community.
- \* You cared for a bereaved family by preparing a meal for them after the funeral.
- \* You got up at 3 am and worked a shift at the Shelter of Hope so that people there could sleep safely.

I'm sure that there are many acts that were unseen but nonetheless important and appreciated. So, THANK YOU. I'd like to sign off with a quote that Pastor Dave used in last Sunday's sermon.

*"Most of us will not this week christen a ship, write a book, end a war, appoint a cabinet, dine with a queen, convert a nation, or be burned at the stake. More likely the week will present no more than a chance to give a cup of water, write a note, visit a nursing home, vote for a county commissioner, teach a Sunday school class, share a meal, tell a child a story, go to choir practice, and feed the neighbor's cat. "Whoever is faithful in very little is faithful also in much." (Luke 16:10)*

Fred B. Craddock, Luke, Interpretation (Louisville: Westminster/John Knox, 1990) 192.  
Shalom. Marsha

# WE ARE A FAMILY

We eat together. We play together. We take care of each other. We are a family. Below are photos of Mother's Morning Out, Ladies Lunch and stuffing Easter eggs. To the left are Lenten potlucks.



In March, the staff visited some of our church family that can no longer attend services. We had a wonderful time. Below, the choir is acting silly.



**WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY**  
TUESDAYS 10:00 AM STARTING APRIL 11

Contact Carol Shafer  
cshafer@lvnworth.com  
for more information.

**JOSEPH**  
The Journey to Forgiveness

**Ladies Evening Bible Study**  
THURSDAYS 6:30 PM  
STARTS APRIL 20

**COMMON GROUND**  
Don't Let Us Divide Our Differences  
ANDREW HERTZ

**new life seekers**

**FINDING JESUS IN THE PSALMS**  
A Lenten Journey  
BARB ROOSE

**Donna Ramsey Room 205**  
**Starting April 16**

Check out these new Bible studies starting soon.