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



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

Sunday services stream at either site.

## September 2023

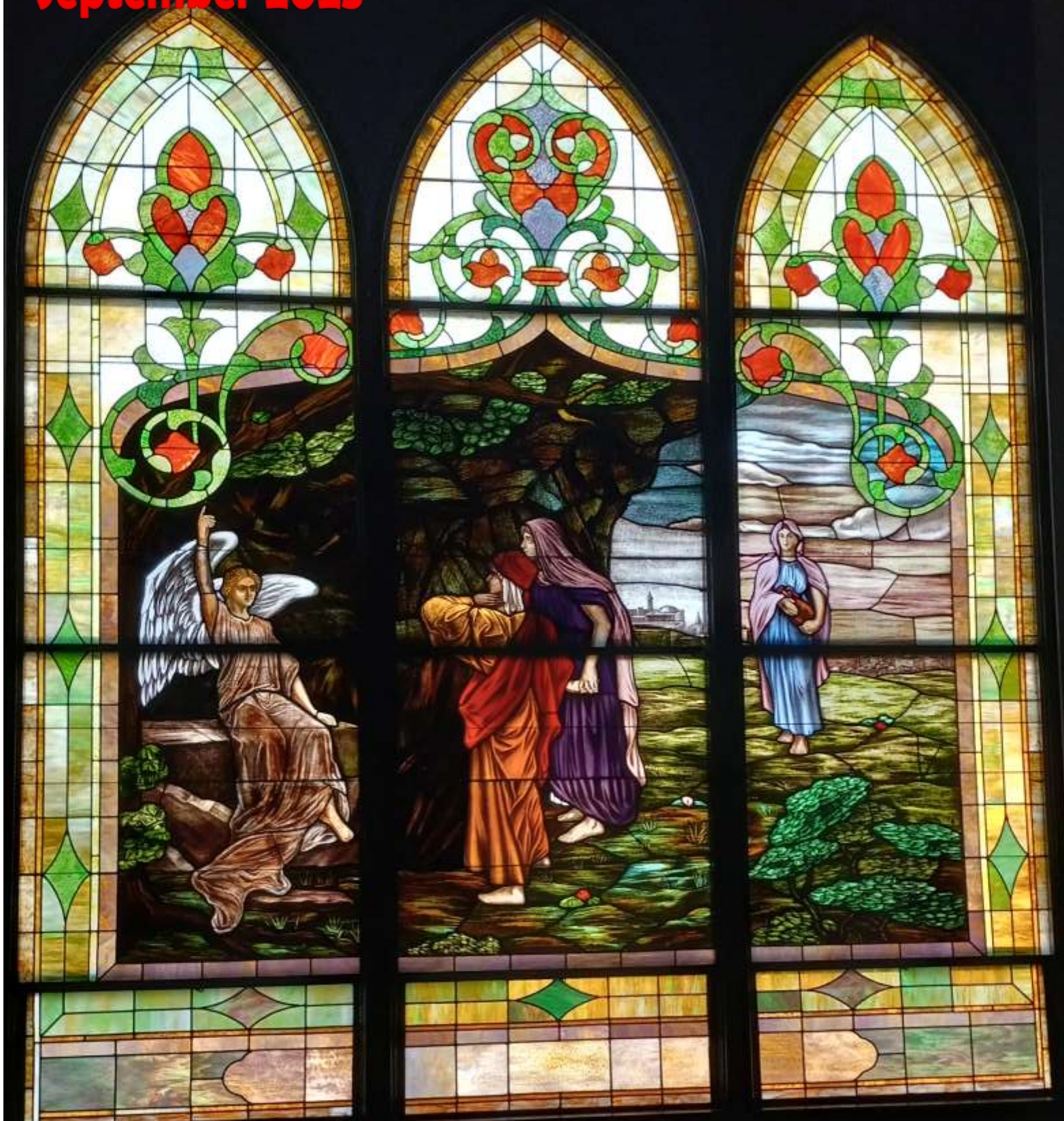
27 8:30 & 11am Worship 9:45 am SS 12 pm Youth &F56 4 pm Bells	28 1pm AIR Ministries	29	30 3:45 pm WW 6:30 pm Choir	31 8:30am Staff Meeting 6:30 pm Women's Study	1	2 
3 10 am Worship	4 Labor Day Church Office closed	5 10 am Women's Bible Study 6:30 pm Pastor's Bible Study	6 1:30 pm H & S 3:45 pm WW 5:30 pm Jesus Creed Gathering 6:30 pm Choir	7 8:30am Staff Meeting 6:30 pm Women's Bible Study	8	9 Serve Day
10 8:30 & 11am Worship 9:45 am SS 12 pm Youth &F56 4 pm Bells	11 1 pm AIR Ministries	12 10 am Women's Bible Study 6:30 pm Pastor's Bible Study	13 8:30 am MMO 1:30 pm H & S 3:45 pm WW 5:00 pm Grief Group 5:30 pm JCG	14 8:30am Staff Meeting 6:30 pm Women's Bible Study	15 Congregational Care Seminar	16 Congregational Care Seminar  Music Academy Recital
17 8:30 & 11am Worship 9:45 am SS 12 pm Youth &F56 4 pm Bells	18 1pm AIR Ministries	19 10 am Women's Bible Study 12 pm Lunch 2pm Grief Share 6:30 pm Pastor's Bible Study	20 1:30 pm H & S 3:45 pm WW 5:30 pm Jesus Creed Gathering 6:30 pm Choir	21 8:30am Staff 1:30 pm Itchin' to Stitch 6:30 pm Women's Bible Study	22	23 
24 8:30 & 11am Worship 9:45 am SS 12 pm Youth &F56 4 pm Bells	25 1pm AIR Ministries	26 10 am Women's Bible Study 1 pm Book Club 6:30 pm Pastor's Bible Study	27 1:30 pm H & S 3:45 pm WW 5 pm Grief Group 5:30 pm JCG 6:30 pm Choir	28 8:30am Staff Meeting 6:30 pm Women's Bible Study	29	30

# LIFE



# First United Methodist church

## September 2023







Think  
on these  
things...



Imitate me,  
as I also imitate Christ.  
1 Corinthians 11:1

In 1896, Charles Sheldon wrote a book set in a fictional town of Raymond, KS. The setting was a church congregation that decided they would live a year by answering the question, “What would Jesus do?” Each week, the story was told by releasing a new chapter using various characters from the story. I’ll bet Mr. Sheldon never could have imagined his book would be one of the best-selling Christian stories of all time with over fifty million copies sold worldwide and people still using his question today. For this fall, I’m using a variation of WWJD for our worship themes. Instead of “What would Jesus do,” I’m focusing on what Jesus DID. This approach takes us back to scripture in order to pattern our behavior and values based on Gospel stories and the Master himself. Here’s the lineup:

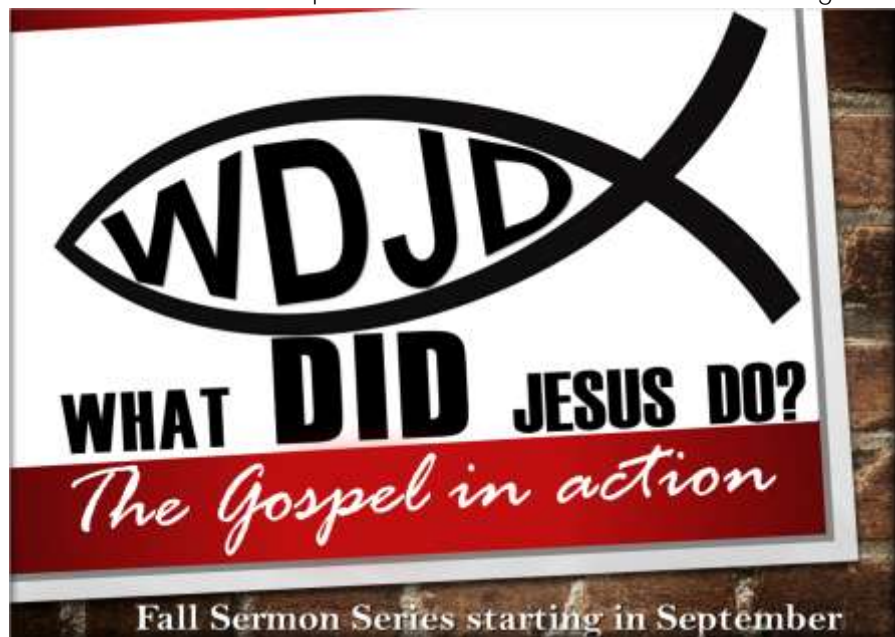
- ▣ Jesus invited all to the table.
- ▣ Jesus valued people.
- ▣ Jesus offered mercy.
- ▣ Jesus forgave sinners.
- ▣ Jesus healed the broken.
- ▣ Jesus prayed to the Father.
- ▣ Jesus served others.
- ▣ Jesus worked intentionally.
- ▣ Jesus called disciples to follow.

So many times, we get caught up on what experts and authors tell us about Jesus that we forget to use the Bible as our foundation. I’m not saying the thoughts and opinions of others aren’t helpful. What I am encouraging each of us to do is start with the Gospel stories and then work our way to broader conversations of Jesus. Tell the Good News of the Savior. This practice causes me to do three things intentionally:

1. Ask why did he do it?
2. How did he do it?
3. What might that look like for us?

I hope you’ll come along for the ride this fall. Perhaps when we understand what Jesus did, we’ll be able to live out a commitment to live as Jesus did. Disciples across the generations start with Jesus!

*Pastor Dave*



1st	Aaron Wecas	15th	Breanna Banker
4th	Bill Kidder	16th	Sandy Wood
6th	Mary Lou Anderson	18th	Nanci Smith
	Sonia Wiley	19th	Jack Burkett
	Brian Wood	20th	John Gable
8th	Brian White	21st	Carol Shafer
9th	LeRoy Hicks	22nd	Jim Atwell
	Bailey Ko		Ron Wecas
	Jerry Logan	24th	Brian Anderson
	Becky Lowery	28th	Lynne Atwell
12th	Pat Deiter	29th	Joan Atwell
	Christy Wiley		Maryann McAfee
13th	Abby Martin		



1st	Sy & Shirley Nyhart	66 years
3rd	Jeff & Kelley Perry	29 years
	Blaine & Merry Weeks	35 years
4th	Chez & Carol Shafer	47 years
8th	Gary & Carol Russell	22 years
14th	Wes & Christel Ludwig	55 years
18th	Rodney & Kristina Edington	24 years
21st	Frankie & Margaret McLaurin	38 years
22nd	Jeff & Kathi LaMoe	39 years
23rd	Brian & Tracy Resch	23 years
	Ernest & Wilda Wicke	6 years
30th	Tom & Karen Tish	56 years



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







## New Beginnings with New Leadership

We are so delighted to have Alexa Decker assume the responsibilities of Pack 3109 Chairperson. Pack leadership has spent hours visiting elementary school inviting families to check out Cub Scouts. The first meeting was Tuesday, August 22. Due to competing activities for youth and leaders Cub Scouts are switching their meeting times to Tuesdays, at least through soccer season!

The Troops (173/6173) are finishing up merit badge requirements from summer camp. And now we have started working on Citizenship in the Community. We had an honest discussion with the scouts about what it means to be a **good citizen in their communities ... School, sports, band, Scouts, church.** We talked about the Scout Laws – Trustworthy, Loyal, Reverent and being the cornerstones of what good citizenship looks like to others. We are gearing up for school, sports, and the dreaded re-charter with annual Scouts BSA program. You may recall last year the difficult time when the BSA and the court system recognized abuses of youth for decades past. This year BSA sent out a request for insurance agencies to bid for the BSA insurance business. Only one company responded. The increase in fees this year are for increased insurance fees. What you see is that it is expensive for a family to participate in the Scouting Ministry, and we have families with three youth and one adult, which runs it up to nearly \$500.

Effective August 1, 2023, the BSA will implement the following national membership fees:

### YOUTH: \$119 total

\$80 for Cub Scouts, Scouts BSA, Venturing and Sea Scouting participants (\$5 increase)

\$39 Heart of America Council Fee. (no increase in fees)

\$25 one-time joining fee for new program participants in Cub Scouts, Scouts BSA, Venturing and Sea Scouting (Not prorated and no change in fee).

### ADULT: \$99 total

\$60 for all adult volunteers (\$15 increase to provide general liability insurance and enhanced background checks)

\$39 Heart of America Council Fee. (no increase in fees)

FUMC: \$100 for a unit charter/affiliation fee (no change in fee)

\$25 for Merit Badge Counselors (New Fee applies only for Merit Badge Counselors not already registered as leaders)

A Scout is thrifty. *Bill Kobler*

Stronghold Community Food Pantry serves military families at Fort Leavenworth. They are currently collecting baby items for 25 new families on the fort. They are collecting baby items such as diapers, wipes, baby clothes, bibs, baby blankets etc. There is a plastic tote in the foyer if you would like to contribute. You can find more about Stronghold on their Facebook page.



Trinity House is a local food pantry and clothing closet hosted by Trinity Lutheran church at 2101 10th Ave. With the closing of several local charities, Trinity House has seen an increase in need in Leavenworth. We have several church family members who volunteers there and they have made us aware of some of the needs.

They are almost out of clothes for school kids, all sizes. They have no food on their give-away table. These are dry pantry items such as cereal, pasta, spaghetti sauce, peanut butter, jelly, crackers, canned soup, etc. They are out of freezer foods such as chicken nuggets, burritos, lunch meats, etc. They are also out of dish soap, detergent, all toiletries such as soap, shampoo, deodorant, and toilet paper.

Trinity House is open for donations Tuesday through Thursday from 10 am to 1 pm. If you have questions about what they need, you can call (913)682-7474.



Randy Jessen, the Executive Director of Global Hope, Scott French, the Director of Generosity and Ruth Wanja all came to share their testimonies of how Global Hope started and how they are rescuing orphans in Romania, Kenya and India. There was a fund raising banquet for Global Hope Godparents on Saturday and on Sunday, Randy Jessen told us the story of how his family adopted a daughter and a granddaughter from an orphanage in Romania in the early 1990s. Those adoption experiences led to the creation of Global Hope that now helps hundreds of orphans in three continents.

At the Night of Inspiration, Ruth Wanja shared her testimony. She was born in Kenya. Her mother died from HIV/AIDS when she was eight years old. She and her siblings were taken in by elderly grandparents, but they were not financially capable of caring for the children. Ruth used to collect metal from garbage dumps to get money for food for her siblings and herself. Through the grace of God, the children were discovered by Christine, the director of Hope for Orphans Rescue and Education Center (HOREC). She took them into her care. Ruth finally had food to eat and a school to attend. She grew into a beautiful young woman alongside her 35 HOREC “siblings”. Ruth is currently a student at College of the Ozarks where she majors in biomedical engineering and chemistry. Wyatt Brown shared his testimony of how the mission trip to Romania changed his life. The fund raising dinner raised over \$11,000 for the orphanages. Thank you for your caring support.

Our church family has several Godparents who support a Ukrainian child in Nehemiah House in Romania every month. They pray for their child and they can write letters to their child. If you are interested in more information about Global Hope, you can visit their website: [Globalhope.org](http://Globalhope.org).







Greeting and Love to all,  
I love the two service Sundays! If you cannot attend in person, join online.  
First, the temporal side of the house: Thank you to all you good and faithful servants that share so generously with your treasures.  
Second, the staff update: A huge thank you to Rhonda York, Jan Mix, Cindy White and Marsha Gaffin for providing beautiful organ and piano music during our services. A special acknowledgement to Sandy Wood, Libby Frashier, Kathi LaMoe, Mary Lou Anderson, Marti Crow and Marsha Gaffin for the continuing love and devotion they show and deliver every Monday afternoon in the AIR dementia ministry.

Third, last month, Pastor Dave conducted a number of home meetings to fellowship in small groups and to garnish the views and desires of the congregation as we move towards 2024. Based on those discussions and recommendations the church council will start defining our church focus for the upcoming year. Please pray for our lay leaders as they faithfully guide our church ministries towards fulfilling His Kingdom in our community in 2024. Michelle Briggs (Church Lay Leader), Carla Wieggers (Church Council Chair), Marti Crow (Church Finance Chair), Carole Hoffman (Church SPRC Chair), Kathi LaMoe (Witness Lead), Scouter Bill Kidder (Nurture Lead), and Mike Mix (Church Trustee Chair).

Mike Mix, the Trustee Chair, is responsible with his team of five; to evaluate, plan, and implement strategies to maintain and improve the physical assets of the church. Many of the comments from the home meetings dealt with alterations and additions. Mike and his team have already held a preliminary meeting to address the **alteration of the “gold torn cloth” behind the altar cross, as well as a host of immediate and long term restoration and improvement projects.** In the last month they have approved and repaired the front entry way floor to prevent any future water damage (the concrete floor was heaving) and have repaired two exterior stained glass window frames that had rotted. The trustees work off a council approved plan that is ever changing based on immediate needs (the hot water heater failed) and available resources. For the remainder of 2023, the two main projects are the altar cloth and upgrading the fire system.

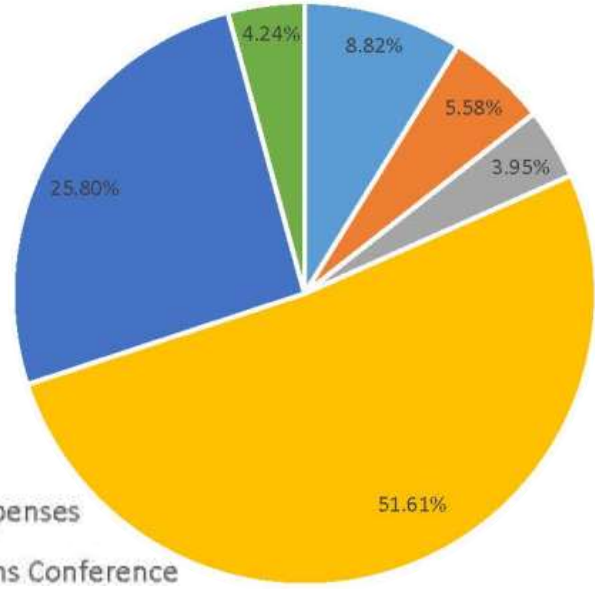
Over the past several years we have spent over \$700,000 on capital projects designed to improve and maintain this historic facility for decades to come. These projects included: stained glass refurbishment, the external stone refurbishment and replacement, repairing the roofs on both buildings, the sidewalk project around the green space, the new inclined sidewalk and front entry to the church, repair to the west-side parking lot, the kitchen and Fellowship Hall renovation, the replacement of HVAC units, the fans in the sanctuary, the repair to the kitchen dishwasher, a new water heater, and countless smaller yet necessary repairs and replacements.

Your trustees are continuously planning and executing ways to make our collective worship experience and expanded use of our facilities more accessible, in good lasting condition and aesthetically inviting. After hearing your responses to the old gold damaged burlap behind the sanctuary cross, bids are in process to take corrective action.

Financially the church remains strong. Your loving generosity makes Kingdom Building – loving our God and loving others through Christ Jesus - possible. Below is graph on where your offerings have been spent so far. Well over \$100,000 has been spent on loving and caring. Thank you all for making this possible. If you have more questions or comments for the trustees or the church council, please contact me at [egarven@fumclvks.org](mailto:egarven@fumclvks.org) or call 913-682-5374.

in Christ **Ed Garven**

- Total 6000 Facilities and Equipment ■ 6100 Insurance
- Total 6300 Administrative Expenses ■ Total 6400 Payroll Expenses
- Total 6600 Ministries Expenditures ■ Total 6700 Great Plains Conference



**Wednesdays, 3:45-5:30 pm**  
**For kids 3 - 12 years old**  
**Register at FUMCLVKS.ORG/WW**



Wonderful Wednesday is a way for us to show children that God is not just for Sundays, he is for every day! Each Wednesday during the school year kids ages 4 years – 6th are invited to meet here at the church for snacks, play a variety of activities designed to GROW in their knowledge of God, EXPERIENCE the love of Jesus, and FOLLOW the guidance of the Holy Spirit. I know that I am biased, but I am SUPER EXCITED for Wonderful Wednesday this year!!!

**Our theme for the year is The Journey. Starting in September, we will be creating Passports and “traveling” with Paul and his companions as they spread the news of Jesus and his saving grace.** We will spend a month in each of the locations that Paul wrote letters to: Galatia, Ephesus, Phillipi, Collosae, Corinth, Thessolonica, and Rome. Each week we will focus on a different part of the story.

The first week **of the month we will “travel” however Paul did – walking on land, sailing on ships (even a shipwreck!)** and as we arrive we will get a stamp in our Passport.

Week 2 we will discover what the places were like at the time, see what they look like now and meet the people he encountered.

Week 3 we will find out what went well and what hardships they faced.

Week 4 we will focus on the message Paul had for the people there when he wrote to them.

**We can't wait to share this amazing part of God's story with the kids! To sign up your child (or to volunteer to help!), go to: FUMCLVKS.ORG/WW or use the QR code.**

Nancy Shade



## Volunteer Spotlight

If you have not met Carol Shafer, you really should! She most often attends the 8:30 service with her husband, Chez, but also comes to the 11:00 service when she **presents Children's Time. Her presentations are always engaging for the children and hit the nail right on the head with the main scripture passage for the service.**

**That's only one of the many ways Carol serves in Children's Ministry here at FUMCL. She also volunteers for: Mother's Morning Out each month, Wonderful Wednesday every week, special events like VBS, TGIGF, and the Fall Festival. That would be plenty for any one person to do within our church family, but her service doesn't stop there. She also leads a mid-week Women's Bible Study on Tuesday mornings and Thursday evenings, and serves on the Scholarship selection committee.**

The first time I met Carol was in 2006, not long after we moved here. At that time, she was the Chairman of the Education Committee and was part of my interview team for the Children's Ministry job! Thanks for the vote of confidence!

Next time you see her, tell her thank you for all the ways she supports this church family! Nancy Shade







Kids First Worship meets during the 11:00 service each Sunday on the lower floor of the Sanctuary building. In September we will continue in the Old Testament. We will pick up where we left off, meeting two of the Minor Prophets and learn from the example of two of God's chosen people that face hardships.

September 3 – Ezra  
September 10 – Nehemiah  
September 17 – Esther  
September 24 – Job



**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 Ezra, Nehemiah, Esther and Job.

**Mother's Morning Out** meets each month, on the second Wednesday. We provide care for children ages birth through school age. There are three groups: Nursery, Toddlers and Preschool. Space is limited, so register now by going to: [FUMCLVKS.ORG/MMO](http://FUMCLVKS.ORG/MMO). We also need volunteers for this important ministry. You can register as a volunteer at the same site.



**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!

In September, we will find out who Paul is, travel with him on the Road to Damascus, find out who healed his blindness and make some passports to get ready to travel with him.



**Fusion 56** meets on Sunday afternoons from 12:00 – 1:30 pm. Designed especially for 5th and 6th graders to meet them where they are and support them as they grow.



**When:** Sunday, October 31, 5-7 pm  
**Where:** FUMC Greenspace  
**Who:** Everyone!  
**What:** Trunk or Treat with a Twist! In addition to decorated trunks for kiddos to Trick or Treat, we will also have fun activities for this children. Check out the following needs to see how **you can help share God's love to our community.**  
**Time:** Pray every evening at 5 pm through October 31. Sign up for an hour (or longer!) shift to help on October 31.  
**Treasure:** Donate needed supplies. Donate candy or other treats for the Trunk or Treat.  
**Talent:** Volunteer to lead a Station for Shine or Decorate a Trunk!  
Contact Nancy Shade to volunteer! [nshade@fumclvks.org](mailto:nshade@fumclvks.org)



# CONGREGATIONAL *Care*

Last month I was privileged to be able to attend the six congregational small group meetings with Pastor Dave. If you were one of those who chose to attend, I think you will agree with me that they were a great way for us to get to know each other better and to speak candidly about our church and our congregation. I hope we might be able to continue these in the future. I thought I would share some of the trends that seemed to come up at every meeting.

Things we loved: Our church has become more outward focused. Through ministries like Samaritans Buffet, AIR dementia ministry, GriefShare, Vacation Bible School, Mother's Morning Out, Itchin' to Stitch, and more, we have become recognized in the community as a viable resource. We also love that our pastor adheres to Bible based preaching. We value the friendships we have made with one another in our various small groups. We also appreciate our church staff and the care given to the upkeep of our church facility and grounds.

Ideas that were given to improve our church property were to beautify our grounds by adding benches, shade trees and a meditation walk. **Another suggestion was reaching out to those families who haven't returned to live worship after Covid.** But most of all, you said that the congregation needs to be more active in caring for one another. Instead of relying on the same few people to reach out when someone has physical, spiritual and emotional needs, we are all **caregivers who are mandated to bear one another's burdens.**

**But wait, there's more!** Coincidentally, the Church of the Resurrection in Leawood has offered us the opportunity to send AS MANY PEOPLE AS WE WANT to their two day seminar on Congregational Care. You can learn how best to care for one another by learning concrete ways we can care for the sick and lonely among us. Learn how you can **mirror God's love of us by loving others.** Please reserve September 15 from 1-7pm and Saturday from 9am-4pm for this important training. You owe it to yourself and to each other.

God's blessings,  
Marsha Gaffin



Starting September 6, we will have a potluck dinner with a seven week Bible video study called, "The Jesus Creed". This is the Jesus Creed:

"Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God, the Lord is one. Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength. The second is this: Love your neighbor as yourself. There is **no commandment greater than these.**"

Scot McKnight wrote a book based on this creed and the video series will look a different way to live this creed every day. There is no homework required. Each lesson stands alone. After the meal, we will dismiss the **kids to children's activities or the nursery.** We'll watch a 7 minute video and then have table discussion. All you need to bring is a main course, and either a side or a dessert and a willingness to learn more about God.





# Music Notes

Wesley Ringers rang in their new season the last Sunday in August, letting the church know that the music ministries here at FUMC are back in in full swing! We here at FUMC are so blessed to have amazing musicians and a congregation with a heart for music ministry. I've been busy over the summer preparing for the fall and getting ready for Advent. I have also been working with Nancy Shade to bring a musical element into Wednesday afternoon/evening children's programs. We have some exciting plans to continue the theme of being a light in the world, including a children's Christmas musical, "Carriers of the Light"! I am reaching out to area churches and schools, inviting the whole community to be a part of the program. It will be presented on December 16th as part of the "Sharing the Light" community Christmas concert. December 17th we will be celebrating with a service full of music, and all our music ministries will be participating.

Rehearsals for our main music ministries have begun. The Sanctuary Choir meets on Wednesday evenings at 6:30 and they are working on several challenging pieces for September...you are in for a treat! Wesley Ringers meets on Sunday afternoons at 4:00. While both of these groups have familiar faces, we are always looking for new people to sing and play. There has even been some interest in starting an adult beginning handbell group. If any of these groups sound like something you would like to be a part of, please let me know!

Speaking of new faces, we will have a guest organist, Gary Keller, sharing his gifts at the 8:30 am service on September 17th, and later at the Octogenarian Lunch. He is a welcome addition to our wonderful service musicians Rhonda York, Jan Mix, Sandy Wood, Cindy White, and Marsha Gaffin. While the search for a full-time organist continues, we are so grateful that ALL these musicians are willing to share their gifts with us. I am reminded of the 2nd verse of Fred Pratt Green's Hymn "When On Our Music":

How often, making music, we have found  
A new dimension in the world of sound,  
As worship moved us to a more profound Alleluia!

May worship and music this year move us all to a more profound relationship with Christ and our community, to bring more light to this world! Amen! — Kathy McKinley



Maggie and Marcia Myers have been attending our church for several months. Maggie works at the Guidance Center writing federal and state grants for mental health services in Leavenworth. She has a master's degree in social work from the University of Kansas. Maggie grew up in Ulysses, Kansas. Her father worked for the Weaver popcorn company. Marcia says living there in western Kansas was like living in the 1950s. Marcia was a second grade teacher there for many years and then a chapter one reading teacher in the junior high school. Marcia moved in with Maggie after experiencing a mini stroke in the summer of 2022. Fortunately, the stroke didn't leave any lasting effects.

Marcia loves to quilt and has already joined Itchin' to Stitch. She also enjoys reading and baking desserts. She has a very spoiled cat names Ellie and loves to sleep all the time. Both Maggie and Marcia enjoy coming to church. Marcia said, "The people are very friendly." Welcome to the family, Maggie and Marcia. We are glad you're here.

*The righteous will flourish like a palm tree, they will grow like a cedar of Lebanon;  
planted in the house of the Lord, they will flourish in the courts of our God.  
They will still bear fruit in old age, they will stay fresh and green,  
proclaiming, "The Lord is upright; he is my Rock, and there is no wickedness in him."*  
*Psalm 92:12-15*



Forrest & Janette Holdeman



Vera Hrabak



Carl & Linda Langley



Jerry Logan



Maryann McAfee



Mary Eleanor McCluskey



Betty Nakata



John & Marilyn Nilsen



Sy & Shirley Nyhart



Dick & Barbara Peiper



Donna Ramsey



Dale Roller



Jimmie Stallings



Jack Walker



Ron Wecas



Judy Wolfe



Tim & Bea Yenney

Not pictured Pat Deiter, John Gable, Caroline Hedrick, Patsy Hessenflow, Betty Logan, William McCollum, Norma Moore  
Esther Polson, Virginia Schalipp, Patricia & Steve Simms, Kauv Un

*Dinner to Honor Our Octogenarians &  
September 17, Noon*





# Celebrating our Octogenarians

On September 17th our church will celebrate Octogenarian Sunday. Our members that have reached the age of eighty or beyond have been a strong force in the life of our church for many years. Because of their unending faith, we are able to grow stronger in our faith and learn about sharing the love of Christ with others. Many of these members continue to serve our Lord each week, carrying out a vital part of our church's ministry.

We'll be honoring our octogenarians with a dinner after the second service. If you know someone on this list, reach out via a call or letter and let them know you are thankful for their friendship, faithfulness, and mutual love of Christ.



Bob & Joan Atwell



June Baker



Miriam Cade



Norm and Nancy Dawson



Joy Defrees



Eleanor Embree



Betty Gaumer



Frank and Gini Gelb



Bob & Kay Hale



Carla and Dean Hamon



Virginia Hardaway



Marguerite Hilscher

*Show respect to the aged; honor the presence of an elder; fear your God. I am God. Leviticus 19:32*

## Itchin' to Stitch



Itchin' to Stitch received a lovely thank you letter from the Crow Care Center in Harrisonville, Missouri. They recently made 59 bibs made from cotton shirts for their residents. They really love the bibs because they look like shirts instead of bibs.

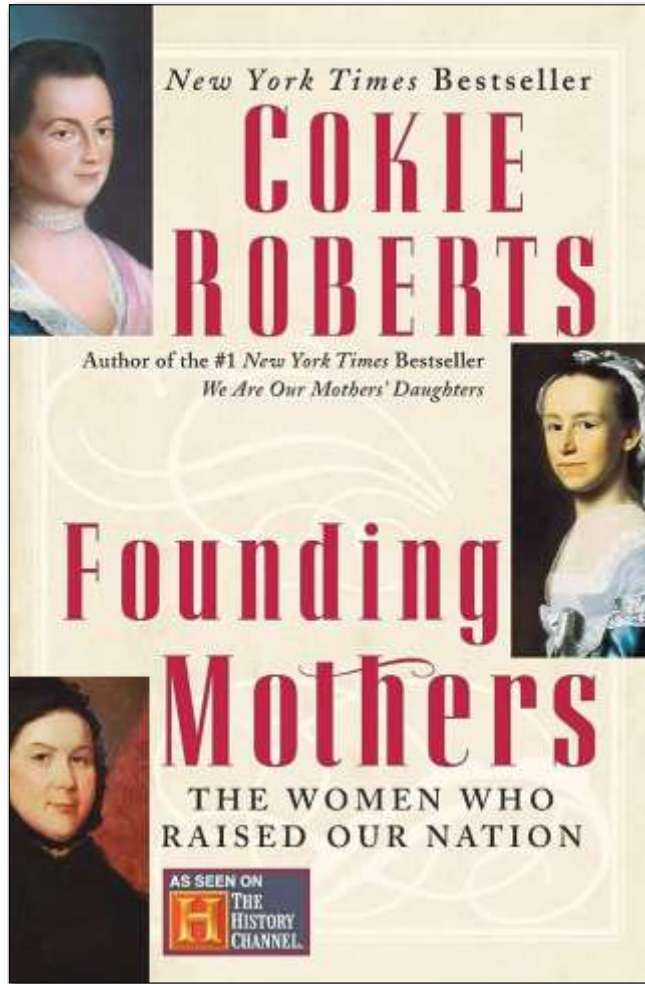
The ladies met in August to finish up some fleece blankets and work on veteran's quilts. They will have new project when they meet on Sept. 21 at 1:30 pm. New members are always welcome to join them. If you have a project idea or would like more information about Itchin' to Stitch, you can contact Teresa Hicks at [hickst@kc.rr.com](mailto:hickst@kc.rr.com).



## BOOK CLUB SEPT. 26 1PM

The book club reads a variety of book genres. We're currently reading a non fiction book called, "Founding Mothers: The Women Who Raised Our Nation". Journalist Cokie Roberts' takes an intimate and illuminating look at the fervently patriotic and passionate women whose tireless pursuits on behalf of their families—and their country—proved just as crucial to the forging of a new nation as the rebellion that established it. While much has been written about the men who signed the Declaration of Independence, battled the British, and framed the Constitution, the wives, mothers, sisters and daughters they left behind have been little noticed by history. Drawing upon personal correspondence, journals, and even recipes, Roberts reveals the often surprising stories of these fascinating women, bringing to life the everyday trials and extraordinary triumphs of individuals like Abigail Adams, Eliza Pinckney, Catherine Littlefield Green, Esther DeBerdt Reed, and Martha Washington—proving that without our exemplary women, the new country might have never survived.

The book club meets in Wesley Hall on Sept. 26, at 1 pm to discuss the book. We would love to have you join our conversation.



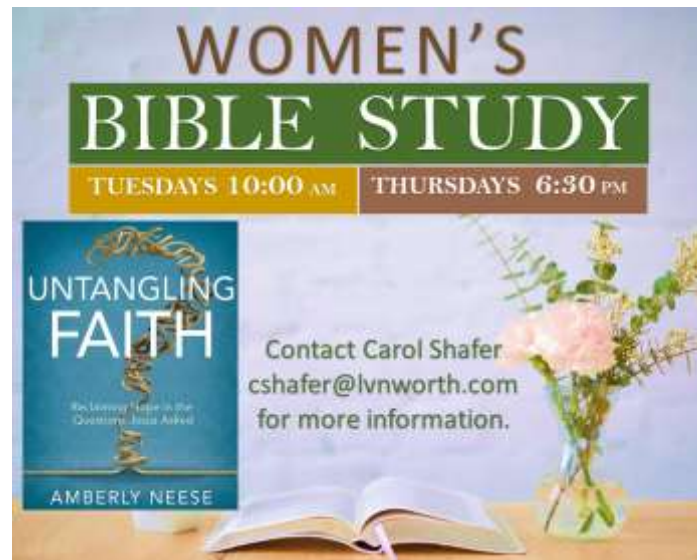




Carol Shafer leads a Women's Bible Study with two different time options. The same class is taught on Tuesdays at 10 am and Thursdays at 6:30 pm. They will be starting Amberly Neese's book, "Untangling Faith" the first week of September. Neese explores the questions Jesus asked as a way to reclaim faith. Chapters explore our own questions like Can God Be Trusted? and How Can I Grow in Faith? Amberly's unique humor and wit help the whole group find their way through deep and rich issues of personal faith, doubt, and growth. For more information, you can contact Carol at [cshafer@lvnworth.com](mailto:cshafer@lvnworth.com).

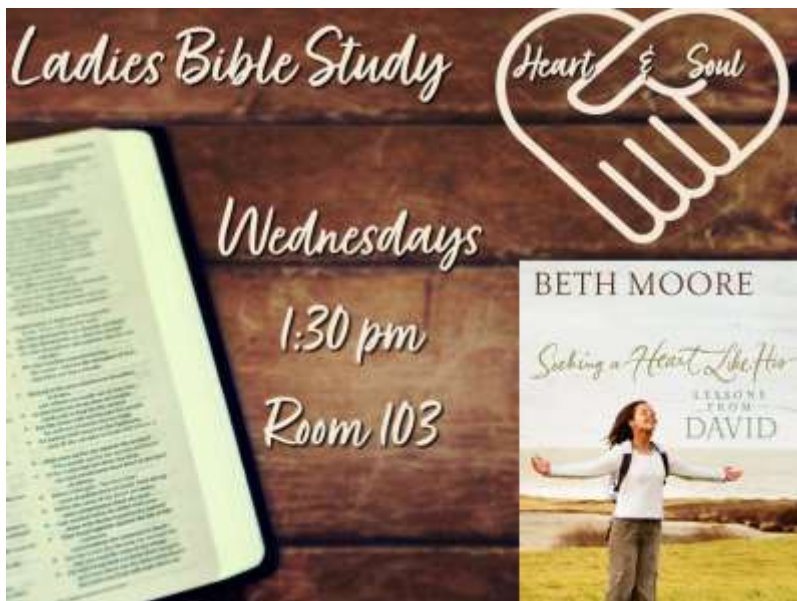
# Bible Study

There are many new Bible Studies and Sunday School classes starting in September. They're great opportunities to build deeper relationships with God and your church family. All these classes are welcoming new members.

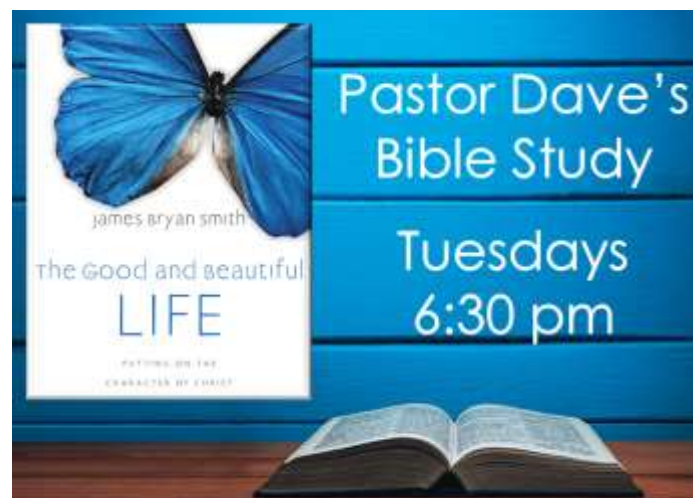


Heart and Soul will be starting "David: Seeking a Heart Like His" Bible Study by Beth Moore on Sept. 6.

Explore how David's life proves God never gives up on us. This examination of the "man after God's own heart," David will delight and disappoint you. You'll want to be just like him at times and nothing like him at others. If you've ever experienced doubts, temptations, losses, family problems, or personal inconsistencies, this study is for you! Heart and Soul meets on Weds. at 1:30 pm. Marti Crow is the leader. You can contact her at [marticrow@gmail.com](mailto:marticrow@gmail.com)



Pastor Dave will be hosting a Tuesday night study this fall. Starting on September 5, they'll be reading the book, "The Good and Beautiful Life: Putting on the Character of Christ" by James Bryan Smith. It is the second of a trilogy on Christian discipleship but reading the first book isn't necessary. Here are some of the topics we'll be covering: Learning to live with anger, learning to live without lying, learning to live without worrying, learning to live without judging others. Our class will meet from 6:30-8pm on Tuesday night in Wesley Hall. Books are available on Amazon for as low as \$3.00 – order your own book if possible.



Our society has put so many unrealistic expectations on us. Did you know that in America, most corporations give no more than three days bereavement leave when you lose a loved one? **That's not even enough time to plan a funeral, much less recover from your loss. And yet, we're expected after three days, to carry on as if nothing has happened?**

The truth is, the death of someone you love and are close to changes the trajectory of your life. And it takes months, years, and sometimes decades to come to terms with it. **We are urged to "move on", maybe our emotions make others uncomfortable, or you feel there is nowhere for you to be authentic about how you feel, so you bottle up your grief and carry on as if everything is fine.**

**But it's not. When people suppress their emotions, whether it's anger, grief, resentment, or unforgiveness, they tend to come out in other ways. Our bodies are not created to harbor these feelings. So when they erupt it's usually not in a good way. It may present as a health scare or high blood pressure. Or maybe an eruption of misdirected anger. Or an embarrassing torrent of tears over a trivial event. Whatever the situation, it's your body telling you that you need to deal with your grief.**

**We're all on this journey called life, and sooner or later we will all experience grief.** When this happens, please consider professional counseling, or attending a group such as GriefShare. GriefShare is a safe place where others have experienced what you are going through. **They won't think you are weird or overreacting.** You can be honest and authentic about your sorrow without judgement. And best of all, you will learn how to cope with your feelings of loss.

**I'm happy to let you know that the entire GriefShare curriculum has been revised and updated to reflect current events, such as Covid. If you have been hesitating, now is the perfect time to enroll. While each lesson is stand alone, it follows a progression that starts with the death of your loved one and continues on through recovery. We currently have two groups, one for spouses, and one for anyone experiencing grief. And we are in the process of creating an additional class which will be on line for those unable to attend in person. Please consider enrolling, and if you know anyone who would benefit from GriefShare, tell them about us. You'd be doing them a big favor.**

God's Blessings,

Marsha Gaffin

## Love God & Love People

Sept. 9, we have a chance to love our neighbor as ourselves. At 9 am we'll meet at the Education building to assemble thank you bags for first responders in our area in honor of Sept. 11. Then at 10 am we'll meet at the Leavenworth Mission at 123 Broadway to help them organize their store for fall. These are easy jobs that parents and kids can do together. You can do one project or both. Lunch will be provided at the church for all volunteers.



The HUB Community Food Bank summer average has gone from 50 families per week to 70 families per week coming to the Community Market. This increase means that they appreciate the donations from individuals and churches even more! They are in need of toilet paper, deodorant and canned or dry beans.



# REFUGEE

## Student Ministry



How can we better support the teenagers in our lives?

I'm glad you asked! As sports and other activities inch their way further and further into the days and times that used to be reserved only for family and church, ministering to youth becomes more and more complicated. How can we reach teenagers if they're too busy to ever set foot in our church doors? When you're more likely to run into teenagers outside the walls of the church than inside, showing God's love to teens becomes an opportunity for each of us wherever we find ourselves. Here are some ways you can show love to the teenagers in your life, whether they are neighbors, grandkids, or family friends.

1. Show up for them. **Teens are so busy today because they're often in a lot of extra-curricular activities.** A huge way to show them love is to be present in their lives. Take an interest in their hobbies and extracurriculars and show up to support them at their events.

2. **"Adopt" a teen.** Even if you aren't related to the teens around you, you can always be a bonus parent, grandparent, aunt or uncle. So many of the families who live in our area are military and may be hundreds of miles away from the nearest family members. You can build a relationship for them so that they have family right here in Leavenworth.

3. **Treat them like they're smart, capable, and know what they're doing.** I once read something that said to speak to children as if they are the wisest, kindest, most beautiful and magical humans on earth, for what they believe is what they will become. That has stuck with me as I parent my own children, but I also think it applies to teenagers (or really anybody) as well. Repeatedly I've found that the youth in my youth group rise to the expectations that I set.

4. Approach teens with curiosity. **It's pretty obvious that today's teenagers are a lot different than any other decade in the past. That has been true for every generation, but it's especially true now because technology means society changes even more rapidly than ever before.** Youth today, by and large, are going to have different opinions, values, and interests than older generations and that's okay. They're growing up in a different world than we did with different opportunities and challenges. Rather than leading with judgment, lead with curiosity. You may not agree with their reasoning, but often they have something to teach us.

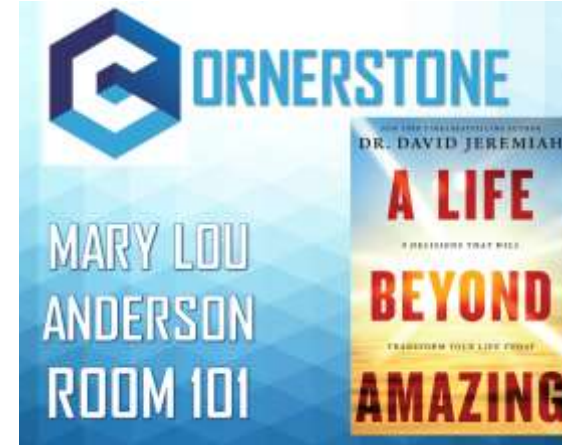
5. Share your life. Intergenerational relationships are fascinating. If you are open to sharing your stories and experiences to the teens around you, they can learn from you. It also humanizes you; you're not just somebody their parents' or grandparents' age but someone who has experienced different things, overcome struggles, and learned life lessons along the way.

6. Bring them to church! Our youth program is a community where students can take a break from their busy week and just be loved as they are. In a world that's complicated and hectic, it can be nice to have a soft place to land. Each week right after the second service (a little after noon), we meet in the youth room for lunch, a game, and a lesson.

As leaders, our goal is to make sure that our youth build a firm foundation of faith to carry them into adulthood and that they leave our program knowing that they are loved by their leaders and by God. We seek to equip them to then spread God's love to others, too. You know, the whole Matthew 22:36-40 thing. This year, we're studying along with what Pastor Dave is preaching so they will have lots to talk about with you if you attend service each week. We would love to meet the teens in your life! Please consider inviting them to join us. For more information, email me at khowell@fumclvks.org.

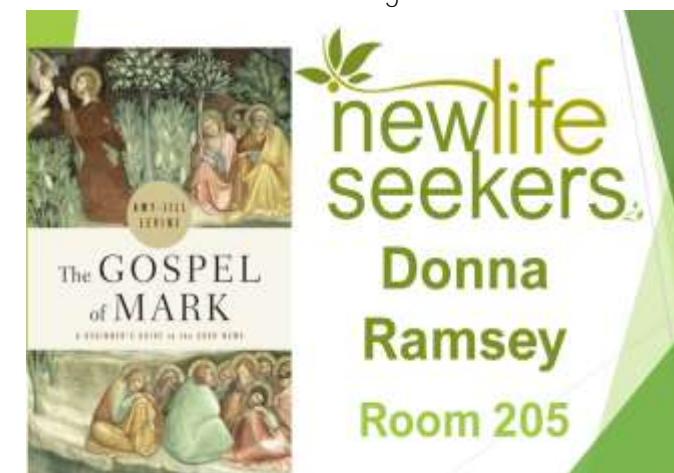
*Kristen Howell*

## SUNDAY SCHOOL



The Cornerstone Sunday School class is starting a new Bible Study by Dr. David Jeremiah called, "A Life Beyond Amazing: Decisions That Will Transform Your Life Today". Dr. Jeremiah uncovers God's strategy for change and challenges you to make 9 important decisions that will transform your heart, your life, and your world. This life-changing book explores the nine qualities of character that carry us forward. Three of these have to do with our relationship with ourselves, three deal with interactions with other people, and three focus on our relationship with God. With Dr. Jeremiah's sound biblical teaching, inspiring stories, and practical suggestions, you'll discover how you can live a life beyond amazing. Mary Lou Anderson leads the class in room 101 in the Education building.

Raun Watson leads the Koinonia Sunday School in a college level study of the Old Testament. They are currently studying both 1 Kings and 1 Chronicles because they both cover the reigns of King David and King Solomon and the decline and division of the Kingdom of Israel after Solomon and many of his successors turned to idol worship. It also recounts the ministry of the prophet Elijah among the northern ten tribes of Israel. Raun Watson helps his students understand the historical and cultural background of the passages. They meet in room 103 of the Education building.

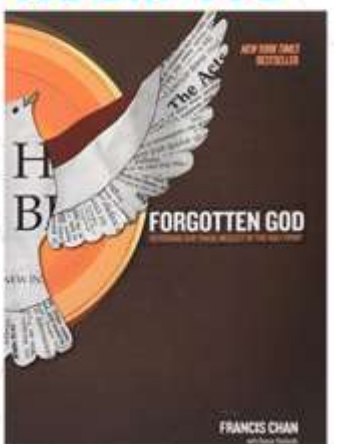


The New Life Seekers Sunday School class will be studying "The Gospel of Mark: A Beginners Guide to the Good News" starting Sept. 24. Walk through the Bible's earliest source for the life of Jesus with author Amy-Jill Levine as she examines John the Baptizer, the Transfiguration, and several of Jesus's most notable stories and parables. The Good News of the gospel message comes alive in this book as readers see Jesus as divine and human, powerful and weak, approachable yet mysterious. The book features an in-depth study of select passages and illuminates the Gospel in its historical context and as a source for the other gospels. Donna Ramsey leads the group. They meet in room 203.

The Family Matters Sunday School class usually focuses on how to be an effective Christian parent and they are just finishing Paul David Tripp's book, "Parenting: 14 Gospel Principles That Can Radically Change Your Family". In October they will start "The Forgotten God: Reversing Our Tragic Neglect of the Holy Spirit". Author Francis Chan rips away paper and bows to get at the true source of the church's power—the Holy Spirit. Chan contends that we've ignored the Spirit for far too long, and we are reaping the disastrous results. Thorough scriptural support and compelling narrative form Chan's invitation to stop and remember the One we've forgotten, the Spirit of the living God. New members are always welcome. They share breakfast together on the first Sunday of the month.



**1st SUNDAY  
BRUNCH  
ROOM 105**





# LIFE @ FUMC



The Nurture and Care committee works to care for our church family, especially those who are older who may not be able to attend services any longer. They are currently preparing for the Octogenarian dinner on Sept. 17. Thank you for your hard work.



The mission of AIR dementia ministry is to bring a sparkle of joy to our friend's eyes even if they don't remember it later. Whether it is bringing the county fair to them with live chicken and cotton candy or Marti Crow sharing how she releases butterflies, we try to create experiences they can enjoy.



Francois and Sandra Changuion have made several needed repairs to our church and Education building. The most recent was laying some lovely flooring at the main entrance. Thank you for your hard work!



Emily and Halsey Haddock are enjoying a donut after first service.



Mother's Morning Out meets on the second Wednesday of each month from 8:30 am to 11:30 am. It is a community outreach for young mothers. The first session was in August and we had a great turnout. If you love playing with children from birth to 5 years old, we could use your help. Please contact Nancy if you would like to volunteer. [nshade@fumclvks.org](mailto:nshade@fumclvks.org).



Nancy Shade, Wyatt Brown and Merrick Moore are enjoying lunch at Fusion 56. Wyatt volunteered to be a sponsor for Fusion 56. Thanks, Wyatt!



Pastor Dave, Kathy McKinley and Kathi LaMoe went to PAIR day at Ft. Leavenworth to welcome the new families. Bill Kidder was also there to represent Scouting.

