



First United Methodist Church
of
Leavenworth
422 Chestnut, Leavenworth, KS 66048
913-682-5374 **FUMCLVKS.ORG**




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](https://www.FUMCLVKS.ORG)
Sunday services stream at either site.

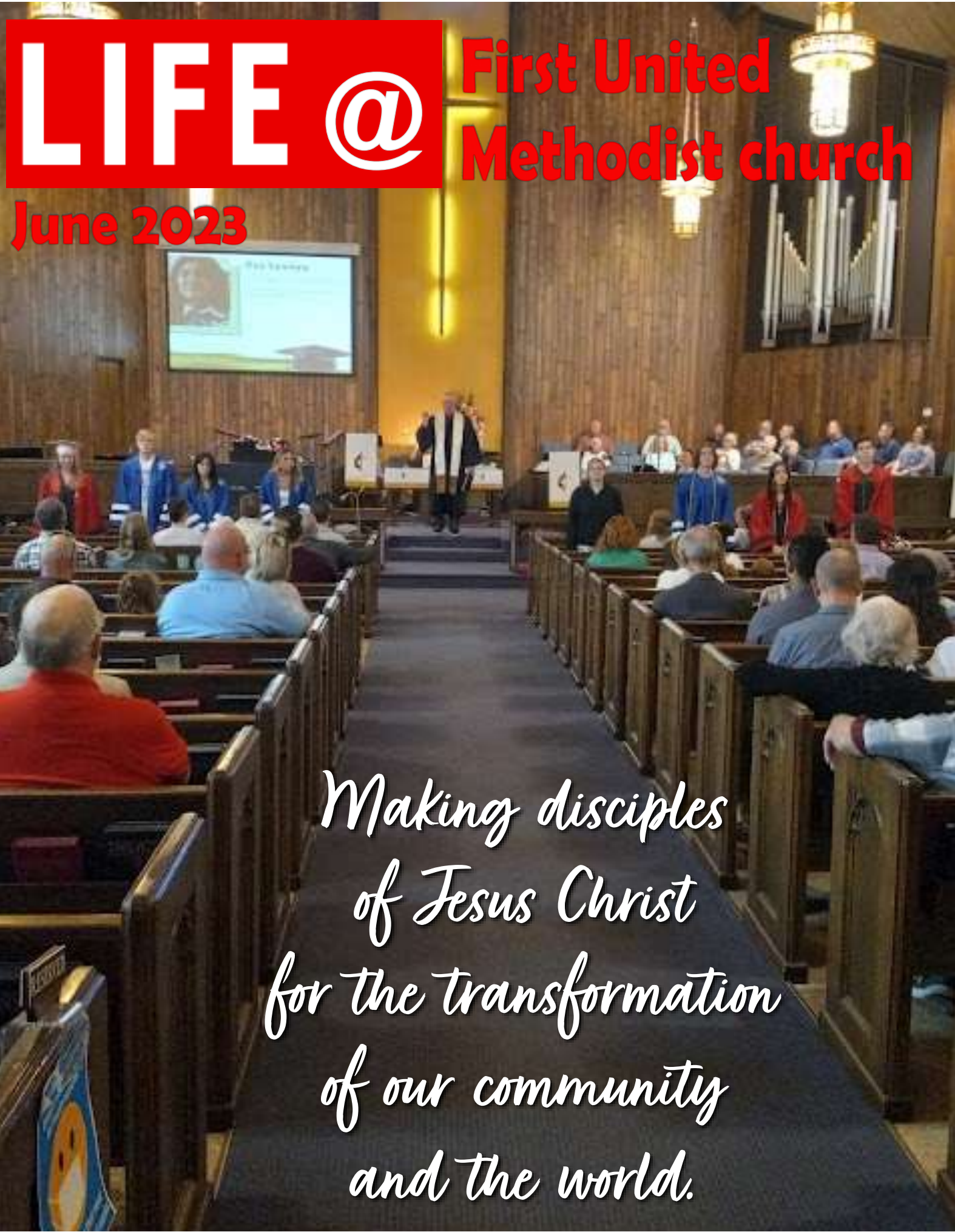
June 2023

28 10:00 Worship	29 Memorial Day Church office closed	30 6:30 pm Bible Study	31 6:30 pm Choir	1 8:30am Staff	2 Monarch's Baseball Game	3 
4 8:30 am Worship 9:45 am Sunday School 11:00 am Worship	5 1:00 pm AIR Ministries	6 1:00 pm Book Club 6:30 pm Bible Study	7 Block Party Potluck 6:30 pm Choir Annual Conference	8 8:30am Staff Annual Conference	9 Annual Conference	10
11 Scholarship Sunday 8:30 am Worship 9:45 am Sunday School 11:00 am Worship	12 1:00 pm AIR Ministries Mission trip leaves	13 6:30 pm Bible Study	14 5:00 pm Grief Group	15 8:30am Staff	16 EJI Historical Marker Dedication 6:30 pm	17 Juneteenth Sweet Exchange Bake Sale
18 Father's Day 9:00 am Sunday School 10:00 am Worship 11:00 am Fusion 56	19 Juneteenth Church Office closed	20 2 pm Grief Group 6:30 pm Bible Study Mission Trip returns	21 12 pm Ladies Lunch Tin Kitchen	22 8:30am Staff	23 Leavenworth Attainable Housing Sleepout	24 Music Academy Recital 
25 9:00 am Sunday School 10:00 am Worship 11:00 am Lunch Bunch	26 1:00 pm AIR Ministries	27 6:30 pm Bible Study	28 5:00 pm Grief Group 6:30 pm Choir	29 8:30am Staff Meeting	30	1 

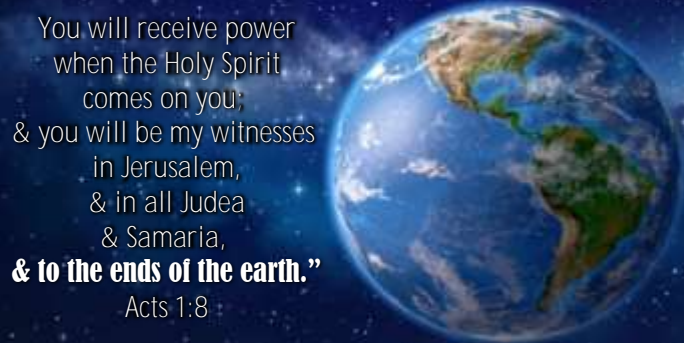
LIFE @

First United Methodist church

June 2023



Making disciples
of Jesus Christ
for the transformation
of our community
and the world.



I've been looking at my calendar for June and it is full! I am trying to strike the word, "busy" from my vocabulary. Busy reminds me of being hectic and hurried. Full is engaged and being used for a purpose. It's really about setting an attitude or maybe I'm just kidding myself.

June is a rare ministry month for me. I'll be out of town for Annual Conference in LaVista, NE and our mission trip to Romania. That's fourteen of the thirty days. While Rhonda may enjoy the break from me, it is weird to think of ministry taking me away from home that much. Then, I think about what Jesus said to the Disciples recorded in Acts 1, "You will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria and the end of the earth." Part of what I'll be doing is being sent out as your witness of what God does through the Great Plains Conference (KS and NE) and in Romania. I'll be able to hear, see, and tell others what God has done and is doing. That's exciting to me. I may not like sleeping in other beds as much as my own, but it is a small price to pay for God's calling. We are called to "make disciples of all nations," which is hard to do from your own house.

I consider this type of work BOTH/AND ministry. My calling to pastoral ministry is here with you in our local context. It is important to be the Church in our corner of the world. Also, we must remember, as Methodists, we are connected to a larger Church that is world-wide in nature. God is alive and well in other churches that we need to know and experience. I believe that keeping focus externally helps us remain healthier as a church. It's so easy to get near-sighted with our issues and problems that we forget to lift our eyes and see what God is doing. I hope that on our return from AC and Romania, we'll be changed by all that God has done - to become disciples through our prayers, presence, gifts, service, and witness. That is the membership promise we make when we join FUMCL. My prayer for you is that wherever God takes you in June, if it is around the world or around the block, you will hear, see and tell how good God is through our Lord Jesus Christ!

Pastor Dave



Jasen and Christina Little baptized all four children, Maelyn, Evie, Nikolas and Elsie on May 28. Christina's brother and sister-in-law, also the god parents, traveled from Phoenix to attend the baptism.

Starting June 18, we will be uniting the church with one service over the summer at 10 am. Worship styles will alternate over the summer. We'll go back to two services on August 6.



JUNE Birthdays

4th	Norma Moore	13th	Bethany Bond	23rd	Shari Hansen
5th	Debbie Gebhardt		Marguerite Hilscher		Rick Hansen
6th	Brenda Sheumaker		Mirinda Lowery		Madison Martin
7th	Hank Keller	14th	Jeff John	24th	Erika Tebbetts
	Dale Roller	15th	Patti Edington		Tim Yenney
8th	June Baker		Scott Glick	25th	Anya Anderson
	Shirley Nyhart	18th	Libby Frashier		Jonas Anderson
	Steve Simms		Kelsi Ko	26th	Divya Hopkins
9th	Steven Glick		Alyssa Wiegers	28th	Megan Briggs
	Jim Kinard	19th	Carolann Perry		Robyn Kellogg
10th	Karyn Dawson	20th	Bill Bay	29th	Frances Marshall
11th	Virginia Perry		Gene Pepper	30th	Donna Ramsey
12th	Sophie McNeill	22nd	Carla Hamon		
	Zack Short	23rd	Sheila Bailey		



JUNE Anniversaries

3rd	Norman & Nancy Dawson	67 years
6th	Colvin & Karen Hooser	36 years
	Bob & Linda Landzettel	41 years
8th	Bob & Mary Seymour	54 years
9th	Chris & Christine Owens Eckley	5 years
	Mark & Somer Stuhlsatz	22 years
	Brian & Cynthia Wepking	39 years
10th	Arlen & Michelle Briggs	34 years
14th	Roy & Sandy Davis	53 years
	Dan & Sonia Wiley	37 years
	Brian & Sandy Wood	36 years
20th	Steve & Brenda Coats	36 years
	Chet & Stacey Cole	25 years
25th	Gene & Sandy Pepper	40 years
26th	Jim & Kaki Kinard	52 years
29th	Bob & Joan Atwell	71 years

If we missed your birthday or anniversary, please contact the office so we can update our records.
swood@fumclvks.org

UPCOMING Events



JUNE 7
5:30 PM

FIRST FAMILY
FELLOWSHIP

Bring your favorite picnic food
and invite your friends!



WED. JUNE 21, 12:00 pm
TIN KITCHEN IN WESTON

Dear AIR ministry and FUMC family,
Thank you for the delicious snack bags. They really went over well and were the perfect mid-week treat.
Staff at Earl Lawson Early Education

Dear FUMC Family,
We are so gratefully touched by the numerous amount of help we've received during this difficult time. We wanted to thank all those who helped clean out the shed and garage by sorting out the numerous tools and other items. We also wanted to thank those who helped with the garage sale. The sale went really well and we are so grateful. Again, thank you to one and all
The Yenneys

Dear Ms. Nancy (and all who helped!)
I hope you know what a blessing you have been to me, my kids and our whole family in our short time here at Leavenworth. If the Army has taught me one thing - it's not where God send us, but WHO he places in our lives that make each place we get to call home so treasured and special. You are all part of that WHO and I am so very thankful from the bottom of my heart for everything big and small.
With love,
Katie, Tyler, Addie, Jack, Bennett & Charlie Thornton

Dear Friends,
Thank you for your very generous donation to the Backpack Buddies. Your gift will provide weekend food for 25 Leavenworth school children for a full year. We realize there are many worthwhile charities and are grateful for your support of our program.
Sincerely, Ruth Kenton

Thank you to everyone who worked so hard on the church landscaping. Your hard work has made this a beautiful place to worship.
Lovingly, Your Church Family

Relaxation & Meditation

with Samantha Holmes

June 13

2 pm

Council on Aging

711 Marshall, Suite 100



St. Vincent's Clinic

COLLECTING:

LIP BALM

SUNSCREEN

BUG SPRAY

BOTTLED WATER


ELECTROLYTE PACKETS



BOOK CLUB

AUGUST 1

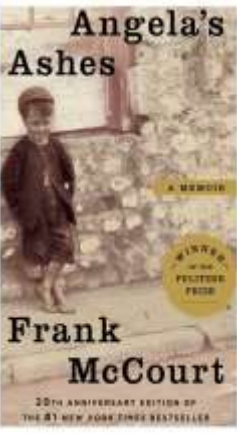
1:00 PM



Angela's Ashes

Frank McCourt

20th Anniversary Edition



Dear Itchin' to Stitch,
Thank you for the most beautiful quilts! Graduating foster children will treasure their quilt for a lifetime. We pray that their quilt will remind them that they are cherished. We are grateful for your most generous gift.
Blessings, The Joy Meadows Team.

Dear Methodist friends,
Every week I call my sister and she tells me what's going on in Arizona and I tell her what the Leavenworth news is. Once describing the block I live on, I said, "I don't know what the Methodists do in that Education building." and she said, "They do good!" I didn't realize that good included detective work in solving keys left in the car doors or walking half a block to load 2 big boxes of laundry into my truck before going into the office. Bless your patience and kindness. You do good!
Mary Theresa Lee (From the Carnegie Apts)

Dear Pastor York & the whole FUMC Community,
Thank you for welcoming me into your church home, helping us raise awareness about the Alliance and your generous Easter offering gift. Once again you exceeded my wildest expectations & your gift arrived when it was most needed. Some grant reimbursement funds were delayed. Your unexpectedly large check made me feel a lot better about cash flow.
With gratitude,
Mike Trapp, Alliance Against Family Violence

Dear First Methodist church,
Thank you all so much for your generous donation. Your support means so much to us and truly allows us to continue serving those in need in our community.
Have a blessed week.
Sincerely,
Jennifer Christensen, Community of Hope



TAKE ME OUT TO THE BALL GAME!
Marguerite Hilscher has loved baseball since she was a little girl. She wanted to be a bat boy, but they didn't let girls be bat boys when she was little. They didn't even have girls' baseball teams. But she loved to play at church and in her neighborhood. She always wanted to play first baseman.

Her parents would take her to Ray Miller park on the VA campus to watch the Leavenworth Braves play. They were a class D team for the Boston Braves. She and her brother also loved to go to the Kansas City Blues games. They were a AAA team for the Yankees, so some of the Yankees played there.
When she was older, she met Charlie Hilscher at the Grange Dance. He loved baseball as well. At the time, Lansing didn't have a Little League team, so Charlie organized a meeting at the old baseball field in Lansing. The Fire Department sits on that location now. Forty boys showed up to play, so Charlie began organizing games with Jarbalo, Easton, Basehor and any small town that he could get to play.

One of the years Charlie coached Little League, Scott Bailes played on his team. When Scott grew up he played for the Cleveland Indians. Charlie and Marguerite went to a Royals game when they were playing Cleveland and Charlie recognized Scott because he said, "I know the way he throws." They were able to talk to Scott after the game and Scott said, "I look for you every time we play in Kansas City."

Charlie also coached pony leagues and the Leavenworth Travelers American Legion Team. He worked hard to get the best players for his team. The photo to the side is of Charlie and his prison baseball team, the Colts, in 1962. He coached for both the State and Federal prisons.

Marguerite was a great choice to lead our trip to see the Monarchs play baseball because as she said, "I grew up in the bleachers." (And she loves the hot dogs!) 🌭 😊





Greetings and love to all.

The global mission trip to Nehemiah House Orphanage in Romania is starting June 12. Twelve brave and focused missionaries are embarking on a life-changing event to **bring love and support to 27 Ukrainian orphans thousands of miles away.** While they're on their mission, we will send out a daily text of their activities so you can include them in your prayers. Upon their return they will share their testimonies and stories culminating in a Night of Inspiration on August 12 in Fellowship Hall. Please include in your prayers:

Dave York	Mike Mix	Claudia McAllaster	Kristen Howell	Steven Shade
Esa Lozoya	Wyatt Brown	Derrick McManigle	Jacob Mitchell	Henry Chaar
Anya Anderson		Jonas Anderson		

Learn more about Nehemiah House at <https://globalhope.org/category/nehemiah-house/>.

Financially, we are holding steady. Thank you to all who so generously support the mission of Kingdom building. One of the major improvements we hope to gain support for soon is the new front doors. We have applied for a matching grant from the Great Plains Conference that if awarded, could off-set the cost of the doors by 50%. The current estimate of the doors is \$35,000. They would be metal framed, glass paneled, ADA compliant doors. This improvement falls outside of our normal operating budget.

Here is my big ask:

Please pray for this improvement 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.

Your staff's primary means of communication to inform the congregation are as follows:

1. The next steps announcements by Pastor Dave and Kathy McKinley at the end of each sermon.
2. This incredible magazine.
3. Mass emails weekly of the upcoming service with announcements on the back.
4. Mass texts weekly.
5. Our Facebook postings.
6. Our website.

If you are not receiving announcements in a timely manner, please call (913-682-5374) or email me (egarven@fumclvks.org) directly. We want you to know that you are loved, appreciated, and known.

In Christ, *Ed*

DONATIONS NEEDED

- Bedding - Twin size fitted/flat sheets, comforters.
- Towels
- Paper towels
- Toothpaste
- Diapers - Size 4, 5, and 6.
- Vacuum
- New Toilet

Alliance Against Family Violence

AAFV has been at capacity in the shelter and has some urgent needs. If you would like to help, you can bring items to the church office. If you have questions, you can contact Sandy at swood@fumclvks.org.



The Most Important Meal

Stronghold is a Food Pantry for military families on Ft. Leavenworth. It is managed by Monica Bassett (and her two daughters, Sofia and Amelia pictured to the right).

Breakfast items such as pancake mix, syrup, and cereal are the most needed items at the Stronghold Food Pantry currently. With kids home for the summer, they are eating more breakfast items. If you would like to donate any pantry item to Stronghold, we have a box in the foyer.



SCOUTS CELEBRATE ACCOMPLISHMENTS

May Flowers? Not sure we have had the time to stop and smell the roses.

The Cub Scouts finished off with their big event called the Blue and Gold Banquet. Awards and Achievements and lots of smiles. The Pack is also going on a 3 mile hike through Haven's Park. We have second year WEBELOS -- "Webelos" stands for "We'll Be Loyal Scouts." As Webelos near the end of the Cub Scout trail, it's time for them to embrace that pledge and prepare for the next leg of the journey: Scouts BSA and joining us for SUMMER CAMP.

The two Troops have been focused on preparing for summer camp at Camp Hohn in the Ozarks. We did a camp out to make sure everything worked, and it did till the winds came up and ripped two tent zippers. The chuck box with our camp cooking utensils mostly survived one drop to the ground. Mrs. Angela Derezinski has been training them on the cooking merit badge, which will be a huge benefit because the Scouts have to make every meal ... there is no dining facility (mess hall) and each day the camp staff bring by **the ingredients for the day's meals. The Troops head out to camp on Father's day (June 18) and will be using the church van and trailers.**

Memorial Day weekend all scouts were invited to participate in the annual event to honor those who have sacrificed to keep freedom alive by placing flags on the graves at the VA cemetery (across from St. Mary). You are welcome to come out June 3 and help to pick up the flags. Traditionally, only a handful of people show up to recover flags.

We're very sad to offer farewell to the Chalmer family as they prepare to move to New York. Mrs. Chalmers served as the Committee Chairperson for the last few years. She is a recipient of the UMC Cross and Flame.

Esa Lozoya, an Eagle Scout, graduated from Leavenworth High School and we hope she will continue to be active in Scouting. The great news is **that she and Henry Chaar will be on the mission trip to Romania but won't be able to attend Scout Camp.**

And then, POOF, we start it all again when schools starts.

Bill Kobler





When I was young, I thought I knew what love was. But working in AIR ministry, I have seen true love in action.

[Love is more than an emotion - Love is a choice.](#)

Our caregivers choose to love their spouses even when the emotion is not returned, even when their spouse is difficult or frustrating. They are not easily angered nor do they keep a record of wrongs. They are patient and kind.

[Love is a verb - Love requires action.](#)

Our caregivers choose everyday to treat their spouses in a loving way; feeding them, dressing them, medicating them, taking them to our program, etc. They always protect and persevere.

[Love is not free - Love requires sacrifice.](#)

Our caregivers have given up their dreams for their future, their free time, sometimes even their own health in caring for their spouse. But they act with honor and respect and do not complain.

[Love never fails.](#)

Our caregivers are faithful servants, day after day. They have taught me so much about love.

[Love remembers.](#)

Our caregivers do not forget who their spouses were in their earlier life, even when our friends can't remember.

May 20, we lost another one of our dear AIR ministry friends, Dwain Dewey. (He is pictured above) He had been with the program for 18 months. His wife, Mary, was also a special friend. She exemplified 1 Corinthians 13:4-8, to the very end.

[In sickness & in health until death do us part.](#)



June Schedule

June 5 - World Ocean Day

June 12 - Animal Day

June 19 - NO AIR (Juneteenth)

June 26 - USA Day

JUNE COLLECTION ITEM: CONDIMENTS & BEANS

With grocery prices rising, food pantries become even more vital to a lower income community. When you only have a limited income, you have to buy the basics first and sometimes you don't have enough money left for the condiments that make food taste good. So this month, we're collecting ketchup, mustard, mayo, salsa and other condiments that make food tasty for the HUB, the United Methodist mission in Argentine. We always accept donations of any type of canned beans. Please bring your donations to the wooden box in the foyer or the church office.



I ran across an article that was published by Stephen's Ministry this month about empathy. You know, I think we all could benefit from more empathy in our lives. Making a connection with others can have a powerful effect in all areas of life. If everyone empathized with each other more often, it could go a long way toward overcoming the division, isolation, and misunderstanding that are so prevalent today.

But empathy doesn't just happen on its own. We have to learn how to put this skill into action. That means developing and maintaining an empathy mindset. Here are three essentials for doing that.

1. Be Open to the Other Person's Experiences

Empathizing with someone isn't complicated and you don't have to put pressure on yourself to say or do the right thing. In fact, the starting point is simply listening to and learning about the other person's experiences and feelings. All you need is to be open to hearing what the other person has to say about their experiences. That's the right frame of mind to have as you seek to understand, as best you can, what the other person is thinking and feeling.

2. Be Willing to Make a Personal Connection

Empathy isn't something you can do from a distance. True empathy only occurs when we make a personal connection—when we directly interact with someone by listening, asking questions to encourage more sharing, and being present as they tell their story. A personal connection unlocks the power of empathy, giving us the opportunity to listen and respond—to let the person know we've heard them, understand what they're saying, and care about what they're going through. That's when empathy truly comes to life.

3. Be Focused on the Other Person

One of the many blessings of offering empathy is that it puts the focus on the other person for a time, letting them know that their feelings are valid, their experiences are important, and someone cares about them.

Giving advice, talking about your own experiences, trying to ease the person's pain by talking about the positives—they all shift the focus away from what the other person is feeling and onto whatever we're saying.

But when we maintain an empathy mindset, we keep the other person and their needs at the center of the conversation. Empathy happens in a space where the other person's experience is the most important thing, and we create that kind of space when we make the other person the priority.

Using these principles will put you on the right track to empathy that demonstrates compassion, brings comfort, and enriches relationships.

If you are experiencing grief, wouldn't it feel great to be able to talk to someone who does all these things?

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



Morgan Belardo will once again be holding her GIANT bake sale to benefit The Deeper Window Association here in Leavenworth. She will be creating her amazing confections here at the church starting June 12. If you love to bake, she needs lots of volunteers. If you just love to eat baked goods, make sure you stop by 729 Pennsylvania on June 17 from 7 am to 7 pm. Morgan has keto and diabetic treats, as well as every cookie and cupcake imaginable.



Children ages 3 years – 3rd grade participate in the first part of the 10:00 service, gather together for Children's Time, and then head to the lower floor of the Sanctuary building for a hands-on Bible focused service. In June we are focusing on the Acts of the Apostles.

June 4 – APOSTLES: Stephen
June 11 – APOSTLES: Saul to Paul
June 18 – APOSTLES: Paul and Silas
June 25 – APOSTLES: Philip



Sunday School meets on Sunday mornings from 9:00 – 10:00 am. In June and July the kids will all meet together. With the Bible as our foundation, we will be using science, art and activity to not just tell God's story, but learn what it means for us. Our focus parallels Kids First Worship.

Fusion 56 is back!! It is for fifth and sixth grade students. This summer, we'll be getting to know each other by continuing our Lunch Bunch schedule and adding some fun outings. You can see the summer schedule below. The first hour will be at the church, and then we will take the church van to our scheduled activity. Most of the time, we will be taking the kids home, as well. Our goal is to prepare pre-teens for what they will be facing in the present, as well as getting them ready for what's next. You can see on our logo that we will focus on Knowing God (learning his story, discovering and recognizing his character), Loving Jesus (being aware of the gift that he has given us and our response to that gift), and following the Holy Spirit (learning what the Holy Spirit does and learning to recognize when the Spirit is guiding us). This means time spent in God's word, learning how to apply it to our lives, and serving others.

You may ask, "What does a trip to a Planetarium have to do with that?" Good question! Answer (following Jesus' method of answering a question with a question): Who created the planets?

You may also ask: "How can I help?" That's a fantastic question!

Answer: 1. We still need a second leader for this group. You will be teamed up with Nancy Shade.
2. Pray that God will bring kids to sessions.
3. Pray that God will guide us to make this ministry as effective and fruit-bearing as it can be.

Our summer schedule is:

June 18 - 11:00 – 5:00 pm - Planetarium at Union Square & Lunch at Fritz's!
June 25 – 11:00 – 12:30 pm - Lunch Bunch (Restaurant TBD)
July 16 – 11:00 – 4:00 pm - Picnic and Pool time at Wollman Park
July 30 – 11:00 – 12:30 pm - Lunch Bunch (Restaurant TBD)
Aug. 13 - 11:00 – 4:00 pm - Lunch and a Pictorial Scavenger Hunt at Legends!



Seventh through Twelfth grade students will be going to lunch with Fusion 56 on June 25 and July 30. If you have questions, contact Kristen at khowell@fumclvks.org.

VBS is just around the corner. There are a lot of things that we need. If they're a donation, it means they won't be returned. Items that we borrow will be returned – make sure you put your name on the item! There will be a list of items needed in the foyer of the church OR you can sign up online at: <https://fumclvks.org/vbs/>

We also need:

Coats or cardigans – We need at least 20!
Cardboard boxes – All sizes – We need LOTS!
Colored Christmas lights – We need LOTS!
White Christmas lights – We need LOTS!
Small plastic toy horses – We need about 20

If you have a donation, please send Nancy a message at nshade@fumclvks.org



Christopher, Katie, Addie, Jack, Bennett and Charlie will be moving to Fort Bragg, North Carolina where their dad (Christopher) will be Division Transportation Officer for Special Forces Command. They are excited to move there because both their families live in South Carolina and they will be close to the beach again. Christopher and Katie loved watching how excited their kids were to go to church. Katie said, "Whether it's Bennett and Charlie asking to go to church to play with their friends or Addie and Jack getting loved on by Mrs. Nancy and all the sweet people that have loved on our babies. We will cherish how at home you made our family feel this past year."



Casey and Erin Williams both received a Master's in Operational Studies. They'll be going to Ft Campbell, Kentucky, home of the 101st Airborne Division. Casey will be the Operations Officer for a reconnaissance squadron, and Erin will be working on the Division staff. They're looking forward to going back to Ft Campbell (they lived there in 2015-18) because it's a fun area! Nashville is close by and they're excited to explore the area, enjoy some concerts, and be part of a fun community. Erin is also looking forward to shorter, milder winters! Casey and Erin saw how much their kids, Grace, Ben and Max LOVED coming to church! They felt so welcomed and loved in this community. Erin said, "Watching them learn and grow in their relationship with God has been phenomenal."



Many of our military families mentioned how welcome they felt here. This is especially important for CGSC families because they only live in Leavenworth a year. They need to find a church family quickly and first impressions really do matter whether you are a military family or not. Currently, the next class of CGSC families are moving into our area. We can expect visitors any time this summer. So here are some tips to help any visitor feel at home.

- * **The 3 minute rule.** Sometimes when we come to church we get so caught up talking with our old friends, that we forget to look for new people. Hospitality is not just the responsibility of the greeters. We all need to be friendly and welcoming. It can be very intimidating to come into a large building full of people when you don't know anyone. The 3 minute rule says, "Look for new people to greet the first 3 minutes that you enter the church, before you get caught up in other conversations and activities."
- * **Smile.** The "experts" say that someone needs five smiles in the first 15 minutes of arriving at a new place to feel welcome. Even if you're shy, you can smile.
- * **Help visitors find restrooms and the nursery.** We all know there is coffee and doughnuts in Wesley Hall, but a visitor doesn't. We also have hard to find restrooms and children's areas. If you see a new family with kids, offer to walk them downstairs and help them find their way to the nursery. Studies have shown that many families choose a church based upon their children's needs and we have a wonderful children's program, so let's help them find it.
- * **Remember names.** If you meet a new family, make a point to write down their name so you will remember it the next week. Nothing makes a person feel more welcome than someone remembering their name.
- * **Look for ways to go the extra mile.** If someone is coughing, bring them a bottle of water. Let them know about our newsletter or the Upper Room. If there is a church function coming up, give them a personal invitation. If you really want to go the extra mile, invite them to lunch after the service.

This church is filled with loving and generous people. Let's help visitors discover all we have to offer.



Living in a military community means every year new families join our church family. We learn to love them and then they move to their next duty station. We hope they take a little bit of us with them as they go and we know that we are better because of knowing them. This year, we say goodbye to four very special families. Please pray for them as they search for their next church family.



Jasen and Christina Little doubled the size of their family while they were in Leavenworth. Nikolas Casey and Elsie Rose were born on February 8, joining Maelyn and Evie. In his spare time (haha), Jasen earned his Master's degree in Military Operational Studies. His family will be moving to Washington D.C., where he will be working with the Joint Staff at the Pentagon. When I asked what they are excited about in their new home, he said, "An unending amount of restaurant options :)" Their favorite memory of our church family is, "All the prayers, love, and support we received when our twins were born. The outpour of love and generosity was immense and we will forever be grateful!"



Alex and Kelsey Loring will also be increasing the size of their family here in Leavenworth. Kelsey is due to deliver a baby boy in the middle of June. Alex also earned his Master's of Operational Studies. In Mid-July the family will be moving to Ft. Knox, Kentucky where Alex will work in Marketing Research with Cadet Command. They are looking forward to settling in with baby #3 in tow, living on post, living somewhere for more than two years, and good work life balance!

Eleanor said her favorite thing about our church family was, "the fun at children's church and Wonderful Wednesday and the Wednesday dinner potlucks." Simon also loved eating dinner at church potlucks! He also loved that, "Sundays mommy was my teacher at church!" Alex felt immediately welcomed into the church and Kelsey loved Pastor Dave's Bible Study and chatting with nursery workers on her Sundays serving in there!



Jeremy and Marcie Newman will have been married 22 years in August and they have been blessed with three boys. As a family, they love to travel, spend time with their family, and anything sports related. Jeremy is a logistics officer and has been serving in the Army for 25 years. He enjoys running, fishing, gardening, and playing golf. Marcie is an instructional assistant at MacArthur Elementary School on Ft. Leavenworth. She enjoys reading, gardening, spending time with her dad, and going antique shopping. Matthew who is currently attending Barton College for sports management and enjoys all things Marvel, watching WWE, and going to movies. Ryan, who just graduated from Leavenworth High School, enjoys playing basketball and playing Fortnite on the computer. Graham, who will be an incoming freshman at LHS in the fall, enjoys playing basketball, baseball, and hanging out with friends. They have three family pets; a cat named Calvin and two miniature schnauzer girls named Jewel and Liberty. Their family loves to watch sports whether it be in person or on TV. Their favorite sports to watch are football, basketball, and hockey. The teams they cheer on are the Florida State Seminoles, Georgia Bulldogs, Buffalo Bills, and the Minnesota Wild.

Once they moved here, Marcie knew they needed to find a new church home. Jeremy was away doing training so she visited First United Methodist and fell in love from day one. She loved being back in an actual church building and loved all the stained glass. Everyone was so inviting and made her feel welcome. Marcie said, "Pastor Dave introduced himself and from day one he never forgot my name, which I really appreciated. When I spoke to Jeremy that night I told him that I thought I'd have found our new church home and that I really hoped he enjoyed it as much as I did. When he got back and was able to join me, the first thing he said was 'I can see why you like it.' We love that the church uses biblical teaching, that we are not just a person in the pew, the friendliness of all who attend and that our family has been welcomed into the church. I have really enjoyed getting involved in the ladies' evening Bible study that again welcomed me from day one. It feels like I have been with them more then just the short while. We started out at the contemporary service but have since moved to the traditional service. We love both by the way. Call me old spirited, but I just love the traditional style and hymns. We are happy to call First United Methodist our home and church family and hope to get more involved in the church."



My Favorite Bible Verse

My favorite Bible verse is Isaiah 55 Verse 12.

The trees shall clap their hands! Isn't that beautiful? The choir sings a wonderfully uplifting version of this verse in song and I believe it's been too long since they last performed it!

Many times when I have been at a cemetery someone has said, "Why is it always so windy here?" I answer, "The trees are clapping their hands for lives well lived."

That's my favorite bible verse. What's yours?

Carol Russell

FOR YOU SHALL GO OUT IN
joy
AND BE LED FORTH IN PEACE;
THE *mountains* AND THE *hills*
BEFORE YOU SHALL BREAK
forth into singing.
AND all the trees OF THE FIELD
SHALL CLAP THEIR HANDS.
Isaiah 55:12

Loving Our Neighbors As Ourselves

When Sister Vickie retired and moved to Leavenworth, she joined a group that **thought, “How can we help our community?” She invited all the area churches to a meeting to determine what Leavenworth needed.** At the meeting, they found out that many churches had ministries to help people, but there was no central place for a person to find help. Another great need in the community was transportation. So **Welcome Central was created to “help people find the help they needed.”**

Welcome Central was a central resource for people to be able to access assistance at a variety of locations. It was an immediate success. They helped people get IDs, and they helped with transportation and rent assistance. Within the first seven months, they met 59 people who were homeless. They realized there was a need for immediate housing. So Sister Vickie called another meeting of the area churches. Seventy people attended the meeting and forty people agreed to help with the project. Four months later, an overnight shelter was started at the Catholic Charities building. They opened with very little money because people **donated everything. One of the volunteer pastors said, “Leavenworth is such a generous place. There was a time I could not walk down the street without people handing me bed sheets for the shelter.” At its blessing on December 15, 2014, Lynn Dixon, the pastor from the First Christian Church said, “This is beyond ecumenism. This is living the Gospel together.”**

But Sister Vickie was not done yet. She knew the shelter at the Catholic Charities building was not the best option. It was up a flight of stairs and not large enough. So she began looking for money to build a shelter that could house people at night, offer a day shelter and also be the new Welcome Central. She went to several Kansas City Foundations, but **they didn’t help people in Leavenworth County. The Shelter committee began fundraising in Leavenworth County. They raised \$700,000 in 18 months from people just giving what they could.** The city donated some land and additional land was purchased. Volunteers from 35 churches built the building. It was framed in one week. The Interfaith Community of Hope was a great success! And then the pandemic hit...

Sister Vickie immediately sought the counsel of the Leavenworth Health Department. They quarantined with 12 residents and 4 staff. Residents could not leave the building and no one new could enter. Everyone was tested once a week. Volunteers left food and supplies at the door. After several months, COVID did hit the shelter. Sick residents were sent to the Holiday Inn. It took a toll on both residents and staff.

Just prior to the pandemic, Ron Williams brought Sister Vickie a piece of paper that was written in pencil that stated **he wanted to give his home to Sister Vickie. She told him that the piece of paper was not legal and that she couldn’t accept the house because she had taken a vow of poverty, but that if he wanted to give the house to the shelter, she could help him with the paperwork.** So Ron went to a lawyer and deeded his home to the shelter after his death. **Unfortunately, Ron died during the lockdown. The shelter didn’t have a need for the house, but Sister Vickie had a vision for a new project.** She had learned during the pandemic that even though the shelter met an immediate need, it was not the ultimate answer for the residents. For them to move on, they needed a permanent home. But there is very little affordable housing in Leavenworth. So she and thirty volunteers started Leavenworth Attainable Housing (LAH).

Sister Vickie said she learned many lessons with Ron’s house. It needed a great deal of work. Volunteers, including Jim Walley, spent hours rehabbing the house. In fact, it took a year before the first resident moved into the house. Sister Vickie learned a lot from the first resident, as well. She learned that just having a house is not the only need for her residents. They need help learning to manage their finances. They may need physical or mental healthcare. They need help learning how to maintain a home. And they need to be a part of a community. So a plan began to form in her mind. When a second resident moved into Ron’s home he said, “I am 52 years old. Tonight when I come home from work, I will come home to my own house for the first time in my life.”

Sister Vickie knew she would need help to make LAH sustainable. She held a meeting with 30 people and they agreed they needed to start a program to provide attainable housing. She started a board of directors with lots of the volunteers she



Scholarship winners

Our church family gave away \$6,500 in scholarships to youth in our community this year. Applications are distributed through Leavenworth County high schools. We have two graduating seniors from our church and one returning student. The rest are community students. Recipients will be recognized June 11th in the second service. Here are the scholarship winners and where they’re going to school.



Alayna Parvin
Baker University
Music Education



Lindsay McKinley
University of Kansas
Marketing



Sarah Lauber
Kansas State Univ.
Animal Science



Katelynn Keopke
Washburn University
History Education



Sarah Jensen
Kansas State University
Industrial Engineering



Anneliese Elder
Ft. Hays University
Psychology & Business



Olivia Vanderweide
Pittsburg State Univ.
Biology Pre-Med



Lauren Rogers
Washburn University
Radiological Technologist



Austin Davis
George Mason University
Criminology



Lindsay McKinley has been involved in our church since her baptism as a baby. At Leavenworth High School, Lindsay played basketball all four years as well as ran track, except for time off during Covid. She was a member of the Senior Class Cabinet.

Track is Lindsay’s favorite sport because she loves the atmosphere and her teammates. She ran the 800 for most of her track career. “That’s a really tough race,” she said. “It takes a lot of mental toughness to push through, but I really enjoyed running it and felt it was a good fit.” Last year, Lindsay’s 4X8 team qualified for State. But this year, she decided to stretch herself and also learn two completely different events: 300s and 4X4. At the time she switched, Lindsay’s fastest 400 time was 72 seconds, which she explained, “that’s not good.” Regardless, she decided to trust her coaches and made some real gains. They even had a chance of qualifying for State.

Lindsay doesn’t plan to play sports at the University of Kansas next year but will still run and play intermural sports. “I would just like to thank my church family for always supporting me in my athletic endeavors,” Lindsay added. “It meant a lot when they would show up for games or ask me how my meets went. Thank you so much.”

Marking History

The Equal Justice Initiative will be placing their historical marker at the Richard Allen Cultural Center and Museum on June 16 at 6:30 pm. The road to the historical marker started in the fall of 2020 by a committee of seven people including Pastor Dave York, Carla Wiegers, and Marti Crow. The marker will recognize the lynching of Richard Wood (1886), Silas Wilson (1893), and Fred Alexander (1901). If you attend, please park in the lot behind Bethel AME church, 411 Kiowa. As EJI Board Member Todd Thompson said, “We can not change the past, but we can work together for a better future.”

eji Equal Justice Initiative
Historical Marker Dedication
June 16
6:30 pm

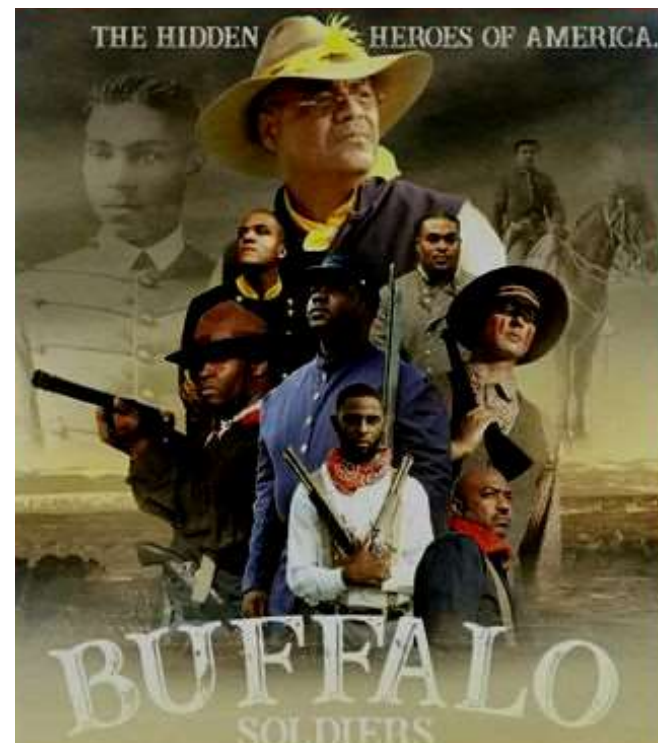


Juneteenth Celebration

June 19, is a 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, had been signed by President Lincoln two 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.

On June 17, the Leavenworth NAACP is hosting a Juneteenth celebration. They strongly believe that sharing traditions with fellow community members create strong bonds that transcend differences. Their celebration will begin with a parade at 6:45 pm, followed by a festival at Haymarket Square. The festival will include traditional Juneteenth red foods, games, community booths, craft and food vendors, and live music. There will be fun for all ages!



Richard Allen Fund Raiser

A century and a half ago, Black soldiers, known as “Buffalo Soldiers,” changed the face of the military forever. Despite their astonishing achievements in the face of heartbreaking adversity, these brave men have remained obscure...until now. Buffalo Soldiers: A Quest for Freedom is an in-depth documentary that begins in the turbulent days of the Revolutionary War, traverses Frontier expansion and the Spanish American War, and concludes with a modern perspective of military officers of color. This ambitious body of work chronicles, year by year, the extraordinary story of these notable African American men -and yes, women, and their invaluable service to this country.

The Richard Allen Cultural Center and Museum is hosting a special showing of “Buffalo Soldiers: A Quest for Freedom” on June 17 at 1 pm at the Leavenworth Local Hotel, 600 Shawnee. The tickets are \$10 and can be purchased at the museum. Director Jurian Isabelle will answer questions after the movie.

had worked with on earlier projects. She turned to Depaul USA, a Vincentian family that does international work to end homelessness. Leavenworth is the ninth city to be a part of Depaul. The other cities are St. Louis, Little Rock, Macon, New York, Philadelphia, Los Angeles, Chicago and New Orleans. Depaul allows each city to determine how to meet the needs of their residents. Depaul provides knowledge, resources and assistance with grant writing, but all decisions are local.

St. Paul Lutheran Church owned five houses, but they lacked the resources to really make the houses a ministry, so they gave management of the houses to Leavenworth Attainable Housing. An Independence Baptist Church also gave them a house. A family from the First Presbyterian Church wanted to maintain ownership of their home, but is allowing LAH to use and maintain the home. Then LAH purchased a home. Now LAH has 9 homes with local residents living in them. But LAH is more than just a home. There are four pillars that each resident must agree to.

Financial Help - LAH has several bankers and other financial advocates that meet with participants once a week at first and then as needed to help them learn to budget. The house is not free. Participants must have an income. They pay approximately one third of their income as rent. Financial advocates find out what the participants hopes and dreams are and then they create a plan to make those dreams a reality. One participant’s dream is to build her own house and they are helping her toward her dream.

Physical and Mental Health - If they don’t have insurance, LAH helps them with the paperwork needed for healthcare and St. Vincent’s clinic provides basic health needs. Almost all the participants need mental health care and the Guidance Center provides those needs. Some participants need help with addictions to be successful.

Community - If a person has been homeless for a period of time, they may not have family or community connections. They may need help building relationships. Everyone in the program gets together once a month. They are learning to help each other. They’re also asked to be a part of our greater community by registering to vote and participate in community events like the City Clean Up Day.

House - The house is the fourth pillar and only comes after the other three pillars are in place. There is a Housing Specialist that checks with the residents every week. They help the residents set and achieve goals. If needed, they teach residents how to maintain the house. They look to see if the house needs any repairs. Often people that live in low income housing will not report repairs because they are afraid of their rent being raised or being evicted. LAH uses the rent money for repairs and to pay the utilities.

Sister Vickie said, “This is God working. No one person or one church could do this alone. It is because of God and people coming together. When we all come together, it works.”

Sandy Simmons, a board member said, “It is a brand new program. There is still a lot to learn. We have a unique approach because our focus is multiple ways of housing. We own some houses and some we just case manage. We’re hoping to build some duplexes. We are not housing just one subset of the population. We are willing to work with anyone who is willing to work the program.”

June 23, LAH is having the Leavenworth Sleepout Fundraiser right here at our church to show solidarity with the homeless. Their goal is to raise \$25,000. They are hoping to have people raise pledges similar to the Relay for Life, but you’re welcome to give whatever you can. There will be a buffet dinner at 6 pm. There will be a camp fire with s’mores. There will be drawings for prizes and you can sleep under the stars or in a tent. There will be breakfast in the morning. If you would like more information, you can call (913)530-4535.

When Sister Vickie was the principal at Cristo Rey High School, she had each of her students recite this maxim from Mother Xavier Ross daily, “Look forward to the good that is yet to be.” It looks like she is still doing that today.

Itchin' to Stitch

Our June activity will be to attend the Kansas City Regional Quilt Festival in Overland Park, June 15-17. Those interested in more info should contact Teresa Hicks at 913-727-2694 or hickst@kc.rr.com. We welcome new members of any sewing level to join us at any time!



GRADUATION @ FUMC

May 21 our church family celebrated our graduates and confirmands.

