




RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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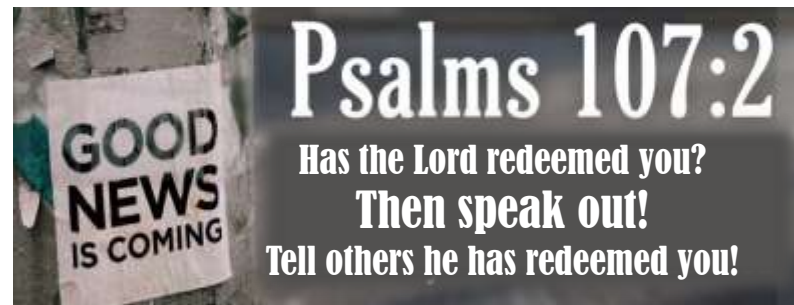
Office Hours—M-Th 9a-3p, Friday—9a-noon

 Or visit us at FUMCLVKS.ORG
Sunday services stream at either site.

April 2023

31 Easter 8:30 & 11:00 Worship 9:45 am Sunday School	1 Church Office closed 5 pm Virtual Grief Share	2 10 am Bible Study 1 pm Book Club	3 11:00 am Prayer 1:30 pm H & S 3:45 pm WW 6:30 pm choir	4 8:30 am Staff 6:30pm Women's Bible Study	5	6 
7 8:30 & 11:00 Worship 9:45 am SS 4:00 pm Bells 6:00 pm Youth	8 1 pm AIR Ministries 5 pm Virtual Grief Share 6 pm Leavenworth High School Choir concert	9 10 am Bible Study	10 8:30 am MMO 11:00 am Prayer 1:30 pm H & S 3:45 pm WW 5:00 pm Grief Share 6:30 pm Choir	11 8:30 am Staff 5:30 pm AAFV Community Meeting 6:30 pm Women's Bible Study	12 Wingtips Garden Gathering	13 9 am End of Life Seminar
14 8:30 & 11:00 Worship 9:45 am SS 12:00 pm Fusion 56 4:00 pm Bells 3:00 Youth Outing	15 1 pm AIR Ministry 5 pm Virtual Grief Share	16 10 am Bible Study 12 pm Ladies Lunch 2 pm Spouse Grief Share	17 11:00 am Prayer 1:30 pm H & S 3:45 pm WW 6:30 pm choir	18 8:30am Staff 1:30 pm Itchin' to Stitch 6:30 pm Women's Bible Study	19	20 8:00 am Men's Prayer Breakfast
21 8:30 & 11:00 Worship 9:45 am SS 12:00 pm Fusion 56 4:00 pm Bells 6:00 pm Youth	22 5 pm Virtual Grief Share	23 10am Bible Study	24 11:00 am Prayer 1:30 pm H & S 3:45 pm WW 5:00 pm Grief Share 6:30 pm Choir	25 8:30am Staff 6:30 pm Women's Bible Study	26	27 
28 8:30 & 11:00 Worship 9:45 am SS 4:00 pm Bells 6:00 pm Youth	29 5 pm Virtual Grief Share	30 10am Bible Study	1 11:00 am Prayer 1:30 pm H & S 3:45 pm WW 6:30 pm Choir	2 8:30am Staff Meeting 6:30 pm Women's Bible Study	3	4 





In 2024, one of the themes we are pursuing is TELL THE STORY. We tell the story of God through Christ and how our life story has grown from it. As you may know, I am a life-long church person. Every significant spiritual event in my personal story has happened in a United Methodist Church or Methodist/Wesleyan school: baptism, confirmation, marriage, church family life, Taylor's baptism, singing, prayers, seminary graduation, learning, pastoral ministry. Some of the best people I have known were associated with church. I'm a middle-class kid from Seneca, KS who has been in the Church for a lifetime. I know the phrase, "Surely goodness and mercy will follow me all the days of my life and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord forever."

(Psalm 23: 6). It may not sound like much of a story but that is not all my story. Like every disciple of Jesus, I have growing up to do. Our lives are a process of being conformed into the image of Christ for the sake of others. Each season has taught me new ways of expressing grace and living into the person Jesus wants me to become. I am learning things in this middle age season of my life that I could not comprehend as a younger person. My hunch is God isn't done with me yet.

At FUMC, we'll be starting a new feature of telling our story – it is a form of testimony or witnessing. WHAT IS YOUR WHY?

- Why did you come to FUMC?
- What is your motive or reason for your engagement in the church?
- When did you start to follow Jesus?
- How do you serve Christ in your occupation?
- Why did you go on that mission trip or outreach ministry?
- What is God teaching you right now?

Well, I hope you get the idea. Short stories of praise and gratitude for our journey so far. We want to record them for use in service. Some will be found in the newsletter. I believe ministry is always about the relationship, so hopefully we'll get to know each other better as well. I hope our lives fulfill the old Christmas song, "Go, tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere." We have a story to tell of Jesus' love and his salvation for the world. That is done through proclamation and demonstration! Let's tell the story and tell it well at FUMC. *Pastor Dave*

The Caring Community
Sharing God's love with our neighbors.
Sermon series starting April 7

Pastor Dave's new sermon series, "The Caring Community" will begin April 7.



All Music Sunday will be April 28 at both services. We will be sharing stories through song and personal testimonies. **Everyone has a story.** We want to hear your story. If you would like to share your story, please contact Sandy at swood@fumclvks.org.



APRIL Birthdays



1st	Grant Zschoche	13th	Joni Hopkins	23rd	Keith Frashier
2nd	Sarah Yenney		Teresa Hicks	25th	Ann Andrews
3rd	Virginia Hardaway	15th	Deb Baeuchle	26th	Colvin Hooser
4th	Lauren Hooser		Bobbie Burkett		Eliza Resch
	Mark Lauber	16th	Pam Bay	27th	Arlen Briggs
6th	Daryl Brandt		Pat Hessenflow	28th	Richard Gray
7th	Rachel Serena	17th	Kelsi Briggs	29th	Linda Martin
	Sandy Simmons		Thomas Hastings	30th	Kelley Perry
8th	Corbin Holyfield	18th	Isla Hastings		Lisa Plants
		21st	Caroline Hedrick		
11th	Lee Perry		Bob Landzettel		
11th	Laurie Rust	21st	Brendale Wakeley		

APRIL Anniversaries

10th	Tim & Bea Yenney	31 years
20th	Mike & Marti Crow	56 years
23rd	Joel & Lyndsay Hubbard	19 years
24th	Mike & Robbie Helm	3 years
28th	Jerome & Margary Scheele	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.



UPCOMING Events



TUES, 16, 12:00 PM
ACAPULCO MEXICAN GRILL





In December 2019, a group of volunteers met Elaine Belardo and heard about a need in our community and decided to do their best to help. They didn't have any special training or structured program. They simply wanted to bring a sparkle to the eyes of someone living with dementia and to give their caregivers a moment of respite. AIR ministry was born.

The same group of volunteers has worked together for over 4 years bringing laughter, love and tasty snacks to our friends every Monday. Over the years we have helped 17 different families.

AIR ministry brought joy to each of our volunteers' lives. We loved working with our friends, but there are also moments of sorrow when one of our friends passed away or moved to full time nursing care.



After much prayer and consideration, it has been decided that it is the best interest of our friends and our community for AIR ministry to transition into the Deeper Window Association. Deeper Window is expanding to a third day of services with our volunteers and our friends leading the way. This will open up more opportunities for people living with dementia.

Thank you to Mary Lou Anderson, Marti Crow, Libby Frashier, Marsha Gaffin, and Kathi LaMoe for their many hours of work. There would be no AIR ministry without them. I have worked with many people over the years, but this team was one of the best I have ever had the pleasure to work with. They were a well oiled machine, but they were also so caring and loving. Thank you. *Sandy*

In April, Trinity House will be switching over to summer clothes in their clothes closet. They are in need of all sizes of children's clothes, shoes and toys. They also need all types of food, paper products, cleaning supplies, and laundry supplies. If you are moving this summer, Trinity House will accept partially used cleaning and laundry supplies.



Stronghold Food Bank at Ft. Leavenworth recently asked their clients to give a one word description of what Stronghold means to them. Some of the responses were "Safety/Security", "Compassion", "Empowering", and "Hope". When you donate food, any type of food, to Stronghold, you are helping a military family feel those emotions. Thank you for your continued support for Stronghold Food Bank.




**APRIL COLLECTION ITEMS:
TOILET PAPER, PAPER TOWELS
AND CANNED BEANS**



If you have lost a loved one, you may feel bewildered about how you should go on. The feelings associated with loss include extreme fatigue, sadness, loss of purpose, isolation and loneliness. Meet one of our congregation members, and learn how she has coped.

Our friend, Debbie Gebhardt, grew up in Alberta, Canada. After graduating from high school, her parents wanted her to attend a Bible college, so Debbie enrolled in Northwest Nazarene College in Nampa, Idaho. During her senior year, she met her future husband, Jim Gebhardt. Jim was just returning from Vietnam and was attending college under the GI Bill. Ten months later they married, and the rest, as they say, is history. Jim transferred to the University of Idaho in Moscow, enrolled in ROTC, and received a fellowship to the University of Washington. He became a Russian linguist and the Gebhardts enjoyed the Army life at various stateside Army posts and two tours in Germany, having two children along the way. Eventually, Jim retired, and they chose Leavenworth as their permanent residence. Jim then worked as an Army civilian.

In 2010, Jim was enroute to conduct business in Botswana and passed out in the airport. He went to the Embassy doctor who examined him and sent him straight home. Once stateside, he was admitted to KU Medical center and diagnosed with blood clots in his lungs and arterial hypertension. Eventually, in 2014, he was diagnosed with leukemia, and lost his struggle in 2021 at the age of 73.

"Even though he had been ill, he was a hard fighter", she said. "I had years to prepare, but when Jim decided to cease treatment, it hit me like a ton of bricks. My first feelings were numbness and being totally overwhelmed with decisions and paperwork. The kids had gone back to their homes and I was alone." Having to deal with so many unfamiliar situations was daunting."

Eventually, she decided to try GriefShare. "I needed to have somewhere to go, it was so lonely at home. It was nice to sit with others and talk about Jim and say whatever I wanted. I actually felt guilty because I had so much time to plan for the future, while some of the people lost their loved ones suddenly. Eventually I saw that neither way is easy. Over time, the painful feelings began to ease. It's still lonely, especially on weekends, but being with others who know what I'm feeling is huge. I've met some really nice people. It's okay to cry there, everyone understands and it's okay to be authentic."

Debbie said that she feels fortunate that our church offers GriefShare. She says that it has been a necessary part of her healing. "I've even started to feel like I can help others get through this".

The Spouse GriefShare meets on the third and fifth Tuesday at 2 pm. There is an open group that meets at 5 pm on the second and fourth Wednesday and a virtual GriefShare that meets at 5 pm every Monday. If you have any questions about GriefShare, contact Marsha at marshagaffin@gmail.com.




**Alliance Against Family Violence
Community Meeting
April 11, 5:30 pm**

Building "To Go Home" boxes

Silverware	Dishes
Cookie Utensils	Pots & Pans
Cleaning Supplies	Paper Products
Can Opener	Towels

The Alliance Against Family Violence will begin having monthly meetings here at the church to help the community gain awareness of the need for AAFV and the services that they provide. They will also start making "To Go Home" boxes for people who are ready to start a new life in a new home. There are so many basic needs when you are starting fresh. There is a suggest list to the left. The first meeting is April 11 at 5:30 pm. Everyone is welcome. You can bring donations to the church office.



At 10:08 am, March 12, 2024, Methodist Hospital Stone Oak San Antonio, Texas, Ashley T., ward nurse entered Room 502 and said “your mother has coded, her heart has stopped, do you want us to resuscitate?” The next two minutes seemed to last for hours. My father, who just entered the room, was her medical proxy and made the decision to let mom go. She was 85 years-old, had a heart attack and a stroke two weeks prior, and had been in the hospital for two weeks – a week in the ICU and a week in a hospital room. My ma lived a beautiful and fruitful life, living all over the country and in Europe, having three thankful children, 11 wonderful grandchildren, and 23 adorable great-grandchildren all from a 67-year marriage to my dad. She impacted many more lives than just ours as she came to the Lord at the tender age of 60, teaching us that it’s never too late to find His love and forgiveness.

My parents had the foresight decades ago to have everything prepared in advance for my mother’s passing. They have wills, medical directives, powers of attorney and a “how things are done” instruction notebook for the surviving spouse and family members. It included who to contact immediately, who handles what, and outlined when, where, and how to continue moving forward. My mother’s wishes were that though she may be in her new room with our Father, day to day life for my father and the rest would not be financially nor spiritually devastating, though extremely emotionally painful.

In Christ, Ed

Ed’s mom gave a real gift to her family in an incredibly difficult time – the gift of peace of mind that they were honoring her wishes and the ability to focus on being with one another and grieving, rather than ironing out details. Congregational Care is putting out a free workshop for you and anyone you feel could benefit on April 13 from 9am-12pm in Fellowship Hall. We will have three speakers, each presenting from their expertise in a field that is relevant to end-of-life planning. This is not a sales pitch and is open to the community. Please bring friends! RSVP at fumclvks.org/EOL or call the church office at 913-682-5374 so we know how many people to prepare for (and can purchase the appropriate number of refreshments). If you have questions, feel free to email me (Kristen Howell) at khowell@fumclvks.org. Here’s our awesome lineup of speakers:



Mike Crow, Attorney in Leavenworth: Living wills vs DNRs (Do Not Resuscitate), medical liens for nursing home care, durable powers of attorney, wills vs. trusts.



Liz Brown, Social Worker at the Veterans Administration: Preparing families for end-of-life care, initiating difficult conversations about sensitive topics, VA-related documents about survivor benefits.



Rev. Dave York, Pastor at FUMC: Planning your funeral and writing your obituary. Hope to see you there!

Kristen Howell




End of Life Planning Seminar

April 13

9 am - 12 pm

Please register at khowell@fumclvks.org

What an amazing month March was here at FUMC-LV! The kids experienced everything from Jesus calling his disciples to the stories of Holy Week culminating in EASTER! HE IS RISEN INDEED!

In addition to all of our “regularly scheduled programs”, we also had special Wednesday evenings during Lent and Thank Goodness It’s Good Friday! Just a few takeaways:

1. Doing crafts with sand is messy, but cool!
2. If you have never had a Resurrection Roll, you are missing out big time! Super yummy as well as a great way to learn about the Resurrection.
3. The Thessalonians were not very welcoming of Paul, but the Bereans were. They also give us a great example of not only hearing God’s word, but checking it out for ourselves!
4. Jesus’ disciples were a rag tag bunch. A perfect way to show that God can use anyone – no matter what their strengths, weaknesses, background, I.Q, age, or any other description we use for people.
5. Jesus has POWER!





Kids First Worship meets during the 11:00 service each Sunday on the lower floor of the Sanctuary building. This month we will be focusing on the times Jesus appeared to people after his Resurrection.

- April 7 – Jesus Appears - Emmaus
- April 14 – Jesus Appears - Disciples
- April 21 – Jesus Appears - Thomas
- April 28 – Jesus Appears – Breakfast on the Beach

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 deeper dive into the stories of Jesus Appearing.



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 April, we are continuing Paul's Second Journey and traveling to Corinth. 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 pm. Designed especially for 5th and 6th graders to meet them where they are and support them as they grow. Each week we will parallel Pastor Dave's sermons.

- April 7 - No Fusion 56
- April 14 - Yes! Fusion 56!!
- April 21 - Yes! Fusion 56!!
- April 28 - No Fusion 56
- May 5 - Fusion Fun day! Hooray!



Mother's Morning Out: April 10, 8:30 – 11:30a.m. Our theme for April is "Life on a Farm." 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 Pre-school. The April session is at capacity. To be placed on the waiting list – contact Nancy nshade@fumclvks.org. To register for the May 8 session, go to FUMCLVKS.ORG.

VBS 2024
Kingdom Quest
 Come find the Keys to the Kingdom!
July 22-26
9:00 am-noon
 Kids ages 3 years through 6th grade



Dear FUMC Family and Friends:
 After moving to Lakeview Village in Lenexa 3 1/2 years ago, we were overwhelmed with cards, phone calls, and prayers wishing us well as we settled in our new home. As Norman's health began deteriorating two years ago, those heart-warming messages kept coming. He so enjoyed hearing from everyone and especially enjoyed visits from many of you and Pastor Dave. Norman's Celebration of Life in January was a beautiful service with wonderful assistance from church staff and the group who served the delicious lunch. Seeing friends at the service, knowing that many watched the service on online and receiving cards and letters from friends was very much appreciated by our family. And even now the love and caring is ongoing. I am still receiving wonderfully uplifting messages from Nurture and Care committee members and visits from Pastor Dave. Truly, I cannot find enough words to express my gratitude for the loving care and concern we have received these past years. We are blessed to be members of FUMC of Leavenworth!
 Many, many thanks,
 Nancy Dawson

Dear First United Methodist Church,
 Thank you so much for your generous donation of clothing and undergarments. We are so grateful and blessed to have your support. Your generosity means everything to us and the community we serve. From the deepest part of my heart.
 Thank you.
 Danielle Baker
 Anthony Elementary School Nurse

Dear FUMC,
 I am grateful that this congregation decided to underwrite a portion of the trip expenses for the Global Hope mission trip to India last month. It was encouraging to feel that you were traveling with me. It freed me to share the love of Christ more effectively.
 Thank you.
 Claudia McAllaster



Dear FUMC Family
 Thank you all for your outpouring of prayers, cards and texts during the end of my mother's life. Never an easy time, we were comforted by your love and continual support as my ma went to the place our Father had prepared for her.
 In Christ, Ed and Bernie Garven

Dear Friends,
 Thank you for thinking of Trinity House as a way to honor your teacher. Trinity House provides food and/or clothing for about 200 families a month. Your gift will directly touch lives in our community.
 Many Thanks
 Trinity House

Tell Me Your Story...



Let me start by saying my first time in church was when I was three weeks old. My father gave up a potentially lucrative career to become a Methodist minister. He graduated from seminary when I was two years old. I was involved with my Dad's church every Sunday, sometimes attending 3-4 times on Sunday.

When I was about 9 years old, an evangelist, Tommy Harper came to our church for a revival. He was someone I can honestly say was "on-fire" for the Lord. My brother and I both went to the altar and were saved.

I married right out of High School and I guess I decided that being an "adult" and a wife was more important than being a Christian because I didn't attend church for many years. It wasn't until I remarried and my youngest was ready to go to school that I reconnected with the church and Jesus Christ.

One Sunday morning, I got a call from a family member who told me one of my cousins had died in an accident. She was a young mother with toddler triplets. That call was a shocking reminder that our lives are unpredictable, are not our own and I needed Jesus back in my life. I gathered my two kids and found a church that same day.

My job history is a little of everything I do here at the church. From database management, to banking and customer service, all my professional life fits some aspect of the job functions here. But working in a God-fearing, Jesus loving, prayer-filled environment means more to me than any 9-5 job ever could. *Libby*



Have you ever wondered why bad things happen? Have you ever gone through a time in your life when you no matter how hard you tried to serve God it seemed like everything was wrong? Five years ago, I was going through a very rough time. I had worked at the same church for 13 years. I had given it my all. There was a change in leadership and suddenly, nothing I did was right. I prayed. I cried. I tried. I prayed some more. For six months, everything I did was wrong. On April 20, my only daughter moved to Virginia. Easter was on April 21 that year. On April 23, I was fired. On April 25, my father in law was diagnosed with small cell cancer. It was a pretty rough week.

Where had God been those six months? I was truly trying to serve God, but my life was falling apart...

What I didn't know is that God was working on my behalf. He knew things I didn't know. He was preparing a future for me that I was oblivious to. As I look back on that time I see God's fingerprints and timing in everything that happened. Let me explain. Because I had been fired, I now was free to spend every day at the hospital with my in laws. They really needed me during that time. They were not used to driving in the city and I was able to dedicate all my time to them.

Two weeks after I was fired, Carla, my good friend, stopped by my house at 9:30 pm and asked me to apply for a job at First United Methodist. I was truly not sure I ever wanted to work for another church after the last six months. My husband and I prayed about it and we visited the church on Mother's Day. That was also Nancy Shade's going away breakfast. She had sensed God telling her to leave Children's ministry at this church at the very same time everything started going wrong for me at my church. After six months, she was leaving. I was eventually hired as the children's director to replace Nancy. VBS was my second week working here, but Nancy had set me up for success. She supported me the entire time I worked with children and has become one of my dearest friends.

God provided for me before I even realized I needed provision. I didn't know that the church where I had served would split within a year. I didn't know a pandemic was coming. I didn't know my husband would be disabled within a year. I didn't realize there were so many new and wonderful relationships waiting to be formed at a new church. But God knew. He had a plan. All the times I prayed He was listening. He was working. He was near, even when I didn't know it.

I am grateful that God made a place for me here at First United Methodist and I'm grateful to be a part of this family. *Sandy*



Scouting Ministry March 2024

Even with spring break, the Scouting Ministry of FUMC was motoring forward. The annual Pinewood Derby brought out the best of our younger Scouts. There were "Ohhs and Awws and WOWs!" For many, success was based on the 1st place race counter, but for the adults ... success was based on every car making it to the finish line... Nothing speaks the fear of failure like the look of a Cub Scout when her or his car does not make it to the end. Every heart could sink. BUT, SUCCESS --- EVERY CAR MADE it THROUGH the FINISH LINE. (That was my prayer and the

Good Lord smiled on us.) Three Cub Scouts from Lansing Cub Scout Pack 3165 chose to join Troop 173 here at FUMC Scouting Ministry, after visiting other Scouting programs in the area.

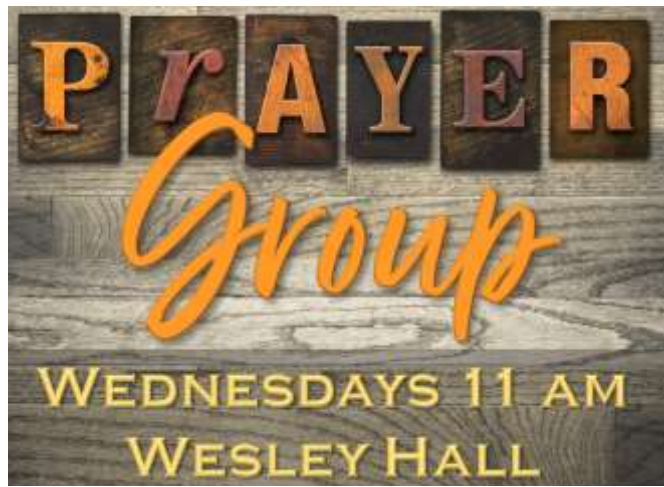
Troops 173 and 6173 met at the Riverfront Community Center to work on swimming requirements for rank advancement. They finished up the Pet Merit Badge. We looked at multiple summer camp options and ultimately selected to return to Camp Hohn in central Missouri. We created a summer camp selection committee to review options to bring to the Scouts to make the final choice for next year. Just a reminder that this is a Scout run Ministry and the adult leadership are guides and resources.

Last week, we started the Eagle Scout required merit badge, Citizenship in the Community. One of the requirements is to visit an historically significant location, so we might visit either our state capital or the Truman Presidential Library.

We had a bit of excitement when the church staff noticed the trailer was missing and asked if we were using it. Turns out a couple of good old boys wanted to borrow it at midnight the night before, forgot to plug in the lights and were stopped by the Leavenworth Police... and given a warning to be safe. However, our neighbors saw the act and had it on their Ring Doorbell. Super great detective work by our Police Department and working with the County Sheriff office, recovered the trailer hidden on the back side of the Easton Cemetery. No real damage. We are upgrading our security on the trailers with wheel boots. Thank you to the FUMC staff for their situational awareness and immediate actions with the authorities.

Next month we will be camping out and helping with the annual city-wide clean up on April 20. We are inviting the youth group to help and afterwards, to join us for something to eat, made by the Scouts. Of course, YOU can





You are invited, exhorted, to become a part of one of the most powerful tools our congregation possesses - becoming a member of our prayer group. Last month alone, there were over a dozen requests from church members for prayer. We meet in Wesley Hall at 11:00 am every Wednesday. Please join us. Some quotes about prayer:

- Little prayer - little power
- Big prayer - big power
- Gigantic prayer - gigantic power. Thaneshia Lindsay
- Pray without ceasing - Thessalonians 5:17

Prayer is not an old woman's amusement. Properly understood and applied, it is the most potent instrument of action.- Mahatma Gandhi

Don't pray when it rains if you don't pray when the sun shines. - Satchel Paige

The value of persistent prayer is not that God will hear us, but that we will finally hear God.- William McGill

True prayer is neither a mere mental exercise nor a vocal performance. It is far deeper than that. It is a spiritual transaction with the creator of Heaven and Earth.- Charles Spurgeon

Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. -Philippians 4:6

Our prayers may be awkward. Our attempts may be feeble. But since the power of prayer is in the one who hears it and not in the one who says it, our prayers do make a difference. - Max Lucado

True prayer is a way of life, not just for use in cases of emergency. Make it a habit, and when the need arises you will be in practice. - Billy Graham

There are parts of our calling, works of the Holy Spirit, and defeats of the darkness that will come no other way than through furious, fervent, faith-filled, unceasing prayer. - Beth Moore



This time of year is quite busy for the youth group between graduation, our end of year activities, scholarships, and preparation for summer activities and trips. Here are some of our upcoming events to put on your calendar!



- April 7 - Summer Mission Trip registration deadline
- April 14, 3-7 pm - FlipSwitch VR & Dinner outing
- April 20 - Citywide Cleanup Day with the Scouts
- April 30 - Scholarships due for graduating seniors
- May 5 - Youth Breakfast Pastry Fundraiser during Sunday School
- May 12 - Graduation Sunday
- June 10-14 - Youth Mission trip to South Dakota
- July 22-26 - Volunteer at VBS
- August 9-10 - Youth Lock-In

Of course we also have Refuge Youth Group on Sundays in April from 6-7:45pm and Sunday School 9:45-10:45 am. Sunday School time will switch to 9-10 am for the summer starting May 12. Contact Kristen Howell



April Is Child Abuse Prevention Month

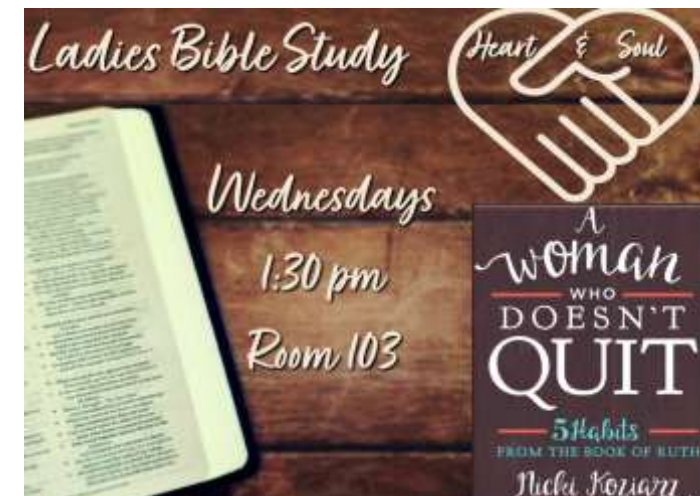
April is Child Abuse Prevention Month. CASA is working to raise awareness about child abuse in our community. The CASA program in Leavenworth was established in 1994 and is based on the idea that average citizens can become professionally trained volunteers who serve as the eyes and ears of the court. Even more importantly, these volunteers are a voice for the child. Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASAs) meet all involved parties and make an impartial recommendation to the Judge. These advocates appear in court for the child and represent the child's best interest. CASAs monitor a case until its end, helping bring swift and permanent conclusions. CASA Volunteers are everyday people, from all walks of life, who have been thoroughly screened and extensively trained to be a voice for the children they serve.

In 2023, 17 CASA volunteers served 39 children in our district. They served 1,857 volunteer hours. CASA also facilitated court monitored visits between children and their parents. They provided a safe environment for 111 children in 2023. The Child Advocacy Center provided forensic interviews for 120 children who were victims of crime in 2023. The Honorable Judge Wiley said, "Services CASA provides to the domestic court are necessary, generally invaluable and difficult if not impossible to replace."

Make the first step in changing a child's life. Apply to become a CASA volunteer today.



**CASA's 19th Annual
Night at the Races Fundraiser
May 3, 5:30 pm
Riverfront Community Center
Tickets available at CASALVKS.ORG/EVENTS**



Heart and Soul is a Ladies Bible Study that meets on Wednesdays at 1:30 pm. They will begin a new study on April 17 call "A Woman Who Doesn't Quit". The author, Nicki Koziarz, walks women through the Book of Ruth, focusing on the Moabite woman's 5 practical habits that kept her eyes on God: Ruth accepted the assignment of refinement, followed through on her commitments despite her feelings, remained open to the movement of God, gave others what she needed, and moved forward in faith. If you have questions, contact Marti at marticrow@gmail.com.

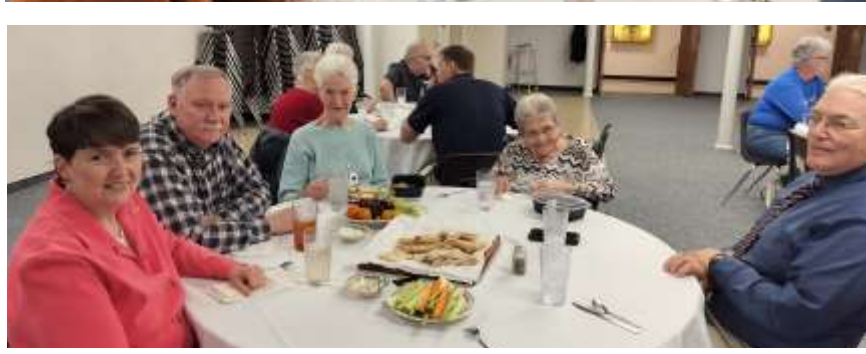
The New Life Seekers Sunday School class will be starting a new study on April 28. They'll be studying the new book by Josh Scott, "Context". It looks at verses we know by heart but may not know the people, places, and times that give them meaning. Josh Scott delves into these verses, exploring their true meanings by examining them in their original biblical context. Through this process, he unveils fresh and enlightening interpretations that are often missed when these Scriptures are taken out of context. They meet in room 203 of the Ed building.

CONTEXT
PUTTING SCRIPTURE IN ITS PLACE
Josh Scott

newlife seekers
Sundays
9:45 am
Donna Ramsey
dcramsey@kc.rr.com

HOLY WEEK @ FUMC

Holy week was such a beautiful, rich time for our church family. We started the week with Palm Sunday. On Thursday we had a foot washing service and then a family meal.



We joined with 8 other churches this year for our Good Friday service. Pastor Dave and six other pastors shared the last words of Jesus. Our Praise Team joined with other worship leaders to lead worship that night. There were over 600 people from our community in attendance.



One of the highlights of Holy Week is TGIGF, an all day experience for kids. This year 18 volunteers helped 32 kids learn about the last week of Jesus' life.



The week concluded with a glorious worship service on Sunday. The choir and Wesley Ringers provided fantastic music. Nancy Shade had a great group for Kids 1st Worship.