



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.

January 2024

31 One service only 10 am	1 Church Office closed	2	3	4 8:30am Staff Meeting	5	6 
7 8:30 & 11am Worship 9:45 am SS 4pm Bells 6pm Youth	8 1 pm AIR ministry 5 pm Virtual Grief Share	9 10 am Bible Study	10 8:30 am MMO 9:00 am Prayer 3:45pmWW 5:00pm Grief Group 6:30pm Choir	11 8:30am Staff Meeting 6:30 pm Bible Study	12 11:00 am Norm Dawson Celebration of Life 6:00 pm Leadership Conference	13 9:00 am Leadership Conference
14 8:30 & 11am Worship 9:45 am SS 12 pm Leadership 4pm Bells 6pm Youth	15 Church Office closed 6:00 pm Martin Luther King Jr. Day Celebration	16 10am Bible Study 6:30 pm Bible Study	17 9 am Prayer 1:30 pm H & S 3:45pmWonderful Wednesday 6:30pm Choir	18 8:30am Staff 6:30pm Women's Bible Study	19	20 8 am Men's Prayer Breakfast
21 8:30 & 11am Worship 9:45 am SS 4pm Bells 6pm Youth	22 1 pm AIR ministry 5 pm Virtual Grief Share	23 10am Bible Study 12:00 pm Let's Do Lunch - Luigi's 6:30 pm Bible Study	24 9 am Prayer 1:30 pm H & S 3:45pmWonderful Wednesday 5:00pm Grief Group 6:30pm Choir	25 8:30am Staff 6:30 pm Women's Bible Study	26	27 
28 8:30 & 11am Worship 9:45 am SS 4pm Bells 6pm Youth	29 1 pm AIR Ministry 5 pm Virtual Grief Share	30 10am Bible Study 6:30 pm Bible Study	31 9 am Prayer 1:30 pm H & S 3:45pmWonderful Wednesday 6:30pm Choir	1 8:30am Staff Meeting 6:30 pm Women's Bible Study	2	3 





Think
on these
things...



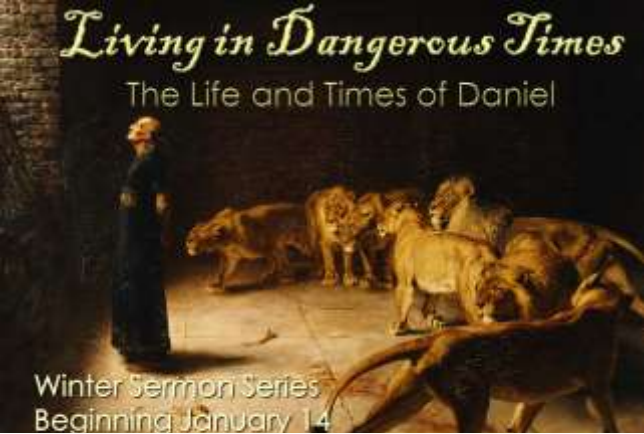
COMMIT TO THE LORD
WHATEVER YOU DO,
& HE WILL ESTABLISH
YOUR PLANS.
PROVERBS 16:3

2024 will be a big year for First United Methodist Church. I am excited to see what God has in store for the church and Leavenworth County in the days to come. As always, I am honored to be your pastor and friend. God's calling on my life as a follower of Jesus is the core of my soul. My family is next – when my ministry days are done, Rhonda and Taylor will be the only ones following me outside the door of the church. Finally, my calling as a pastor is a high priority. I believe God called me to lead FUMC at this significant time in ministry. Hard to believe I'll finish six years at end of June!

We are entering a time of preparing for the next three to five years of ministry. Our church staff and leadership will be holding a visioning retreat with Rev. Dr. Bruce Emmert. The focus is to create a missional mindset to help us see who we are called to serve and how we will continue to grow mature in our own discipleship and connect in relationships with others. Our dates will be January 12-14 so please be in prayer for us. I believe if we do the ministry work now of asking where God wants FUMC to go, we will be stronger in the future. This work will set the course for our journey.

Last time you went on a trip or vacation, where did you go? Did you fly, drive, carpool, or ride the train? Maybe a combination of those? What did you want to do when you got there? We are discerning where we want to go in the next five years. It's an ongoing process. If we don't know where we are going, how will we know what we are going to do to get there?

In the days to come, my hope for FUMC is that we will continue to reach out beyond our walls and offer the love of Jesus Christ to all we encounter. We'll grow in our faith in God and strengthen our bonds between each other. If we do the work now, our future will be bright! *Pastor Dave*



Pastor Dave will start a new sermon series on January 14 on the book of Daniel. Titles include, "The Threat of Losing Your Identity," "When the Heat is On" and "The Bigger They Are, the Harder They Fall". You won't want to miss a sermon!



Dear FUMC,
Thank you so much for helping make our 2023 Holiday Art Gala a success. We would not be able to do it without your help. Thanks again.
Leavenworth County Artist Association

HOLIDAY ART GALA

Libby Frashier, Teri Nabors, and Heidi Eaton are members of the Leavenworth County Artist Association and each displayed their art at the Holiday Art Gala in December. Heidi's meerkat scratch art (seen over her shoulder) won second place, Teri won Honorable Mention. Libby's sailboat painting won second place in people's choice and her Mae West drawing won the raffle.

JANUARY Birthdays

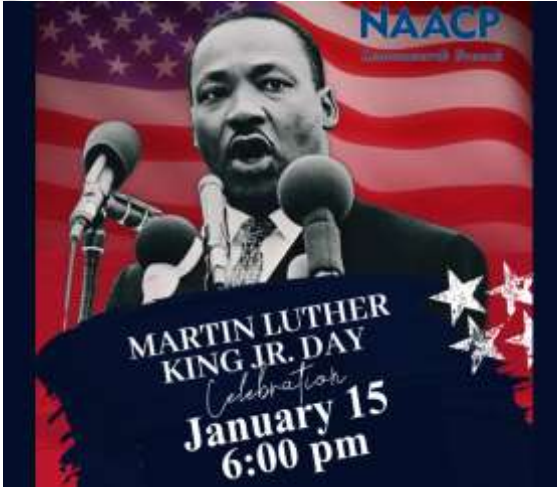


1st	Jacob Hansen	11th	Daniel Eyerly	25th	Bill McCollum
3rd	Paul Estep	14th	Bill Shade	27th	Linda Landzettel
	Mary Catherine Perry	16th	Alex Burkett		Dave Davis
	Lily Rader	20th	Jim Wolfe	29th	Tony McNeill
4th	Kaki Kinard	21st	Joel Hubbard		Rick Sanders
6th	Chez Shafer		Barbara Kempf	30th	Michael Burkett
7th	Gini Geib	22nd	Mike Crow		Helen Pepper
	Alice Hall	23rd	Jennifer Ko		John Raines
	Chris Knopp		Leah Wieggers		Verna Raines
8th	Adriane Bakke		Adriana Yates	31st	Brooke Frederick
8th	Emily Hansen	24th	Leona Sanford		Virginia Schalipp

JANUARY Anniversaries

2nd	Bill & Karen Kidder	36 years
9th	Ron & Lou Ann Roggentien	16 years
23rd	Jeff & Ann Andrews	30 years
31st	Jim & Jan Glick	53 years

JANUARY Special Events



TUES, JAN 23, 12:00 PM
LUIGI'S RESTAURANT

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.



Scouts Show Their Christmas Spirit

Cub Scout Pack 3109 showed amazing Christmas spirit. The food drive went so well! We ended up donating 1,421 pounds of food and hygiene donations and \$424 cash to the Catholic Charities! Amazing job to those who helped out!! The Christmas party was a huge success, and as you might guess, no one went home hungry. Each Cub Scout received a pinewood derby car kit to begin the design phase.

The Scouts from Troops 173 and 6173 displayed Christmas spirit of a different kind. The Scouts participated in the annual Wreaths Across America at the Leavenworth National Cemetery. Eighteen wreaths were placed on former members of our congregation. Their names were pronounced in memory with each wreath placed to honor lost loved ones. Each Scout received a fleece blanket that will go well in every sleeping bag.

The entire Scouting Ministry thanks the congregation of First United Methodist Church for over 50 years of continued support. A Scout is reverent.



Dear Itchin' to Stitch,
We appreciate you all for your devotion, dedication and caring hearts. Thank you for the Veteran's day quilt. It is beautiful, lovely, fabulous and made with love. Thanks. *Thank you!*
Brendale and Doug

Dear First United Methodist church,
The Council on Aging wishes to thank you for your generous donation of \$775 for the Meals on Wheels program. Your donation will assist a senior who can't afford to donate toward their daily Meals on Wheels lunches.
As you know, the past two years have been especially difficult for the senior population. Many have faced new issues such as isolation from their families and friends on top of the other concerns such as food insecurity and financial challenges. Your donation is sure to brighten their days and ensure Leavenworth County seniors feel loved and appreciated.
Thank you so much for your support. We are blessed by your kindness.
Connie Harmon
Council on Aging Executive Director

Dear friends at FUMC,
Thank you so much for the delicious lunch at Nettie Hartnett. The soup and service was very much appreciated. Thank you greatly.
Nancy Mullen
Alternative Room Teacher

Dear FUMC and Congregational Care Ministry,
Thank you so much for the wonderful Christmas sack of goodies. As you know, my membership is still with Atwood UMC in Northwest Kansas. I joined at Bird City when I was 10 years old, 74 years ago. But you have loved us as one of your own and we appreciate that so much. We love Raun's Sunday School class and are proud to be a part of this wonderful congregation. Thank you for all you do, not just for us but for this community.
In Christ's Love,
Wilda & Ernest Wicke

Please inform Nurture folks how appreciative I am of their continuing endeavors to show care and concern for the octogenarians+. The Christmas bag full of useful items-- from face tissue and lip balm to mini Panettone bread (which was unfamiliar to me but most satisfying to my palate) to candies and, of course, "The Upper Room"--was a real winner. What a neat bag of holiday cheer!
Maryann McAfee

Dear FUMC members,
Thank you so much for helping Anthony families have a brighter Christmas. Thank you for always supporting Anthony staff, students and families!
Nicole McConnell
Anthony Elementary
Social Worker



Dear Itchin' to Stitch,
I want to thank the Stitchers for the Veterans quilt I received. It is an extraordinary gift. I will appreciate it forever and it will remain on display in our home. I know that you spent a lot of your time and want you to know it is appreciated.
Wade Schmierer

Dear Itchin' to Stitch,
The volunteers of the CW Parker Carousel Museum want to thank you for your generous donations of beautiful quilts for the Children's Small Mall. You have helped us to make many children happy.
Toni Stevens

Thank You!

Dear Bill Kidder and the Scout troop,
Adam Hamilton has been preaching on angels for the last few Sundays. You are definitely my angel, and I am so grateful for you placing a wreath on Jerry's grave. That means a lot to me and my family. Thank you so much!
Blessings to you and your family.
Mary Eleanor McCluskey

Dear Itchin' to Stitch,
Thank you very much for the patriot quilt that was made for me in honor of Veteran's Day. I am humbled by it and in awe of the quality of the work. On behalf of all the Leavenworth veteran's, thanks for what you do. It is deeply appreciated!
Dave Gaumer
Lt. Col. USA retired

To Our church friends,
Thanks for your many kindnesses, your prayers, and visits throughout the entire year, but especially during the holiday season.
God bless,
Doug and Alice Hall

Dear Congregational Care Ministry,
Thanks so much for the awesome goodie bag delivered to our home. Not only did it include delicious goodies to eat, but also a full schedule of December church activities, very helpful, a copy of the Upper Room, and essentials like chapsticks and Kleenex. We appreciate your thoughtfulness at this busy time of year.
God Bless, Marcia and Maggie Myers



Happy New Year, my brothers and sisters in Christ Jesus. Thank you all for your continuous support and love during the past year. The great news is the church is both spiritually and financially strong. Our online and in person ministries and your continuous generosity has put us in a position to further bringing His Kingdom in 2024, serving and loving our neighbors as ourselves.

Financially, we met our forecasted goals for 2023. Through growth in the stock market, our financial position is strong and our pledges for 2024 are rising as is your love.

One of our focused priorities for 2024 is where will be in five years, in ten years, and beyond. We will have a long range, vision focused conversation on how we can prepare ourselves for the next generations of Kingdom Builders at the First United Methodist Church of Leavenworth.

All planning starts with dedicated intentional prayer – not our will but His. Please continue to pray for the leadership of the church as we embark on this worthiest endeavor. Your 2024 church council is led by

Carla Wiegers - Council Chair	Michelle Briggs-Lay Leader	Bill Kidder – Nurture Chair
Kathi LaMoe-Witness Chair	Marti Crow – Finance Chair	Mike Brettmann- SPRC Chair
Mike Mix – Head of Trustees	Dave York – Pastor	

The next church council meeting is scheduled for later this month, so I will be able to report where we are going and how **we are allocating our assets to accomplish our collective goals and missions. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to reach out to me or any member of the staff.**

The next men's breakfast is scheduled for January 20th in Fellowship Hall at 8am. Please attend if you are available and invite a friend – iron sharpens iron! If you have any questions please contact Dave Landis (dlandis@hughes.net) or Mike Mix (hairymule@gmail.com).

Matthew 7:7 NIV “Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives; the one who seeks finds; and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened.”

The love this congregation brings on a daily basis is continuing to serve in this coming year; Feeding the hungry (Samaritan's Buffet, Leavenworth Mission Volunteers, Backpack Buddies), housing the homeless (Leavenworth Interfaith Community of Hope), and loving unconditionally on our neighbors, not for individual/collective recognition, but to bring glory to our Lord Jesus (Itch'n to Stitch, Grief Share, AIR, Youth Mission, Kids First Worship, Bible Study Groups, Sunday School, Scouts and Music) are all opportunities for you to serve and love. If you'd like more information on these service ministries or you have an idea or other area where you believe we need to serve, please contact me @ egarven@fumclvks.org
In Christ, Ed

BLOOD DRIVE REPORT

Thank you to everyone who donated at our blood drive on Dec. 6. Your friendly smiles made everyone feel welcome and the sloppy joes were delicious. Here are the statistics.

48 donors registered
First Time Donors: 4
Double red cells: 6 donors, 12 units
Total Units Collected: 49

Church volunteers assisted the Center's crew by greeting donors, serving refreshments and performing any special requests from the crew. They included: Gary and Cheryl Rader, Marguerite Hilscher, Deb Baeuchle, Sherry Lauber, Lea Ann Weilbacher, Jim Wolfe, Kathi LaMoe, Steve and Margaret Songer, Maryann McAfee. Staff members aided in preparing for the drive, especially Ed Garven, Grant Zschoche. The New Life Seekers Sunday School class continued their tradition of preparing and offering sloppy Joes to each donor (in memory of David Serena who started this endeavor).



Jack and Sara Kóbe met through a mutual friend when she moved to KC from Iowa after college. The actual first time they met, Jack was on a date with another girl! Then they were together on a canoe and camping trip organized by the mutual friend. Sara was in a canoe with a friend and neither of them knew how to steer the canoe so all they did was go from bank to bank. They finally pulled over and waited for Jack and his friends to catch up to where they were. After about 6 hours they finally got to the halfway point of the route... **Needless to say, it's the last time Sara went camping in a tent!** She is more of a Holiday Inn girl! This past September, Jack and Sara celebrated **their 25th wedding anniversary which can't be right because they can't be old enough for that!**

Sara is a financial advisor with Edward Jones in Lansing. She has been in financial services since 1989 when she started working at a bank. Jack is a project manager for P1 Group in Lenexa. They do HVAC for commercial properties.

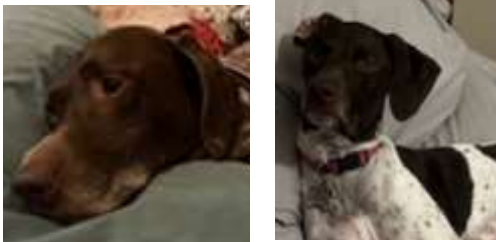
Jack and Sara both enjoy college football which is good since their youngest son, Logan, is a manager with Kansas State football. (Jack also did this when he attended KSU.). Jack likes to do home improvement projects that Sara dreams up and work in the yard doing landscape projects. Sara like to read. Her brother taught her how to read at the age of 4 and she has been an avid reader ever since. Family is important to both of them and so they also spend a lot of time with them. **Sara's parents are both alive (age 84 and 87) and live in Wauke, Iowa, outside of Des Moines , so they do a lot of traveling there to see and help them.**

Jack and Sara have been in Leavenworth since June 15. When their youngest son decided to go to KSU, they thought about moving back to the KC area after 22 years of being in Iowa. Shortly after having this thought, God got involved and showed Jack an opportunity for a position for new employment. They felt God through their transition and while there were some small speed bumps, God guided them through the obstacles and they felt His guidance throughout the months leading up to their relocation. Jack is originally from KCK, so they just came back home. Jack has 4 older sisters who all still live in the KC metro and Sara has a sister who lives in southern Johnson County.

Jack and Sara have two sons. Logan is 18 and a freshman at KSU. Logan enjoys cars and dreams of owning the expensive ones. Jackson is their oldest son. He is 21 and works for Fareway Meat Market at 79th and Ward Parkway full time. **This used to be McGonigle's Meat Market but was purchased by the grocery store that he worked for while in high school and college.** It was an ideal transition for him to transfer within the store and hopefully enter the management program the company offers. Jackson enjoys anything having to do with computers - gaming, streaming, etc. He has helped with various sound and video things with their prior church.

Jack and Sara have three female dogs (due to Sara not wanting any more males in the house and wanting to have **all the dogs she ever sees...**). Barli is their 14 year old mini dachshund. She is starting to lose her sight and acts like a cat. Brownie is 7 and is a German Shorthaired Pointer. Nilla is 2 and also is a German Shorthaired Pointer. The two younger ones love to run around the back yard and chase anything that is outside, mostly each other.

“Everyone has been very welcoming and friendly to us. We have enjoyed coming to the different services (but 8:30 will be our “normal” service) and Jack has been enjoying the newly established Men's Group.” Sara will be looking for ways to become involved after the holidays. They are excited to be new members!





I'm happy to announce that beginning January 8, 2024, we are offering a third GriefShare class. What makes this group so special is that it will be a virtual class, which will be available to everyone. Anyone experiencing grief, no matter where they live, will be able to stream this class from the comfort of their home. You will just need access to a computer and have the Zoom app loaded. **We're hoping to reach people who are homebound, unable to drive to regular meetings, or can't fit in-house meetings into their schedules.**

This class will be facilitated by two former GriefShare attendees, Thaneshia Lindsey and Suzanne Gray. **We'll talk more about Suzanne next month, but in this article I'd like you to get to know Thaneshia better.** Thaneshia began attending GriefShare after the death of Bob and Shirley Cowan, longtime members of our congregation. She began working for them 28 years ago, and the last seven years became their caretaker. Losing them created a void in her life.

When she got to GriefShare, she was able to get the help she needed and felt that she was ready to leave the group. Then her father-in-law died, and all the feelings came flooding back. Once again she started attending. **"In attending Round Two, I saw people who were overcome with sadness and depression begin to experience joy, and I knew in my heart that this was for me," she said.** She began to feel a calling to this ministry. One day, she opened up to the group; the next week, church leadership offered her the opportunity to facilitate her own group.

Thaneshia brings her own special skills to this ministry. **In addition to having an Associate's degree in social work and a Bachelor's degree in Human Services, she has a Master's degree in psychology.** She has been an ordained minister since 1996 and is a Certified Life Coach. **Married for 26 years, she's the mother of three grown children and has seven grandchildren.** Her love of Jesus shines through in her passion for helping others.

If you are interested, or know someone who might be interested in attending our virtual class, please contact Thaneshia, Marsha Gaffin, or the church office at the below numbers. You can also register directly through GriefShare.org, find a class, Leavenworth, KS. May God richly bless you.

Marsha Gaffin - (913) 547-0286

Thaneshia Lindsey - (913) 704-9317

Church office - (913) 682-5374

Spouses group - 3rd and 5th Tuesday, 2-4pm

General group - 2nd and 4th Wednesday, 5-7pm

Virtual group - weekly, Mondays, 5-7 pm.



A big thank you goes to our volunteers who are so faithful and dedicated to this ministry. [Mary Lou Anderson](#) starts our Mondays with exercise fun. [Kathi LaMoe](#) provides us a delicious snack each week and helps us with our activities. [Marti Crow](#) keeps the conversation lively and helps our friends with their projects. [Marsha Gaffin](#) puts a smile on our face and a song in our heart each week. [Libby Frashier](#) helps us express our creative side through arts and crafts each week. [Sandy Wood](#) organizes a service project so we contribute to our community each week. It is a joy to watch these ladies work in harmony each week to serve their community. If you would like more information about AIR ministry, contact Sandy and swood@fumclvks.org.



YOUTH STAYCATION MISSION TRIP

The week between Christmas and New Years for the past several years has been a designated time for the youth to get out of town, learn something new, and have some fun bonding together. This year, we decided to switch things up by staying in town for a "staycation" service trip (with plenty of fun, too) to help us learn more about the people in our own community who live differently than we do. Students arrived at the church bright and early the Tuesday after Christmas and we loaded up to go serve at Leavenworth Attainable Housing. We spent the morning at Welcome Central doing tasks that often get passed over when there isn't enough time like deep cleaning different parts of the facility and throwing out expired food. The leadership there also gave us a rundown of all the services they offer to people of Leavenworth County and the ways they help to connect people with resources in town. We spent the afternoon in Kansas City visiting The National WWI Museum, Manny's Mexican Restaurant, and nearly froze to death at the Plaza. We got a quick view of the lights and the more bookish among us enjoyed wandering the four levels of the Barnes & Noble.

Wednesday, we went to The Leavenworth County Humane Society (a favorite for probably all of us because we got to interact with animals while we were there). The Humane Society made the mistake of giving us the tour and explaining what they do before we served so it was near impossible to pry people away from the adorable baby kittens or the sweet dogs. While we were there, we did various projects including cleaning windows, attaching plastic meant to block wind on to the outdoor kennels, dusting, moving big piles of limbs on the property, and filling in holes in the drive with gravel. We spent quite a few hours at the Humane Society and enjoyed some time cuddling kittens before we pried the students away to go to Cardboard Corner (a restaurant where you can pick from hundreds of board games to play for free) prior to dinner at Pie 5 and BRKThrough. BRKThrough is a escape-room-ish place where instead of one escape room, you have 40 different challenges in 40 different rooms. You and your group of 2-4 people compete together against the room for points that are designated as mental, physical, or skill (or a combination). It was a lot of fun and both of our teams placed among the upper third of teams based on our score.

Thursday, we went to Deeper Windows which is a dementia ministry that allows people with dementia to attend a mentally, physically, and creatively engaging day program while their caregivers get some much-needed time to rest, attend appointments, etc. They were closed this past week for the holidays, so we spent the morning deep cleaning the facility, organizing, and doing yard work. The place shined when we were done with it. In the afternoon, we went to Bricktionary: The Ultimate LEGO A-Z Exhibit at Union Station, followed by an early dinner at Gate's BBQ. We spent the evening back at the church baking cookies, watching a movie, and playing board games.

Friday we visited CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates for Children) in downtown Leavenworth. They hold a very important role of supporting and advocating for the interests of children in court, such as children in the foster system or kids who are in the middle of custody battles in parents' divorce. We helped them put away Christmas decor so that their highly-trained employees and volunteers could focus on the work of taking care of kids in Leavenworth County. After that, we spent the rest of the morning deep-cleaning the youth room and cleaning up after our trip. We played a variety of games and headed over to Draftcade in Zona Rosa for a couple hours of arcade games before finishing up our week at dinner at Rancho Grande. Students went home for some much-needed rest.

Our trips are always so wonderful and our congregation is blessed to have kind, responsible, and hard-working young people amongst us. It is a gift to be able to work with them and learn from them as they practice embodying their faith. And it was so wonderful to learn more about the organizations in our community doing important work to care for the least and the last. It restored a bit of my faith in humanity this week. **Kristen Howell & Steven Shade**



Kids First Worship meets during the 11:00 service each Sunday on the lower floor of the Sanctuary building. The Savior has been born! This month we will be looking at things that happened in Jesus' early years on earth.

January 7 – Wise Men Visit

January 14 – Simeon

January 21 – Anna

January 28 – Jesus in the Temple

Sunday School

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'll 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 Jesus' Early Years.



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 meet in the Education Building from 3:45 – 5:30. Friends are always welcome!

In January, we are starting on Paul's Second Journey and traveling to Galatia. While we are there we will find out who lived there, who traveled with him, what happened while he was there, and what he wrote in his letter to them.

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

This month we will parallel Pastor Dave's sermons.

January 7 – Baptism of Jesus

January 14 – Be Careful Who You Follow

January 21 – Tell it Like it Is

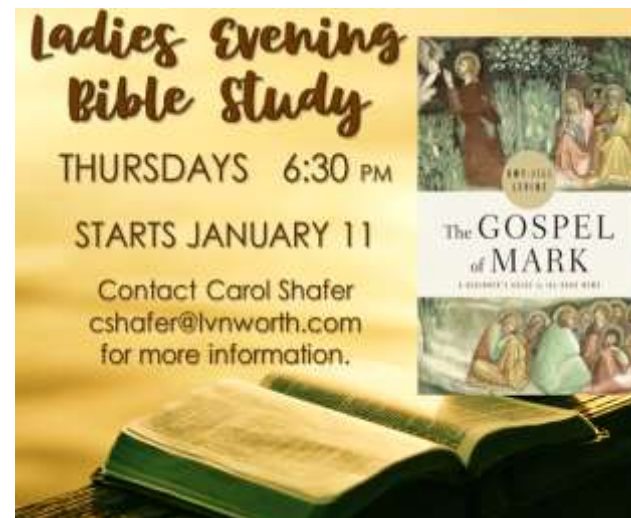
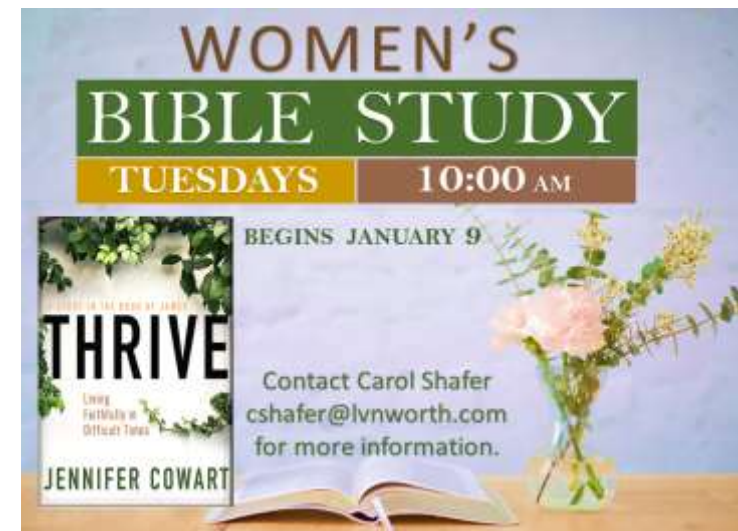
January 28 – Trust God. Even When it's Hard



Our theme for January is "Let it Snow!" Each month, on the second Wednesday, we will be providing care for children ages birth through school age. There will be three groups: Nursery, Toddlers and Preschool. Space is limited, so register now!

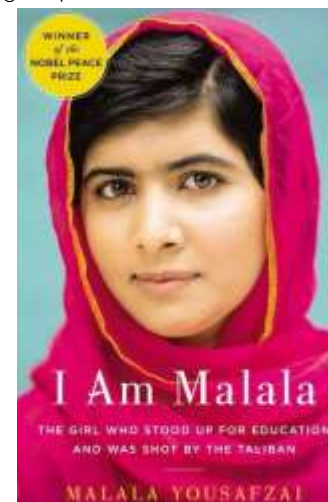
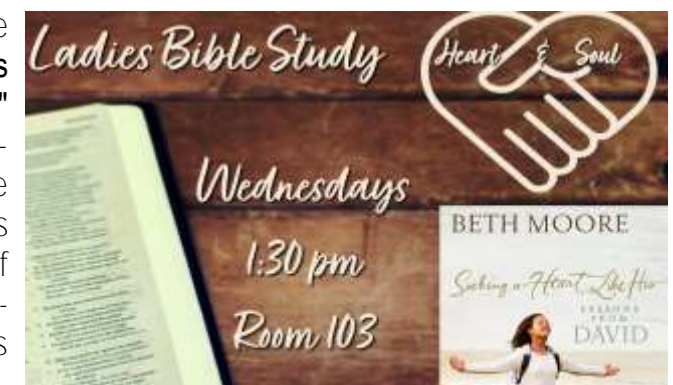
NURSERY
WORKERS NEEDED
CONTACT NANCY SHADE AT
NSHADE@FUMCLVKS.ORG

The Women's Bible Study meets on Tuesdays at 10 am. They will begin "Thrive: Living Faithfully in Difficult Time" on January 9. In Thrive, author and teacher Jen Cowart helps women develop the habits and attitudes necessary to thrive, whatever their circumstances. Leading readers through the Book of James, a letter written about enduring hardships, she lifts up six characteristics of mature Christians. From endurance and humility to controlling our words, Jen helps participants find the divine and the practical in living faithfully.



Women also have an evening Bible Study available. Carol Shafer will lead "The Gospel of Mark" by Amy-Jill Levine on Thursdays at 6:30 pm starting January 11. Walk through the Bible's earliest source for the life of Jesus with scholar Amy-Jill Levine as she looks at John the Baptizer, the Little Apocalypse, 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. For info, contact Carol at cshafer@lvnworth.com.

Heart and Soul meets at 1:30 pm on Wednesdays. They have been studying Beth Moore's "Seeking a Heart Like His: Lessons from David". In this study of the "man after God's own heart," David will make you laugh and cry. He will delight and disappoint you. You'll want to be just like him at times and nothing like him at others. David's life clearly demonstrates that God is always able to reach us, correct us, and reclaim our worship. If you've ever experienced doubts, temptations, losses, or personal inconsistencies, this study is for you. Marti Crow leads this group. For more info, contact her at marticrow@gmail.com.

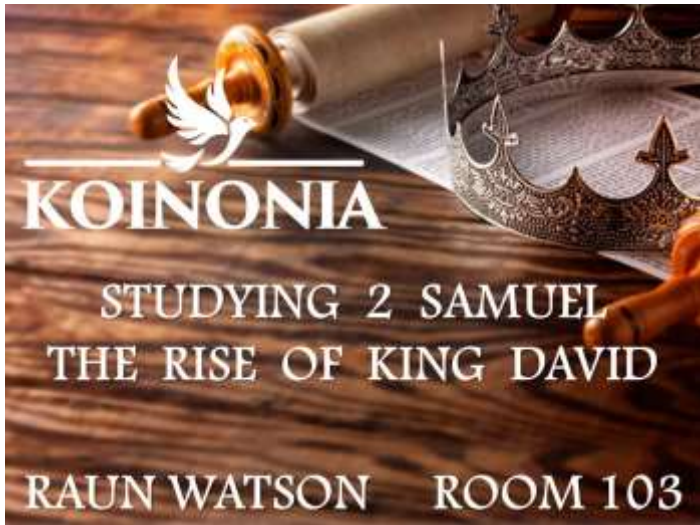
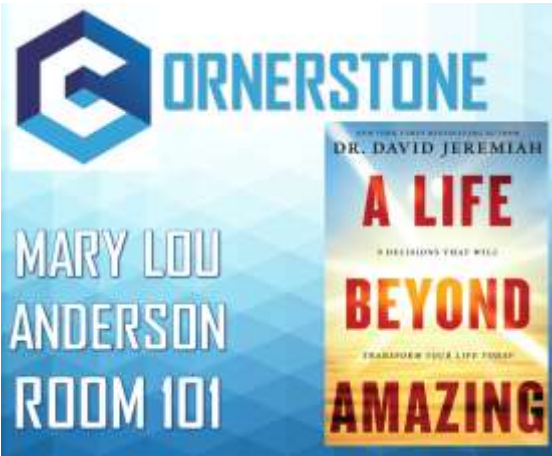


If you enjoy reading, we invite you to the book club. We are reading, "I Am Malala: The Girl Who Stood Up for Education and Was Shot by the Taliban" by Malala Yousafzai. When Malala was 15 she was shot in the head at point-blank range while riding the bus home from school, and few expected her to survive. Instead, Malala's miraculous recovery has taken her on an extraordinary journey from northern Pakistan to the halls of the United Nations in New York. At sixteen, she became a global symbol of peaceful protest and the youngest nominee ever for the Nobel Peace Prize. "I Am Malala" is the remarkable tale of a family uprooted by global terrorism, of the fight for girls' education, of a father who, himself a school owner, championed and encouraged his daughter to write and attend school, and of brave parents who have a fierce love for their daughter in a society that prizes sons. "I Am Malala" will make you believe in the power of one person's voice to inspire change in the world. We will discuss the book Feb. 5 at 1 pm. For info, contact Sandy Wood at swood@fumclvks.org.



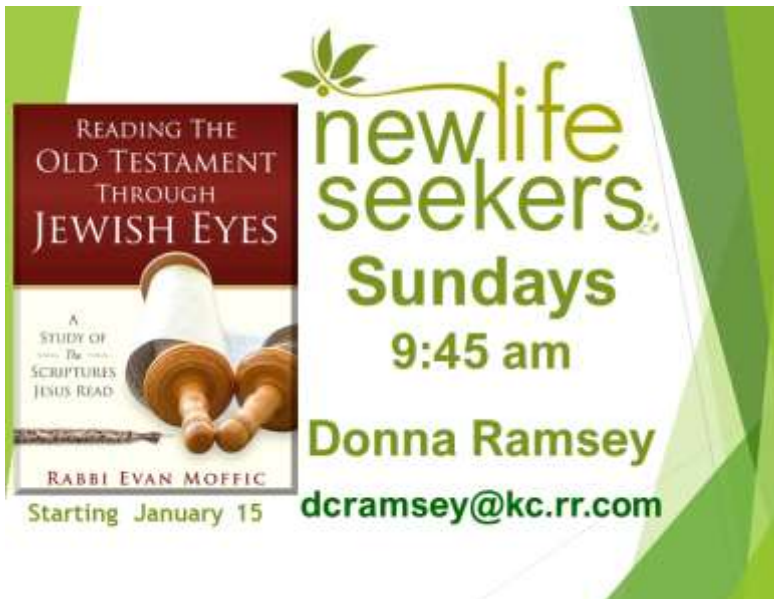
Is your new year's resolution to grow deeper in your spiritual walk? Bible study is a great way to do that and Sunday School is a great way to study the Bible with friends who are on the same journey. January is the perfect time to get started in a Sunday School class because all of **our classes are starting new studies. Here's a preview of** our classes to help you decide which class is best for you.

The Cornerstone class is a smaller class led by Mary Lou Anderson. **They're studying Dr. David Jeremiah's book, "A Life Beyond Amazing: 9 Decisions That Will Transform Your Life Today."** 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. This class has a comfortable, conversational style.



The Koinonia Sunday School class enjoys digging deep into the Old Testament one verse at a time. They are currently studying 1 Kings and 1 Chronicles which tells the story of the death of David, the reign of his son 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. If you join this class you will receive a Bible Atlas with Charts and Biblical Reconstructions that help you gain historical insights in the context of Biblical times. The name "Koinonia" is a Greek word that means "having in common partnership and fellowship" through a participation and study in God's Word.

The New Life Seekers Sunday School class is starting a new Bible study called, "Reading the Old Testament Through Jewish Eyes". Rabbi Moffic explores the Torah, the first five books of the Hebrew Bible, and highlights points of interest to Christians. He describes the role of the Torah in Jewish worship and practice and explores the key themes of each book guided by the wisdom of Jewish interpreters through the centuries. Join Rabbi Moffic in this study of the Torah and find rich new insights into the biblical story. Discover how the Torah can be a source of wisdom, truth, and transformation in your life. This class also is involved with community service and often has guest speakers like Sister Vickie Perkins from the Alliance for Affordable Housing in Leavenworth. For info contact Donna Ramsey at dcramsey@kc.rr.com.



The Best Way to Show a Young Parent God's Love Is to Love Their Children

Imagine this: you are a young parent with three children under the age of three. Your spouse is out of town for work. You have worked hard all week to take care of your children, your house, and do your "outside the home" job. You have just spent over an hour getting all of them ready: breakfast, teeth brushed, hair brushed, clothes on, diaper bags packed. You have finally made it out to your car with all three of them – they are almost all buckled in - then the baby has a blowout. You unbuckle everyone, and back into the house you go. You tried your best to leave enough time for the unexpected, but as you return to your car with a freshly changed baby (diaper and clothes!), the oldest one announces, "I need to go!" Back in you go so that you don't have another child to clean up. By the time everyone is buckled and you make it to the church, you are doing your best to keep it together, but you are seriously frazzled. You arrive and get ready to drop your children off at the nursery, so that you can have your one hour to focus on worship for the week. You get to the nursery and see the sign on the door: NURSERY CLOSED TODAY DUE TO STAFFING SHORTAGE. What do you do? I think if it were me, I would sit on the floor and cry.

Of course, this is just one scenario showing the importance of our church nursery. There are some young children who do very well in "adult" church. They sit quietly with their activity bags and unless you saw them come in you wouldn't even know that they were there. My Christine was such a child. My boys – not so much.

We're blessed in our church to have a cheery, well-stocked nursery for the children who come here. We also have a marvelous staff – mostly volunteer – who not only love being with children, but the children love to be with them.

In the coming year we have need for more. Long-time (15 years!!!!) nursery worker Sarah Yenney is taking a much-deserved break. Anya Anderson is graduating from high school this May (how did that happen?) If you are looking for a place to serve, and you love children; if you are in high school or older; please prayerfully consider volunteering for the nursery, even if just one week a month. **Nancy Shade**



A few years ago, I took a short hiatus from my job here at the church to work for a local pre-school. God was incredibly good and brought Sandy Wood here to be the new Children's Ministry Director. What a blessing for our church family that was! What we didn't know at the time was that her husband, Brian, was a huge part of the blessing! One of the things the Director of Children's Ministries is responsible for is the nursery. When I returned, we had just come out of the COVID pandemic and were gearing back up for in-person services. Our nursery staff at that time had some workers going off to college, and one of our main workers retiring. Long story short, we needed some new caregivers in the nursery. Enter Brian Wood.

Brian has a gentle and mature spirit and has a clear gifting of caring for children. I have witnessed this first hand as I worked with him in the preschool group for Mother's Morning Out. He has just the right mixture of caring, authority, and genuine interest in what the children are doing. I also learned a LOT about Transformers from him!

He has become a "go to" volunteer in the nursery, partly because of his availability, but more so because of his calming presence. Children who are first-timers, or are going through the separation anxiety stage, warm up to him very quickly. I once watched a precious girl go from tears to playing with a barn cheerfully in about 30 seconds due to his skill – no exaggeration.

He has the nickname "Baby Whisperer" which was initially bestowed upon him by his family, but has quickly become apparent here at the church as well! I close by saying, "Well done, Baby Whisperer. And thank you!"

CHRISTMAS @ FUMC



Our AIR Ministry friends enjoyed making Christmas cookies for Samaritan's Buffet and caroling church members. The staff had the privilege of delivering all your Christmas presents to Anthony Elementary and Nettie Hartnett schools. Both schools were deeply appreciative of your generosity. On the last day of school we were able to deliver cookies and milk to every student at Anthony Elementary. Itchin' to Stitch gifted custom blankets to everyone in Debra McGrew's family. Congregational Care Ministry gave Christmas goodie bags to our Octogenarians. The kids did a darling Christmas program where Merrick Moore sang a solo. Bryan White brought the Lansing High School Choir to our community Christmas concert. The Leavenworth Brass Ensemble, our own church choir and Wesley Ringers made our Christmas Eve service very memorable. We definitely shone Christ's light this Christmas.

