






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.

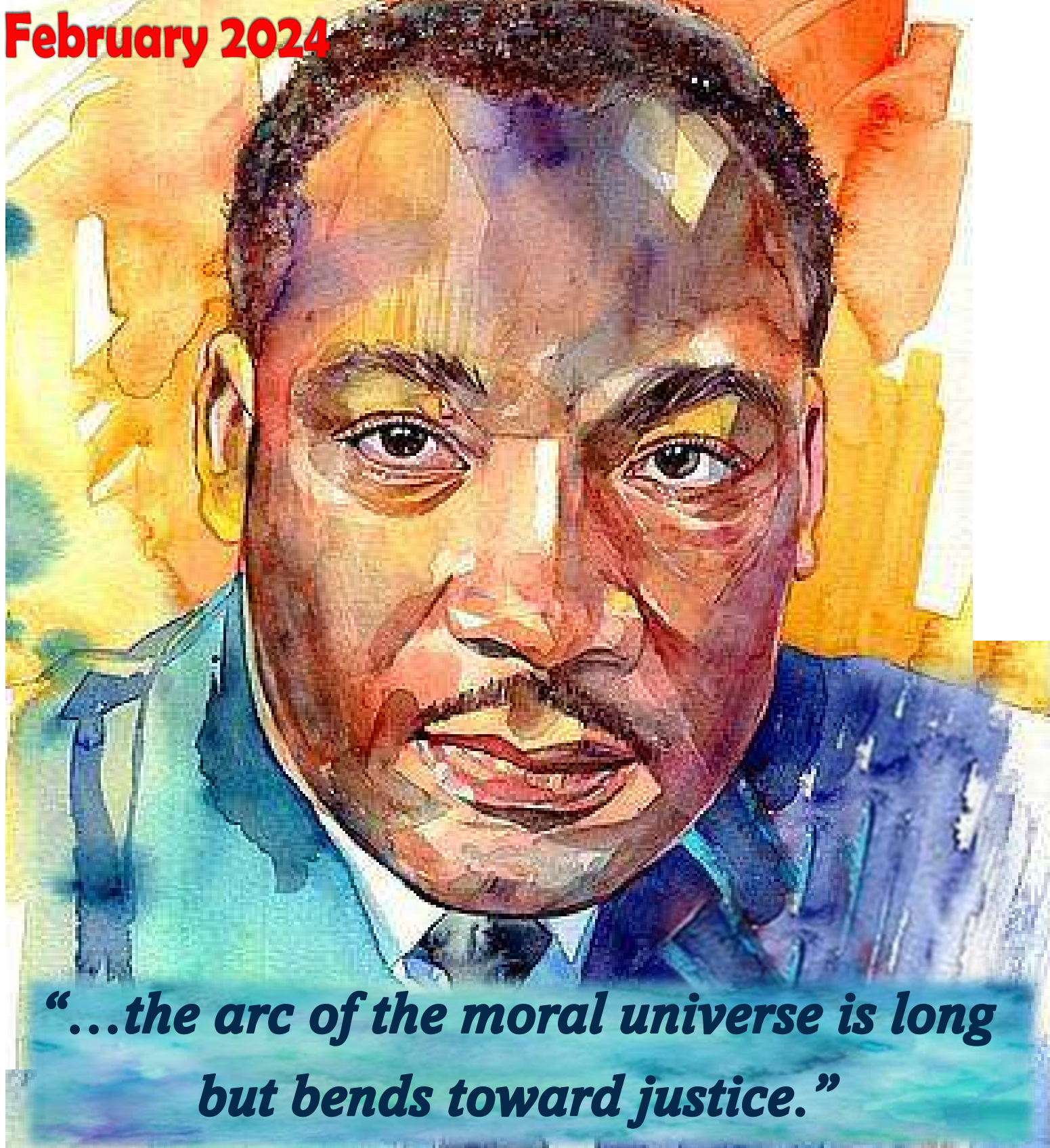
February 2024

28 8:30am Traditional 9:45am Sunday School 11:00am Contemporary 12:00pm Fusion 56 3:00 Refuge Field Trip 4:00 pm Wesley Ringers	29 1:00 pm AIR Ministry 5:00pm Virtual Grief Share	30 10am Bible Study	31 11am Prayer 1:30pm H&S 3:45pm WW 6:45pm Choir	1 8:30am Staff 6:30pm Women's Bible Study	2	3 
4 Scout Sunday 8:30am Traditional 9:45am Sunday School 11:00am Contemporary 4:00 pm Wesley Ringers 6:00 pm Youth	5 1:00 pm AIR Ministries 5:00pm Virtual Grief Share	6 10am Bible Study	7 11am Prayer 1:30pm H&S 3:45pm WW 6:45pm Choir	8 8:30am Staff 6:30pm Women's Bible Study	9	10
11 8:30am Traditional 9:45am Sunday School 11:00am Contemporary 12:00pm Fusion 56 4:00 pm Wesley Ringers 5:00 pm Youth Super Bowl Party	12 1:00 pm AIR Ministries 5:00pm Virtual Grief Share	13 10am Bible Study	14 8am Ashes 8:30am MMO 11am Prayer 1:30 H&S 3:45pm WW 5:30pm Soup Dinner 7pm Ash Wednesday	15 8:30am Staff 6:30pm Women's Bible Study	16	17 8 am Men's Prayer Breakfast 9 am Loving Church Family Workshop
18 8:30am Traditional 9:45am Sunday School 11:00am Contemporary 12:00pm Fusion 56 4:00 pm Wesley Ringers 6:00 pm Youth	19 President's Day Church office closed NO AIR ministry 5:00pm Virtual Grief Share	20 10am Bible Study 12 pm Let's Do Lunch 2pm Spouse Grief Share	21 11am Prayer 1:30pm H&S 3:45pm WW 5:30pm Potluck 6:45pm Choir	22 8:30am Staff 6:30 pm Women's Bible Study	23	24 
25 8:30am Traditional 9:45am Sunday School 11:00am Contemporary 12:00pm Fusion 56 4:00 pm Wesley Ringers 6:00 pm Youth	26 1:00 pm AIR Ministry 5:00pm Virtual Grief Share	27 10am Bible Study	28 11am Prayer 1:30pm H&S 3:45pm WW 5pm Grief Share 5:30pm Potluck 6:45pm Choir	29 8:30am Staff 6:30 pm Women's Bible Study	1	2 

LIFE @

First United
Methodist church

February 2024





Think on these things...

Easter is scheduled for March 31 this year. The Lenten season is based on the lunar cycle, so the dates change when we have Easter. If you think that Easter is early in 2024, you are right. The earliest Easter could happen is March 22. For the fourth year, we're partnering with churches in the Kansas City area and 32+ global cities in ONEKC 2024. Our focus is a survey of the Gospel of Matthew that looks at Jesus as the Messiah. It's an exciting time to commit to attend worship each week during Lent.

February 14 – Ash Wednesday services at 7pm with community meal at 5:30 of soup and bread. Imposition of ashes is part of this service that focuses on repentance and confession of sin. Yes, it is Valentine's Day, too. You can come by the church from 8am to 11:45am if you cannot make it in the evening. Additionally, we have five weeks of community meals on Wednesday night and we will watch a word-for-word scripture telling of selected passages from Matthew. The videos are provided by LUMO Productions. They are available on outlets like YouTube also.

February 21 – Matthew 6:1-7:12

February 28 – Matthew 7:13-8:27

March 6 – Matthew 10:1-42

March 13 – Matthew 12:1-50

March 20 – Matthew 13:24-58

March 28 - Maundy Thursday The service will begin in the sanctuary and include a catered meal in the Fellowship Hall.

March 29 - Good Friday Community Service Details will follow.

March 31 - Easter services will be at 8:30 and 11am.

One spiritual discipline that I want to encourage each of us to practice is to read or listen through all four Gospels during Lent. The reading/listening schedule will be available to the church and in this month's newsletter. Lenten is a season of spiritual growth and a fantastic opportunity to draw closer to God and others. Make the short-term commitment of forty days and see how your faith matures under the care of Jesus Messiah.

Pastor Dave

OneKC Reading Plan

February 14	Matthew 1-2	March 1	Mark 6-7	March 17	Matthew 13:224-58
February 15	Matthew 3-4	March 2	Mark 8-10	March 18	Luke 20-21
February 16	Matthew 5-7	March 3	Matthew 10:1-42	March 19	Luke 22-24
February 17	Matthew 8-9	March 4	Mark 11-13	March 20	John 1-2
February 18	Matthew 6:1-7:12	March 5	Mark 14-16	March 21	John 3-4
February 19	Matthew 10-12	March 6	Luke 1-2	March 22	John 5-6
February 20	Matthew 13-14	March 7	Luke 3-4	March 23	John 7-8
February 21	Matthew 15-16	March 8	Luke 5-6	March 24	Matthew 18:1-35
February 22	Matthew 17-18	March 9	Luke 7-8	March 25	John 9-11
February 23	Matthew 19-21	March 10	Matthew 12:1-50	March 26	John 12-14
February 24	Matthew 22-23	March 11	Luke 9-10	March 27	John 15-16
February 25	Matthew 7:13-8:27	March 12	Luke 11-12	March 28	John 17
February 26	Matthew 24-25	March 13	Luke 13-14	March 29	John 18-19
February 27	Matthew 26-28	March 14	Luke 15	March 30	John 20-21
February 28	Mark 1-3	March 15	Luke 16-17		
February 29	Mark 4-5	March 16	Luke 18-19		

Sundays are in red. That is the text for the sermon on Sundays.

FEBRUARY Birthdays

2nd	Jamie Brettmann	13th	Carl Langley	21st	Logan Kobe
	John Hersey	15th	Anne-Marie Short		Robert McKinley
3rd	Mary Eleanor McCluskey	16th	Barbara Peiper	21st	Dick Peiper
7th	Emily Wecas	17th	Junia Howell	23rd	Hannah Banker
8th	Kyle Sanders		Ernest Wicke		Sara LaMoe
9th	Miriam Cade	18th	Steve Coats	25th	Bob Hale
10th	Claudia McAllaster		Jack Walker	27th	John Short
11th	Cathy Landis	20th	Joyce Goss		



FEBRUARY Anniversaries

15th	Michael & Karen Piper	37 years
18th	Dick & Barbara Peiper	62 years



Did we miss your birthday or anniversary? Please help us update our records. Send an email with your current address, phone number and birthday to Sandy at swood@fumclvks.org.

If you need to schedule use of any of the church buildings, please send a detailed request email with dates and times to egarven@fumclvks.org and swood@fumclvks.org. You'll receive a confirmation email after the event has been added to the church calendar.

UPCOMING Events

MEN'S PRAYER & STUDY
BREAKFAST
FEBRUARY 17
8:00 AM

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT
MIKE MIX HAIRYMULE@GMAIL.COM
OR DAVE LANDIS DLANDIS@HUGHES.NET



TUES, FEB 20, 12:00 PM
TAMPICOS RESTAURANT



Kids First Worship meets during the 11:00 service each Sunday on the lower floor of the Sanctuary building. We will be learning about John the Baptist, Jesus' cousin and the one chosen to "prepare the way of the Lord!" Not only is he a colorful character, he is an important part of God's Story!

February 4 – John the Baptist - Zechariah

February 11 – John the Baptist - Birth

February 18 – John the Baptist – Preaches

February 25 – John the Baptist – Baptizes



Sunday School meets on Sunday mornings from 9:45 – 10:40 am. 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 deep dive into John the Baptist.



Wonderful Wednesday is a fantastic way to remind children that God is not just for Sunday, 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 February, we are continuing Paul's Second Journey and traveling to Philippi. 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. Each month we will parallel Pastor Dave's sermons.

February 11 – Daniel 6: The Lion's Den, In Trouble for Being Good

February 18 – Matthew 4:1-11: Jesus Messiah, The Fighting Messiah

February 25 – Matthew 4:12-25: Jesus Messiah, A Moving Forward Messiah

Kansas is truly coming through with the crazy weather! Christmas Eve was so warm we could have the doors open, then January brought deep snow and seriously frigid temperatures! (A daytime high of -1...yikes!) We even had to cancel our January Mother's Morning Out! I'm hopeful that February will bring calmer weather!

When we were actually able to meet in January, the kids got to spend some time learning about Jesus as a young boy. Kids First Worship had the privilege to have Miss Susanna (See photo above) lead the lesson she prepared about the Wise Men – from following clues on stars to seeing and touching real frankincense and myrrh.

In 2023, we learned a song with all the books of the Old Testament. This spring we're learning a song with all the books of the New Testament. We plan to sing it for you during the Music Sunday in May. In Sunday school and Kids First Worship we just finished our focus on Young Jesus, from the visit from the Magi to his baptism in the Jordan River.

Wonderful Wednesday started Paul's Second Missionary Journey, traveling to Galatia. He traveled with Silas and met Timothy. We found out that Paul would bring the Good News about Jesus to the Jewish meeting places first. Some would believe – some would not. He would then move on to the Gentiles. It was upsetting to learn that religious leaders and those at the Jewish meeting places that did not accept his message took it one step further – often running him out of town with violence. They even followed him to his next destinations to try and stop him. Thankfully, he could not be stopped!

Fusion 56 had a slow start to the year, between holiday breaks and frigid temperatures. When we are together, though, we have a wonderful time. Pizza, ice cream, Dr. Pepper, time together, spending time with God = win, win, win!

Nancy Shade



During Lent we'll be joining with churches in Lansing and Leavenworth to share God's love with our public school teachers. We did something similar in the fall with all the Leavenworth schools. This time we are trying to reach all the Lansing schools. Our church family will be for providing a breakfast for the Lansing Elementary Kindergarten through third grade teachers and staff on February 29. It is a late start day, so the teacher will have time to enjoy breakfast. We would like to provide a variety of goodies such as breakfast casseroles, biscuits and gravy, breakfast breads, and fruit. There is a sign up sheet in the church lobby.

We would also like to write thank you letters to each of the staff at Lansing Elementary. There is a sign up sheet for that as well. There are almost 100 employees so we will need lots of writers. We will provide the names and cards. The cards will need to be done by February 25 and will be delivered with the breakfast.

Children Church Camp Scholarships



- Why?** Camp is an opportunity to explore the world and their personal faith in a safe setting. Many people look at their camp experiences as foundational to their faith.
- What?** There are different options for camp depending on the child's interest. There are camps that focus on horses or sports or STEM or the arts. Each camp has a faith basis for their activities.
- Where?** There are many choices for church camps in our area. The United Methodist church sponsors Camp Chippewa near Ottawa. Institute is at Baker University in Baldwin City.
- Who?** Camp Chippewa has programs for third through eighth grade students. Institute is for ninth through twelfth graders.
- How?** Every child wanting to go to camp can have their full admission paid for by the church. Simply submit the scholarship form to the church office.

Last year Lucy and Natalie Heim, Annabelle Estep and Alexis Hoffman went to Camp Chippewa. They loved it so much, they plan to go back this year! Lucy said, "My favorite thing about camp was making new friends." Natalie said, "I really enjoyed nature because we were outside a lot."

Camp sessions are offered weekly throughout the summer. Sessions are on the Camp Chippewa website. Go to campchippewa.org for more information.





Greeting and salutations to all. January was cold, wet, slick and cold, but here we are ready to thaw out and continue His mission. A special thank you to everyone that braved the cold to serve and celebrate Dr. Martin Luther King's birthday. We opened our doors and invited our neighbors; we opened our hearts and loved our neighbors; we sang, served and fellowshiped as commanded by our Lord.

There are many exciting events taking place this month in church, please check the calendar on the back of this magazine. Besides two fabulous services every Sunday, and many Lenten season activities, we kick off the month with Scout Sunday on February 4 at 10:45am. If you are currently in the scouting ministry, or were previously, we encourage you to wear your uniform or scout t-shirt.

February 14 starts the Lenten season with Ash Wednesday – see the calendar for times. Then every Wednesday evening, starting on the 21 at 5:30pm, we will have a fellowship pot luck dinner, followed by a study of the Book of Matthew until Holy Week. The next men's breakfast is scheduled for February 17 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). The January breakfast was a wonderful time of comradery and devotion focused on daily intentional prayer.

Matthew 6:6 *But when you pray, go into your room, close the door and pray to your Father, who is unseen. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you.*

Praise is not just words; it's an attitude. Our life should always praise God. We should be grateful, have a smile, be good to people, and be passionate about our lives. When you've learned the secret to bless the Lord at all times, you can be in a hard period of life but nobody around you knows it. You're not sour. You don't have a chip on your shoulder. You don't complain. Anyone can give God praise when things are going well. But the test is, will you praise Him in the wilderness? Will you worship Him in spite of what's not working, praise Him in spite of who did you wrong? The way you bless the Lord at all times is by your praise, by always finding something to be grateful for, by not dwelling on wrongs but thanking God for what's right.

Psalms 34:1 *I will praise the Lord at all times. I will constantly speak his praises.* In Christ, Ed



LEAVENWORTH ATTAINABLE HOUSING

While serving at Community of Hope, Leavenworth's shelter and services for the homeless, Sister Vickie Perkins realized attainable/affordable housing was not available. The average rent in Leavenworth is \$958/month. A local survey shows more than 60% of renters pay over 50% of their income for housing, which perpetuates the cycle of poverty and keeps people living in uncertainty and on the verge of homelessness.

Leavenworth Attainable Housing was created thanks to the brainstorming and creativity of 3 volunteers and the kindness of one man who donated his house in 2022. Less than two years later, thanks to several key churches and generous citizens, we now house 27 people in 11 rental houses...and counting!

The Attainable Housing Program

Involvement from the Leavenworth community is the key to success. Volunteers help clean and rehab the houses, creating a positive environment inside and beautifying neighborhoods in Leavenworth. Members of the community serve on the Advisory Council giving input and direction to the program, which includes the following four pillars:

Finance -residents meet with a financial advocate to develop a budget, set goals and move toward stability.

Health care - each resident seeks physical and mental health care from local providers as needed.

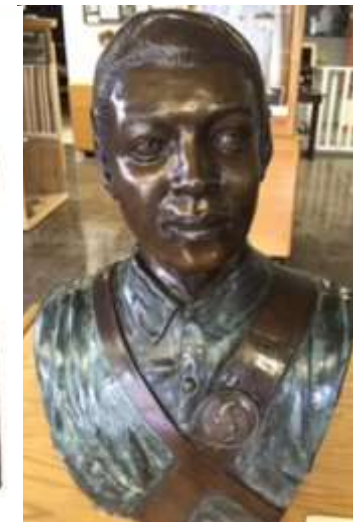
Community - residents come together once a month for a social event. Quarterly, residents meet together for support, conversation and problem solving.

House- provided with these regulations: participation in the 4 pillars ,weekly meeting with support specialist. Monthly rent is 1/3 of their income.

Upcoming in 2024

Thanks to a grant from the city of Leavenworth, we will build two duplexes, buy, and rehab four houses. We continue to raise money to rehab attainable houses, providing sustainable and strong community in Leavenworth.

There are many great exhibits at the Richard Allen Cultural Center. To the right are a few photos. Below are a few community opportunities to get involved and make a difference.



NAACP
Leavenworth Branch

The NAACP advocates, agitates, and litigates for the civil rights due to Black and Colored people of America. Our legacy is built on a foundation of grassroots activism by the biggest civil rights pioneers of the 20th century and is sustained by 21st century activists. From classrooms and courtrooms to city halls and Congress, our network of members across the country works to secure the social and political power that will end race-based discrimination. That work is rooted in racial equity, civic engagement, and supportive policies and institutions for all marginalized people. We are committed to a world without racism where Black people enjoy equitable opportunities in thriving communities.

OPEN MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS

12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m.

RICHARD ALLEN CULTURAL CENTER & MUSEUM

812 KIOWA STREET

Leavenworth, Kansas 66048

913-674-9612

January 20, 2024

February 17, 2024

March 16, 2024

April 20, 2024

May 18, 2024

June 15, 2024

July 20, 2024

August 17, 2024

September 21, 2024

October 19, 2024

November 16, 2024

December 21, 2024

NAACP Leavenworth Branch Objectives

- To ensure the political, educational, social, and economic equality of all citizens
- To achieve equality of rights and eliminate race prejudice among the citizens of the United States
- To remove all barriers of racial discrimination through democratic processes
- To seek enactment and enforcement of federal, state, and local laws securing civil rights
- To inform the public of the adverse effects of racial discrimination and to seek its elimination
- To educate persons as to their constitutional rights and to take all lawful action to secure the exercise thereof, and to take any other lawful action to further these objectives, consistent with the NAACP's Articles of Incorporation and Constitution.





A Blessing in our Community



The Richard Allen Cultural Center and Museum is a center that highlights African-American history, and so much more, here in Leavenworth. The museum is located at 412 Kiowa Street and is one of the most educational and interesting places I have ever visited. The Cultural Center and Museum has been under the leadership of Edna Wagner, Executive Director, for the past thirteen years. Edna is a community pillar of education, investment and hope of our future.

Edna and her husband Dwayne first came to Leavenworth when Dwayne attended the Commanding General Staff College on Fort Leavenworth. The Wagner's' young sons attended Ben Day and Nettie Harnett Schools respectively. "We came to Leavenworth and lived on Pine Street by the river downtown. I walked the boys to school and then would pick them up. I got tired of going back and forth so I started volunteering to help in the classroom," stated Mrs. Wagner.

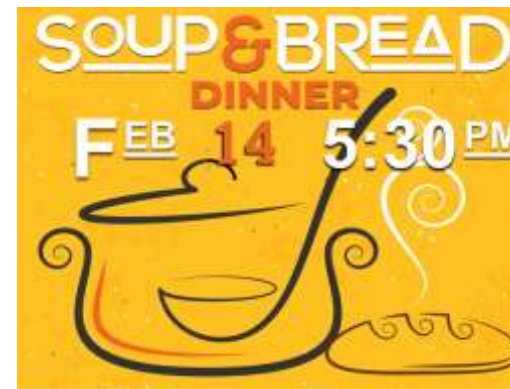
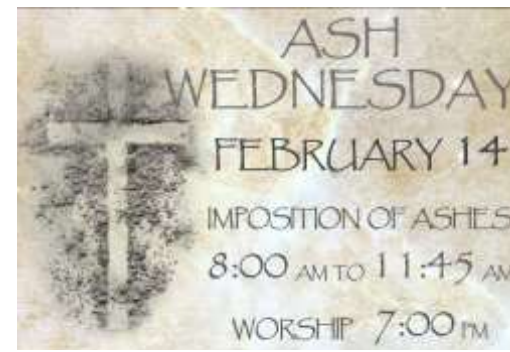
She then went on to be a substitute teacher at Anthony Elementary School where she was on the original team to bring Title I grant money to USD 453. "Title I money helps children who are struggling in their education. These were kids that needed a little extra help. They continued to grow the grant bigger so they could guarantee that these kids would get that extra help that they needed", according to Mrs. Wagner.

After years volunteering and teaching in the community Edna applied and was welcomed to her new position at The Richard Allen Cultural Center and Museum. What she is most proud of, is the impact the center has through education both for adults and tutoring for our children and the impact on our community. "I am most proud of how we have grown in the community with our kids and the community around us knowing what is available; what is here and what we have to offer."

"My prayer for us as we move forward is that we bring in someone who has the heart, the mindset to continue fertilizing the seed that was planted many years ago helping our kids in the community. We can't grow our community unless we grow the kids to have life goals and to see themselves having a future – when right now they might not see one. We have to educate them and help them see that there is a light. You know the term, there is a light at the end of the tunnel? There is always a light – but you have to make that light turn on – for yourself. That comes by setting goals, one at a time. Small goals. That way you are never overwhelmed but you know where you are going and where you want end up at", said Mrs. Wagner.

The Richard Allen Cultural Center and Museum opened in 1992 to highlight African-American history in Leavenworth, Kansas. In 1992, the museum opened in the former home of U.S. Army Captain William Bly, a Buffalo Soldier during World War I. The home is decorated to look as it would have in the early 1900s. In 2002, an addition was built to the front of the original home to display more items teaching about African-American history in Kansas. The center offers a glimpse into the history of African-Americans, both local and nationwide. It was created to ensure that the rich heritage of African-Americans and their profound effect on American society would not be lost. Their mission and purpose is to educate the public about the rich history of African-Americans and their contributions to every phase of American life. We promote a greater awareness of African-American heritage through research and cultural activities that enhance interracial understanding.

Educational programs are also offered through museum exhibits, tours, research opportunities and traveling exhibits for the general public. We also have a year-round tutoring program available for any student who needs the service. We have helped over 350 children improve their academic skills. The after school tutoring program serves K-12 students in the Greater Leavenworth Area. Tutoring is available from 4 to 5:30. The program is staffed by volunteer teachers, military personnel, and community members. Parents must enroll students on a first come, first serve waiting list. All students are welcome. *Ed Garven*



(Thank Goodness It's Good Friday) from 8:30 am to 3:30 pm. The day will be filled with crafts, games and other fun activities as the kids learn about Jesus' last week on earth. The day will include lunch and Easter egg hunt. Visitors are invited to join us. We'll join churches in the Leavenworth area for a **Community Good Friday service on March 29 at 6:30 pm** at the Lansing Middle School Auditorium.

Our **Easter celebration on April 9** will be a grand traditional service for both the 8:30 and 11:00 worship.

OneKC is the basis of our Lenten season. This is a world-wide initiative to engage with the words of Jesus everyday for 40 Days—together. There are over 32 cities in different countries joining us. We invite you to download the app and invite a friend to join you. Check out OneKC.Bible to download the listening links from the YouVersion of the Bible. They are excerpts from the four gospels that only take ten minutes a day to hear. If you prefer to read from your own Bible, the scriptures are listed on the second page of the newsletter. There are weekly videos which bring the scriptures to life. You're encouraged to invite your friends and family to watch the videos at your home or at our weekly potlucks. There are also online opportunities to share with your friends family live far away. We hope you will dedicate the 40 days of Lent to growing closer to God and to your church family.

LENT IS A FAMILY AFFAIR

The Passover is designed to teach children about the Jewish faith. A child asks a series of questions that are answered by the adults. Following their example, this year celebrating Lent will be a family affair with opportunities to share our faith with our children, our friends and our neighbors. Each week during Lent we will be joining with churches across Kansas City and the world in studying the book of Matthew with OneKC. Pastor Dave's sermons and the children's ministry lessons will focus on how Jesus was the promised Messiah or deliverer. There is a daily gospel reading plan and each week there are videos to bring the scripture to life.

Starting with **Ash Wednesday, Feb 14**, the sanctuary will be open from 8:00 am to 11:45 am for anyone who would like a private opportunity to receive their ashes and spend some time in prayer. We will have a soup and bread potluck at 5:30 pm with an Ash Wednesday service to follow at 7:00 pm.

Every Wednesday through Lent there will be church family potluck at 5:30 pm. During the potluck, there will be a **"watch party"** as we watch the weekly Bible video and discuss our scripture reading from the week. There will be children's activities provided.

Our weekly meals will culminate with a catered meal on **Maundy Thursday, March 28**, that will include a special worship service and family Communion.

We will have a special **Kids Event on March 29, called TGIF**





SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE



FUMC has three different scholarship programs available to our active members attending an institution of higher learning in the fall of 2024. You can find the scholarship applications at the church website FUMCLVKS.ORG/SCHOLARSHIPS

Leavenworth FUMC Methodist College Scholarship Fund: recipients must attend a United Methodist related college or university beginning the fall semester of 2024. Must be a member of FUMC.

Leavenworth FUMC Youth Scholarship Fund: recipients must be an active member of the FUMC Leavenworth church or youth group and be starting their freshman year in fall of 2024 at a college, university, community college, or trade school.

Leavenworth FUMC Continuing Education Scholarship Fund: recipients must be an active member of FUMC Leavenworth who is attending a college, university, community college, or trade school in the fall of 2024.

Additional Scholarships available through the Great Plains United Methodist Conference

There are many scholarship available through our conference. The entire list can be found at gbhem.org/scholarships/scholarships/list-of-scholarships/. Here are some available scholarships.

General Scholarship Undergrad \$500 – \$1,000; graduate \$500 – \$2,000

For undergraduate or graduate level students with a minimum of one year of active membership in the UMC and a minimum 2.5 GPA.

Allan J. Burry Scholarship \$1,000 For undergraduates (incoming freshmen NOT eligible) who have been a member of the UMC for at least three years. Applicants should be active leaders in a United Methodist-related campus ministry and have a minimum 3.0 GPA. The application will require a specific nomination from the United Methodist campus minister.

Camp Scholarships Available

FUMC has camp scholarships available to our active members planning to attend a church camp in 2024 for the Kansas UMC camps.

Camp Chippewa, Ottawa, KS
Camp Horizon, Arkansas City, KS
Camp Lakeside, Scott City, KS
Institute, Baldwin City, KS

If you're interested in applying for a camp scholarship they are available on our church website at fumclvks.org/scholarships or you may obtain an electronic copy by emailing office @fumclvks.org. All camp scholarship applications should be e-mailed or received in the church office by the priority deadline of March 31st.



The Leavenworth Interfaith Community of Hope released their 2023 annual report. Here are the ways your donations helped this last year.

- * served over 20,000 meals
- * provided space for over 500 loads of laundry
- * provided over 900 showers
- * served 241 unique individuals at our shelter
- * provided over 5,600 beds (averaging 23.2 nights per person)
- * served a large age range, with our youngest being 4 months old to our oldest being age 83 (average age was 39).
- * served 27 kids under the age of 18
- * drove 13,000 miles to support clients
- * assisted 49 guests in obtaining their own home
- * served 453 clients in Welcome Central

Thank you for your support of 'Sharing God's hope and love by equipping people to end, or prevent, homelessness in Leavenworth County.'

There is a Community Food Drive happening from now until February 14 at all Armed Forces Banks and all Frontier Community Credit Union locations. Just drop your donations off during business hours and they will deliver them to the local food pantries. ➡



Stronghold is a food pantry for military families at Fort Leavenworth. They recently started the open pantry format where families can pick the items they need. We have a location for donations in the foyer of the church. They are in need of any type of pantry item such as canned goods, flour, sugar, rice, oatmeal, cereal and soup. ➡

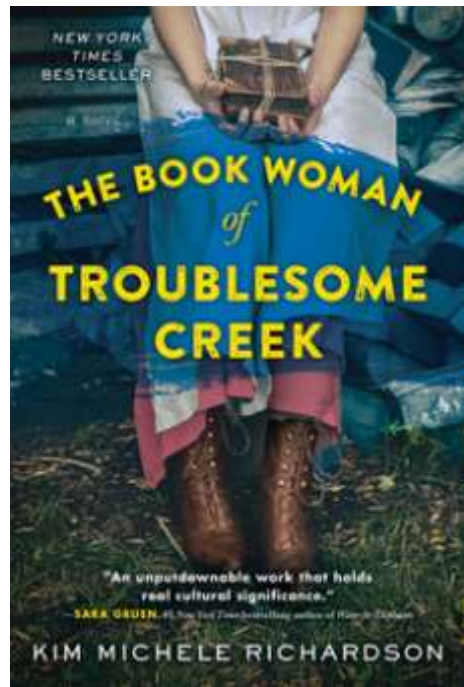
Trinity House is a community food pantry and clothing closet run by Trinity Lutheran church. They're located at 2101 10th Ave. They are open Tuesday through Thursday from 10 am to 1 pm. Donations can be brought during that time. They are in desperate need of children's clothes and canned fruits and vegetables. For more information call (913) 682-7474.



**FEBRUARY ITEMS:
VEGETABLE OIL,
RAMEN, SOUP &
CANNED BEANS**



The HUB is a United Methodist food pantry and clothing closet in Argentine. In February they are in need of vegetable oil, ramen, soup and canned beans. You can bring donations to the church foyer.



BOOK CLUB MARCH 5, 1:00 pm

The next book the Book Club will be reading is the bestselling historical fiction "The Book Woman of Troublesome Creek" by Kim Michele Richardson. The story is about Cussy Mary, a packhorse librarian and her quest to bring books to the Appalachian community she loves. Cussy's not only a book woman, however, she's also the last of her kind, her skin a shade of blue unlike most anyone else. Not everyone is keen on Cussy's family or the Library Project, and a Blue is often blamed for any whiff of trouble. If Cussy wants to bring the joy of books to the hill folks, she's going to have to confront prejudice as old as the Appalachias and suspicion as deep as the holler. Inspired by the true blue-skinned people of Kentucky and the brave and dedicated Kentucky Pack Horse library service of the 1930s, The Book Woman of Troublesome Creek is a story of raw courage, fierce strength, and one woman's belief that books can carry us anywhere—even back home. You're welcome to join the conversation.

Itchin' to Stitch will be taking their annual field trip to Quilting Bits & Pieces in Eudora for their Super Bowl Sale on February 10. You can save 20% by wearing any type of sports clothing. The group will meet at Teresa Hicks house, 118 Rock Creek Loop in Lansing at 9:30 am. They will carpool and go to lunch after shopping. Anyone will welcome to come. That will be their only meeting in February.



On Sunday, January 28, the youth group took a break from our regularly scheduled programming to go to an escape room in Lawrence. We split up into two groups, one team doing a Civil War-themed room, the other doing a Hotel California-style room (you know, you can check out but you can never leave). Both groups had a ton of fun and managed to escape with mere minutes left in our allotted hour. The rooms were extra interesting with hidden doors, crawl spaces, and brain teasers.

After the escape rooms, we went out for dinner at The Burger Stand (home to some of the most delicious burgers in Kansas) for burgers and shakes. We enjoyed having time to hang out and talk (and celebrate a Chief's win!).

In a couple weeks, we have our annual Super Bowl Party at the church on Sunday, February 11, 5PM - end of game. We will watch the game in the youth room. Pizza and snacks will be provided, but feel free to bring other snacks if you have something specific you want. Bring friends!



Now that 2024 is in full swing, I want to continue introducing you to our GriefShare facilitators. This month's focus is on Suzanne Gray, one of our facilitators for the virtual class which meets at 5pm on Mondays. In addition to facilitating, Suzanne coordinates the electronic component of administering a virtual class via Zoom.

Suzanne, a native Kansan, was born in Hutchinson, attended Kansas State University and began her career in Topeka where she met her husband, Richard. Later she took a job with the Veterans Administration and in the early 2000s transferred to Leavenworth, where she started attending FUMC.

She immediately signed up to attend when we first began offering GriefShare. A series of deaths in her family meant that she was responsible for clearing out three estates. In addition, she experienced kidney failure and received a kidney transplant at KU Medical Center. She realized that she was having a hard time dealing with so much loss on her own. "I was surprised that I got so much out of GriefShare, much more than I anticipated. You really need to attend at least three sessions before you decide to quit. The workbook and the video are so helpful. But what really helped the most was sharing and being with other people - that's where the healing begins". After attending GS for about a year, Suzanne began to feel that God was calling her to do something, not sure what, but something to help others. Then, when Thaneshia Lindsey, a fellow member, expressed a desire to lead a GriefShare group, everything clicked into place. Suzanne had been clearly called to help with the new group.

Always attracted to psychology, one of Suzanne's degrees is in horticulture therapy, which enabled her to work at the Menninger Institute. Her first job at the VA was as a creative arts therapist working with PTSD patients. While living in Topeka, she also became a certified Stephens Minister where she made hospital visits and visited marginalized families.

Suzanne recently relocated to Florida. "Isn't it crazy and wonderful that God enabled me to take GriefShare along and do it virtually?" My answer to that is a resounding YES! God has made beauty from ashes and given Suzanne a powerful testimony.

The virtual GriefShare class meets every Monday through Zoom at 5pm. It is available anywhere in the United States. To receive a zoom link, contact Marsha at Marsha.gaffin@gmail.com. We also have a GriefShare group exclusively for spouses that meets on the third and fifth Tuesday of each month at 2 pm. We have also have a community GriefShare group that is open to anyone that meets on the second and fourth Wednesday of every month at 5:00 pm. Everyone will face grief in their life, but we don't have to experience it alone. GriefShare can help.



The Loving Church Family Workshop
Practical Tools for Sharing the Love of Jesus

February 17
9:00 am - 12:00 pm

RVSP to swood@fumcluks.org
by February 11

Topics include

- Helping friends with mental health challenges
- Caring for someone at the end of life
- The Art of Hospitality
- Compassionate Care and the Bible

Loving our neighbor is everyone's job, but if our neighbor is ill or hurting or near the end of their life, sometimes it is hard to know the right things to say or the right ways to help. That's the purpose of the Loving Church Family Workshop; to give us tools to be able to be a loving friend to our church family and those outside the church walls. Kristin Howell will give an informative talk about mental health resources in Leavenworth county and how to help someone dealing with depression or anxiety. Marsha Gaffin will speak about how to be a friend to someone dying or recently deceased. Kathi LaMoe will speak about the importance of making people feel welcome and Pastor Dave will also speak.

LIFE @ FUMC



The Dr. Martin Luther King Celebration was a huge success. Frigid temperatures and Rescheduling didn't keep the church from being packed. Brother John Rajpa Anderson performed a wonderful program of music and excerpts from "I've Been To The Mountaintop". Our Praise Team was honored to perform along with Penny Black. There were many elected officials in attendance. Jeff Pittman, Kansas senator, presented a proclamation from the state. Holly Pittman, Leavenworth Mayor present a proclamation from the city. It was a day to reflect on the past and to look to a brighter, more loving future.



The Men's Prayer Breakfast (pictured left) meets once a month. It's exciting to have so many men involved. Our Children's Ministries (pictured above) are thriving. The kids love having an outdoor place to play thanks to the revitalized basketball courts. Wonderful Wednesday is studying the fruits of the Spirit. Their "fruit" tree is above.