



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

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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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.

August 2023

30 8:30 & 11:00 am Worship	31 1:00 pm AIR ministry	1 1:00 pm Book Club	2 5:30 <b>Connections</b> Potluck 6:30 pm Choir practice	3 8:30am Staff	4 6:00 pm Youth Lock-in	5 
6 8:30 & 11am Worship 4:00 pm Bells	7 1:00 pm AIR ministry	8	9 8:30 am <b>Mother's</b> Morning Out 6:30 pm Choir	10 8:30am Staff	11	12
13 <b>Global Hope</b> 8:30 & 11am Worship 12 pm Youth & Fusion56 4:00 pm Bells	14 1:00 pm AIR ministry	15 2:00 pm Grief Share	16 6:30 pm Choir	17 8:30am Staff  1:30 pm <b>Itchin' to</b> Stitch	18	19
20 8:30 & 11am Worship 12 pm Fusion 56 & Youth 4:00 pm Bells	21 1:00 pm AIR ministry	22	23 11:30 am Ladies Lunch 3:45 pm Wonderful Wed 6:30 pm Choir	24 8:30 am Staff	25	26 
27 8:30 & 11am Worship 12 pm Fusion 56 & Youth 4:00 pm Bells	28 1:00 pm AIR ministries	29 2:00 pm Grief Share	30 3:45 pm Wonderful Wednesday 6:30 pm Choir	31 8:30am Staff Meeting	1	2 

LIFE @

First United Methodist church

August 2023







Think  
on these  
things...



In the stories of scripture, we find that God's desire is for all people to come to know the Lord. This knowledge of the Light is sometimes called the missional desire of God. We first see it in the covenant with Abraham that all the nations of the world will be blessed through his family. They were called to bring the knowledge of the Lord to others and through their descendants, Jesus would come. Jesus said, "I am the Light of the World."

As followers of Jesus, we have a calling on our life: To let our light shine before others through good deeds and words so that people will glorify God (Matthew 5). The Holy Spirit lives within us so we are able to carry God's grace and mercy, truth and justice to everyone we encounter. When people are sad, we offer comfort. When circumstances are dark, we offer presence. When people are in need, we offer service. We love our neighbors because of our love for God and our respect for all other human beings. At our best, we let God's light shine through us in what we think, say and do.

In the pages of this newsletter, you will read stories and pictures of people who are letting their light shine, in big and small ways. Each one of us is called to discipleship. My hope for you is that wherever you find yourself and whoever you are called to serve, you let your light shine brightly! *Pastor Dave*

At the beginning of August, six families have opened their homes to our church family for the opportunity to meet together with Pastor Dave and discuss our perspectives on the church and where we would like to see the church grow in the next five years. Please attend one of the sessions to share your viewpoint. Please sign up in the foyer, or contact the church office to reserve your preferred date (913) 682-5374 or [swood@fumclvks.org](mailto:swood@fumclvks.org).

Tuesday, August 1 – 6:30-8pm Host: Shari and Rick Hansen  
3751 S 20th St. Leavenworth,

Wednesday, August 2 – 10:30-noon. Co-Hosts: Alicia Moody and Cindy White  
1012 S. 17th Terrace, Leavenworth (Alicia's home)

Thursday, August 3 – 6:30-8pm Host: Mary Lou Anderson  
1119 Pebble Beach Dr., Lansing.

Monday, August 7 – 6:30-8pm. Host: Deb Baeuchle  
2540 Kensington, Leavenworth.

Tuesday, August 8 1-3 pm. Host: Jo and Jack Burkett  
32268 179th St. Leavenworth.

Thursday, August 10 – 6:30-8pm. Hosts: Jeff and Carole Hoffman  
1217 Tanglewood St. Leavenworth.



## August BIRTHDAYS

3rd Wes Ludwig  
Steven Shade  
4th Karen Kidder  
Owen Resnick  
Trish Simms  
5th Amy Brandt  
Steve Scrimsher  
6th Tim DeFrees  
Zachary Resch  
Katie Short  
7th Jennifer Bell  
10th Bill Bailey  
11th Candace O'Rourke  
Mary Seymour  
12th Randy Herrman  
13th Ed Garven

13th Betty Logan  
Abel Rolf  
14th Kiernan Riffel  
Nancy Shade  
Fiona Tebbetts  
15th Linda Langley  
17th Aileen Hastings  
Janette Holdeman  
Joe Sepulvado  
18th Robbie Helm  
Christine Owens  
19th Taylor York  
20th Steve Songer  
21st Pam Hubbert  
22nd Jan Mix  
Meredith Roush

23rd Doris Norrie  
24th Trudy Holyfield  
25th Brenda Coats  
Ashley Hansen  
Ruth Ann Logan  
26th Audrey Jones  
Kathy Serena  
Caleb Shade  
Jim Walley  
27th Nancy Dawson  
Suzanne Gray  
Avery Holyfield  
Brian Resch  
Violet Varnal  
30th Robin Sanders



## August ANNIVERSARIES

2nd Keith & Libby Frashier 43 years  
3rd Ryan & Kristen Howell 10 years  
4th Marlin & Trudy Holyfield 46 years  
Mike & Jan Mix 46 years  
10th Wade & Valynn Schmierer 50 years  
11th Douglas & Alice Hall 50 years  
12th Roy & Donna Ramsey 56 years  
20th Dean & Carla Hamon 58 years  
Gary & Cheryl Rader 57 years  
22nd Joe & Lynn Sepulvado 42 years  
25th Jack & Jo Burkett 56 years  
28th Jim & Lynne Atwell 41 years  
Bill & Pam Bay 57 years

If we missed your birthday or anniversary, please contact the office so we can update our records.  
[swood@fumclvks.org](mailto:swood@fumclvks.org)

## Upcoming EVENTS



WED. AUG 23, 11:30 AM  
LUIGI'S RESTAURANT





# Itchin' to Stitch



The seamstresses of Itchin' to Stitch have created a new project for Kristi Edington's father's nursing home. The home didn't have enough money for bibs for their residents, so the Itchin' to Stitch ladies created bibs from old cotton shirts. One resident said, "I love these because they don't look like baby bibs." The ladies made 59 bibs of all colors for the nursing home. Then they recycled the left over parts of the shirts to use for quilts at a later time. They'll meet again Thursday, August 17 at 1:30 pm. Visitors are welcome!

**ALL NIGHTER YOUTH LOCK IN**

**AUGUST 4 & 5**

**3 PM – 8 AM**

**7TH – 12TH**

# REFUGE

As we move into August, youth group activities are about to pick back up for the year. We kick off this weekend (August 4-5) with our annual Back to School Lock-In. This year we are doing a scavenger hunt at the Legends, followed by dinner and fun activities back at the church for the rest of the night. Youth leaders pull all-nighters, so pray for us! It should be a ton of fun, though.

Our Sunday school class will be studying the Old Testament for the foreseeable future (it's  $\frac{2}{3}$  of our Bible so there's a lot of content!). We are using The Bible Project curriculum which is absolutely phenomenal.

Youth group starts back up August 13 at our new time right after the second service. We meet from 12-1:30pm in the youth room. We are integrating with Fusion 56 this year so we will all be together for lunch and then break off into our separate groups. Our curriculum this year will be following what Dave is preaching on so that youth and their parents can discuss what we're learning in church all together.

This is a busy time of year for us and I am so looking forward to getting back into the rhythm of meeting regularly with our students! Please be praying for our kids as they start a new school year here in the next few weeks!

# Songs We Love to Sing



The Cody Choraliers sang two great songs for us July 30. They are presenting their annual concert Friday, August 4, at 7:00 pm at the Heritage Center. Tickets are \$20 and go to fund their music scholarship fund. Their concert is titled, "Songs We Love to Sing". In addition to the large group, there will be chapter quartets and special guest "The Staff Party" performing. Bill Bay has been a member for the Cody Choraliers

# Consider Yourself Part of the Family

The beautiful Banker girls are currently performing in the River City Community Players show, "Oliver!" Elleanna, Hannah and Breanna (pictured to the left) have been taking dance lessons from Katie's Dance Studio since they were little. Now they even help teach classes to new dancers. So they used their dancing, acrobatic and singing skills to the chorus of the show. Hannah also plays the part of Charlotte Sowerberry. Hannah has really grown to love theater and has been in several shows at RCCP and Lansing High school. She is hoping to do theater when she attends Kansas City Community College this fall. Hannah said, "I really like getting to perform and I like to help painting the sets, but most of all I like interacting with the people and making friends. I have made some really great friends at RCCP. This is the first show for Elleanna and Breanna. All three helped with our VBS during the day and then spent all evening at final rehearsals and shows.



You still have a chance to see "Oliver" Aug. 4 & 5 at 7:30 pm and Aug. 6 at 2 pm. Tickets are \$15. The theater is at 500 Delaware St.

**JAZZ BY THE RIVER**

**AUGUST 12, 2023**

**WENDO KIMORI**

**GLEN BROWN & NUPORT BAND**

**STARTS 6PM | 18 & UNDER \$20 | ADULTS \$25 | AT THE DOOR \$30**

**Saint Mary's University**

**XAVIER THEATRE, 4100 4TH ST LEAVENWORTH, KS**

# And All That Jazz...

Wendo Kimori is a special guest speaker at Jazz by the River. She is a graduate from Lawrence Free State High School, in Lawrence, Kansas. She spearheaded the formation of Lawrence's NAACP Youth Council, where she is the founder and president. The council serves as ground zero for Lawrence youth to act on their ideas to advance race relations and promote racial equity in schools and throughout the community. For her work she was awarded the Princeton Prize for Race Relations.

Glen Brown is a jazz keyboardist from Kansas City who has been performing and recording with the Nuport band for many years. It should be a great show. Jazz by the River is a fund raiser for the Richard Allen Community Center and Museum. It is at St Mary's University on August 12, at 6 pm.





Greetings and blessing to all.

As we transition into the heart of the summer, we are fully blessed with excitement and anticipation of the start of the school year. Financially, we took a slight down turn during the summer months, as we normally do. However, through your loving and consistent contributions I know we will start this new season fiduciary ready for the upcoming months with the resources available to continue His mission for our church in this community and beyond.

Our year, so far, was jam-packed with exciting Kingdom building events from participation in Camp Chippewa, Scout camps, a global mission trip to Romania, Mothers' Morning Out, an increase in Samaritan Buffet recipients, and your giving participation in not one, not two, but three food banks. The Stitchers sewed their love into book bags for Ukrainian orphans, quilts for foster children, bibs for nursing homes and so much more.

**1 Peter 3:17 For it is better, if it is God's will, to suffer for doing good than for doing evil. For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God. He was put to death in the body but made alive in the Spirit.**

The next church council meeting will be held on August 15. If you have any question you would like presented before the council, please email me at [egarven@fumclvks.org](mailto:egarven@fumclvks.org) Your opinions and voice are of paramount concern for the governing body that steers our congregation. The August meeting is where the council starts formulating the goals and objectives for 2024.

On August 13 our dear friends from Global Hope will be here for both Sunday services – thus Global Hope Sunday. Randy Jessen and his team will speak on how Global Hope is impacting Kenya, India and Romania and how we can be a part of bringing Kingdom to the least amongst us.

“The ministry of Global Hope began in Romania in 1996 when Randy Jessen, a Methodist pastor, and his wife, Sue, led a group of volunteers to Romania to hold orphaned babies. They had heard about the conditions of the communist-era orphanages, and the need for people to simply lovingly hold the babies living in the orphanages. When they arrived, it was worse than they imagined; they were confronted with malnourished, under-stimulated infants who had learned not to cry even when they were hungry. Randy and Sue were deeply touched by these babies and felt called to take action. These babies needed a real home... a real family. Thus, as a result of this heartbreaking, and certainly life changing experience, Randy and Sue created Global Hope.” To learn more about Global Hope, go to <https://globalhope.org/about-us/our-story/>

**Sponsor a Child through the Global Hope Godparent Program**

Child sponsorships are essential in helping cover the cost of **care, shelter, education, clothing, and food** for a child.

Child sponsorships are also **treasured relationships**. Sponsors can develop a bond with their child through **letter writing, prayer and personal visits**, and children feel blessed to have a friend supporting them from so far away.

When you pledge to sponsor a child you will receive a **Welcome Packet** providing all the information you need about your child and how to stay connected.



*All proceeds will be split between Nehemiah House in Romania, and Hope for Orphans Rescue Center (HOREC) in Kenya*



Scan QR code to give online

First Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
City: \_\_\_\_\_  
State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

**Recurring Gift**

☐ Support ongoing operations \$ \_\_\_\_\_ / month  
☐ I would like to **sponsor a child** (this is for new sponsorships)  
☐ \$39/mo ☐ \$78/mo  
☐ \$175/mo ☐ \$ \_\_\_\_\_ /mo

**One Time Gift**

☐ Support ongoing operations \$ \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Cash ☐ Check (payable to Global Hope)  
☐ Charge my card below

Name on Card: \_\_\_\_\_  
Card #: \_\_\_\_\_  
☐ Visa ☐ Mastercard ☐ Discover ☐ Amex  
Expiration Date \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_ CVV \_\_\_\_

Global Hope is a qualified 501c3 organization







Four students from our church family went to Camp Chippewa this summer and they loved it so much they each went back for additional week! Camp Chippewa is located around Ottawa. It offers several types of camp at the same time. Faith and Fun camp offers canoeing, archery, go carts, water games, and other outdoor activities. Boots and Bible camp revolves around horses and trail riding. There are also camps that focus on STEM activities or the arts.

Annabelle Estep and Lucy and Natalie Heim all attended camp together; one session of Faith and Fun and one session of Boots and Bible. All the girls enjoyed both sessions of camp and they all loved riding horses. At Boots and Bible camp the girls got up early because they feed, water and saddle the horse they are going to ride before breakfast. They also groom **their horse all week. Lucy's horse, Huntley, was very large and loved to stop and eat when they went for a ride. There was** a different trail each day and the girls said they were beautiful.

Natalie said one of her favorite parts of camp were the counselors. She said they were so funny and kind. Speaking of counselors....Alexis Hoffman went to camp as a counselor in training. She did such a great job her first week, the camp asked her to come back two additional weeks as a counselor in training. Alexis worked with the Boots and Bible camp and she has lots of experience with horses because she owns her own horse. In addition to working with the horses and keeping **the campers safe, Alexis helped to lead the music and even served Communion. Alexis' cousin Wyatt Van Zlike also went to camp two weeks with Alexis. Alexis would like to go back as a Counselor in training again next year because she said, "I made friends with other kids my age at camp and we still keep in touch."**

The spiritual theme of this year's camp was "Fruit of the Spirit". When I asked the girls what they learned about God, Annabelle said, "I learned God will always be with me." I asked the girls if they would recommend camp to other kids. They all unanimously answered yes. Lucy said, "It's really fun and a great way to make friends and learn about God."

Our church family sponsored these girls at camp because we believe a Christian camp experience can be foundational in **a student's faith journey. We plan on offering camp scholarships again next year. You can find more information about** Camp Chippewa at their Facebook page.



Global Hope's mission is to provide Christ-centered care for orphaned and vulnerable children through Global partnerships. We work in Romania, Kenya, and India in a variety of settings through different partners. Some children are cared for in small, family-like group homes, some live in foster families, others live within the community, but receive education and/or food through a partner. All partners are committed to sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ and providing spiritual guidance. Success is when we witness children thriving in mind, body, and spirit. Learn more at <https://globalhope.org/>

Dear Friends:

Many of you know that Global Hope initially was born to serve abandoned children in Romania back in 1996. My wife Sue and I were privileged to be in the room when Global Hope came to life. Over the years, it has been a deep honor to watch Global Hope grow and bloom under the leadership of many committed individuals. For Sue and me, it has been a joy to serve alongside so many wonderful people.

Just a few days ago, I announced to our Board of Directors that I will be retiring from my role as the Executive Director of Global Hope. The last few years have been a time of significant growth for the mission and ministry of Global Hope. During that time, we have witnessed wonderful people investing in the lives of children around the world. It is a blessing to tell you that Global Hope is in great shape, that new projects continue to unfold, and that the lives of children continue to be transformed in Romania, Kenya, and India.

I will officially complete my leadership role as Executive Director of Global Hope at the end of the summer. In the meantime, we will continue to serve, share, and seek the best for our children.

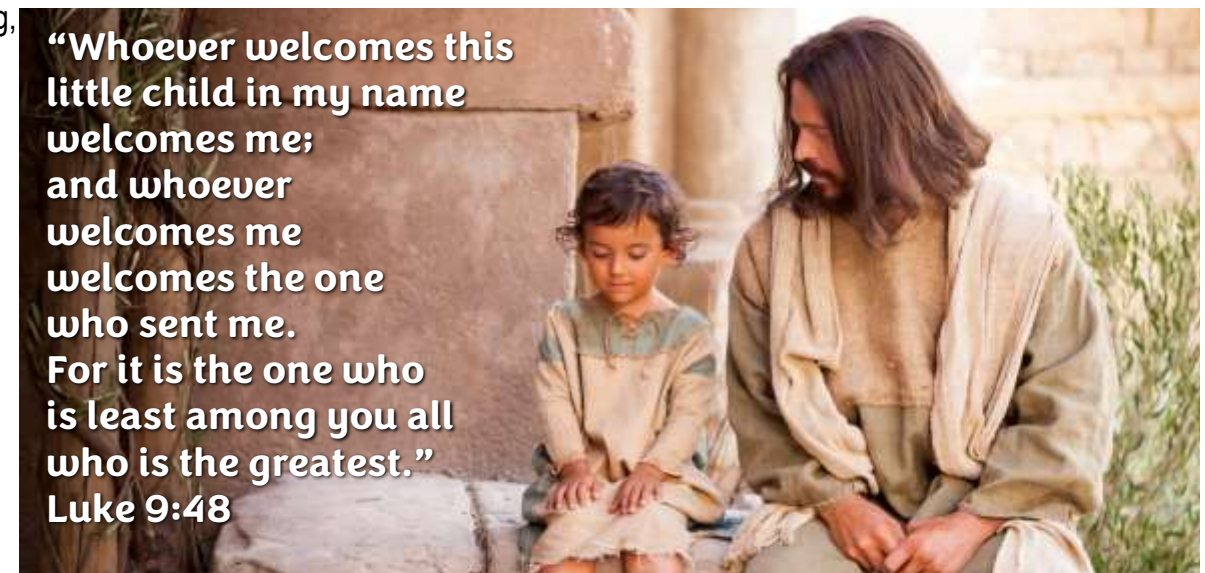
Our Global Hope Board of Directors is strong. They are a remarkable group of leaders. It will be their responsibility to use this time to launch the next positive phase of this incredible journey of ministry. They are starting the search process and will prayerfully be seeking new leadership.

My invitation to you is to join our Board in prayer. We have always been remarkably blessed by people who know how to pray. Please focus your prayers by uplifting our Global Hope Board as they make decisions that will move Global Hope into the incredible future that the Lord desires.

The future is bright, and we all know that good things happen when people of faith come together. We are blessed to be in a very strong position as we move into this time of transition and growth. Your continued commitment to pray and your investment in our children is a great gift. Thank you as always for all you do. Sue and I will continue to be invested from the sideline as we shift into a new phase of continued ministry.

God's Richest Blessing,  
Randy Jessen

**"Whoever welcomes this little child in my name welcomes me; and whoever welcomes me welcomes the one who sent me. For it is the one who is least among you all who is the greatest."**  
Luke 9:48





# CAMP Horizon MISSION TRIP



The youth camps have ended and now it is time to think about the adults going. Please consider joining the work crew, **September 24 – 28** going to Camp Horizon to assist the staff there. This is a Methodist camp overlooking the Arkansas River near Arkansas City. We will leave Sunday (24) morning after the 8:30 service and return after breakfast Thursday (28). There is no cost to individuals for food (the church covers this expense) or lodging. Over the years we have accomplished such things as: stringing bows, cutting brush, planting landscaping plants, mulching, painting, electrical work, carpentry, stonework, office work, and deep cleaning of buildings to name a few tasks. It is not all work and no play, as we enjoy fellowship too. Please contact Gary and Cheryl Rader, gcrader66@gmail.com, 913 651-6429, if you have questions, or to notify them you will be joining the crew. Food needs to be purchased for meals, rooms assigned, and the staff of Camp Horizon notified as to the number attending, so PLEASE let Gary and Cheryl know by September 1, if you will be joining in this service project.

**WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY**  
TUESDAYS 10:00 AM THURSDAYS 6:30 PM

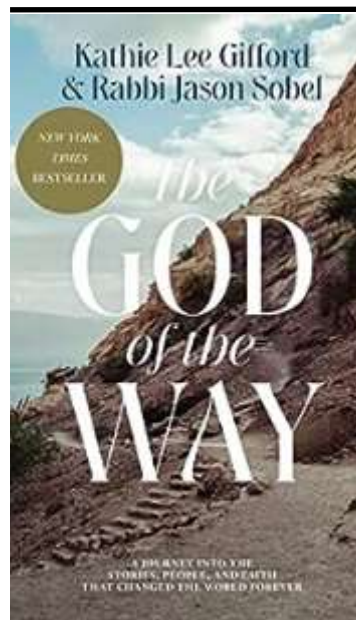
**UNTANGLING FAITH**  
Contact Carol Shafer  
cshafer@lvnworth.com  
for more information.

The Woman's Bible Study Groups will begin "Untangling Faith" by Ambery Neese. The same study is offered at two different times. The morning group meets on Tuesdays at 10 am and will start on Sept. 5. The evening group meets on Thursdays at 6:30 pm and will begin on Sept. 7. It's a seven week study. Books can be picked up at the first class.

Chapters explore our own questions like Can God Be Trusted? and How Can I Grow in Faith. Ambery's unique humor and wit help the whole group find their way through deep and rich issues of personal faith, doubt, and growth. Carol Shafer leads both groups. If you would like more information, you can contact her at cshafer@lvnworth.com

The next book the New Life Seekers Sunday School Class will be studying is, "Christianity and World Religions: Questions We Ask About Other Faiths" by Adam Hamilton. Please come and join them for an interesting video and lots of discussion. For more information and to reserve a book, email Donna Ramsey, dcramsey@kc.rr.com.

**newlife seekers**  
Donna Ramsey  
Room 205



Do you love to read? The book club reads all types of books that stimulate great conversation. This month we are reading "God of the Way". Kathie Lee Gifford and Rabbi Jason Sobel bring you an exciting new life-changing message that will help you read the Bible with new eyes and take you into the heart of God's people in Scripture – from Abraham to Ruth to Jesus and

His early followers. In "The God of the Way", Rabbi Jason shares wisdom from his Jewish heritage and helps us read Scripture in the cultural context of biblical times. Kathie Lee adds personal stories and reflections from her spiritual journey and studies, serving as a companion as you go deeper in your own relationship with God. You will Journey into God's word, from the creation of the world through the desert and empty places, the Hebrew nation, and meet Jesus, the disciples, and his followers. As you do, you will see how you are part of God's epic story of redemption – a radiant testimony to the truth that belief in God's promises is never wasted. We will meet at 1 pm on Sept. 26, to discuss the book.

## CONCERTS COMING SOON

A LIVE SYMPHONY EXPERIENCE  
**CASTING CROWNS**  
20TH ANNIVERSARY TOUR  
20  
All Proceeds Benefit **TAYLOR MADE**  
A Spiritual Solution to Alcohol & Addiction

**FRIDAY, OCTOBER 6th 2023 7:00PM**  
Topeka Performing Arts Center

ACOUSTIC HITS STORIES & FAITH  
**MAC POWELL & FRIENDS**  
BRANDON HEATH JORDAN ST. CYR RHETT WALKER  
OCT 7 ST. JOSEPH, MO  
GRACE CALVARY CHAPEL

**OCT 15**  
**CABLE DAHMER ARENA**  
**Together Again Tour**  
**MERCYME**  
**CROWDER + ANDREW RIPP**

**LAUREN DAIGLE**  
**THE KALEIDOSCOPE TOUR**  
**OCTOBER 26**  
**T-MOBILE CENTER**





AIR ministry has several new members for our community. We were able to take several field trips this summer with the church van. We visited the Nelson Art Gallery, the Amelia Earhart museum and the history museum in Atchison. People with dementia are still able to enjoy great art and history and they love to take trips. Often, people living with dementia don't get the opportunity to get out of the house.

This summer we also remembered the 1970's by making some decoupage and tie dye. Thank you to our church family who helps those who are often forgotten. Although this ministry may not have huge numbers, it means a great deal to our friends and their caregivers.



## August Schedule



**August 7 - County Fair Day**



**August 14 - Beach Day**



**August 21 - Monarch Butterfly Day**



**August 28 - Field Trip to Crown Bowling**



Dear Church Family,  
 We truly could not have provided VBS without you! Offerings of time, treasure and talent were in abundance, not only during the week, but through the months of preparation. Our supply list for donations and items to borrow were filled out by so many different people. Who knew there were so many cardboard boxes in Leavenworth County?!!! The people who showed up to transform the church into a Stellar Space – using their skills of construction and art to make in 3-D living color a rocket, satellite and gizmo boards from the supplies on hand and just a photograph on a piece of paper as their guide. The Station Leaders and Crew Leaders that chose to use their time in service and witness to you were inspiring. We are exceedingly thankful for your support of this church and our Children's Ministry. Peace and blessings to all of you,  
**Nancy and Kathy**

Alexis Hoffman had a very busy summer. In addition to being a Counselor in Training at Camp Chippewa and a leader at our VBS, she flew off to Boston to represent Fort Leavenworth at the Army Youth Leadership Forum. Students from all fifty state and other countries like Japan, Germany and France attended this conference to study problems facing youth in America and brainstorm ideas for change. Everyday of the conference, the participants met in small groups and discussed the issues. Alexis said one of the issues they talked about was bullying. They came up with several achievable ways to lessen bullying in schools. At the end of the conference, the students presented their ideas to a general officer in the U S Army. Alexis hopes to go back next year.







Kids First Worship meets during the 11:00 service each Sunday on the lower floor of the Sanctuary building. In August we will be in the Old Testament books of 1 and 2 Kings. We will begin with the Israelites demanding a king, even though they already have the best King ever – God himself!

August 6 – King Saul  
August 13 – King David  
August 20 – King Solomon  
August 27 – King Josiah



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. Our lessons will be a deeper dive into the books of 1 and 2 Kings.



## Another Prayer Answered

Several years ago the Chairperson for Pack 3109 decided to step down. For two months we looked and asked and, well, it seemed that if no one stepped up to the challenge, our Cub Scout Pack would be disbanded because we would not have enough trained leaders to meet the BSA registration requirements. I prayed for help. Joy Chalmers answered the call just before Covid hit. My stress levels went down and the Pack thrived under her leadership. She managed registration kick-off meeting at schools, the library and at the education building, events, crafts, speakers, police, firemen, county emergency management, severe weather, camps, camp outs, awards, advancements, Pinewood Derby and lots and lots of laughter. **The Pack THRIVED under Joy's Leadership.** Her sons, Liam and Cameron both enjoyed Scouting and we wish them the absolute best in the future Scouting adventures. Then, that email..."my husband has a promotion and we are moving to New York."

So, I prayed again and by the grace of God, Alexa Decker answered the call and we all look forward to her leadership as a fully trained Chair for Pack 3109. The Wolf Cub Scouts attended camp July 11-12. **Aren't their parents glad it was not in the high 90's with a heat index pushing 100?! In between was a week of sunshine, fun – friendship – fellowship, heat and... chiggers. But no more rain this year which is a first for the troops in years.**

Troops 173 and 6173 just finished selecting a new Senior Patrol Leader. Henry Charr, who went to Romania with the mission trip finished his Citizenship in the World merit badge requirements by talking to the Scouts about the values of his trip. This next month, we will start Citizenship in the Community.

This is a short note this month, but know that the Scouting Ministry at FUMC is value driven and truly appreciates being a part of the youth program.

A Scout is Reverent; and this one is very thankful.

*Bill Kiebler*



A special group for our 5th and 6th graders that meets from 12:00 – 1:30p.m. on Sundays to continue to mature in their faith. It is designed to meet them where they are and to prepare them for what's ahead. Friends are always welcome!

August 13 12:00 – 4:00p.m.

Lunch and a Pictorial Scavenger Hunt at Legends!



Building relationships  
Making Memories

Wednesdays  
3:45-5:30 pm

Wonderful Wednesday is a fantastic way to remind children that God is not just for Sundays, he is for EVERY day. Our theme this year is The Journey. We will start out getting to know each other and then go on a journey with Paul and his friends. Friends are always welcome!

Start Date: August 23

Time: 3:45 – 5:30 pm

Ages: 4 years – 6th grade



Starting August 9 from 8:30 - 11:30 am for kids from birth to 5 years old. **Volunteers needed.** Contact Nancy for details. [nshade@fumclvks.org](mailto:nshade@fumclvks.org).

My Dearest Brothers & Sisters of FUMCL,

Thank you so much for generously and lovingly supporting the sixth annual **Sweet Exchange Bake Sale for Alzheimer's The Longest Day**. I do not have enough space to list all that you did to contribute to the success of our fundraising effort. I can only sum it up in one word—**LOVE!** Your leadership and congregation is the epitome of **Christ's love. It extends and reaches and heals.** FUMC is patient, kind, without envy or boasting, not arrogant and never rude. You made every accommodation for us and did not insist on your own way. If we stayed late and we arrived early - you were never irritable or resentful! In all ways FUMC is incredibly loving and we are grateful! Much love,

Elaine and Morgan Belardo  
The Deeper Window Association

Dear Jan Mix,

Thanks for going the extra mile picking up Aubrey to bring her to VBS. You strengthened her faith seed.

*God's Blessing,*  
Rosemary

Dear FUMC friends,

Thank you again for the goodie bag and for always thinking of us old people! I am amazed at all you accomplish and how well you think of whom all you serve in Christ's name. Much love for all of you!

*thank you*

Dear Church family,

Thanks to the thoughtful people who gave us a wonderful summer goodie bag! The items were a pleasant surprise on a hot summer day.

Maggie and Marcia Myers







Now that I, along with millions of “baby boomers,” have achieved the dubious honor of senior citizenship, it is clear to me that my body parts have exceeded their expiration date. Many of my joints are now fashioned from titanium, and the natural organs that haven’t already been removed are being pickled with various drugs and medications. Modern science is doing its best, but it’s clear to me that I have outlived my warranty. I’m definitely at the threshold of those golden years that loom ominously on the horizon.

Having said that, I have begun the process of downsizing. The last thing I want is to leave a houseful of useless clutter for my daughters to deal with. Having done this myself for both of my parents as well as both of Don’s, I understand how emotionally draining and time consuming this process can be. As a gift to them, I intend to throw or give away as much as I can to spare them this additional burden during their time of grief.

There is one area in particular that I intend to declutter. I realize that during my seventy plus years on this earth, I (like you?) have accumulated my share of hurt feelings, perceived injustices, emotional wounds, and trauma to last a lifetime. I need to clean out my spiritual closet and learn to forgive. We learn in GriefShare that not forgiving others can manifest itself in physical illness, irrational outbursts, anger, and prolongs the grieving process. It can negatively effect our relationships with others.

An example of this might be your inability to forgive the doctor who made a wrong decision that hastened your loved one’s death. Or perhaps you have been betrayed by a spouse or best friend. God’s word tells us that He forgives us, therefore we need to forgive others. This doesn’t mean that they are absolved of accountability or consequences. In fact the person you are forgiving may not feel any regret, or may have already died themselves. Forgiveness is for your benefit.

We need to have a clear understanding of how God has forgiven us. We don’t deserve forgiveness, we also hurt others, we disobey, we love other things more than Him. If we accept God’s forgiveness, how can we refuse to extend it to someone else? It means letting go of past hurts. Know that God cares for you and invites you to find comfort in Him and in the fact that one day He will put an end to all suffering and punish all injustice.

If you or someone you know are experiencing grief, Grief Share might be for you. It’s a support group where you can share with others and learn coping strategies through videos, homework, and discussion. Please consider joining us. Grief Share is a friendly, caring group of people who will walk alongside you through one of life’s most difficult experiences. You don’t have to go through the grieving process alone. The grieving spouses group will meet Aug. 15th and Aug. 29th at 2 pm. The open group that is open to everyone will meet Aug. 9 and Aug. 23 at 5 pm. For more information, contact Marsha at marshagaffin@gmail.com or (913) 547-0286.



Stronghold Community Food Pantry is gathering school supplies for military families. Buying school supplies and school clothes can stretch family budgets to the limit. If you would like to donate please bring school supplies to the plastic tote in the church foyer.

The HUB has an after school program so they are collecting snacks for the kids in the program. They are collecting fruit snacks and canned beans. Bring items to the foyer at church.



# Stellar VBS By The Numbers

How was VBS this year Nancy? I’m so glad you asked!

As advertised, it was “**STELLAR**”! We had:

- 81 – Kids registered (15 were unable to come due to illness or travel)
- 45 – Volunteers during the week
- 54 – Kids on our highest day of attendance

But these numbers are just the beginning of the story...

When divided up into categories: 6 of the kids (9%) come to FUMCL regularly, 16 of the kids (24%) had some kind of family connection to FUMCL or have been to a previous VBS which leaves 44 kids (67%) that we did not have contact with before VBS! Many are new to Ft. Leavenworth, some are long-time Leavenworth residents.

That’s really awesome! But these numbers just tell one small part of the story of VBS. We were also able to shine Jesus’ light for our community and our world through our mission projects for the week. Our monetary donations are designated to send Bibles in their native language to countries around the world, partnering with World Vision. Our goal for the week was 20 Bibles at \$12 each. Because of the generosity of the kids and of our amazing congregation, we raised \$600! Enough to send 50!!! Yep! That’s over double our goal! We also requested food donations for local food banks.

We received 64 boxes of cereal/oatmeal, 49 jars of peanut butter, 20 jars of jelly, 87 packages of dry pasta, and 58 jars of pasta sauce for Trinity House and Stronghold Food pantries!

There were also a LOT of seeds planted for God’s Kingdom. While we may not see the fruition, we do know the seeds were planted and are confident that God will continue to work in the lives of both the participants and all the leaders and helpers. Shouts of “SHINE JESUS’ LIGHT!” filled the Sanctuary, the Fellowship Hall, and the Education Building throughout the week. During the closing on Thursday, you could have heard a pin drop as we went through the story of Jesus making sure his mother would be taken care of – even while he was suffering on the cross. I sat down next to our Jesus to tell him thank you. When I invited any children who wanted to do the same to come up, almost EVERY CHILD came up! They patiently waited in a straight line in the center of the aisle to have their turn with Jesus! One little girl told her mom as they were leaving for the day, “Mommy! I got to hug Jesus today!” Amen.

Thank you to all our volunteers! We couldn’t have VBS without you!



Pictured above are Kristi Edington’s grandchildren and great grandchildren. Nancy has taught all of them in VBS over the years.



# VBS @ FUMC

