



First United Methodist Church

of

Leavenworth




422 Chestnut, Leavenworth, KS 66048

913-682-5374 FUMCLVKS.ORG

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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Office Hours—M-Th 9a-3p, Friday—9a-noon
 Or visit us at [FUMCLVKS.ORG](https://www.FUMCLVKS.ORG)
Sunday services stream at either site.

March 2024

25 8:30 & 11:00 am Worship 9:45 am SS 12 pm Fusion 56 4:00 pm Bells 6:00 pm Youth	26 1:00 pm AIR Ministry 5:00 pm Virtual Grief Share	27 10am Bible Study	28 1:30 pm H & S 3:45 pm WW 5:30 pm Dinner 6:45 pm Choir	29 8:30am Staff 6:30pm Women's Bible Study	1	2 
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10 8:30 & 11:00 am Worship 9:45 am SS & Mission 12 pm Fusion 56 4:00 pm Bells 6:00 pm Youth	11 1:00 pm AIR Ministries 5:00 pm Virtual Grief Share	12 10am Bible Study	13 8:30 am MMO 1:30 pm H & S 5:00 pm Grief Share 5:30 pm Dinner 6:45 pm Choir	14 8:30am Staff 6:30pm Women's Bible Study	15	16 8:00 am Men's Prayer Breakfast
17 8:30 & 11:00 am Worship 9:45 am SS 12 pm Fusion 56 4:00 pm Bells 6:00 pm Youth	18 1:00 pm AIR Ministry 5:00 pm Virtual Grief Share	19 10am Bible Study 12 pm Let's Do Lunch 2 pm Grief Share	20 11 am Prayer 1:30 pm H & S 3:45 pm WW 5:30 pm Dinner 6:45 pm Choir	21 8:30am Staff 6:30 pm Women's Bible Study	22	23 
24 8:30 & 11:00 am Worship 9:45 am SS 12 pm Fusion 56 4:00 pm Bells 6:00 pm Youth	25 1:00 pm AIR Ministry 5:00 pm Virtual Grief Share	26 10am Bible Study	27 11 am Prayer 1:30 pm H & S 3:45 pm WW 5:00 pm Grief Share 6:45 pm Choir	28 Maundy Thursday 8:30am Staff Meeting 5:30 pm Maundy Thursday Dinner	29 Good Friday 6:30 pm Community Good Friday Service at Lansing Middle Auditorium	30
31 Easter 8:30 & 11:00 am Worship	1 Church Office closed 5:00 pm Virtual Grief Share	2 10am Bible Study	3 11 am Prayer 1:30 pm H & S 3:45 pm WW 6:45 pm Choir	4 8:30am Staff 6:30 pm Women's Bible Study	5	6 

LIFE @

First United
Methodist church

March 2024

The Kingdom of God is near!





Think on these things...

March is shaping up to be a big month for First UMC. First, several churches in Leavenworth/Lansing are doing a pulpit swap during Lent. It's part of our ONEKC commitment to unity in the Church. On March 10, Calvin Lewis from Sunflower Missionary Baptist Church will be here. Calvin's rich baritone voice and African American style of preaching will be a treat for you. He is a cousin to the civil rights activist John Lewis and has been in ministry for decades. On March 17, Lance Coffman will be in the pulpit. Lance has been the pastor of Wallula Christian Church for over a decade. Personally, I enjoy Lance as a thoughtful and mature Christian who is a KC Royals fan, too! You will want to make plans to attend both services, in person if possible. The preaching experience is a communal event that is rich and full together. Be sure to wear green on March 17 to honor Christian evangelist, Patrick!

Holy week will take on a different look for us also. Maundy Thursday will begin at 5:30 pm for a short worship service followed by a catered meal in the Fellowship Hall. Come to spend time with our Savior and your church family. Our goal is to combine worship, fellowship, prayers, and the teachings of Jesus. Good Friday is a community worship event for the ONEKC churches. It will be held at Lansing Middle School at 6:30 pm. Our focus will be the unity of the Church under the cross of Jesus Christ. Our children's ministry will be holding their annual event TGIGF – Thank God It's Good Friday! What a great opportunity to invite a child (or several children) to learn about the love of Jesus through his death and resurrection. Easter is our best day! Services at 8:30 and 11 am are the same traditional format. For those of you who enjoy choice of time instead of service style, this is your day! Come and celebrate our Risen Savior in the company of your Church!!

Pastor Dave



Don't forget to join us on Wednesday nights at 5:30 pm in March for our Lenten potlucks. We have been having great food, insightful videos, and wonderful discussion. There are activities for the kids. The lessons stand alone, so even if you have missed some, you will be able to join.



MARCH Birthdays

1st	Amanda Parks	14th	Debra Eyerly	26th	Annette Voorhees
3rd	Elleanna Banker	15th	Steve Short	27th	Marlin Holyfield
	Ryan Howell	19th	Chase Cole	28th	Maddie Newman
4th	Amy Baehr	21st	Klaus Sanford		Chr
	Cynthia Walley		Garret Wecas	29th	Kaelyn Bowen
5th	Martha Nielsen	22nd	Tim Burkett		Katie Smith
8th	Oliver Frashier		Kathi LaMoe	30th	Alexis Cole
	Alisha Holyfield	22nd	Roy Ramsey		Christine Varnal
	Aiden Johnson	23rd	Sara Mulford	31st	Amy Zschoche
11th	Aaron Brown	24th	Christel Ludwig		
13th	Jimmie Stallings	26th	Jordan Johnson		



MARCH Anniversaries

21st	John & Vera Raines	32 years
28th	Bob & Kay Hale	66 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.

UPCOMING Events





Scouts “Pay back” Our Church Family

The Scouting Ministry started out running in February. As is our tradition to “pay back” and honor our Church, about a baker’s dozen scouts helped Samaritan’s Buffet serving over 500 meals. By the end of the day, EVERYBODY is tired.

But, that gave us some time to set up for Scout Sunday the next morning. First Sundays are busy with the inclusion of Communion. Arlen Briggs put his executive leadership skills to work and organized the Scouts to assist with Communion. This was a working example of “A Scout is Reverent.” The Scouting Ministry wanted to make certain that the congregation understood how appreciative we are that FUMC has continued to support Scouting for over 50 years. Now the Scouts are trying to figure out which summer camp they want to attend. We have found that not all Camps are equal. The least expensive is \$335 for Scouts and \$150 for Leaders.

Cub Scout Pack 3109 was busy designing and cutting their Pinewood Derby Cars. The basement of the Education Building was turned into either an auto body shop or a woodworking workshop. The Cub Scouts goal is to WIN! The leaders' goal is that every car makes it to the finish line. The big race will be live on Facebook. We will let you know when it is and remember, there is NO BETTING on FANDUEL for this event. Just so you know, the who girl won last year had a big beautiful smile!



Bill Kibler



RICHARD ALLEN CULTURAL CENTER & MUSEUM

EASTER EGG HUNT

FREE FAMILY EVENT
CODY PARK
 3003 Shrine Park Rd - Leavenworth
MARCH 16TH, 2023
11:00AM-1:00PM

KIDS AGES
3-4, 5-6, 7-8, 9-11 YEARS OLD

160th Birthday Bash!

Saint John Hospital

SATURDAY, MARCH 16
10 a.m. to 2 p.m.



As I write this article, I am sitting at my brother’s bedside in Nashville. He’s been in the hospital for around ten weeks now. Stepping on a nail precipitated a series of calamities, including three surgeries, two major health care mistakes, and a diagnosis so rare that only one in 10,000 people get it. He is being written up in medical journals, but that is no consolation to him. All he wants is to get well enough to go home. And who can blame him? Isn’t that what we all want? To go home? My grief is palpable as I stand watch at his bedside.

As the facilitator for GriefShare, I have heard many stories and walked beside the participants as they took the journey we all dread. As a result, we are a close knit group, and I count each one a friend. Now, they are helping me. I have shared my uncertainties with them and asked them to share a sentence about what GriefShare has done for them. Here are some of their comments.

“What does Grief Share mean to me? Grief share is a safe place to sit in your grief and learn that you are not alone. Ups and downs are normal & new friendships are forged with people who understand what you are experiencing. Even after two years of being alone and thinking you have it all under control you can be triggered and you break down ... But your friends are there encouraging you. I love my grief share group.” - Debbie

“GriefShare is a tool that God has given to guide individuals through the grieving process. However, I've applied the lessons learned to my daily life issues as well.” - Thaneshia, GriefShare Facilitator

“My grief was so intense that I thought I was going crazy. GriefShare taught me that my feelings were valid and gave me coping skills. Moreover, I met people who encouraged me and helped me get through this journey.” - Kerry

If you are in a season of grief, please don’t try to go through it alone. We have three different groups. The spouse group meets on the third and fifth Tuesday of each month at 2 pm. We have an open community group for anyone experiencing grief that meets on the second and fourth Wednesday of each month at 5 pm and a virtual class that meets every Monday at 5 pm. For more information contact marshagaffin@gmail.com Shalom, *Marsha*

CONGREGATIONAL *Care*

End of Life Planning Seminar

April 13
8 am - 12 pm

Please register at
khowell@fumclvks.org

Whether it is in one year or in ten years, each of us will die. If you were to go suddenly, would your family know your final wishes? Would they know how to access your financial accounts? How do you know what to plan and how to plan?

We are holding an end of life seminar on April 13 to help you begin to prepare. We’ll have guest speakers who help families with these issues every day. We’ll give information about medical directives, wills, funeral plans, and many other subjects. This seminar is open to anyone in our community so please invite friends and family.

A need that has come to our attention in the area of congregational care recently is the large number of people in our congregation who live alone. We view the Church as a form of family and want to make sure that everyone is cared for. If you live alone and would like to give us contact information for family and/or close friends that we can contact should something happen to you, we would love to be able to store that in our database. That way, even if you don’t have any family nearby, we know who to contact in the event that something were to happen to you. If this is something you’re interested in, there are Emergency Contact Information Forms in the front office for you to fill out. Come by during the week when we are open or feel free to ask Kristen, Libby, or Sandy for one. We are also the people you’ll return your completed form to and we’ll make sure it gets entered in!



March is the month we celebrate the risen Lord. Get on fire for the Lord – He is waiting. Financially, the giving in the first two months of 2024 has been strong and the church is in a great position to meet our fiduciary obligation for the year. Last year we exceeded, through your generosity, projected operational and ministry goals which will allow us to enact some needed physical upgrades, as well as continue our outreach to the local community.

Your trustees are hard at work ensuring that we have a well maintained and functional facility in cooperation with Grant Zschoche the Director of Facilities. On the immediate horizon, we are upgrading our fire detection system with a new master panel and new/additional smoke and heat sensors throughout the main church. Upgrading the system is a continuing precautionary benefit to our congregants and guests as well as meeting or exceeding the regulatory requirements of the city.

Last month, we held our first church council meeting of 2024 and extended a welcome to Mike Brettmann the new Staff Parish Relations Committee Chair and Wyatt Brown the Young Adults Representative. Both hit the ground running with ideas and strategies that will enrich and strengthen our fellowship body.

Moving throughout the year, I encourage each of us to be in daily prayer – that we seek the heart of God and His divine direction over our relationship with Him, our family, and our church. I also encourage you to invite someone to church and church activities to walk with you in your journey with the Lord.

Prayer: The avenue we have to converse with the Father so we can receive co-laboring instruction on his will to impact all of mankind. Prayer is not just asking, but hearing and obeying our Father. We live down here on earth, but work through Him in heaven.

Invite: There is someone in your life that needs your attention, that needs you to engage and listen, and when the time is right, explain the grace and peace you have received from the Gospel of Jesus Christ. This is not an academic encounter, it's a sincere heartfelt response to the Father's love within each of us.

We have activities going on every week, if you need to know when, where, and why – see the calendar on the back of this magazine or ask – we are here for you!

in Christ, Ed

40th Anniversary
Alliance Against Family Violence

Please join us to celebrate
40 years
of serving our community!

**Join us for our 40th Anniversary Gala
to celebrate the
Alliance Against Family Violence**

Look at some of our recent highlights as
we move forward and grow our mission.

**March 16th, 6:30pm,
Schwinn Farm
17624 Santa Fe Trail**

**Tickets are \$50 and on sale now at
<https://www.aafvks.org/events>**

No tickets will be available at the door.

DONATIONS NEEDED

Shelter Supplies

- Kleenex
- Hand Soap
- Toilet Paper

Cleaning Supplies

- Paper Towels
- Toilet Cleaner
- Dish Soap
- Trash Bags
- Disinfecting Wipes

Food Pantry

- Canned Chicken
- Pasta
- Pasta Sauce
- Mac n Cheese
- Seasonings
- Bottled Water

Special Requests

- Cough Medicine
- Kids Medicine
- Cough Drops
- Spiral Notebooks

Donations can be dropped off at
Kansas Country Store
728 Cherokee St, Leavenworth, KS 66048

**WE THANK YOU FOR YOUR
CONTINUED SUPPORT!**

Loving Church Family Workshop

On February 17, thirty six church family members gathered for the Loving Church Workshop. Pastor Dave started the program with explaining the need for congregational care. He explained how it is just not physically possible for a pastor of a larger church to meet all the church family's needs by himself. He said, "It's everyone's job to care for each other." That's why we are trying so hard to implement a comprehensive congregational care program.

Kathi LaMoe spoke about radical hospitality next. She told us that first impressions are formed in the first 30 seconds and most guests decide whether they will return for a second visit in the first 7 minutes. That is why she said, "Hospitality is everyone's responsibility, not just the clergy, or staff of volunteers." She gave us some practical tips to help visitors feel welcome here.

- * Smile and make eye contact. If a person receives a smile from five different people, they will feel welcome.
 - * 3 minute rule - Spend 3 minutes before and after each worship service to greet someone you don't know.
 - * 10 foot rule - Be attentive to people within 10 feet of you. Make an effort to offer assistance to visitors such as telling them where the bathrooms or nursery are, explaining the attendance pads or picking up trash.
- These three things can really let people feel loved and welcomed. Kathi said, "People will forget what you said, or did, but they will never forget how you made them feel."

Kristen Howell gave us an introduction to Mental Health resources in our community. She said, "About 1 in 5 adults experience a mental health condition in a given year and more than 1 in 5 adolescents. If you don't have a mental health disorder, statistics say that someone you love does. This is an extremely widespread issue and one that it is extremely helpful for each of us to have a basic understanding of - it could be the difference between life and death for someone." She gave out a helpful Mental Health Resource sheet. If you would like a copy of this sheet, please contact Sandy at the office.

Finally, Marsha Gaffin spoke to us about the importance of preparing for the end of your life, even if you are young. Her experiences with the passing of her good friend, Sally, helped her understand the importance of planning. It led to an End of Life Workshop that we will be hosting April 13. See more information on page 3. It was a very informative workshop. We will be planning new workshops with different topics in the future. We hope you will join us as we all learn better ways to love our neighbors and our church family.



Dear Pastor Dave, Grant, Steven & Sandy,
I wanted to personally thank you for all the help & loving support you provided before & during my mother, Mary Cherrie's, service. You have a special team and I could not have navigated it all on my own. The service was so beautiful and perfect. You captured my mother's spirit and heart so well. What a gift you have given us in that memory. Thank you again for everything.
Victoria Cherrie

Dear Pastor Dave, Grant, Ed, and all the volunteers,
Thank you so much for your involvement in dad's celebration of life. My goodness! Who knew the day would be so cold! Thanks to everyone that helped prepare the church for the service, made those in attendance feel welcome and then fed them a warm lunch. I enjoyed connecting with all of you as we shared memories of dad. Dad's service was everything we hoped it would be. It was important to me that we celebrated his exceptional life. Blessings to you all. Cheryl Scott

The flowers sent for Norman's celebration were beautiful. Thank you so much for honoring him in this manner. Sincerely the Dawson Family



February 15-24, Rhonda York and Claudia McAllaster joined a group from Global Hope on a mission trip to India. We started in Hyderabad, a technological center of about 10 million people, in roughly the geographical center of the country. Signs are in Hindi, English, and Telugu. There's construction everywhere. There are about 8 motorcycles to every truck, and they all drive as if traffic lanes and signs are only suggestions.

Part of our mission was to conduct Bible School sessions with the children in The John School. They can belt out "Father Abraham" with enthusiasm and they love to color. The school serves some children in their orphanage and some from the community. Their students score very high on the mandatory state assessment tests, and that buys them some tolerance from the local radical Hindu politicians. Nevertheless, Pastor John recently spent 3 days in house arrest because a state inspector found a Bible on one of the orphans' nightstands.

Another part of our mission was to witness to and encourage the staff. The John Foundation has a training academy for adults to learn job skills. They offer certification courses in fashion design and tailoring, pharmacy technician, beautician, electrician, nursing assistant, and computer software. Some of their graduates staff their commercial enterprises, including a garment factory and Bible importer, which helps support the school and orphanages.

On February 20, we moved to Palakol, a small town of about 60,000 in a poorer area near the East Indian coast. Again, we shared a program of music, art, and Bible teaching with the children from the orphanage and surrounding neighborhood. A worship service in the evening filled the alley with members of Pastor Zakkariah's church and neighbors. The biggest challenge was a meeting with about 20 local pastors. We were asked to share our faith testimony, something I had never done on a public stage before. What do you say to someone who doesn't have enough income, and lives in constant danger?

The most fun was taking the children from Palakol to the beach. Total strangers asked to take our pictures. We were treated like celebrities everywhere we went. Chefs even tried to cook "less spicy" food to accommodate our western palates. As I noted in a text message to my niece, the trip was amazing, terrifying, gratifying, and SO not home. - Claudia



The Alliance Against Family Violence has a new logo and a new director, Katie Irvin, but they are continuing the same mission; to facilitating a positive change in the lives of those affected by domestic and sexual violence and to providing safe shelter in crisis. The four colors of the new logo represent an area that AAFV works with: purple represents domestic violence awareness, teal stands for sexual assault awareness, blue is for human trafficking and yellow represents stalking awareness.

You may think that Leavenworth county is small enough that it doesn't need an agency like AAFV, but in 2022 Leavenworth county had 631 reported cases of domestic violence, 31 reported rapes, and two reported cases of human trafficking. AAFV has a home with five bedrooms. They can house up to 20 people that are in crisis at a time. They also have advocates that work with survivors. They will go with them to the hospital or to court, help them gather documents such as birth certificates and driver's licenses, help them find a job and housing if necessary. Their goal is help survivors start a new life within 90 days. In 2023 they helped 66 unique families, but they had to turn away 61 other families because they just did not have space.

AAFV is funded in three ways: private donations, grants and government support. In 2023, Leavenworth county cut their support of all non-profits by almost half. In 2025, they will no longer provide any monetary support to non-profit agencies. This will leave a large budgetary hole for a lot of non-profits. Grants provide money for specific needs such as the house and groceries. Private donations pay for documentation that an individual needs replaced, building repairs and training. Donations also pay for medication for clients and their kids when insurance hasn't been established yet or insurance doesn't cover all of it. Private donations could also be used to provide a counselor to survivors. AAFV used to have a counselor, but it was paid for by a COVID grant and the money is no longer available. Private donations give AAFV the flexibility to help each individual be successful based on their needs.

Katie Irvin, the new director, said first goal for the future of AAFV was to create a better community presence. She is working with law enforcement, doctors, and colleges to distribute materials to people who may be in abusive relationships. The location of the AAFV shelter house is confidential so that abusers cannot locate survivors. But Katie would love to be able to have an office in the community so that people could drop off donations and her advocates could have a place to take care of business. She would also like to be able to rent a storage space so that AAFV could collect furniture and supplies for when survivors are ready to move into their new home. She would also like to start a program called "To Go Home" boxes. These boxes would contain basic items to start a new household such as dishes, silverware, towels, pans, cleaning supplies, etc.

Most of all, she would like to have enough resources to help all the people who come to AAFV for help.

So how can we at FUMC help?

- * Pray for the workers at AAFV and the survivors that they help everyday.
- * Give to our Easter Offering.
- * AAFV needs volunteers to answer the emergency call line, help clean, and organize donations.
- * Donate supplies the Kansas Country Store, 728 Cherokee.
- * Donate items for "To Go Home" boxes.
- * Drop off old cell phones at the Leavenworth Library.
- * Attend their 40th anniversary gala on March 16.

For more information about AAFV, check out their Facebook page or their website at www.aafvks.org.





Kids First Worship meets during the 11 am service each Sunday on the lower floor of the Sanctuary building. This month we will be focusing on Jesus and his ministry here on the earth. On Easter Sunday, we'll provide Kids First Worship at the 8:30 am AND 11:00 am services. Choose the time that works best for your family!

March 3 – Jesus is Tempted
March 10 – Jesus Chooses Disciples
March 17 – Jesus Asks “Who Am I?”
March 24 – Jesus on a Donkey
March 31 – Jesus is Alive!

Sunday School meets on Sunday mornings from 9:45 am – 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 deeper dive into the stories of Jesus.



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 pm. Friends are always welcome! In March, we're continuing Paul's Second Journey and traveling to Thessalonica. 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. ***NOTE: We will not meet on Wednesday, March 13 due to Spring Break.**

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. We eat lunch together and then discuss Pastor Dave's sermons.



Pre-School 8:30 am – 12:00 pm Elementary 8:30 am – 3:30 pm

Local schools are out on March 29 for Good Friday. We will be hosting TGIGF where kids ages 4 years through 6th grade will be experiencing the events of Holy Week through Bible stories, crafts, science, games, music and food. They will also discover why it is called Good Friday, when what happened to Jesus was definitely NOT good. We will feed them lunch, as well as a morning snack and afternoon snack. This event is not just for our “church” kids. Please invite your friends to come as well. Please register at FUMCLVKS.ORG/TGIGF



In February, we paralleled Pastor Dave's sermon series at youth group and learned a lot going through Daniel since that's not a book of the Bible that gets covered in youth curriculum often. We took one Sunday off to watch the Super Bowl together and enjoy a Chiefs' victory! This is the third win I've gotten to see at a youth

Super Bowl Party and I really love getting to see students get excited. We have a fun Geocaching Easter Egg Hunt planned for our youth March 17. In Sunday School, we're watching through Bible Project Sermon on the Mount Series.

We are planning a mission trip in June. We'll leave for South Dakota early 6/10 and return 6/14. While we're there, we'll serve with Solar Oven Partners, a ministry that creates solar ovens with volunteer labor to give to people in need. They will train us and then we'll be building ovens Tuesday-Thursday. In the afternoons, we will enjoy time at Badlands National Park, Custer State Park, Nerdy Nuts, Mount Rushmore, Wall Drug and The Corn Palace.

We will have a fundraiser between services May 5 to raise funds for our trip and make sure we can keep it free for people who attend. Please let Kristen or Steven know by April 7 if you plan to attend the trip. If you are bringing friends, that is also their deadline and we need to have written consent (via email is great) from their parents. If you need me to email their parents the details, let me know at khowell@fumclvks.org - Kristen Howell



Laity Summit is a virtual gathering space where we come together to hear about ministry opportunities and collaborations. Laity Summit is a one-stop connection point to lean in, to grow together, and to prepare our local mission fields for Kingdom Impact across the Great Plains. This virtual event is designed for laity from all churches large or small, rural or urban communities, and established or emerging leaders.



Wingtips

Widows Igniting New Growth
Through Inspirational Peer Support

Religion that is pure and undefiled before God the Father is this: to care for orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself unstained by the world. James 1:27

Wingtips is a new organization in our community for widows. Their mission is to engage the spouse who survived in ways that promote community, action, activity, support and hope. On Feb. 9, our church family hosted their first event which was a Galentine dinner. Twenty five widows enjoyed a delicious meal, flowers, chocolates and a fun art activity. But most of all, they enjoyed each other. They enjoyed knowing they were not alone. They were seen. They were loved. There were amazing conversations at the tables. There was laughter and joy and a little bittersweetness. It's the club no one really wants to become a member of, but it is important for those eligible.

Elaine Belardo, Wingtips founder, said, “One of the hardest times for me as a widow is Friday night because I have no plans for the weekend. Couples usually look forward to the weekends, but it is a lonely time for widows.” Wingtips is open to any widow. They plan to meet every other month. Their next meeting will be a garden party on April 12 at 5:30 pm here at our church.



Itchin' to Stitch

Itchin' To Stitch members Becky Kranhold, Teresa Hicks and Marge Funk recently made a donation to Children's Mercy of flannel blankets, Mama's Hearts, and walker bags that were downsized for children's use. They were given an informative tour of the center and will plan on making another donation in the fall.

Their next meeting is March 21, at 1:30 pm. New seamstress are always welcome. For more information contact Teresa Hicks at hickst@kc.rr.com.



BOOK CLUB APRIL 2, 1:00 PM

"Grandma Gatewood's Walk" by Ben Montgomery is the next book the Book Club will be reading. Emma Gatewood told her family she was going on a walk and left her small Ohio hometown with a change of clothes and less than two hundred dollars. The next anybody heard from her, this genteel, farm-reared, sixty-seven-year-old great-grandmother had walked 800 miles along the 2,050-mile Appalachian Trail. By September 1955 she stood atop Maine's Mount Katahdin, sang "America, the Beautiful," and proclaimed, "I said I'll do it, and I've done it."

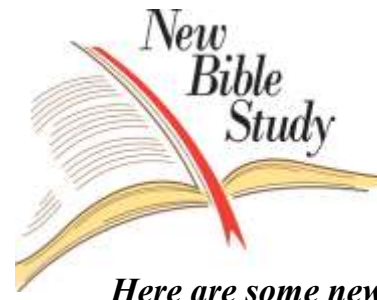
Driven by a painful marriage, Grandma Gatewood not only hiked the trail alone, she was the first person—man or woman—to walk it twice and three times. At age seventy-one, she hiked the 2,000-mile Oregon Trail. Gatewood became a hiking celebrity, and appeared on TV with Groucho Marx and Art Linkletter. The public attention she brought to the trail was unprecedented. Her vocal criticism of the lousy, difficult stretches led to bolstered maintenance, and very likely saved the trail from extinction.

Author Ben Montgomery interviewed surviving family members and hikers Gatewood met along the trail, unearthed historic newspaper and magazine articles, and was given full access to Gatewood's own diaries, trail journals, and correspondence. Grandma Gatewood's Walk shines a fresh light on one of America's most celebrated hikers.

Lansing High School Scholar Bowl Students Win Regionals

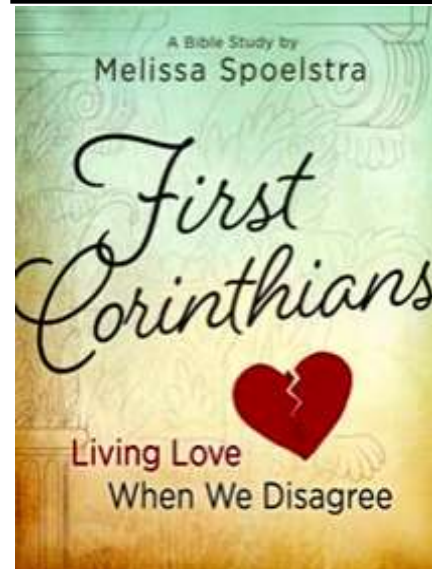
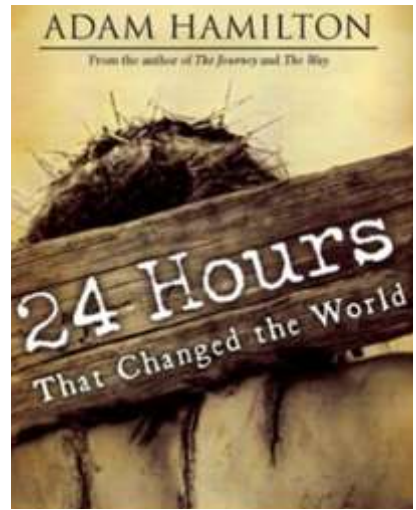


Lansing USD469 would like to congratulate our varsity Scholars Bowl team who took second place at the UKC Scholars Bowl Tournament on Tuesday, January 24th at Lansing High School. Congratulations to Sponsor Mrs. Emily Snyder, & students: Montaha Jornaz, Noah Mills, Matt Erickson, **Jonas Anderson**, Jacob Mitchell, Ryan Dennis!



Here are some new Bible studies starting soon.

The New Life Seekers Sunday School class will be starting a new Bible Study for Lent on March 10. They meet on the second floor of the Education building at 9:45 am. They will be using Adam Hamilton's book, "24 Hours That Changed the World". No single event in human history has received more attention than the suffering and crucifixion of Jesus of Nazareth. This book guides us through the last hours of Jesus' life. Each chapter helps the reader experience and understand the significance of Jesus' suffering and death in a way you have never done before. For more information, contact Donna Ramsey at dcramsey@kc.rr.com



Carol Shafer leads a Bible Study with two options. The same Bible Study is taught on Tuesdays at 10 am or Thursdays at 6:30 pm. The first week of April the classes will be starting Melissa Spoelstra's "First Corinthians" study. Relationships are messy. Sometimes we struggle to get along—even as Christians. How can we work out our differences and disagreements with humility and grace, always showing the love of Christ, while still remaining true to what we believe? The Apostle Paul wrote to the Christians living in Corinth about this very thing. The cultural backdrop of Corinth was even more overtly sinful than our culture today, yet Paul boldly encouraged the Corinthian Christians not to ridicule one another or outsiders but to work together to show the love of Christ. In this six-week study you will discover that the answer is living and sharing the radical love of Jesus Christ, and we'll unpack what this means and how we can live it out day by day. For more information, contact Carol at cshafer@lvnworth.com.

At the end of the Loving Church Family Workshop, Pastor Dave, Jim Wolfe, Carla Wiegers and Bill Kidder, all Rotarians, award the Paul Harris Fellow Rotary Award to Marsha Gaffin for her years of dedication to the greater Leavenworth community, specifically for taking people to medical appointments and delivering meals, writing encouraging letters and phone calls, working the Scout troop and helped many less fortunate than yourself and have made a difference in their lives. The award said she exemplified the spirit of Rotary "Is it truth? Is it fair to all concerned? Will it build goodwill and better friendships? Will it be beneficial to all concerned?"

As a part of the award, a one thousand dollar donation to the Rotary club was made in Marsha's name. The Rotary club is a service organization whose core values are service over self and fellowship. Worldwide they are working to eliminate polio. Locally they sponsor scholarships for high school seniors, clean up parks and parts of town and hold an over the country medicine drive.



LOVE @ FUMC

Valentine's Day is a traditionally a day of love. This year it was also Mother's Morning Out and Ash Wednesday Soup Supper and worship service. Here is how we shared our love for God, for each other and our neighbors on Valentine's Day.



Our Ash Wednesday Soup and Bread potluck started our "Come to the Table" Lenten potlucks. Be sure to join us every Wednesday night of Lent at 5:30 pm for a time of great food & fellowship. On the second Wednesday of each month, we have around 20 children attend our Mother's Morning Out. Thank you to our volunteers for showing the kids God's love.



Wednesdays are for making memories! Whether it's Wonderful Wednesdays learning about the Apostle Paul, or hanging out at the Lenten potlucks, kids are learning what it means to be part of the family of God.

We enjoyed sharing God's love with the teachers at Lansing Elementary school. They were very thankful and really appreciated all the delicious food. Thank you to all the volunteers who wrote cards and made food.

