



RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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



Or visit us at FUMCLVKS.ORG

Sunday services stream at either site.

March 2023

26 8:30 & 11:00 am Worship 9:45 am SS 12 pm Confirmation 4:00 pm Bells 6:00 pm Youth	27 1:00 pm AIR Ministry	28 10am Bible Study 6:30pm Bible Study	1 1:30 pm Heart and Soul 3:45 pm WW 5:30 pm Dinner 6:45 pm Choir	2 8:30am Staff 6:30pm Women's Bible Study	3	4 
5 8:30 & 11:00 am Worship 9:45 am SS 12 pm Confirmation 4:00 pm Bells 6:00 pm Youth	6 1:00 pm AIR Ministries	7 10am Bible Study 6:30pm Bible Study	8 8:30 am MMO 1:30 p H & S 3:45 pm WW 5:00pm Grief Share 5:30 pm Dinner	9 8:30am Staff 6:30pm Women's Bible Study	10	11
12 8:30 & 11:00 am Worship 9:45 am SS 4:00 pm Bells 6:00 pm Youth	13 1:00 pm AIR Ministries	14 10am Bible Study 6:30 pm Bible Study	15 1:30 pm H & S 2 pm Rose Pruning 3:45 pm WW 5:30 pm Dinner 6:45 pm Choir	16 8:30am Staff 9 am SEW DAY 6:30pm Women's Bible Study	17	18 Lenten Day of Service 10 am
19 8:30 & 11:00 am Worship 9:45 am SS 12 pm Confirmation 4:00 pm Bells 6:00 pm Youth	20 1:00 pm AIR Ministry	21 10am Bible Study 2 pm Grief Share 6:30 pm Bible study	22 1:30 pm H & S 3:45 pm WW 5:00pm Grief Share 5:30 pm Dinner 6:45 pm Choir	23 8:30am Staff 6:30 pm Women's Bible Study	24	25 
26 8:30 & 11:00 am Worship 9:45 am SS 12 pm Lunch Bunch 4:00 pm Bells 6:00 pm Youth	27 1:00 pm AIR Ministry	28 10am Bible Study 12 pm Ladies Lunch 6:30 pm Bible Study	29 1:30 p H & S 3:45 pm WW 5:30 pm Dinner 6:45 pm Choir	30 8:30am Staff Meeting 6:30 pm Women's Bible Study	31	1 





Think
on
these

Remember this:
Whoever sows sparingly
will also reap sparingly,
and whoever sows generously
will also reap generously.
2 Corinthians 9:6



One of the old sayings that I used during my coaching and teaching days is one I am sure you are familiar with: “You get out of it what you put into it.” Students who worked hard in class to learn and participated with a sense of purpose succeeded. Players who worked to achieve the most from their talent did well in the long run. While they might not have been the most talented players, they were usually the most consistent and reliable players because, as a coach, you knew they would give their best every practice and game.

The attitude is really a Biblical concept of you harvest what you plant. If you sow sparingly, you reap a small crop. If you plant generously, your harvest will be greater. (2 Corinthians 9:6). How is your planting going during our Lenten season? Are you sowing love for an even greater harvest? How is the listening plan going? I have found that digging into God’s word through the Gospels is encouraging to me. What about inviting others to church or listening deeply to another person as a source of evangelism?

How are you doing with giving up pride, anger or critical/condemning attitudes toward others? Remember, you don’t see the fruit of the planting right away. Growth takes time. When things are happening under the surface, or inside of us, we don’t always see immediate results. That doesn’t mean God isn’t working on you. God is putting grace and Holy Spirit power into you as a believer in Jesus. You will get good fruit out of it. No root – no fruit. You get out of it what you put into it. That is truth whether in the classroom, ball field, farm field or discipleship! Good planting!! *Pastor Dave*



OneKC Reading Plan

February 22	Matthew 1-2	March 10	Mark 6-7	March 26	Luke 17:1-18:30
February 23	Matthew 3-4	March 11	Mark 8-10	March 27	Luke 20-21
February 24	Matthew 5-7	March 12	Luke 10:2-11:54	March 28	Luke 22-24
February 25	Matthew 8-9	March 13	Mark 11-13	March 29	John 1-2
February 26	Luke 5:12-39	March 14	Mark 14-16	March 30	John 3-4
February 27	Matthew 1-12	March 15	Luke 1-2	March 31	John 5-6
February 28	Matthew 13-14	March 16	Luke 3-4	April 1	John 7-8
March 1	Matthew 15-16	March 17	Luke 5-6	April 2	Luke 22:1-Luke 24
March 2	Matthew 17-18	March 18	Luke 7-8	April 3	John 9-11
March 3	Matthew 19-21	March 19	Luke 14:1-15:32	April 4	John 12-14
March 4	Matthew 22-23	March 20	Luke 9-10	April 5	John 15-16
March 5	Luke 7:36 - 8:18	March 21	Luke 11-12	April 6	John 17
March 6	Matthew 24-25	March 22	Luke 13-14	April 7	John 18-19
March 7	Matthew 26-28	March 23	Luke 15	April 8	John 20-21
March 8	Mark 1-3	March 24	Luke 16-17		
March 9	Mark 4-5	March 25	Luke 18-19		

Sundays are in red. That is the text for the sermon on Sundays.

MARCH Birthdays

1st	Amanda Parks	13th	Jimmie Stallings	24th	Christel Ludwig
3rd	Elleanna Banker	15th	Steve Short	27th	Marlin Holyfield
4th	Amy Baehr	18th	Isaac Richards	28th	Maddie Newman
	Cynthia Walley	19th	Chase Cole	29th	Kaelyn Bowen
5th	Martha Nielsen	20th	Brody Torkelson		Katie Smith
6th	Ella Gorgoglione	21st	Klaus Sanford	30th	Alexis Cole
8th	Oliver Frashier		Garret Wecas		Christine Varnal
	Alisha Holyfield	22nd	Tim Burkett	31st	Amy Zschoche
	Aiden Johnson		Kathi LaMoe		
10th	Mikayla Nelson	22nd	Roy Ramsey		
11th	Aaron Brown	23rd	Sara Mulford		



MARCH Anniversaries

16th	Dwayne & Rebecca Beasley	36 years
18th	Dae & Jennifer Ko	20 years
21st	John & Vera Raines	30 years
28th	Bob & Kay Hale	64 years



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

UPCOMING Events



TUES, MARCH 28, 12:00 pm
Luigi's Italian Restaurant

AIR DEMENTIA MINISTRY

ART * INSPIRATION * RESPITE
FUMCLVKS.ORG/AIR
MONDAYS 1-4 PM



At AIR ministry, we believe in celebrating. Whether it's the Super Bowl or Valentine's Day or just a regular Monday, we believe God wants us to have life and have it abundantly. It's easy for a person living with dementia or their caregiver to become discouraged. It is a very difficult stage of life. We hope AIR ministry breathes new hope and joy into their lives.

One of my favorite parts of AIR ministry is at the end of the day. Every week we sing for the final 30 minutes. It is amazing how many song lyrics our friends remember. They love to sing and they sing with such gusto! In January, we celebrated Elvis Presley's birthday and sang a bunch of his songs. One of our friends, Mary, had such a great time singing. Her husband, John, said she kept singing the rest of the night at home.

If you know someone who has dementia, would you consider telling them about AIR ministry? *Sandy*

March Schedule



March 6- Wild West Day

March 13 - St. Patrick's Day

March 20 - March Madness

March 27 - National Vietnam Veterans Appreciation

Our friends love to contribute to their community, so every week we do some type of service project. One of those projects is making appreciation gifts for hometown heroes like teachers or first responders. If you would like to contribute, here are some of the items we include in those gifts.

Individually wrapped cookies	Microwave popcorn
Single serve drink packets	Small candy
Individual crackers	Pocket sized Kleenex

THE HUB MARCH COLLECTION ITEM: SOAP, SHAMPOO & CONDITIONER

In 2022, the HUB experienced a 250% increase of families visiting the Community Market. Additionally, the amount of food available from Harvesters drastically decreased due to COVID related funding expiring. In addition to helping families with food, the HUB also offers paper products and personal hygiene items. Imagine having to choose between food and soap to keep clean. In March, we will be collecting soap, shampoo and conditioner. But you can also bring beans, and other food items at any time. Thank you for your generosity.

FREE MONEY FOR EDUCATION AND SUMMER CAMP

Our church family has a generous scholarship program for higher education and church camp. If you plan on attending college or trade school in the fall, don't miss this opportunity! Go to our website fumclvks.org/2022-scholarships/ to apply. Many have a deadline of March 31, so don't delay. There are scholarship opportunities for community students as well, so spread the good news.

If you have a 3rd - 12th grade student, there are free scholarships for summer camp. It is a great opportunity for your student to deepen their faith AND have a great time. Check out campchippewa.org for all the different types of camp offered in our area. The camp scholarship forms are located at the same place on our website. If you would like more information, contact Sandy at swood@fumclvks.org.



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.

For some people, a holiday (St Patrick's, Easter, Mother's Day, etc.) is about celebrating a loving relationship or enjoying lighthearted times with friends and family. But for those grieving the loss of a spouse, dealing with a divorce or break-up, facing a long-term separation, living in stressful circumstances, or otherwise feeling alone, these usually sweet holidays can have a bitter taste.

Here are a few tips for reaching out with care to someone who is struggling during a holiday, or at any time.

- * Listen between the lines. If someone makes a comment about that hints at feelings of sadness or negativity, gently and nonjudgmentally follow up. A simple "Tell me more about that" lets them know you're willing to listen.
- * Treat the person's feelings seriously. People may experience a variety of difficult emotions on during a holiday event. Treating their feelings as valid gives them permission to share whatever they need and want to share.
- * Avoid clichés. There are plenty of clichés out there, so be on guard. Saying something like "God has someone for you" or "You'll find another" or "next year will be better" will likely only add to their difficult feelings about the holiday.
- * Don't pressure someone to "cheer up." Trying to push someone to "get into the spirit of the holiday" often leaves them feeling worse and communicates that they shouldn't feel the way they do. Whether someone is sad or lonely, bitter or angry, a better approach is to be a caring, listening presence.

No matter the person's situation, your care can make a real difference. People may not think about those for whom a holiday isn't a particularly happy time, so your willingness to relate with compassion may be a welcome surprise for someone expecting to suffer silently.

Grief Share has two groups. The Spouse Grief group meets on the 3rd Tuesday of every month 2 pm. The open group meets at 5 pm on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays. Contact Marsha for info, Marshagaffin@gmail.com. **Marsha**

CONGREGATIONAL Care

Congregational care is a core element of pastoring. It's a part of who you are (identity) and what you do (calling). We are ALL called to be congregational caregivers. As an attendee of this church, we are each an under-shepherd of Jesus.

Said another way, Pastor Dave is not the head of this church. Jesus is the head of the Church. I don't mean for this to sound brazen. Instead, I want to emphasize that Jesus is the leader of his Church and that he takes care of his people through Pastor and through each and every one of us. Practically speaking, you and I are to care for this church in a way that reflects Jesus' care. Not only are we an under-shepherd, but God has called us to shepherd his people (1 Pet 5:2). God personally etched this responsibility directly into your job description.

It's impossible for one person to provide all of the congregational care. The Bible doesn't support this belief, and it's practically impossible for any single human being to provide care to a large group of people.

Let's say we have 75 church members. Let's say Pastor Dave decides to spend 30 minutes with everyone—every week. In this example, this means he will spend 37.5 hours per week keeping in touch with church members, hearing what's going on in their lives, and helping them to live and love like Jesus. Add this on top of his other duties, and you have a recipe for a 100-hour workweek. Sure, he might be able to maintain this for a few weeks without burning out. But that's not the point I'm trying to make. What I'm saying is that pastors should care for their people - but not entirely by themselves.

As a pastor, Dave will always be in a position to provide care. But as he aims to tend to the needs of your church, he'll need to rely on a congregational care ministry- and that's where we come in. I will close by asking you to pray about this concept and where you might fit in it, and Part 2 of this article with practical suggestions will appear in next month's LIFE at FUMC Magazine.

Shalom, **Marsha**



Greetings to all. The month of March is a time of rebirth in our congregation and community while we spring into the season of new life as winter passes. With this new season we turn our **attention to bringing God's Kingdom through ministries and events for the Lenten season** culminating in the celebration of the resurrection. Please read your bulletins, emails and texts so we are all prepared for the upcoming events and celebrations.

Additionally, your church trustees are hard at work continuing to execute programs for the revitalization and renewal of our historical church property. Over the past four years they have stewarded construction, renovation and maintenance endeavors to include:

- * Refurbishing Fellowship Hall and the main church kitchen
- * Roof repair and resurfacing to the main church and education buildings
- * HVAC replacement and repair
- * Main church stone revitalization
- * New front entrance for the main church
- * Angled parking and new sidewalks around the green space
- * Westside parking lot improvements – thank you Tinklers
- * Thousands of dollars of small continuous maintenance repairs

Almost all of these projects focused on the external infrastructure and improvements to maintain our facility for decades to come. To date these improvements cost \$704,164. Thanks to your generosity and giving these projects were paid in full with no debt to the church – amen.

We now turn our focus to the interior of the church. The projects are divided into two phases. Phase 1 which is fully **funded by this year's budget which includes immediate repairs, the roof leak into the Wesley Hall bathroom and the replacement of the 75-gallon hot water heater that services the kitchen.** The fire alarm system upgrade is a regulatory and safety requirement. The water fountain replacements will provide a water bottle filler feature that is more economical and healthy. Phase 1 is listed below.

Project	"Estimated Cost "
Phase 1 fully funded by the 2023 church budget	
Roof repair Wesley Hall	\$6,275, to be completed as the weather permits
Fire system/security lights upgrade	\$9,100, to be completed when the materials become available
Hot water heater	\$3,200, to be completed this month
Water Fountains	\$2,000, to be completed this month

Phase 2 projects are listed below and we are hoping to raise the funds and complete them over the next two years. As costs continue to rise, the estimated price tag may also.

Phase 2	Years 2023-2024
Front Doors	\$35,000 - this includes ADA compliant access
Alteration to the Altar Area	\$20,000 – faux stone behind the cross to enhance the sanctuary
Lift to replace lights/cross	\$2,000 – in conjunction with the altar alteration
Kitchen remodel and floor repair	\$20,000 – includes new counter tops and a poured epoxy floor
Education Building Main Roof	\$10,000 – aluminum coating
HVAC replacement 2 of 7	\$51,500 – we have 16 total units, these are reaching expiration
West-side doors refurbishment	\$5,000 – re-veneer the doors
Old Office Ramp	\$25,000 – removal and replace with stairs
Ed. Building Bathrooms upstairs	\$10,000 – fixture and tile replacement
Carpet	\$10,000 – as directed by trustees

All of these improvements fall outside of our normal operating budget. Mike Mix, Trustee Chair, will begin doing videos outlining these projects in more detail. Here is the my big ask:

- Please pray for these improvements and for the trustees.
- Please ask questions, if you need clarification.
- Please make recommendations as you see fit.
- Please feel free, as the spirit moves you, to give to the capital campaign fund or one of the projects listed in Phase 2.

In Christ, *Ed*



Scouts Make Things Happen

BSA began February 8, 1910; 113 years ago, but the Scouting Ministry here at FUMC is over 50 years old. **The Scouts helped with Samaritan's Buffet on Saturday, February 4.**

Scout Sunday was fun and allowed us to thank the congregation of FUMC for including the Scouting Ministry in the total youth program. We also thanked the greater United Methodist Church for including the Scouting Programs in the Book of Discipline. Key topics we discussed were that the Scouting Ministry had another successful year and is a thriving part of the youth ministry. The adults in the Scouting Ministry are value focused as we are fully invested in helping our youth find a path to a productive life. This year FUMC was able to recognize Bob Landzettel with the United Methodist Church Cross and Flame Award. In the Scouting Ministry, as the Charter Organizational Representative, I focus on scouts growing an understanding of what it means to be Reverent. Our Scouts are focused more on fun and, for some, advancement.

This year the Scouting family suffered a tremendous loss of Ms. Davidson, Scouting leader for Troop 6173, which is the only Troop in Leavenworth / Lansing which permits young ladies the opportunity to participate and enjoy the scouting experience.

Scouts worked to build a fire pit in the green space. It is there for the church use as well as Scouting Ministry activities. We plan to use it to retire US flags each year. After working on the fire pit our intent was to camp outside, **but the wind was so strong that it picked up the Scoutmaster's tent, which was staked down, and rolled and broke it.** That night Ed Garven came by just to check on the scouts.

Summer Camps will be keeping everybody busy. We have to thank the Tinkler Trustees for any support they can provide in helping families make the payments.

Monday before Valentine's Day, the Cub Scouts of Pack 3109 made valentine crafts and they are designing their cars for the Pinewood Derby next month. After spring break some of the Webelos will cross over to begin the next step in the Scouting Ministry. In the next month, the Cub Scouts are looking at some weather safety instruction.

March 6, we'll be meeting early at 6 pm at the Justice Center for a special tour arranged by Ms. Decker. This is a great opportunity for our Cub Scouts to see our community in action. Thanks so much for making this happen for us!

March 27, the Emergency Management department will be joining us at the church activity building giving a presentation on flood and tornado safety for the beginning of spring.

We are tentatively looking at Pinewood Derby at the end of March and will hold a car cutting workshop to help anyone who does not have the power tools to cut their cars themselves. We'll publish those dates soon.

Two of our more experienced Scouts, Esa Lozoya and Henry Chaar, have volunteered to support the Orphanage Mission Trip. They have both started the Passport process and will continue with meetings. They are excited to be part of the FUMC youth program.

Bill Kiebler



Welcome to the family

The Little family just got a lot bigger. Jasen and Christina welcomed Nikolas Casey and Elsie Rose to their family on February 8. They also have six year old Maelyn and three year old Evie. They have been attending our church since the summer. Jasen is originally from Galion, Ohio, a small town between Columbus and Cleveland. Christina is from Maricopa, Arizona which is in-between Phoenix and Tucson. They met in college at Arizona State University in 2006. They were both in Air Force ROTC together all four years, but didn't start dating (or "ca-dating" as they call it) until our senior year. Then they got married in 2011 in San Antonio, TX.

Jasen is an intelligence officer in the US Air Force. He said, "It's been an enjoyable and rewarding experience thus far. We've gotten to live in some great places; Texas, South Carolina, England, Ohio, and now Kansas. We just found out we'll be heading to Washington, D.C. next this coming summer." He likes doing outdoors activities such as hiking, camping, kayaking, and traveling. Since having kids, they just like to get out and explore new places; zoos, Children's museums, and kids concerts are their favorites. Although he went to Arizona State, he is still a die-hard Ohio State Buckeyes fan (O-H...) and also a Cleveland Browns fan (someone has to be).

After college, Christina was commissioned into the US Air Force as a behavioral science officer. She was stationed at Ft Sam Houston in San Antonio. Then she got out of the Air Force to work on her Masters in social work. She did an internship working with a nonprofit that helped migrant families navigate healthcare and other resources. Almost immediately after getting her degree, she became pregnant, so she decided she wanted to be a stay-at-home mom and be there for her baby. Although she does miss having a career, she loves having the opportunity of watching her children grow and pursuing their own interests. Her hobbies and interests are traveling, cooking, baking, running, and exploring new places with her family.

Maelyn is such a kind, sweet, and smart girl and an amazing big sister. She's currently actively involved in dance, swim, gymnastics, and girl scouts. She loves to read books, play with her friends outside, any type of arts and crafts, play with her Barbie dolls, and go out to eat. She's currently learning to play chess and is getting pretty good at it. Maelyn is currently in Kindergarten at Bradley Elementary on Ft Leavenworth. Maelyn also loves the Kansas City Current Women's soccer team. She's excited to get to go to more games this spring.

Evie is just the cutest little thing. She's extremely energetic but very kind and compassionate. She's in preschool at St Paul's Lutheran School and is like the class mom, always making sure everyone is doing ok and the first to respond to any crying. She's learning to be a great big sister and has already named herself the person in charge of getting diapers for the babies...nobody else is allowed. She loves singing, gymnastics, playing with her dolls, and arts and crafts. Baby dolls are her favorite...she has like 50+ (seriously) and has a relationship with every single one of them.

They have two small Chihuahua/terrier mixes that are 11 years old named Brutus (for the Ohio State Buckeyes) and Sparky (for the Arizona State Sundevils). Christina said, "Unfortunately the more children we have, the less cuddles they get, but they are so great and sweet with the kids."

They love the church and church family. Jasen said, "From the first time we visited, Pastor Dave, other Church staff, and the congregation were very welcoming. We felt right at home. We were looking for a Church that had a good kids worship program and we certainly found it! Maelyn and Evie LOVE Miss Nancy and her kids first worship program and are so excited to go to church each week."



Growing with Love



Calling all those gardeners who feel the lure of Spring and are ready to get their hands dirty once again. We have two projects for plant lovers. Please join us for these volunteer opportunities.

March 15, 2 pm - Pruning the church roses and planning the designs for the new front entry planters

March 18, 10 am - A member of our church needs assistance with their yard. It has become overgrown and needs care.

If you have any questions about either project, please contact Ed Garven, egarven@fumclvks.org.



Stronghold Food Pantry was started last fall on Fort Leavenworth because 1 in 6 military families struggles with food insecurity. In December 2022, Stronghold helped over 500 individuals here at Fort Leavenworth. In addition to non-perishable food items, Stronghold is currently accepting donations of all kinds of cleaning supplies to celebrate National Cleaning Week which starts March 26. There is a plastic box in the foyer for donations to Stronghold.



Aspire is a one-night women's event full of laughter, learning, stories & music with three ladies taking the stage; one Bible teacher, one comedian, one Musician. It is coming here April 21, at 7 pm at Open Door Baptist church, 3033 N. 103rd Terr. Kansas City, KS 66109. That is very close to the Legends shopping center.

Melissa Spoelstra has been the author of many of the Bible Studies used by Sunday School classes and Ladies Bible studies in the last few years. She is the main speaker at the Aspire conference. She is madly in love with Jesus and addicted to the study of His word. She is passionate about knowing and inspiring other women to seek Him by opening their ears to listen to His Spirit, reading His Word curiously, asking questions and clinging tightly to God through the storms of life.

As a wife to Sean, and mother of four great kids, she works out her faith on a daily basis always in need of God's Word to draw her back to the things of first importance.

Kay Dodd has spent the better part of the last 25 years making people laugh as a professional comedian. Whether she is performing for women's groups, conferences, and recovery groups or emceeding events, producing shows or raising funds for worthy causes, Kay Dodd will deliver the laughs that can lift spirits, open hearts, and inspires.

Lindsay is a contemporary Christian singer-songwriter from Florida. She attended Moody Bible Institute in Chicago, leading worship at the school and at Harvest Bible Chapel. Her first album, "If It Leads Me Back," was released in 2012. Since then, she has released another album called "One More Step," and has toured with top Christian artists like Casting Crowns, Matthew West, Brandon Heath and Mandisa. She is a wife, a mom of two, and a follower and worshipper of Jesus.

If you are interested in attending, please contact Nancy Shade at nshade@fumclvks.org by March 12. Tickets will be \$20 if we get ten people going. If not, they will be \$25. Write checks to the church with ASPIRE on the memo line.

NOTHING SAYS LOVE LIKE...

Lots of kids and lots of fun at Mother's Morning Out in February! All of the groups made a Valentine for their parents. 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! If you would like to volunteer, just contact Nancy Shade nshade@fumclvks.org All the parents who bring their kids are so appreciative to have some time to themselves, knowing that their children are safe and loved.



This past month in Sunday school and Kids First Worship we were focusing on a few of the Miracles of Jesus. For the Feeding of the 5,000, one of the things we did was make some Teacher Appreciation Bags filled with snacks and a card. The first group made 18 bags in about 2 minutes – **and they weren't even rushing!** We talked about how it wasn't hard, and that it felt really good to do! Just 2 minutes to make 18 teachers feel special! Sometimes we think we have to do something big, fancy, or miraculous (like feed 5,000 people with one little boys lunch). When in truth, it only takes a little effort to make someone's day. A smile or a kind word can share the love that all people long for. And isn't that what God calls us to? To love God with all our heart, soul, mind and strength. To love others as we love ourselves.

At Wonderful Wednesday we focused on these commandments. Love God, love others, love yourself. The children here at FUMC totally get it; WELL DONE parents, family, friends, congregation! Nothing says love like a child calling your name and running full tilt at you to get a hug. Nothing says love like parents sharing a video of their little ones singing "Lord I Lift Your Name on High" to their baby sister. Nothing says love like a smile that lights up a room and a soul when you see it. Nothing says love like an adult volunteer who spends an entire morning caring for toddlers and then comes back that same afternoon to volunteer with Wonderful Wednesday. Nothing says love like a group of people in the middle of the United States caring about a group of orphans from Ukraine in Romania AND doing something about it. Nothing says love like getting a card from your church for every birthday and anniversary. Nothing says love like sending your only begotten Son, so that whoever believes in Him will not perish, but have eternal life.



Have you ever wondered why Good Friday is called "Good"? Are you looking for something for your kids to do when they are out of school on Friday, April 7? Look no further, we have your answer! We will be offering Thank Goodness It's Good Friday, an age-appropriate adventure through Holy Week for all children ages 4 years through 6th grade. The pre-school session will begin at 8:30 and finish at 12:00. Kindergarten through 6th graders will be from 8:30 – 3:30.

During the day we will make our way through Holy week with Bible stories, crafts, games and science. Even the snacks will help teach the amazing gift that Jesus gave us. We will end with Good Friday, so that we can celebrate the risen Christ on Easter Sunday! We will be offering Kids First Worship at both the 8:30 and 11:00 services on Easter.

Registration for participants and volunteers is up and running at the link below. We strongly encourage you to register early so that we can make sure we have enough materials and volunteers at Fumclvks.org/TGIGF Registration. To volunteer for Easter Sunday, please contact Nancy Shade nshade@fumclvks.org. *Nancy*



Bringing Hope by Volunteering

I started working at the shelter in 2018, not too long after our family moved to Leavenworth. The church needed spots filled for the night shift, and I was a late night person. I wanted to do some volunteering, and the shelter of hope seemed like an easy way to volunteer. It turned out to be a long term engagement. I worked at the shelter up until I went off to school in the fall of 2022. The time commitment was very doable. Once a month for a few hours was an easy way to insert some community work into my schedule.

I started out working the late night to early morning shift. It was always very quiet, and basically the only interactions I had with the guests were when someone got up to use the restroom. Doing laundry and glancing at security cameras from time to time was work that may seem simple, but those acts provide security and shelter for members of our community that need some extra help. In doing them, it helped fill my spirit.

I moved to the first shift at some point in 2020. I enjoyed the new experience of interacting with the people as they came through to pick up their bedding and clothes. It fills a need for people right here in my home community, and it is always a good reminder to see the people, not just look at them in passing.

One of the most valuable lessons I've learned is to just see people as people. The guests at the shelter are really not too different from myself, and if, for whatever reason, I find myself in need of a safe place to sleep, I hope people will be working at the shelter.

There are many ways to volunteer at the Community of Hope. They need volunteers to answer the phone and people to drive clients to grocery stores and doctor appointments. They also need day center monitors and people who will help provide a meal for guests. They also work with professionals to help provide health services and informational classes. If you're interested in volunteering at the Community of Hope Shelter, contact Info@LVcommunityofhope.org or call 913-702-8108.

Taylor York



Dear Church family,
Thank You to our church family for your thoughts, prayers, phone calls, meals, visits and cards during Frank's recovery from his stroke. A special "Thank you" to our Church Nurture and Care Ministry Team for their visits, gift bag, prayer shawl & pocket prayer reminder. Christ, through you all, has blessed us with patience and gratitude toward a full recovery.

God's blessings,
Frank & Gini Geib



Middle School Lunch Bunch 5th-8th grade students

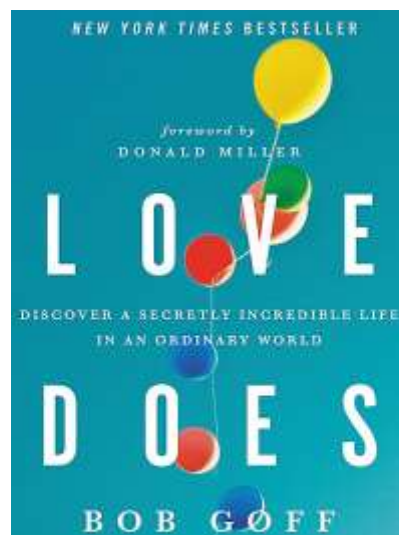


March 26, noon

Itchin' to Stitch

SEW DAY COMING IN MARCH !!! We are sew excited to have an entire day of creating 26 personalized book bags for the Ukrainian kids at the Romanian Orphanage, Nehemiah House, that our church's mission team will be visiting in June. Please join us on Thursday, March 16th from 9 am – 3 or 4 pm in the Fellowship Hall. We will work as a group on this assembly-line style project. **We'll need several with sewing machines as well as those to help cut out patterns and iron.** Lunch will be served. For more detailed information, please contact Teresa Hicks at 727-2694 or hickst@kc.rr.com.

Meet Darby - He is one of our walker bag recipients from the Lawrence area. He has **Leigh's syndrome. It is a progressive degenerative disease and he recently had a surgery.** He loves Star Wars, so they made him a Darth Vader walker bag.



BOOK CLUB



The Book Club enjoys reading a variety of genres. In March we will be reading the New York Times bestseller, “Love Does” by Bob Goff. Bob thinks when it comes to loving your neighbors, rather than focusing on having the “right answers” or checking the “right boxes,” what if you decide to simply DO love? To shamelessly show love and grace to those around you? What would that look like? It might look like spending sixteen days in the Pacific Ocean with five guys and a crate of canned meat. It might look like taking your kids on a world tour to eat ice cream with heads of state. It might look like taking a road trip with a stressed-out college student—even though you just got married a few days before. In Love Does, Bob shows you how to live a fully engaged life; how to stop putting things off until “next time” and instead find your place of imagination, whimsy, and wonder today; and

that God usually chooses ordinary people to get things done When love does, life gets interesting.

Reading this book feels like **learning about a new friend. Imagine having dinner with someone you don't know very well, but are trying become more familiar with.** You exchange interesting and unique stories about yourself giving one **another deep, personal insights. That's what reading “Love Does” is like. Goff's writing is personal and funny, and gives you an opening into a life that's hard to believe is truly a reality.** Light and fun, unique and profound, the lessons drawn from Bob's life and attitude in this collection of stories just might inspire you to be secretly incredible, too.



Lansing High School Scholar Bowl Students Win Regionals

Jonas Anderson (pictured with the lion) is part of the Lansing High School Scholar Bowl Team that won regionals in February and went on to compete at State. Congratulations!

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

Alexis Hoffman is the granddaughter of Jeff and Carole Hoffman. She has been a member of our church for about ten years and is a freshman at Leavenworth High School. One of her very favorite pastimes is riding and caring for her horse, Breeze. Alexis has been riding horses for three years and has had Breeze for two.

She and Breeze compete in Hunter/Jumper Competitions, as well as Fox Hunting. Hunter/Jumper competitions are comprised of guiding your horse to jump over different heights. Fox Hunting is a really cool activity where groups of people on horses follow the huntsman and hounds to find a fox, or **in Alexis' case, coyotes. This sport is done in fall and winter and is Alexis' favorite activity with her horse.**

In addition to participating in competitions, Alexis provides almost all of the care for her horse, who is boarded at Tally Ho. Keeping a horse healthy and happy is a lot of work! Alexis has to feed and water Breeze, as well as brushing him, checking his hooves for rocks or debris, and cleaning the stall. **“I get to work with an animal that I love to take care of,” Alexis said was her favorite part of horseback riding.** Controlling the horse is the most difficult part of horseback riding for Alexis because it entails keeping the horse calm.

When Alexis isn't horseback riding, you can find her on the golf course with her school's golf team. She's been golfing for 12 years. She also plays trumpet in the band and JROTC. She is one of the smiling faces you'll see on many Sundays when she serves as a greeter for the church.



Mission trip in paradise

The One Love Medical Mission resumed operations following a two year **absence due to the pandemic and traveled to the St. Andrews and St. Mary's** parishes in the Blue Mountains of Jamaica on January 21 - 30, 2023. Rick and Shari Hansen, from our church family went on this mission trip. The One Love Medical Mission has been in existence for more than 40 years and is supported by the Community Christian Church in Kansas City and other organizations such as the Leavenworth Rotary Club. It provides much needed medical care to the Jamaican people. The team is lead by Rotarian, Dr. Larry Evans, retired oral maxillofacial surgeon, and his wife Gayle Wood, a Pediatric Nurse Practitioner, and consists of several doctors, nurse practitioners, nurses, pharmacists and support staff. By partnering with the local Jamaican churches and medical personnel, the team is able to set up pop up medical clinics at area churches and schools and provide no cost medical care to the Jamaicans.

Every year, the One Love Medical Mission has 30 team members. Each team member travels at their own expense to Jamaica and works in the medical clinics for four days, fulfilling a role either as a medical professional or support staff to assist the team in delivering health care. Donated medical supplies are transported by team members to Jamaica. The team arrives at the Montego Bay airport on Saturday, clears customs, and then loads up two busses with all the medical supplies and personal bags brought by the team, and enjoys a 3 ½ hour bus ride to Tapioca Village. The Sinclairs, owners of Tapioca Village Resort, are ready to accommodate the team for the week as they provide sleeping rooms, meals, laundry services, storage; everything the mission team needs. The Resort is sort of rustic in appearance and you may not always have a hot shower, but the beds are comfy and the Jamaican food is wonderful!

On Sunday, the team wakes up to a delicious, hot breakfast and then dresses to go to Church services in town. Since each bus accommodates half of the team, the team is split so some attend Oberlin Church Services and the others attend services in Castleton. Rick and I attended the services in Castleton and it happened to be the Sunday when the services were lead by the women of the church. We enjoyed lots of singing and praise music, scripture readings, a sermon, as well as a dedication of a new baby. We were warmly welcomed to Jamaica by the pastor and the people of the church. **They are so appreciative and thankful for the team and all the care they provide while in Jamaica and you can't help but** feel the love on Sunday morning! Church in Jamaica lasts pretty much all day but the Team must depart after about three hours as there is much work to be done at Tapioca Village to prepare for the upcoming clinics.

Back at Tapioca Village, we change to work clothes and enjoy lunch. We then head to the packing area to locate and organize our supplies for the clinic. We do a lot of pill counting on Sunday afternoon! Many of the over the counter prescriptions are counted out into smaller quantities so that they can be quickly dispensed at the clinics. This makes everything faster and more efficient on clinic days which I really appreciated as I worked in the pharmacy this year and that is a very busy, fast paced job! At the end of packing, tubs of supplies are labeled and readied for loading onto the busses the next morning. The team assignments are also posted on the bulletin board on Sunday night. That way everyone knows what their team assignment and job will be for the next day and which bus they must get on in the morning!

The mornings begin early with breakfast and devotions by one or more of the team members. Gayle also gives a morning briefing and the run down for the day, plus announces when the busses will leave. On Monday, one bus goes to Oberlin and the other goes to Castleton and then on Tuesday the teams switch places. These two locations have the **largest number of patients to be seen. Dr. Evans, the “tooth puller”, is with my team that goes to Oberlin on Monday and** then Castleton on Tuesday. His wife Gayle, the Pediatric ARNP, does the opposite on those days. Dr. Evans travels with an assistant and someone to sterilize the instruments as well as a traffic controller. Rick Hansen served as Dr. Larry Evans traffic controller, checking the patients in to get screened and receiving a numbing agent if there was a tooth to be pulled. Then while they were getting numb, he brought in another set of patients to be screened and numbed up, then rotates those that are ready for teeth pulling back to Dr. Evans for extraction. Dr. Evans is a very popular man on these trips and works very long hours because, unfortunately, many Jamaicans do not get regular dental care and having a tooth pulled is their only relief from pain. The rest of the Medical Mission Team is evenly split so each location is represented by physicians, ARNPs, nurses, and support staff. For example, the pharmacist was on my team and I (Shari Hansen) served as his pharmacy tech, but the other team also has pharmacy services provided by two nurses.



Anya and Jonas Anderson

Brian and Kari Anderson were also surprised to have twins, but since Anya and Jonas are their only children, it's the only way they know to parent. Kari said, “We learn everyday for sure. We all make mistakes, and we learn from them.” She also said, “We enjoy taking pictures to see the growth of the kids. Appreciate every day; it's a blessing.”

Anya said, “No twin telepathy unfortunately, but if we're hanging out with friends and something is funny or goes wrong we can always tell just by a look. I think our personalities are very different, I tend to be more outgoing, while he is a bit quieter. But I think when we are together and it's just us we are pretty much the same person since we're used to each other.” Jonas agreed.

When they were little Anya was being pulled in a wagon on a walk with her grandma. All of a sudden, Anya screamed and then stopped. Kari had taken Jonas to have surgery that day. According to the paperwork, it was the exact time when Jonas was undergoing surgery.



Elizabeth and Rachel Sanders

Twins do run in Rick and Robin Sanders family. Rumor has it, it is every other generation. Robin's grandma had a set of twin boys. But both girls were a complete surprise. The old saying of "Tell God your plans..." fits.

Elizabeth and Rachel are complete opposites in life, they rarely share clothes and other items. They do end up complimenting each other well. When younger, Elizabeth was very, very quiet, shy and would rarely speak up. Rachel began speaking for her sister early on and would continue to speak up and advocate for her sister up into High School years. Their bond was obvious at birth. No matter how or where we would lay the infants they would gravitate to each other and end up touching. Rick and Robin were baffled how Rachel, barely able to walk, could escape her crib and get into the other crib with Liz most nights.

Today, Elizabeth is in her junior year at Missouri University of Science & Technology studying Geology and Geophysics and Rachel is attending KCKCC studying nursing and works at Twin Oaks Rehab facility. But no matter their distance these days the bond is still there.

TWICE AS NICE

With the latest addition of the Little family twins, we have five sets of twins in our church family. We asked those families who have been doubly blessed to share some funny stories and insight into what life is like with twins.
Nikolas Casey and Elsie Rose Little



When Jasen and Christina Little first told their daughters, Maelyn and Evie, they were expecting twins, Maelyn screamed in excitement and said, “Mami, Papi, that’s exactly what I prayed to God for, and he actually listened!” So now she takes credit for our family having twins. But actually, twins run in both sides of the family. Christina’s mother was a twin and Jasen’s father was a twin! Jasen’s older brother also has twin daughters. Although they knew twins were a definite possibility, Christina said, “Nothing can prepare you for your first ultrasound when you see two little babies instead of just one...your jaw permanently drops.”

It is definitely a bit different caring for two versus one. Christina said, “The nights have been a bit “rough” but so far, it’s definitely worth it! When they get fussy, we’ll put them together and it’s so neat to see them eventually calm each other down. We can’t wait to see the lifelong bond they have as they continue to grow.”

Bennett and Charlie Thornton

For Tyler and Katie Thornton, twins was even more shocking because there was no family history of twins. Katie sometimes dresses Bennett in blue as a quick way to identify which is which, but she says they have different personalities. She said, “Even in my tummy Charlie was the active one and Bennett was always more of the lazy roller... when they started becoming mobile it was always Charlie going straight for whatever he saw whereas Bennett was more observant before he would go for new things. Now they’re just wild and crazy toddlers.” Katie also said, “They did seem to be able to “talk” to each other even before words and it’s always fun watching them interact with each other and explore their world together.” One day Tyler was taking them to run errands and could hear them whispering back and forth in their car seats. When he asked what they were doing they said “we got candy!” They had apparently found a lollipop one of the older kids had left in the car, unwrapped it and were secretly sharing it.



Kaelyn and Madison Mohan



Kaelyn and Madison, are the granddaughters of Grant and Amy Zschoche. Twins do run in the gene pool on both sides of the families. Kaelyn and Madison have always been close and always relied on each other for that special sisterly support. Even now they are as lovingly close to each other as they were in the womb. Sarah was told Madison was laying on top of Kaelyn and she knew this to be true from the wrestling matches that were taking place! As infants, newborn feeding time was a trick to balance especially the every three hour schedule those first few weeks. Sometimes if one stirred you go ahead and start the feeding process knowing the other would soon be ready. Both crying was definitely a challenging task. Luckily there was lots of family who would pull shift duty to help with bathing, feeding and sitting!

Growing up the girls never liked to dress identical. They always preferred the same style but different colors. It was the same but only different mentality! Now, they are constantly swapping clothes, sometimes with a little bribery in the mix; staying up late for those catch up talks from the events of the day; or just hanging out watching a movie to be in each other’s company. They are the best of friends.

In second grade, they decided to try and see how far their twin uniqueness would take them and plotted a plan to switch classes to see if the teacher would notice! It didn’t last long as the teacher remembered what clothing one had worn that day!



Each team also has two “drug runners” who take the scripts out to the patients and explain to the patient how to take their prescriptions. Each team also is set up with personnel to provide patient triage, patient visits (evaluations by physicians or ARNPs), conduct lab testing such as urinalysis, blood sugar testing, pregnancy testing, nebulizer treatments and ear lavages. Each team also provides eye screenings and issues reading glasses to those that need this assistance for reading their bibles, etc.

On Wednesday and Thursday, the work continues as we hold clinics at Salisbury Plain, Manning Hill, and Buff Bay locations. These days are also very busy, long days and have a large following of Jamaicans that come annually to take advantage of this care. The One Love Medical Mission team strives to offer the same services at all locations, making sure that supplies and medications are spread evenly between the sites. While One Love Medical Mission team is allowed to prescribe medications for a period of only 30 days, it does work in partnership with local medical personnel. Dr. Reed from Kingston assists in the ongoing care of patients and in referring patients when they need additional care in their area after the team leaves.

On Friday morning, the team has a farewell breakfast celebration, reflecting on all that was accomplished that week and all the friendships that were formed. We also said our good byes to the Tapioca Village staff and presented them with gifts and tips for all the support and care they provided for the week. We then sorted supplies and medications that will remain in storage in Oberlin and determined what was available to donate to the local clinics. Many medications have an expiration date before the next trip or are in unsealed containers and therefore are donated so they can be administered by local medical personnel to those in need. On Friday afternoon, the team departed Tapioca Village and goes by bus to Montego Bay for a couple nights at the Rose Hall Hilton as a reward for a job well done. For some of us, this was our first hot shower since arriving in Jamaica and was much appreciated!

To put in perspective the work accomplished by the Mission Team, I am including the following statistics:

Patients seen: 892 Adults, 398 Pediatric Patients, 1290 Total Patients Seen

Pharmacy: 4,123 prescriptions filled 486 worm treatments

Eyeglasses: 987 Ear Lavages: – 98

Urinalysis tests: 63 Blood Sugar testing: 217

Pregnancy Tests: 4 Nebulizers: 55 (also gave away 5)

Dental Patients: 250 Teeth extracted: 391 Dental Consults: 21



LIFE @ FUMC



Our church family showed their Chief's colors for Super Bowl Sunday.



Scout Sunday was a great success!



Family Game Night was a blast!



Middle School students enjoyed tacos at the Lunch Bunch.

Our Ash Wednesday Soup and Bread potluck started our "Come to the Table" Lenten potlucks. Be sure to join us every Wednesday night of Lent at 5:30 pm for a time of great food & fellowship.



In January, the Wesley Ringers joined with Basehor United Methodist church to play, "The Bells Must Ring!" a piece they learned at the Bell Conference last summer.

