




RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Phone: 913-682-5374
Educational Bldg.: 913-675-7495
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.

May 2023

30 8:30 & 11:00 Worship 9:45am Sunday School 4:00 pm Bells 6:00 pm youth	1 1:00 pm AIR ministry	2 10 am Bible Study 1 pm Book Club	3 3:45 pm WW 5:30pm 1st Fellowship 6:30 pm Choir	4 8:30am Staff 6:30pm Women's Bible Study	5	6 
7 8:30 & 11:00 All Music Sunday 9:45am Sunday School 4:00 pm Bells	8 1:00 pm AIR Ministries	9 10am Bible Study	10 8:30 am MMO 3:45 pm WW 5:00 pm Grief Group 6:30 pm Choir	11 8:30am Staff 6:30pm Women's Bible Study	12	13
14 Mother's Day 8:30 & 11am Worship	15 1:00 pm AIR Ministries	16 10am Bible Study 2 pm Grief Group	17 3:45 pm WW 6:30 pm Choir	19 8:30am Staff 10 am Itchin' to Stitch 6:30pm Women's Bible Study	20	21
21 Graduation Sunday 8:30am Breakfast 10 am 1 service	22 1:00 pm AIR Ministries	23 10am Bible Study	24 5:00 pm Grief Group 6:30 pm Choir	25 8:30am Staff	26	27 
28 10 am Worship	29 Memorial Day Office closed	30 10am Bible Study	31 6:30 pm Choir	1 8:30am Staff Meeting	2 7 pm Monarch's Baseball game	3 



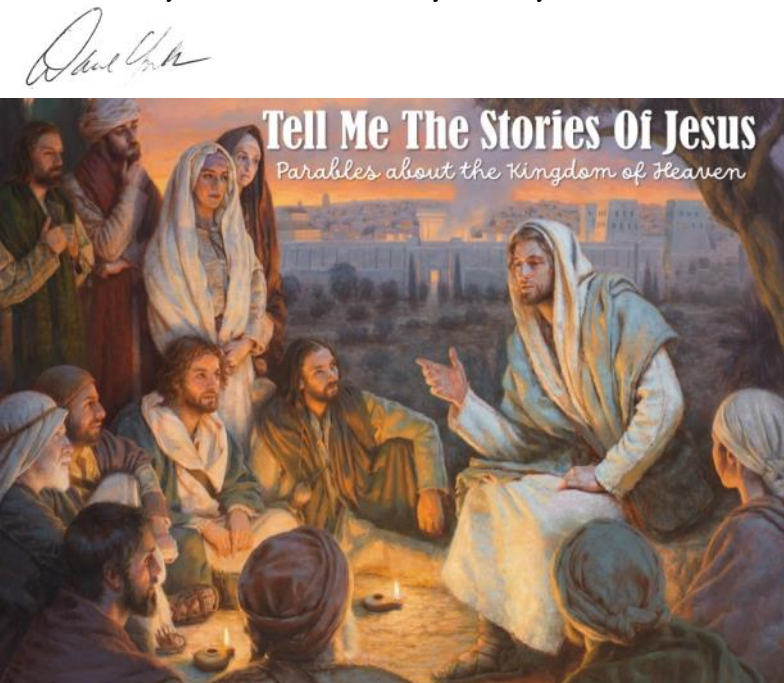


On Sunday, May 21st, six young women in our church family will be confirmed as professing members of First UMC: Breanna Banker, Elleanna Banker, Evie Bremer, Kyra Bremer, Jamie Brettmann, and Lucy Heim. In the United Methodist Church, confirmation is the first time that those who were baptized as infants are publicly professing their faith in Jesus. They are making vows to live faithfully as followers of Jesus and become members of the Church. As Methodists, we believe that baptism is God's faithful covenant action toward us as part of prevenient grace. Infants are baptized members of the church. In confirmation, we respond to God's grace by saying YES to the Lord through our commitments.

Some denominations hold baptism and profession of faith as the same event since they take place simultaneously. We see them as separate acts that mark milestones of our faith journey. Growing in our faith is a lifelong journey so confirmation is another step of faith along the way. This day will mark when these six disciples say, "I own for myself what God, my parents and my church did for me in baptism."

As the church family, we teach, nurture, encourage and model what Christians live like. While all of our efforts are not perfect, we do our best to live in a community of faith. Like any family, we have our struggles and triumphs but we are called by our heavenly Father to live united. Each one of us is gifted to serve in Jesus' name playing a part in the Body of Christ. How do you serve as part of the Church to honor Jesus Christ and love on his behalf?

In the confirmation service, we'll ask the six confirmands to pledge their loyalty to the church through their prayers, presence, gifts, service and witness. The congregation reaffirms our promise we made long ago. Will you join me in recommitting yourselves to the Church and especially to First UMC so that it can be a church home that sends disciples into the world for its transformation! May 21, will be a day of celebration for many as we are reminded of Jesus' words, "As you are going, make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And I will be with you always, even to the end of time" Matthew 28:18-20. SEE YOU FOR THIS BIG DAY!



Pastor Dave's summer sermon series will focus on the parables of Jesus that teach us lessons of particular aspects of the Kingdom. He will look at three specific themes of his stories: Kingdom of Heaven, End Times and Prayer.



MAY Birthdays

1st	Ainslee Frederick Matthew McKinley	15th	Lucien Rader Karen Tish	20th	Sandy Pepper Sheryl Reddell
2nd	Megan Rust	17th	Dinah Zeck	22nd	Penny Bowen
5th	Dean Hamon Sarah Williams	18th	Don Gaffin Isaac Papineau Luke Papineau	23rd	Sarah Lauber
8th	Tammy John	19th	Michael McKinley Cynthia Wepking	25th	Dana Piper
9th	Esther Polson		Bea Yenney	28th	Susanna Banker Vera Hrabak
12th	Natalie Heim Connie Poe		Donna Cade	30th	Jef Peckham
14th	Jan Glick Michael Piper	20th	Rosemary Jacobs		



MAY Anniversaries

18th	Richard & Suzanne Gray	28 years
	Dae & Jennifer Ko	21 years
23rd	David & Christine Varnal	8 years
24th	Jim & Cynthia Walley	48 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, MAY 23, 12:00 pm
BAAN THAI



Kim Baker, a long time member of our congregation, decided to move to Olathe a couple of years ago, after her husband Fred passed away. She loves being close to her sister and her friends from high school. She joined Asbury United Methodist Church, and it wasn't long before she was on the SPRC committee (something she did here too) and United Methodist Women. The thing about FUMC that she misses most? Her Heart and Soul Bible Study. We're hoping she will start her own Heart and Soul at Asbury!



**OPERATION INTERNATIONAL
LEAVENWORTH/LANSING
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE**

Seeking volunteers to
sponsor international officers

For more information
contact Mike Brettmann
913-724-2864 or mjbin@hotmail.com



Operation International of the Leavenworth/Lansing Chamber of Commerce is seeking sponsors for the International Officers attending the Command & General Staff College starting in June. There are 128 officers coming from 99 countries. Each officer has three sponsors assigned, one from Fort Leavenworth, one from Operation International and one from Greater Kansas City People to People. You will probably only meet with your officer three or four times during the year. Just invite them to join your family in an American activity, such as Fourth of July or Thanksgiving. If you are interested please contact Mike Brettmann at 913-724-2864 or mjbin@hotmail.com for more information.



**GRADUATION
SUNDAY
MAY 21
BREAKFAST 8:30 AM
ONE SERVICE 10 AM**



**ONE
SERVICE
MAY 28
10:00 AM**

2023 Confirmations Class



Breanna Banker - 6th grade

"I learned a lot more about the Trinity, and God's love for us. My favorite part of the class was when we burned the palm leaves. I'd recommend this class because it brings different kids your age together and you can see all of their points of view that you never thought about before."



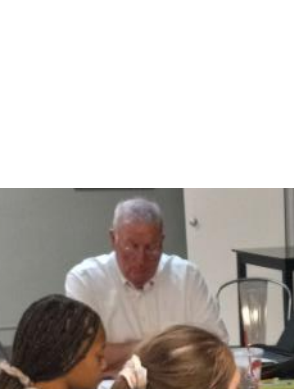
Elleanna Banker - 8th grade

I learned that repentance is a change of mind and soul. My favorite part of Confirmation was learning more about Jesus with other kids my age. I would recommend this class to other kids because you can learn a lot and feel comfortable enough to ask questions.



Evie Bremer - 8th grade

"I have heard that God's love is unconditional but I didn't really put thought into it. I know that God just loves you because he loves you. My favorite part of class was when we got up and did activities like burning the palms from Palm Sunday. I certainly feel Confirmation takes a commitment but you do learn a lot."



Kyra Bremer - 6th grade.

"Confirmation taught me that God loves you because he loves you because he loves you. I enjoyed the videos, They gave me a visible sight of what we are learning about. I learned a lot."



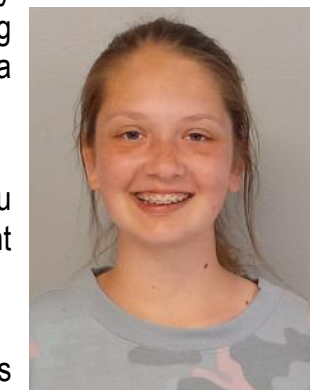
Jamie Brettmann - 8th grade

My favorite part about Confirmation, would be the fact that there are girls my age and we can talk about things relatable. I would recommend it to other kids at my church, because it gives you a chance to talk about your faith with other kids.



Lucy Heim - 6th grade

"I enjoyed the stories that I learned. My favorite was the story of the Father and his two sons. I also learned Bible verses and the explanation of the Trinity. I didn't know much about the Holy Spirit before, and now I do. My favorite part was burning the Palm Sunday leaves and understanding why we do that. I also enjoyed the short videos and thought they were interesting. I would recommend Confirmation. It teaches very valuable stuff and I feel like I know a lot more now than when I started."





Serve It Up!

Serving is a profound expression of the love we have for each other. A true covenant to love our neighbors as ourselves is not give and take, but serve and serve! We ask for nothing in return, for our service stands as our faithful obedience to the greatest of commandments from our Lord and Savior. I had the very distinct honor and privilege to serve along some truly wonderful servants of the Lord, on April 22nd, doing Samaritan's Buffet. When you're a part of an obedient group that spans participants from a six year old to an eighty-six years old, you know you are in the midst of Kingdom building.

There are numerous other ways you can serve throughout the week, as we have numerous mission partners in this community. I ask that each of us pray and ask the Lord where He wants us to use our talents. Here are other opportunities to serve:

The Leavenworth Interfaith Community of Hope Shelter needs volunteers nightly – contact Jim Walley at jwalleyr@gmail.com

Samaritans Buffet needs individuals that will serve and coordinate twice a month– contact Jim Wolfe at jwolfe1@kc.rr.com

The Leavenworth Mission needs volunteers to load and deliver food on Tuesdays – contact Ed Garven at egarven@fumclvks.org

Vacation Bible School needs station & crew leaders, greeters and kitchen workers July 26-30, 9 am to 12 pm contact Nancy Shade at nshade@fumclvks.org.

Trinity House needs volunteers to give out food and clothing to community members in need. Contact Marsha Gaffin for more information at marshagaffin@gmail.com.

We partner with numerous organizations in the area and if you want more information on how you can serve, please contact me at 816-805-4771, my cell phone.

In everything the Lord did on the earth from bread and fish; to healing ailments; to rescuing people from bad situations; to Himself – He blessed it, broke it, and gave it away!

...whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. Philippians 4:8
in Christ, *Ed*

Jesus knew that His hour had come to depart from this world to the Father. Having loved His own who were in the world, He loved them to the end. Now by the time of supper, the Devil had already put it into the heart of Judas, Simon Iscariot's son, to betray Him. Jesus knew that the Father had given everything into His hands, that He had come from God, and that He was going back to God. So He got up from supper, laid aside His robe, took a towel, and tied it around Himself. Next, He poured water into a basin and began to wash His disciples' feet and to dry them with the towel tied around Him. John 13:1-20



SCOUTING GRAND SLAM HIGHLIGHTS

If you have not had the thrill and excitement of Cub Scouts and families during the PINEWOOD DERBY, then you are missing something big in your life. None of this left turn stuff, we are talking the total effects of gravity, graphite lubricant and five ounces of pinewood on plastic wheels. Talk about getting into the groove. Twenty cars hit the new metal track (thank you Tinkler Trustees!) Plenty of food and laughter. We love the timer on the track and you can see the big winners.

You might think it was easy keeping up with youth, but not during city wide clean up. Dr. Claudia McAllaster worked with Henry Chaar, getting to know each other better before heading to Romania in June. Our church covered from FUMC to and around Riverfront Community Center and the County offices. We won't call this a fun day, but Ed Garven made sure there were donuts, hot chocolate and coffee on this freezing morning. Thank you, Ed. We picked up enough trash to fill the back of a pick up truck and take it to the city transfer location.

To finish the month, after the rains, instead of watching the NFL draft, the Scouts camped out. The intent of this camp out was to prepare for summer camp, including packing the trailer, setting up tents, checking the cooking gear and fire and knife safety and practicing the buddy system. We borrowed the church van and drove to Camp Naish to watch an Order of the Arrow "Tap-Out". It was delightful to hear the laughter of our youth. No one from our Scouting Ministry was eligible yet, but perhaps after summer camp and making First Class Scout. It was a beautiful afternoon Then the winds came. The tents held fast but we decided to not have a bonfire.

Next month, May, will be busy as well. Preparing, repairing and packing equipment, Mother's Day, Graduations, and sadly, Scouting families moving. On Memorial Day you're welcome to join the Scouting Ministry to place thousands of flags on the graves at the Leavenworth VA Cemetery across from St Mary University. If you are interested, send an email to billkidder@usa.net and we will let you know when to meet at the flag pole. A Scout is Reverent.

Bill Kidder



Austin and Emily Haddock welcomed Huxton to their family. on April 16. Big sister Halcey is happy to have a brother.

Ryan and Kristen Howell baptized Marsali on April 2.



AIR DEMENTIA MINISTRY

ART * INSPIRATION * RESPITE
FUMCLVKS.ORG/AIR

April 20, our church hosted a community premiere of the film, "Why". The film was produced by the KU Alzheimer's Disease Research Center. The community response was amazing. We had over 200 attendees. It was a glimpse of how this disease has affected our community and of the need for programs like AIR ministry and The Deeper Window Association. The film was full of information about dementia but it also gave personal testimonies from people living with dementia and offered hope. A dementia diagnosis is currently incurable. But as Elaine Belardo, The Deeper Window Association founder says, "Incurable does not mean imminent death: Long before dementia is a disease one dies from, it is a disease one learns to live with."

I learned many things at the event. I learned dementia can be caused by a number of different diseases and each one has unique symptoms, challenges and treatment. I learned that researchers have developed several different new drugs for these diseases that seem to be working well. I learned an early diagnosis and seeking help from community resources is vital.

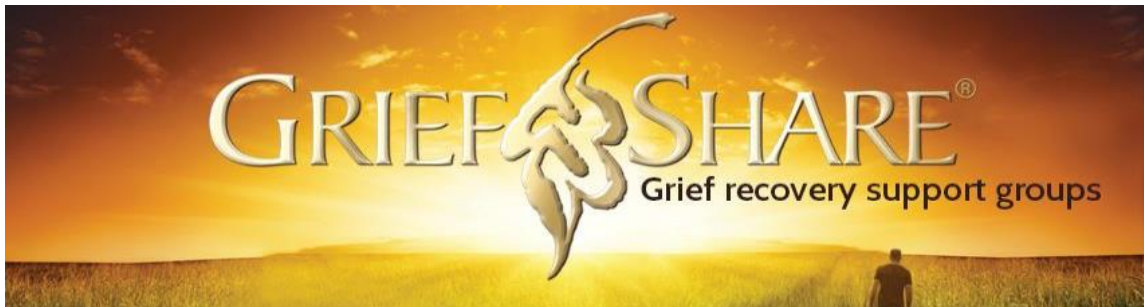
I learned that The KU Alzheimer's Disease Research Center has several programs available to help families living with dementia. My Alliance for Brain Health is a free online service that provides weekly tips, webinars and resources for anyone interested in brain health and dementia prevention. Go to KUMC.EDU/KUADRC and click on Join MyAlliance. You can call (913)588-0555 for more assistance. LEAP (Lifestyle Empowerment for Alzheimer's Prevention) is another online resource. It helps promote healthy habits for boosting brain health. They offer two online courses. Brain Health Boot Camp is a six week course with weekly group zoom coaching calls and video lessons on foundational brain health topics. The Mediterranean Diet Course is a four week course that covers practical eating strategies. It offers weekly recipes, snack ideas and weekly zoom classes on recommended meals. To sign up, go to kubrainhealth.org/leap.

The most encouraging moment of the night for me was when the expert doctors said that they were not worried about our children's contracting Alzheimer's because they were that confident of a cure. Until then, I am grateful to be a part of a church family that is actively working to help people in Leavenworth who are sometimes overlooked. I am thankful for all our AIR ministry volunteers who love on our friends and their caregivers each week.

The KU Research Center is holding events like ours across Kansas. They want to show the film in a setting where people can ask questions and get answers and get connected to community resources. In August, they will release the film on YouTube. When it's released, I will put a link on our church's Facebook page so you can view the film or share with other people who were not able to come to the event. *Sandy Wood*

May Schedule

-  **May 1 - Cinco De Mayo Fiesta**
-  **May 8 - Wild West Day**
-  **May 15 - Garden Day**
-  **May 22 - National Strawberry Day**
-  **May 29 - Memorial Day - NO AIR**



For me, April was a very intense month. Two beloved friends passed away, followed by Holy Week where our church re-enacted our Savior's last week on earth before he was crucified. By the time we celebrated His resurrection, I was a worn out hot mess. Grief is hard. It takes a huge toll on the body, both physical and spiritual. At my age it's hard to bounce back from such emotional strain. It caused me to stop and consider. How do people cope with loss and grief if they don't have the resurrection as part of their story?

"We don't want you to be uninformed, brothers and sisters, about those who have died, so that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope." Paul writes these words in Thessalonians 4:13. This is how Pastor Dave began his current sermon series, and immediately identified what makes believers different. **HOPE.** A small word that makes all the difference.

We have to acknowledge that grief happens when someone we love dies. It's an empty, hollow feeling that affects our soul. Your life was built around them, now you have to move forward without them. This isn't what God intended for us. We were designed to live eternally, but sin changed that. The "new normal" isn't normal at all.

As Christians we believe in the resurrection, life everlasting and Heaven. But right now, right here, we are suffering with a loss of life that was severed from us. It's one of the most painful and challenging of all human experiences. We deeply grieve when we deeply loved.

But the resurrection is the foundation of our hope. All of our questions are answered at the empty tomb. We know that death is not the end. It is actually the beginning. We will be united forever with those we love, and I never have to worry that this is all there is because there's so much more waiting for us. Meanwhile, until it's our turn to meet our loved ones again, we continue to live with hope, knowing that we still have a mission and purpose here, but unafraid of what happens next. God's got so much in store for us that we can't imagine how wonderful it will be. We won't want to be anywhere else, that's the promise of Heaven.

So, next time you recite the Apostles Creed shout it out: we believe in the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body and the life everlasting. AMEN!

Thanks for the reminder, Pastor Dave. Rock on! *Marsha Gaffin*



MAY COLLECTION ITEMS:
SOAP, DEODORANT,
SHAMPOO & CONDITIONER



Starting April 2023, The HUB opened up a community shower for their neighbors on Monday mornings. Neighbors are offered coffee, snacks & TV while they wait for their turn in line. They can also shop for a fresh set of clothes in their clothing closet. They will also get to take a hygiene kit for the road. Your donations of soap, deodorant, shampoo and conditioner will be used for this unique and important service.

Stronghold Community Food Pantry is designed to help military families serving in Ft. Leavenworth that may need extra help with groceries. They accept donations of cereal, peanut butter, jelly, canned vegetables, soup, tuna, pasta, pasta sauce, rice and other pantry type items. Donations can be placed in the plastic tub in the church foyer. Thank you for your support.





Kids First Worship meets during the 11:00 service in the Fellowship Hall each Sunday. In May we will focus on the Holy Spirit.
 May 7 – HOLY SPIRIT: Creates
 May 14 – HOLY SPIRIT: Equips
 May 21 – HOLY SPIRIT: Comes!
 May 28 – HOLY SPIRIT: Empowers



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!

May 3 – Holy Spirit: Pentecost
 May 10 – Holy Spirit: Gifts of the Spirit
 May 17 – Holy Spirit: Fruit of the Spirit

Wonderful Wednesday will take a break for the summer and resume in August!!



Sunday School meets on Sunday mornings from 9:45 – 10:40. 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. We will be going on a deeper dive into the Holy Spirit during the month of May



Volunteers needed for a stellar event

July 24-28 from 9:00 – Noon

Contact Nancy at nshade@fumclvks.org to help



Fusion 56 and The Bridge:
Special groups for our older kids to continue to mature in their faith. Fusion 56 is for 5th and 6th graders and The Bridge is for 7th and 8th graders. Coming June 2023!!



Juneteenth Celebration

June 19, has been the day of celebration by African Americans because it was the middle of June, 1865, when the enslaved black people in Texas found out about the Emancipation Proclamation, which freed them, was signed by President Lincoln 2 years earlier. Juneteenth celebrations originated in former slave holding states. As former slaves migrated north, the celebrations spread to northern states, and eventually throughout our country.

The word "Juneteenth" is blend of the words June and nineteenth. The holiday is referred to as "Freedom Day" because it is when all Americans were finally free. June 19th is now a federal holiday.

The Leavenworth NAACP strongly believes that sharing traditions with fellow community members create strong bonds that transcend differences. This year's celebration will include a parade followed by a festival at Haymarket Square on Saturday, June 17th, at 6:45 pm. The festival will include traditional Juneteenth red foods, games, community group information booths, craft and food vendors, and live music. There will be fun for all ages!

Dear First United Methodist church,

Thank you very much for Haysley's blanket! We will get a lot of use out of it. It is perfect for tummy time. Thank you, Janlynn & Haysley Glick

Dear Kathi, Carla, Claudia, LeaAnn, Teresa and Bill,

Thank you for taking time to serve my family and family of friends after Ollie's service. You are each very special people for dedicating yourselves in service to others.

With fondness,
 Kathryn West



Dear FUMC Stitchers,
 What a delightful, thoughtful and practical gift - my new walker bag! Special thanks to all the sewing ladies who make these beautiful gifts.

Lorna



Dear FUMC family,

Thank you for hosting the Maundy Thursday dinner and entertainment. The meal was delicious and the fellowship was delightful.

With a grateful heart,
 Kathryn West



Dear Pastor York, FUMC staff and volunteers,

Thank you so very much for your care of the Anderson family during this season of grieving.

I am a cousin of Kari's from Texas. Your congregation's attention to detail and hospitality was very much appreciated and noted!

The meal provided for the family after the memorial service was delicious. I felt the love and care from the servers. It was a very special time and I was sorry that I needed to leave early to catch my flight.

My father was thankful for the elevator as he is physically unable to do stairs.

My heart was grieving, yet overflowing with loving compassion your body representing Christ lavished on the Andersons and their extended family.

Well done, servants of the living God! Many thanks also to the parking helpers! With much love and respect,
 Auzzy Valadez



SPIRE WOMEN'S CONFERENCE

On April 21, ten women from FUMCL drove to Kansas City, Kansas to attend an ASPIRE conference. Many years ago, there was a touring women's conference called "Women of Faith" that would meet in sold out arenas to provide Bible teaching, music, and humor. As the time for "Women of Faith" came to a close, the people responsible for coordinating it prayed for a new vision to serve women. The result was ASPIRE, which was similar in that it also had Bible teaching, music, and humor. The difference was, they wanted it to be just one night, and they also wanted it to be a more intimate setting. Instead of filling arenas, the evening would take place in a local church. It is billed as a one-night women's event full of laughter, learning, stories & music with a Bible Teacher, a comedian and a musician.

The Bible Teacher for this conference was Melissa Spoelstra. Both the Ladies Bible Study and Heart and Soul Bible Study have done many of her Bible studies and were excited to get to see and hear her in person. When we arrived, we learned the worship leader was in a major car accident two days before, and the comedian had gone to the Emergency Room with her husband the night before. Melissa really stepped up and delivered a powerful message from the Gospel of John. Part of the Praise Team from the host church stepped in and provided uplifting and beautiful worship music for us.

Sherry Lauber said, "Melissa Spoelstra is my favorite women's Bible study author and it was great having the opportunity to experience her teachings in person. I enjoyed her discussion on the book of John. Jesus didn't come to give us a "bummer" life. He came to give us an abundant one. God wants us to have peace in our souls even if our circumstances aren't peaceful. Melissa said, "Pressure in life is inevitable; persevering is optional."

Marti Crow said, "I enjoyed the fellowship with other women from different churches. Melissa Spoelstra was a good leader. Our little group had a nice time on the trip to and from the event getting better acquainted."



Church is not a place you go.....It is a family.

We share the good times and the bad times with each other. We are always looking for new good news stories to share about our church family. If you have good news to share or have a story idea, please contact Sandy Wood at swood@fumclvks.org.



Pursuing Excellence in Education

Sheldi Banker, has been selected to participate in Greenbush's Teacher-Leader Cadre during the 2022-2023 school year. This program is designed to provide support and encouragement to exceptional teachers who demonstrate strong leadership skills, instructional practices, and professional relationships. Sheldi will have the opportunity to learn and collaborate with other highly motivated educators to take their teaching skills to the next level. This kind of training is crucial in helping our teachers continue to grow and excel in their roles.

+ GOD' LOVE IN ACTION

Holy Week was such a special time at the church. This year at Thank Goodness it's Good Friday (TGIGF) we got to share the entire story with kids ages 4 years through 6th grade. We read the stories from the Bible, did science experiments, made artwork and even our snacks were centered around the story of Jesus' last week on earth. All through the day I was reminded that the story of Jesus and what he was willing to do for us is powerful and riveting, no matter how old you are.

I watched a group of pre-school children watching an age-appropriate video portraying the story and each one of them was focused intently the entire time. Pam Hubbert was the adult leader for the Pre-school group and said, "I loved and enjoyed all the children. It was a fun day. Seeing them engaged in Jesus' story of love and sacrifice filled my cup to overflowing! Most of them already knew the story but still listened. Joy!!"

The Kindergarten and 1st grade group, led by Brian Wood talked about how the treatment of Jesus by the religious leaders was "not fair!" They also took about 3 seconds to find all their eggs during the Easter Egg hunt! (Maybe a slight exaggeration, but not much!)

The 2nd and 3rd grade group was our largest group. Led by Marti Crow (who stepped in at the last minute...thanks Marti!), they really enjoyed making the crafts. They made beautiful crosses with oil pastels and black paper. They were also fascinated by the "empty" resurrection rolls they made during snack and got to eat for dessert at lunch time.

The Upper Elementary Group (4th – 6th grade), led by Jim Wolfe and Kathi LaMoe, really dug in to the story. Many of them knew most of the facts already, but were able to discern layers of meaning. When questioned about why the religious leaders and Pontius Pilate chose their reactions to Jesus and the actions to take against him, the group understood that these leaders felt their power being threatened. Their morning art was a wooden cross. They wrote things they have done that are wrong on the cross with sharpie. They then covered the "sins" with spackling compound and mosaic tiles, representing how Jesus covers our sins.

One of the most precious moments of the day was during the egg hunt in the afternoon. We had some extra eggs and a group was sent out to find one each. They all found one, except one little girl. One of the other girls in the group came to me, pulled a small pink egg out of her own bag and whispered, "I'm going to hide this egg for her." She did so, and then called the other little girl over shouting, "I found one! I found one!" The other little girl ran over, picked up the egg and said, "Thank you!" with a huge smile on her face. That would be enough for a great and lovely story of God's children loving one another. But there's more! Not two minutes later, I watched the little girl who had gotten the egg take a purple one out of her bag, and give it to the little girl who had helped her, to say "Thank you." Church family: That is what we in Children's Ministry call a "Glory Sighting", seeing the love of God in action. *Nancy Shade*





This month we welcome Adam and Cindy Bremer and their four daughters. Cindy is a Design Engineering Manager at Kiewit in Lenexa, KS. Adam is a substitute teacher for the Lansing School District. They both enjoy cheering on the girls at their soccer games. Cindy cheers from the sideline while Adam coaches all four teams! They enjoy gardening and all sorts of DIY projects. Adam is an avid woodworker. They are big fans of Sporting KC soccer. They have been taking as many trips as possible to National Parks. They made it to nine parks last year and will make it to at least six more this year. Mammoth Cave is the most recent Park they visited.

Evie is in 8th grade. Evie plays soccer, plays the trumpet in the school band, and participates in the book club and peer leadership at school. She loves reading and spending time with her friends. She's been teaching herself to play the piano. Evie loves animals and cares for her pet parakeets, Sundrop and Pearl. Kyra is in 6th grade. Kyra also plays soccer, and plays the trumpet in the school band. She also sings in the choir. Kyra enjoys drawing (always cute things!) and she's been learning to bake. Naya is in 3rd grade. Naya plays soccer, basketball, and competes with the swim team in the summertime. Naya enjoys playing outside and taking care of our chickens. She also enjoys reading, and getting up early on Saturday morning to watch cartoons. Lila is in 1st grade. Lila plays soccer and will join the swim team this summer. Lila enjoys playing outside, especially drawing with chalk, jumping on the trampoline, and playing on swings. Lila loves reading and has also taken an interest in looking after the chickens. Adam and Cindy said, "The congregation has been very welcoming. Naya and Lila really enjoy the Sunday School class, and Evie and Kyra have been learning a lot in the confirmation class." Welcome to the family!

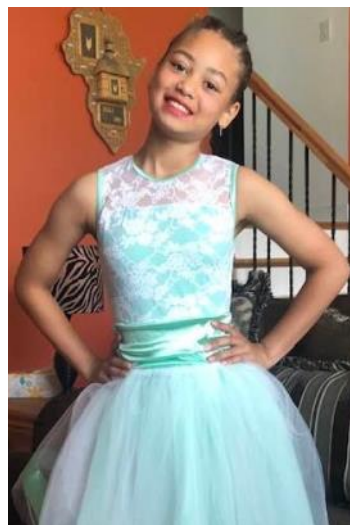


Our student of the month is Jamie Brettmann. Jamie is an 8th grader at Lansing Middle school who has been attending our church since birth. In her free-time, Jamie participates in several different extracurricular activities, including soccer, dance, golf, swim and band, where she has played the trumpet since 6th grade.

Jamie has been playing soccer almost her entire life, starting when she was 4 years old. Her favorite thing to do in soccer is to scrimmage or go against other teams and being competitive because it's the most active thing she does on the field and she gets the most challenge out of shooting the goal.

She also got an early start with dance at age 6 and after some years away has recently picked it back up last year. She dances ballet and enjoys how classical it is and how nice the music sounds. Jamie has been taking golf lessons for two years and is about to start short tournaments. In swimming, which Jamie has done since last summer, she competes in freestyle, backstroke and relay team.

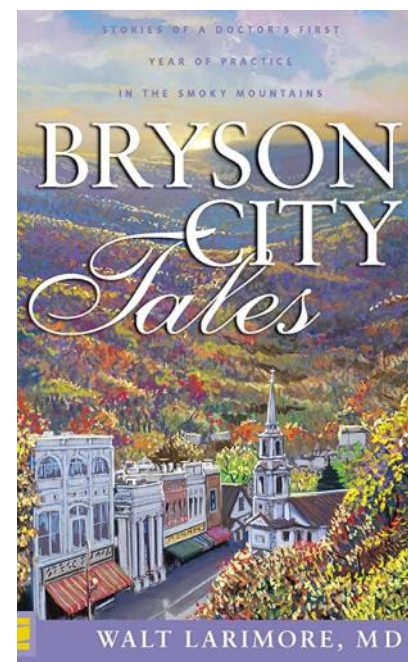
In August, Jamie and her parents, Michael and Catherine, visited Sweden and Germany. They enjoy traveling and spending time outdoors together.



Itchin' to Stitch

The Ladies from Itchin' to Stitch have been busy! In April they delivered fifteen quilts to Joy Meadows Foster Care Services. These quilts will go to children who are turning 18 and are aging out of the program. It will give them a tangible reminder that they are loved. Each quilt took hours of individual personal time to complete.

Working as a team, Itchin' to Stitch has been creating book bags for 27 Ukrainian orphans that are living in the Nehemiah House in Romania. Our church has a mission team going to visit them in June and they will hand deliver the bags. Each bag reflects the child's interest. Pictured are name tags that Kristi Edington has made for each bag. They will finish this project on **May 18 at 10 am in the Fellowship Hall**. They will work in pairs ironing and sewing. Sewing machines and irons are needed. Please bring a sack lunch. If you would like more information about how you can use your sewing skills to help our community, contact Teresa Hicks at hickst@kc.rr.com.



If you love to read, you're invited to join the Book Club. We'll meet **June 6, at 1 pm in Wesley Hall** to discuss "Bryson City Tales" by Walt Larimore, MD. The mountain hamlet of Bryson City, North Carolina, offers more than dazzling vistas. For Walt Larimore, a young "flatlander" physician setting up his first practice, the town presents its peculiar challenges as well. With the winsomeness of a James Herriott book, Bryson City Tales sweeps you into a world of colorful characters, the texture of Smoky Mountain life, and the warmth, humor, quirks, and struggles of a small country town.

It's a world where the family doctor is also the emergency physician, the coroner, and the obstetrician, and where wilderness medicine is part of the job, search and rescue calls in the national forest are a way of life, and the next patient just may be somebody's livestock or pet.

Bryson City Tales is the tender and insightful chronicle of a young man's rite of passage from medical student to family physician. Laughter and adventure await you in these pages, and lessons learned from Bryson City's unforgettable residents.



Loving our Neighbors as ourselves

April 30, was Blue Sunday, a day of prayer for neglected and abused children. Deborah Liles, the volunteer coordinator for CASA visited with me about how they are helping children in Leavenworth and Atchison county.

CASA stands for Court Appointed Special Advocates. A judge actually assigns a child a CASA volunteer when they feel the child has been abused or neglected and needs someone to be the child's eyes and ears while the child is in the judicial system. Judge Wiley said, "Services CASA provides to the domestic court are necessary, generally invaluable, and difficult if not impossible to replace."

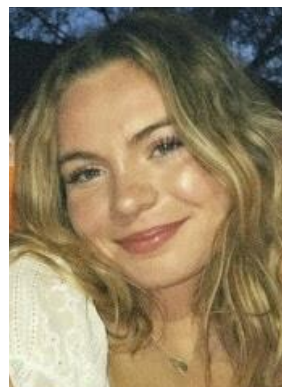
There are 3 different types of volunteers through the CASA program. The first type is the CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocate). This position requires 30 hours of specialized training over an eight week period. A CASA volunteer works with the child they are assigned by attending court dates, meeting with foster care agencies, working with the Kansas Department for Children and Families, keeping records for use by the court. Currently there are 23 CASA volunteers in Leavenworth and Atchison county. Last year, those volunteers worked over 5,000 hours, so the need for more volunteers to help is great.

The second type of volunteer needed at CASA is the Child Exchange and Visitation Center monitors. They provide a safe environment for children and parents to visit. These volunteers need 15 hours of training. Leavenworth and Atchison county CASA volunteers monitored over 400 children last year.

The third type of volunteers does not require training and it involves helping in the office or with fund raisers or special events. Speaking of fund raisers....CASA will hold a fund raiser on May 5, called Nite at the Races at the Riverfront Community Center. They will also hold a Super Hero Fun Run on August 26.

CASA offers three parenting classes to our community. "General Responsibilities for Separating Parents" (GRASP) is a class that may be court mandated for parents who need strategies to raise their children through the divorce process. "Love and Logic: Adults Supporting Youth with Challenging Pasts" is often a court mandated class for children with a traumatic past when the child is transitioning back into the home. "Parenting in the Twenty First Century" is a class that helps parents and caregivers focus on the different dynamics of the family structure. This class may be court mandated, but is also available to the general public.

Deborah Liles said, "The best thing that could happen is for us to be out of a job. What a day of celebration that would be. But until then, we will continue to help children in need." If you would like more information about CASA, check out their website, casalvks.org.



Congratulations!

Hannah Banker is graduating from Lansing High School. She was in scholars bowl, "White Christmas: The Musical" and "Leaving Iowa". She enjoys helping with Samaritan's Buffet and VBS. She enjoyed Wonderful Wednesdays when she was little. She plans to study to become an upper elementary school teacher. She would like to thank her family for always loving and supporting her through everything.

Wyatt Brown is graduating from Lansing High School. He was active in band, wrestling, tennis, cross country, National Honor Society, and KAYS club. He enjoyed helping out with VBS, the Fusion 56 trip to Wisconsin and playing Spark Lightspeed in the children's Christmas program. He plans to attend KCKCC on the Honors Presidential Scholarship then to transfer to a four year college and pursue a career in health care. Thanks to Miss Nancy for being her awesome and caring self all the time. Also thank you to all the pastors and youth leaders I've had over the years.

Steven Glick is graduating from Leavenworth High School. He will be attending KCKCC in the fall.

Lauren Emily Hooser is graduating from Lansing High School. She was involved in band, State and District honor choirs, color guard, the first Lion's Women's Wrestling Team. She was Freshman Homecoming Princess. Her favorite church memory was when she went to Wisconsin for a mission trip and got to eat good cheese. She would like to be a phlebotomist. She would like to thank Miss Nancy, Kristen and Steven.

Lindsay McKinley is graduating from Leavenworth High School. She has been involved in basketball, track, yearbook, student council, and senior class cabinet. She remembers playing hide and seek as a kid in the church after Wonderful Wednesdays and hiding under pews in the sanctuary. She plans to attend the University of Kansas and pursue a degree in Marketing. She would like to thank her parents for always being a shoulder to lean on and her church family for all the love and support they have shown her throughout her life.

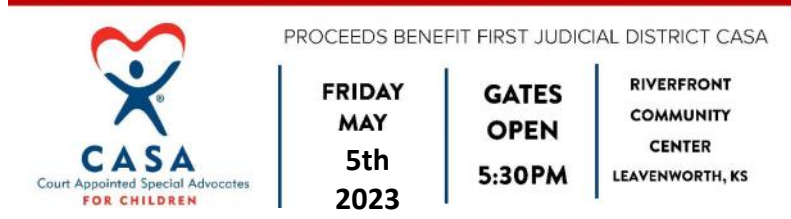
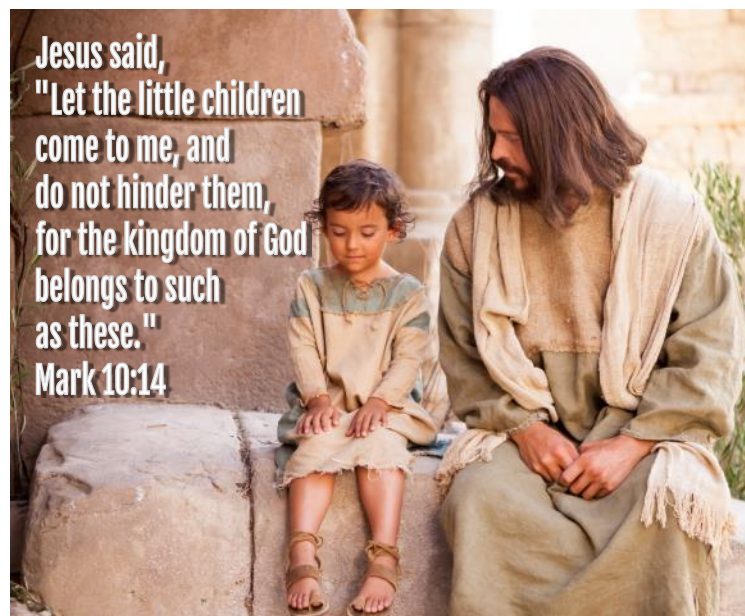
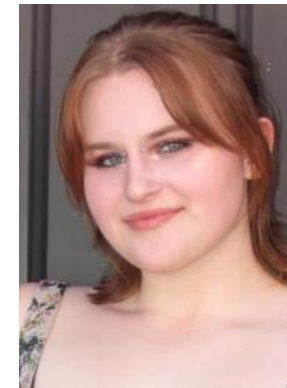
Alayna Parvin is graduating from Lansing High School. She participated in band, National, State and District honor choirs, many theatrical performances, swim team, & powerlifting. She's competing in the International Thespian Festival this summer. She's been on the church's praise team since 2019. She'll be studying music at Baker University. She'd like to thank her family and her church family.

Aidan Johnson is graduating from Leavenworth High School. He's a Horizon Scholar and Governor's Scholar. He was an officer in the Chess Club and on the team that took 2nd in State 5A this year. He competed in Powerlifting all four years. He had a role in the church Christmas musical "Cake". He said, "I didn't really want to do it, but I stuck with it and in the end, I was a big hit and everyone loved his portrayal of the "hungry" character." He is heading to St. Louis University on a scholarship to study Computer Science. Aidan plans on building a career in web design and continuing bodybuilding and hopes to inspire others to live healthier lives. He'd like to thank his Dad, who got him involved in church activities, and taught him a lot about being a good person and embracing the Holy Spirit.

Carolann Perry is graduating from the University of Arkansas with a degree in Supply Chain Management. She has accepted a position with Lowes headquarters in North Carolina as an Inventory Replenishment Senior Specialist following her internship there last summer.

Robert McKinley is graduating from Kansas State University with a Bachelor of Science in Psychology.

CLASS OF 2023



HOLY WEEK @ FUMC

Holy week started off with a rousing Palm Sunday service.



The staff cooked a delicious meal for our Maundy Thursday service that featured foot washing, scripture, music and Communion. We had a great crowd!



Good Friday featured the choir and drama, "Have You Seen My Son?"



Thirteen ladies came out for lunch. Our next Ladies Lunch is May 23 at Baan Thai.



Special thanks to our garden crew who have trimmed the roses and planted flowers in our entryway. Marti Crow, Carla Hamon, Rosemary Jacobs, Dr. Claudia McAllaster, Nanci Smith, and Steve Scrimsher