



**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**

Phone: 913-682-5374

Educational Bldg.: 913-675-7495

E-mail: [office@fumclvks.org](mailto:office@fumclvks.org)

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

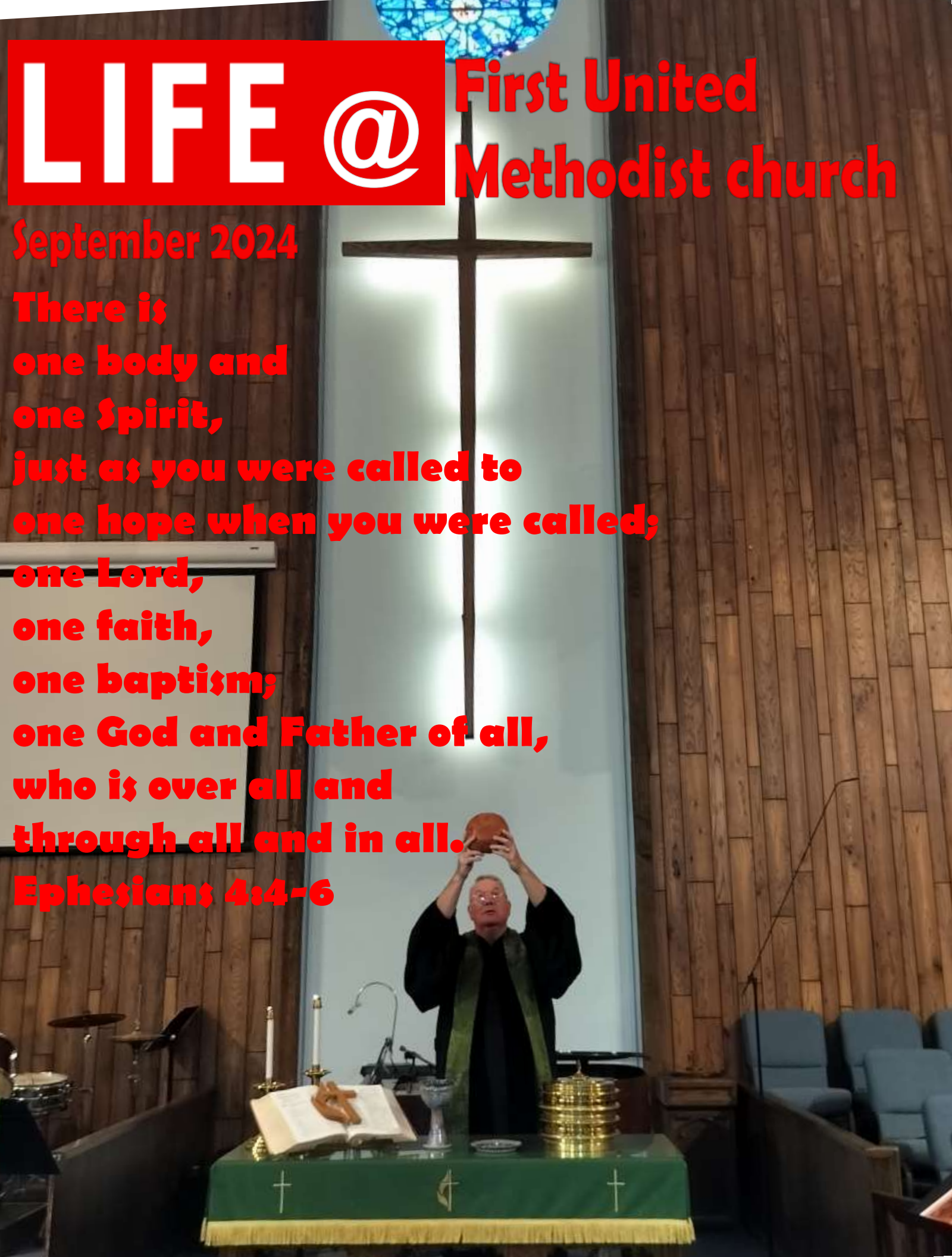


Or visit us at [FUMCLVKS.ORG](http://FUMCLVKS.ORG)

Sunday services stream at either site.

**September 2024**

<b>1</b> 10 am Worship 9 am Sunday School	<b>2 Labor Day</b> <b>Church Office Closed</b> 5pm Virtual Grief Share	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> 3:45 pm WW 6:30 pm Choir	<b>5</b> 8:30am Staff Meeting	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> Samaritans' Buffet
<b>8</b> 8:30am Worship 9:45 am SS 11 am Worship 12 pm Fusion 56 4:30 pm Bells 5 pm Youth Parent Meeting	<b>9</b> 5pm Virtual Grief Share	<b>10</b> 10 am Women's Bible Study	<b>11</b> 8:30 am MMO 12 pm Lunch 3:45 pm WW 5:00 pm Grief Share 6:30 pm Choir	<b>12</b> 8:30am Staff Meeting 6:30 pm Women's Bible Study	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>15</b> 8:30am Worship 9:45 am SS 11 am Worship 12 pm Fusion 56 4:30 pm Bells 6 pm Youth	<b>16</b> 5pm Virtual Grief Share	<b>17</b> 10 am Women's Bible Study 2:00 pm Grief Share 6:30 pm Pastor's Bible Study	<b>18</b> 1:30 pm H & S 3:45 pm WW 6:30 pm Choir	<b>19</b> 8:30am Staff Meeting 1:30 pm Itchin' to Stitch 6:30 pm Women's Bible Study	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> 8:00 am Men's Prayer Breakfast 4:30 pm Relay for Life
<b>22</b> 8:30am Worship 9:45 am SS 11 am Worship 12 pm Octogenarian Dinner 4:30 pm Bells 6 pm Youth	<b>23</b> 5pm Virtual Grief Share	<b>24</b> 10 am Women's Bible Study 6:30 pm Pastor's Bible Study	<b>25</b> 1:30 pm H & S 5:00 pm Grief Share 3:45 pm WW 6:30 pm Choir	<b>26</b> 8:30am Staff Meeting 6:30 pm Women's Bible Study	<b>27</b>	<b>28 Whole Hog Roast 4-7 pm</b> Samaritans' Buffet
<b>29</b> 8:30am Worship 9:45 am SS 11 am Worship 12 pm Fusion 56 4:30 pm Bells 6 pm Youth	<b>30</b> 5pm Virtual Grief Share	<b>1</b> 10 am Women's Bible Study 1 pm Book Club 6:30 pm Pastor's Bible Study	<b>2</b> 1:30 pm H & S 3:45 pm WW 6:30 pm Choir	<b>3</b> 8:30am Staff Meeting 6:30 pm Women's Bible Study	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> Samaritans' Buffet





**REJOICE** *always*  
**PRAY** *continually*  
**GIVE THANKS** *in all things*  
 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

On my recent vacation, I saw one of the great landmarks in the United States. I took a one-hour harbor cruise to see the Golden Gate Bridge in San Francisco. Built in the 1930's in only four years, it is a marvel to see and learn about. Did you know the naval department wanted to paint it yellow and black (picture a bumblebee) so that airplanes and ships could see it at a distance?

One of the urban myths that was dispelled was how it is painted. While the myth was busted, the concept around it holds truth for discipleship. I heard that the Golden Gate Bridge is painted year around. Painters get to one end and then have to turn around and start over again. That is not true. The myth is an example of how things continually need to be done. Painting the Golden Gate Bridge is not a one and done deal. While it is not painted all the time, it is constantly maintained and repaired. To leave a valued treasure in disrepair would be tragic and lead to all kinds of problems.

Our prayer life is like this, too. It is an ongoing discipleship practice. We need to continually be in the practice of prayer. The method of doing it is not so much the important thing, but our relationship with God, that is the key. Our relationship with God is constantly calling us to reorient our lives to what God wants from us. That takes communication. We adjust to what God invites and commands us to be and do. Our prayer lives are not one and done.

As we grow in our discipleship with Christ, we are becoming who God calls us to be. Prayer is the intentional focus on our love for God. This fall, we are focused on prayer which I hope will be affirming for things you already know and do. It is a learning opportunity to change and adjust your life. Nothing is too small or too large for us to take it to the Lord in prayer. Yes, pray for rain for your garden and world peace.

Keep on praying for a circumstance or friend. Confess your sin before God and accept the grace and mercy of knowing God wants to forgive the contrite heart. Say thank you as a form of worship and adoration. I invite you to come along with us on this journey of learning to pray. You'll be glad you did!

*Pastor Dave*



1st	Aaron Wecas	15th	Breanna Banker
4th	Bill Kidder	16th	Sandy Wood
6th	Mary Lou Anderson	18th	Nanci Smith
	Sonia Wiley	19th	Jack Burkett
	Brian Wood		Jerome Scheele
8th	Brian White	20th	John Gable
9th	LeRoy Hicks	21st	Carol Shafer
	Brendan Jamerson	22nd	Jim Atwell
	Bailey Ko		Adak Rolf
	Becky Wecas		Ron Wecas
10th	Marsali Howell	24th	Brian Anderson
12th	Pat Deiter	28th	Lynne Atwell
	Christy Wiley	29th	Joan Atwell
13th	Abby Martin		Maryann McAfee



1st	Sy & Shirley Nyhart	67 years
2nd	Frank & Gini Geib	35 years
3rd	Jeff & Kelley Perry	30 years
	Blaine & Merry Weeks	36 years
4th	Chez & Carol Shafer	48 years
8th	Gary & Carol Russell	23 years
14th	Wes & Christel Ludwig	56 years
18th	Rodney & Kristina Edington	25 years
	Doug & Brendale Wakeley	3 years
21st	Frankie & Margaret McLaurin	39 years
22nd	Jeff & Kathi LaMoe	40 years
23rd	Brian & Tracy Resch	24 years
	Ernest & Wilda Wicke	7 years
30th	Tom & Karen Tish	57 years



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



**MEN'S PRAYER & STUDY**  
**BREAKFAST**  
**SEPT. 21**  
**8:00 AM**

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT  
 MIKE MIX [HAIRYMULE@GMAIL.COM](mailto:HAIRYMULE@GMAIL.COM)  
 OR DAVE LANDIS [DLANDIS@HUGHES.NET](mailto:DLANDIS@HUGHES.NET)



**WED. SEPT 11, 12:00 PM**  
**TAMPICOS MEXICAN RESTAURANT**  
**215 DELAWARE**

# Scouts Start A New Year

It has begun! Schools are back in session. As summer melts away and the school year kicks into gear, sports start and the BSA recharter begins. Everybody will be active. Cub Scout Pack 3109 conducted its initial recruiting event. The Troop Scouts set up events with the potential Cubs while the adults talk expectations, responsibilities and support. It costs \$125 for a new scout to enter the program but the leadership makes every effort to assist families financially.

The Pack also went swimming. What is there to say? They got wet and had fun! Did you know the Monarchs played the Milwaukee Milkmen? Did you know that the Scouts camped out on the ball field? Did you know that if you don't get up and move to breakfast before 6 am, that the sprinklers kick on? Not all 21 had to learn the hard way.

Three Scouts completed their committee level board of review for promotion. September 14, the Scouting Ministry will cook another great meal at its annual Family Cook-out. The Scouts will conduct a Court of Honor recognizing advancements and awards, ending with our annual American Flag Retirement Ceremony. September 15 we will complete an Eagle Scout Court of Honor at the church from 2-5 pm for Nathan Sickler. The leaders had a worthwhile committee meeting and completed its annual fiscal audit.

The Scouting Ministry appreciates the incredible support from the church and the congregation. If you have an American Flag that needs to be retired, please drop it by the church office so the Scouts can honor it properly. A Scout is Reverent.

*Bill Kiddle*



Last January, Elaine Belardo came to the church staff with an unusual proposal. Elaine's husband Jose had lost his battle with Alzheimer's. She asked, "What does your church do to support the widows in your congregation?" Sadly, I had to admit that there wasn't anything that I was aware of that our church sponsored. When I mentioned GriefShare and Saturday serve days, Elaine said that, while these were excellent programs, they weren't exactly "fun." She said, "I'm looking for something that we can do that's fun, uplifting - something to look forward to doing".

In typical Elaine fashion, she had already thought it through. She even had a name for it - WINGTIPS an acronym that would put the Army to shame. It stands for Widows Igniting New Growth Through Inspirational Peer Support.

The first WINGTIPS function was held on the Friday before Valentines Day, aptly named Galentines Day. About thirty women responded to the invitation. We catered a buffet dinner and decorated the room with a valentine theme. Each lady was given a rose and a box of chocolates. Libby provided a craft and they all took home their own flower painting. They had a chance to introduce themselves to the group and make new friends, to have a fun social time where nobody felt like a fifth wheel. It was a huge success. They now meet every other month and show no signs of slowing down. But, why take my word for it? Here are some words from actual attendees:

*"It's a great Friday evening out meeting people who understand what you are or have experienced. What fun to sit and enjoy a meal with new people and make friends and to share the good, the bad and the ugly .... And of course so much laughter!!"* Debbie G.

*"It has been a good experience to meet and visit with other members of a special group of people. People who can relate to each other as we look for and find ways to start a different phase of our life. It's not all about grief, we have fun and make each other laugh! What more could you ask for?"* Mary Lou A.

*"It's been a great experience to get out, away from maybe other family members or friends that don't truly understand what you are going through. Every one of these ladies do. No judgment. You can talk, cry, and eventually everyone laughs! The food has been fantastic and so much care has been given to make the evening special. This one widow (still hate this title!) is very grateful and blessed for this group."* Teri N.

The next Wingtips event will be October 11 at 5:30 pm. Any widow is welcome to attend. Please RSVP to the church office if you plan on attending. **Marsha Gaffin**



Above is last Wingtips meal.

To the right is Hannah Banker in the River City Community Players production of Seussical the Musical. She played several characters in the production including one the of the Whos from Whoville and the black bottomed eagle.





Wow! My first few years at the First United Methodist Church of Leavenworth have been filled with excitement and blessings.

*The descendants of His servants will inherit it, and those who love His name will dwell in it. Psalm 69:36*

In the past four years, we have accomplished significant structural improvements to our facilities which include: partial HVAC replacements, the exterior stone restoration/replacements, the angled parking/sidewalks around the green space east of the main church building, the inclined sidewalk and new front entry way and renovation behind the sanctuary cross. Moving forward, we are waiting on bids for more HVAC upgrades and we will be replacing the main church building roof plus gutters. We will innovatively work together on funding to accomplish these projects.

*Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. 2 Corinthians 9:7*

Exciting news is the United as One group is still extremely viable in our community. Churches from around the county came together for praise, prayer and worship during our 24 hour prayer event last month and are continuing this year to love on and serve our local schools. Please watch the church calendar for more detailed information on events throughout the school year.

*By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another. John 13:35*

The blessings I have received have been in the friendships I have made with my brothers and sisters in Christ Jesus and with the mission partners I have met in the community. The Lord has commanded us to use our time, treasure and talents to bring Kingdom to our homes, our church, and our community. I ask that each of you pray on how you can bring Kingdom in your own way. We have many opportunities for serving on a weekly or monthly basis through the generosity and compassion of this church. I know not everyone can physically serve, but everyone can pray that we continue to meet the needs of our community.

*Whoever is kind to the poor lends to the Lord, and he will reward them for what they have done. Proverbs 19:17*

In September, we are upgrading our telephone and internet services for both the main church and education buildings. Additionally, we are planning to have the front doors of the church refurbished. Increasing the use of our physical assets will be vital for continuity of learning and community outreach for the coming years.

*Whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. Phil. 4:8*

Love gives life to Kingdom building!

In Christ, Ed



**Whole Hog Roast**  
September 28, 4-7 pm  
4<sup>th</sup> Street & Chestnut

September 28, we will be hosting a hog roast with St. Paul Lutheran and First Presbyterian church to raise money for mission activities in those churches. Joey Denney will be roasting the hog. There will be sides and desserts available for a donation of \$20 or more. Invite your friends and join us for food (LOTS) fun (games for all ages) and fellowship (one body, many parts).



By the time you read this article, school will have been in session for at least a couple weeks and our first few youth groups of the year will be under our belt. All of that means the beginning of another busy year of youth ministry. Our annual lock-in was August 9 & 10. We had a great time getting acquainted with one another. The youth group has turned over this year and we are almost entirely middle school students, so there is a lot of energy! They kept us on our toes. We went out to dinner at Luigi's in town, followed by ice cream and hanging out at Shawnee Mission Park before our showing of *Inside Out 2* at the theater. By the time we got back to church, it was already around midnight and we filled the rest of the night with games, movies, coloring books, manicures, and Magna Tiles. It was quite the night and there wasn't a lot of sleeping that happened. The lock-in is so important as our first event because it provides an opportunity for us to set the foundation for relationships with students and build on old ones.

Coming up in the next few months, we will continue to have youth group Sundays 6-7:45pm, which includes dinner, social time, a game, and a lesson. This year we will be covering *The Apprenticeship Series* by James Bryan Smith, starting with *The Good and Beautiful God*. We also have Sunday school which now includes 5 & 6th grade on Sunday mornings from 9:30-10:45am. For the first chunk of the school year, we will be covering formative Bible stories from creation through Revelation.

We will have an outing October 20, at noon to a local pumpkin patch for some fun. We will leave right after second service (around noon), grab lunch, and be back at the church by 5pm. Please RSVP to Kristen and/or Steven so we can get a headcount. We will also have a service opportunity sometime either late September or early October.

Parents and youth stay tuned with our monthly newsletter for more details. If you want to be on the email list, email me at [khowell@fumclvks.org](mailto:khowell@fumclvks.org). Parents/Guardians and students are invited to come for an informational meeting September 8 at 5 pm to discuss plans for the year, fill out any missing paperwork, go through protocols and expectations, and get to know you. Please let Kristen and/or Steven know if you plan to be there.

The week between Christmas and New Years, we take a trip or staycation to build camaraderie, have fun, and learn about the world around us. This year, we are planning a staycation here in KC December 26-28. We will sleep at the church and go have fun during the day around Kansas City. Exact activities TBD. Please let Kristen and/or Steven know if you're planning to attend. Also! Let us know if December 26-28 doesn't work because we are somewhat flexible that week and could potentially change dates.

Teenagers love to eat! Dinner will always be provided at youth group, but if you are willing to bring dinner, we would be super grateful! We are excited about home-cooked or takeout. If you are willing to provide a dinner, please contact Kristen or Steven. Whether you have a youth in our program or not, please pray for our kids this year, that they would have a great school year and that their hearts and minds are open to learning about Jesus.

Kristen Howell





**Kids First Worship** is for kids ages 3 years through 4th grade and meets during the 11:00 service each Sunday on the lower floor of the Sanctuary building. This month we will be learning about the life of Moses and traveling in his footsteps. Moses will even come to visit us!

September 1: THE BIRTH OF MOSES  
 September 8: THE BURNING BUSH  
 September 15: THE EXODUS  
 September 22: THE TEN COMMANDMENTS  
 September 29: IN THE WILDERNESS



Alyssa, Steve and Carla Wieggers' daughter, was at the Paris Olympics as a volunteer on the Transport Team, where she made sure buses and cars were in their correct locations and helped guests find their transport home! She got to interact with people from all over the world, including athletes! One of the highlights was meeting the men's USA Volleyball team! She was able to attend the table tennis and trampoline gymnastics competitions. She met government officials from places like Puerto Rico. She was in Paris for about three weeks and it was such a special experience. In her spare time, she took in the sights around Paris, including many churches like the Église Saint Sulpice, pictured above.

Now that she is back home, she is gearing up to move to New York City where she will start work in September. She graduated from the University of Chicago with a degree in Environmental and Urban Studies and a minor in architecture. She was chosen to be part of the NYC Urban Fellows Program, which is intended to provide training and experience for young professionals interested in careers in public service. Good luck, Alyssa!

**Sunday School** meets on Sunday mornings from 9:45 – 10:40 am. We have two classes; one for Preschool/Kindergarten and one for 1st-4th grade. With the Bible as our foundation, we use science, art, and activity to not just tell God's story, but learn what it means for us. Each lesson will tie together and complement what we're learning in Kids First Worship. **\*NOTE: 5th and 6th graders will be joining with Kristen Howell in the Youth Room for Sunday school.**



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



**Wonderful Wednesday** is a fantastic way to remind children that God is not just for Sunday, he is for EVERY day. Designed for kids ages 3 years through 6th grade, we will meet in the Education Building from 3:45 – 5:30 during the school year. After a great start getting to know each other in August, we are starting *In the Beginning* – a year long journey through the Book of Genesis. From the Creation Story to floods and toppling towers; generations of a family filled with love, joy, anger, jealousy, pain, and reconciliation; promises made, promises broken, and promises kept; we'll discover that the beginning of God's story covers it all and is just as relevant now as it was then.

**Fusion 56**, our special group for 5th and 6th graders, meets from 12:00 – 1:30 pm for lunch and Bible study every first and third Sunday (unless otherwise noted). Contact Nancy to get the schedule for the year. Friends are always welcome!



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

**FALL FESTIVAL  
 OCTOBER 31  
 5-7 PM**



This plaque can be found along the walk at Riverfront Park.

**I will remember the deeds of the Lord;  
 yes, I will remember your miracles of long ago.  
 I will consider all your works and  
 meditate on all your mighty deeds." Psalm 77:11-12**

One hundred and seventy years ago, Leavenworth was a small town located next to Ft. Leavenworth. Kansas was not even a state yet! But circuit rider, Rev. W.G. Caplos, led the first worship service by a cottonwood tree on the bank of the Missouri river and the Leavenworth Methodist church was born. One year and many outdoor worship services later, the Methodists had a rough plank house large enough for 200 worshippers. Many wonderful things have happened in this church family since those early days. We want to celebrate our legacy and look to our future at a 170th anniversary celebration on October 6. We will have a potluck meal after the second service. We would also like to have a special article in next month's newsletter, **but we need your help**. Please share with Sandy your stories, memories of people no longer with us, and photographs. Please send your contributions to [swood@fumclvks.org](mailto:swood@fumclvks.org) by Sept. 15.

All scripture is inspired by God and is useful for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, so that the person of God may be proficient.

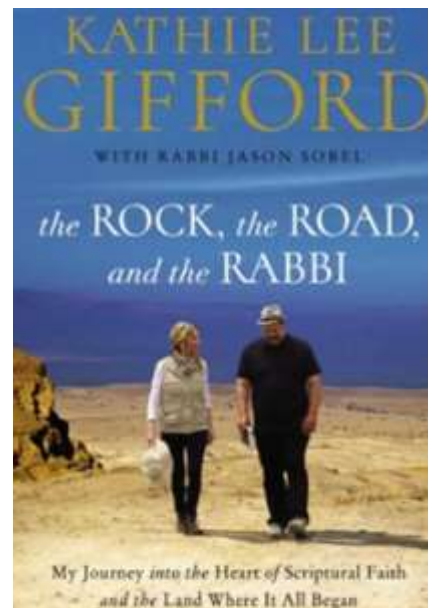
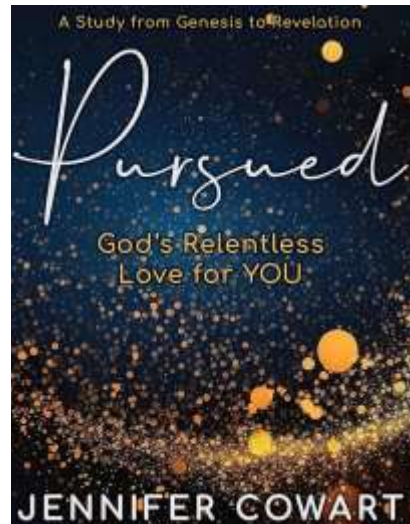
**EQUIPPED**  
for every good work  
2 TIMOTHY 3:16-17

# Bible Study

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

Although the Bible tells many stories, the main theme is God's relentless love for us. In *Pursued*, by Jennifer Cowart, you will explore God's great love for us from Genesis to Revelation. God passionately pursues people who do not deserve His love like Cain, Abraham, Sarah, Rebekah, David, and the woman caught in adultery. Explore God's love as evidenced in the stories of creation, the patriarchs, the judges and prophets, Jesus, and the early church. Dive into a great love story and discover that it is our story! We have broken relationships with God, but He runs after us anyway to bring us home.

The Women's Bible Study offers two opportunities to study *Pursued*. They meet at 10 am on Tuesdays OR 6:30 pm on Thursdays. They'll start Sept. 10 and 12. You can contact Carol for more information at [cshafer@lvnworth.com](mailto:cshafer@lvnworth.com).



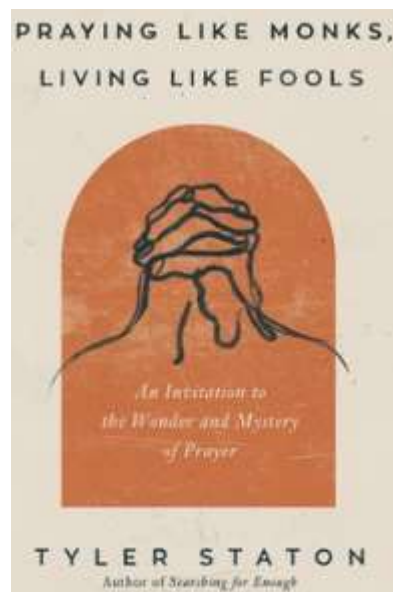
Kathie Lee Gifford always believed the Bible held the answers to every question but how could she be sure of what the Bible was really saying, when we are so separated from the ancient Jewish culture in which it was written? It wasn't until she began studying the biblical texts in their original Hebrew and Greek and hiking the ancient paths of Israel with Rabbi Jason Sobel, a Messianic Jewish rabbi, that she gained a deeper knowledge of God himself.

- Bethlehem: Jesus, our Passover Lamb
- Nazareth: Jesus, the stone mason
- Capernaum: Jesus, the Teacher
- Galilee: Jesus, the Healer
- Mount of Olives: Jesus, the Sacrifice
- Jerusalem: Jesus, the King of the Jews

Heart and Soul will be starting this study in September. They meet Wednesdays at 1:30 pm in class 101. For info contact Marti at [marticrow@gmail.com](mailto:marticrow@gmail.com).

Pastor Dave will be leading a Bible study on prayer on Tuesdays at 6:30 pm starting September 17. Prayer is the source of Jesus's most astonishing miracles and the subject of Jesus's most audacious promises, and yet, people find prayer to be boring, obligatory, or confusing. Tyler Staton, author, pastor, and national director of the 24/7 Prayer movement, invites you to discover the incredible gift of prayer in his book, *Praying Like Monks, Living Like Fools*. Staton addresses common roadblocks to prayer and gives you the confidence to come to God just as you are. Through timely biblical teaching, powerful storytelling, and insights on historic Christian practices, Staton gives you the tools you need to:

- Express your doubts and disappointments about prayer
- Practice multiple postures of prayer, including silence, persistence, and confession
- Understand and embrace the wonder and mystery of prayer in everyday life
- Open or reopen the line of communication with your Creator and experience afresh his divine power on earth.



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



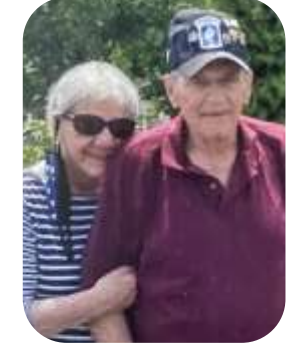
Maryann McAfee



Mary Eleanor McCluskey



Sy & Shirley Nyhart



Barb Peiper



Donna Ramsey



Gary Russell



Jerome & Margary Scheele



Dale Roller



Jimmie Stallings



Jack Walker



Ron Wecas



Ernest & Wilda Wicke



Judy Wolfe



Tim Yenney

**Not pictured** William Bailey, Gary Beck, Pat Deiter, John Gable, Patsy Hessenflow, Betty Logan, Wesley Ludwig, Linda Martin, William McCollum, Norma Moore, Esther Polson, John Raines, Virginia Schalipp, Patricia & Steve Simms

*Dinner to Honor Our Octogenarians*  
*September 22, Noon*



# Honoring Our Octogenarians

On September 22, our church will celebrate Octogenarian Sunday. Our members that have reached the age of eighty or beyond have been a strong force in the life of our church for many years. Because of their unending faith, we are able to grow stronger in our faith and learn about sharing the love of Christ with others. Many of these members continue to serve our Lord each week, carrying out a vital part of our church's ministry. We'll honor our octogenarians with a dinner after the second service. If you know someone on this list, reach out via a call or letter and let them know you are thankful for their friendship, faithfulness, and mutual love of Christ.



Bob and Joan Atwell    June Baker    Bill Bay    Jo Burkett    Marti Crow



Nancy Dawson    Joy Defrees    Eleanor Embree    Betty Gaumer    Frank and Gini Geib



Doug Hall    Bob & Kay Hale    Carla & Dean Hamon    Virginia Hardaway



Marguerite Hilscher    Forrest & Janette Holdeman    Vera Hrabak    Linda Langley

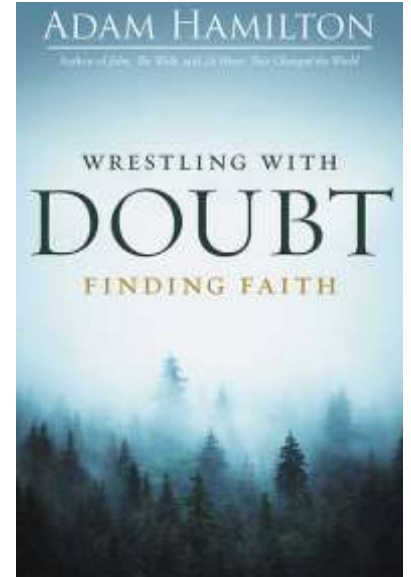


We have Sunday School classes for all ages that meet in the Education building from 9:45 - 10:45 am. You are welcome to visit any of these classes.

Everyone has doubts. Where is God when bad things happen? Does God hear our prayers? Is there a heaven? How can we know? Often we treat such questions as the enemy of faith. But uncertainty doesn't mean our belief is lacking. Doubt can be a path to a deeper, richer encounter with God. In *Wrestling with Doubt, Finding Faith*, author and pastor Adam Hamilton discusses our most significant sources of doubt and shows how a steady trust in God can emerge from them. Questions like: Does God exist? How can I know? Is the Bible true? Why are prayers unanswered?

Hamilton approaches these sources of doubt with honesty and insight, drawing on the rich wisdom of the Bible, Christian tradition, and his experience walking with thousands of people on their spiritual journey. Whether you're a longtime Christian or someone brand new to faith, this book will lead you to a trust in God that is unafraid of hard questions. Wrestle with doubt and find faith—belief and trust, not certainty; mystery rather than simple answers.

New Life Seekers Sunday School class will start this study in September. They meet in room 203 of the Education building at 9:45 am. Everyone is welcome.

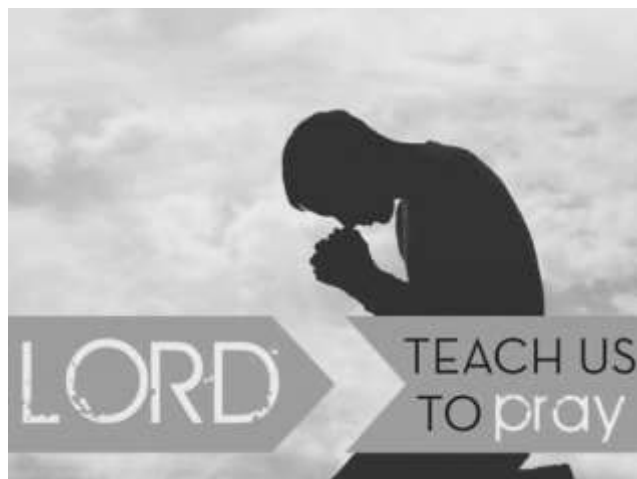


The Koinonia Sunday School class is currently doing a study of 2 Kings and 2 Chronicles. Raun Watson teaches this deep dive into the scriptures. Second Kings is the history of the divided kingdom of Israel, picking up the story around 853 BC. In 722 BC, the powerful nation of Assyria invaded the northern kingdom, scattering and taking captive the people of Israel. Only Judah remained intact. But then Assyria suffered a stunning fall to the Babylonians. In 586 BC Babylon destroyed Jerusalem and took additional prisoners into captivity. Many people who were considered valuable to the invaders, such as the prophet Daniel were taken to Babylon. By the end of Kings, the people of God no longer inhabited their Promised Land. The people had been enslaved, scattered, and decimated by their enemies. The class meets in room 103. If you would like more information, contact Raun at [cavemanrg@earthlink.net](mailto:cavemanrg@earthlink.net).

The Family Matters class meets in room 107 of the Education building. They have been studying Francis Chan's *Forgotten God: Reversing Our Tragic Neglect of the Holy Spirit*. As Jesus ascended into heaven, He promised to send the Holy Spirit—the helper—so that we could be true and living witnesses for Christ. Chan contends we have neglected the Spirit for far too long. He exposes the enormous gap between what scripture says about the Spirit and how most believers and churches operate today. Through solid scriptural support and compelling narrative, Chan reveals the Holy Spirit as the Bible describes him. His goal to infuse reader's lives with the presence of the Holy Spirit in profound ways.

The class is led by Arlen and Michelle Briggs. If you'd like more information, contact them at [ammkm@yahoo.com](mailto:ammkm@yahoo.com).





# No Chance Of Survival

by Kristi Edington



Pastor Dave will be preaching a series on prayer in September. Kristi Edington knows the power of prayer because she has seen it work in her life. This is her story.

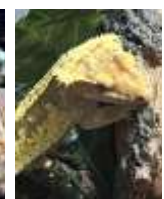
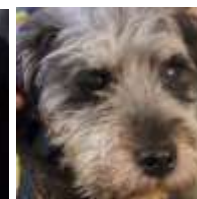
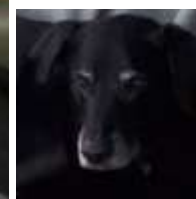
I grew up in a Baptist home and we were active in church activities and learned the power of prayer at the age of 14. My brother was in a tragic accident at our home and my sister and I stayed up all night and prayed for him. We knew it was a miracle that he had been blown up by dynamite and survived!

I knew Jan 15, 2003 would change my life, I just had no idea how it was going to happen. I was having gastric bypass surgery and couldn't wait to begin the weight loss journey ahead. However, upon awakening from surgery, I knew something was very wrong. I felt like breathing was so difficult. By the fifth day post-op, I ended up coding the first time. That left me in an induced coma on life support for nearly three months. During that time, I had nine more surgeries. My surgeon had neglected to reattach the intestine. I was full of infection and my abdomen had to be left completely open to heal from inside out. During this time, the pastor would come in and write a prayer on the white board for family and staff. Every visit, a new prayer. The doctors were skeptical that I would survive at that time. I was in multi-system failure and had so many complications. I did pull through with the power of all the prayers that were said and continued.

In 2012, I had gone with Heart & Soul to a women's ministry event. I had been through surgery after surgery, infection after infection. At that time, I had a PICC IV line in my arm for antibiotics. I wanted to go down front for prayers at the end, however, didn't think I could make it back up to the group. Nancy Shade gathered all of us together and they encircled me and prayed for me to be protected in prayer and feel His healing grace, I was in tears by the end of the prayer. After fifty two surgeries & procedures over the previous nine years, I felt so worn and weak and didn't know how much more I could take. The next morning I woke up feeling a gentle peacefulness to my soul. Two days later, I ended up hospitalized with a clotted and infected IV line. Through more tests, it was discovered that I had clots all over in my chest veins and upper arms. I was forming clots as fast as they were busting them up. The surgeon came in and told me that he could do the surgery I needed but he was not skilled enough to do it and keep me alive. I was transferred by medical jet to Mayo Hospital in Rochester, Minnesota.

After three weeks there and another surgery, I headed home. We stopped at a roadside bathroom for a break. As Rodney, my husband, helped me with my walker, I tripped on the uneven sidewalk concrete, just going down to my hands and knees. Rodney quickly picked me up and I finished my business and we headed on home. I felt lucky to have only gotten a scraped knee out of it. The next morning, my home health nurse arrived to assess my dressings. When I lifted my nightshirt, my side was completely black from bruising. I was bleeding internally from that little fall!

After being at KU for a few days, the doctor came in and talked to me and my family. He said, "I'm sorry, but we won't be able to save you. Your body is clotting all over due to extensive bleeding and the bleeding continues. We can't stop the bleeding because of all the clots you are getting and we can't treat the clots because of all the bleeding. You have no chance of survival." My mom and husband were crying but I was not. The doctor asked, "Do you understand me? You are going to die. No matter what we do, we can't save you." I just smiled, "That's okay. I see this as a win-win situation. If I live, I win. If I die, I believe in Christ and know that my home is in Heaven, so I win that way. Sure, I'd rather live, but I'm good either way."



Usually this article focuses on families that are new to our area. But sometimes families are joined by the heart and not biology. Shelley Knowles and Tish Kusler are that kind of family. They met when their sons, Derrick McManigle and Kaelan Patterson, were in Leavenworth High School Raiders ROTC team together and they just clicked. Their favorite thing to do together is go to lunch at Baan Thai.

Tish's son, Derrick, has been coming to youth group with the Andersons for at least six years. Recently, Kaelan started attending youth with Derrick. Tish had wondered about going to church and even started watching online, so when Shelley decided to come to our church, it was an easy decision to join her. Both of them appreciate the way every single person is valued and welcomed here at FUMC. Shelley said, "I've never experienced such a warm welcome at any other church I've gone to and I love the sense of family among church members. I also love how involved in the community FUMC is and all of the opportunities to serve and share God's love with others." Tish said, "The church and church members are amazing and I enjoy the opportunities of going to Bible Study. I can't say enough about FUMC. God made an amazing path for me to land on weekly and I am so blessed."

Shelley works for the Kansas Department of Corrections. Her current title is Director of Technical Training and Change Management. She started with KDOC as a Corrections Officer in 2017 working our Men's maximum security units at Lansing Correctional Facility. She was promoted to Corrections Counselor and worked her way up to her current state-wide position. She is very passionate about creating positive change and connecting the residents with programs and services to address their high risk areas providing them the best chance of success when they are released. Shelley loves to read and crochet. She said, "I'm enjoying volunteering with Samaritan's Buffet and Deeper Window, and I was thrilled to be offered the opportunity to serve our youth by co-teaching Fusion56. I am also grateful for the wonderful Bible study opportunities. I've connected with some amazing people. As for me, I'm an easy person to talk to and frequently end up being someone's friend. Others seek out to talk to if they have a problem."

Tish works at Armed Forces Insurance. She works in Policy Admin as an Issues Processor & an Endorsements Processor. She issues insurance Homeowners Policies if they are in Microfocus. She also issues VIP Jewelry, Umbrella and Renter's Policies. She also makes changes to the policies when the members have requests or need mortgage changes done. She has worked at Armed Forces Insurance for almost 19 and 1/2 years. She loves tent camping and fishing but she doesn't get to go very often. Tish has been married to Tom for ten years. In addition to Derrick, Tish has a 21 year old daughter named Natilley. She works at the VA. She is an amazing young lady and a hard worker. Tish said, "I am a shy person until you get to know me. Shelley has helped me a lot with getting out more for Ladies Bible study and I will be participating in Pastor Dave's Bible study as well as the Ladies Bible study coming up in September."

Both Tish and Shelley are animal lovers. Shelley has four pets; Chupa, her Sphinx cat, Maggie her miniature dachshund, Diego the bearded dragon, and Mac Nubbins the crested gecko. Tish has a black lab named Prince and a miniature Schnauzer named Reese.

Welcome to the family Shelley, Tish, and your families. We are glad you are here!



Island Vibes  
Relay Lives 2024  
Leavenworth County  
CELEBRATE-REMEMBER-FIGHT BACK  
SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 21  
UNIVERSITY OF SAINT MARY, BERKEL STADIUM  
4:30-8:30PM | BSHEUMAKER58@YAHOO.COM

Who of us has not been impacted by cancer? In the United States alone, approximately 600,000 people succumb to the disease each year. Cancer is the second leading cause of death with heart disease being number one.

Personally, I lost my father to lung cancer and my mother to colon cancer. My husband, Dick, had prostate cancer. Two years ago, one of my best friends died from ovarian cancer just one month after she received the diagnosis. We all need to do our part to help combat this devastating disease.

Please join me in the Cancer Relay for Life Walk. The Relay For Life is the signature fundraiser for the American Cancer Society. For 35 years, communities across the world have come together to honor loved ones and take action for lifesaving change.

The Relay for Life will be Saturday, Sept. 21 at St. Mary University's Berkel Stadium from 4:30-8:30 pm. To donate or register, use the QR code or go to Relay For Life of Leavenworth County |(acsevents.org) Any donation you can make, no matter how small, will be put to good use in research to finding a cure. Thank you!

*Brenda Sheumaker*



### No Chance of Survival continued

Through all of this, since the Heart & Soul trip, I had felt a special protection, almost like I was being held by Jesus. When things were really bad, the pain was unbearable, I still felt comforted in my soul. I could actually "feel" the prayers people prayed for me. I knew that I was being held by Our Lord. It is a difficult feeling to describe because there are no words that even come close to describing it. This feeling stayed with me through my recovery, until one morning I awoke to feeling empty. It was gone. I had recovered enough that it wasn't needed any longer. But, oh, how I long for that feeling again!

Through this all, I had fifty four surgeries and procedures over ten years and coded five times. I actually died completely only the first time. I've been asked if I ever say Jesus or God. My reply is always the same, "No, I didn't. I believe that is because I didn't need to see Jesus to believe, I already believed and He knew that and was with me through the worst of times." When the initial surgery occurred, Patti, my youngest was only seven. By the time I had my last surgery for this, she had just graduated from high school. Many times, I doubted my own strength to get through those times. It wasn't easy. The prayers of all those who believed I would be healed are what sustained me when medical science couldn't. Never discount the power of even a simple little prayer.



### Matthew 18:20 "For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am among them,"

Navigating the Golden Years  
October 12, 9 am to 12 pm

#### Information from experts on:

- ♥ Long term care options & cost
- ♥ Hospice & Palliative Care
- ♥ Dementia & Caregiver Care

Congregational Care will be offering another beneficial seminar. This class will feature a series of experts addressing geriatric concerns. Kris Minor from St Luke's Hospice is coming to talk about Hospice and Palliative Care. She will answer the questions, "What's the difference? Who is eligible? What do they not do?" Elaine Belardo will talk about her experiences with Alzheimer's and Dementia. She'll explore the services currently available. We will also have someone speak about long term care, nursing homes, home care services and the costs associated with each. This seminar will be valuable for older people, but also for children of older people who are helping their parents navigate important decisions.

GLOBAL HOPE  
Building Bright Futures



Over two years ago, when the war in Ukraine broke out, Global Hope joined forces with our ministry partner, Global Hope Association in Sibiu, to respond to an urgent need. In just 24 hours, through God's provision and the unwavering support of generous donors, we were able to rescue and evacuate 28 Ukrainian orphaned children, bringing them to safety at Nehemiah House.

Amidst the pain and despair these children endured, Pastor Cristi and the dedicated team of volunteers at Global Hope Association, offered more than just warm beds and meals. They provided a nurturing environment filled with quality education, spiritual guidance, and the affection and acceptance of compassionate adults. Their efforts ensured that these children, despite the trauma of war, could experience love and security.

We are now filled with gratitude and joy as we share that, through coordination with the Ukrainian government, all of these children have been safely returned to Ukraine. They are now with extended family members or foster families in secure areas of the country. We thank God for His loving hands upon each of these children and will continue to praise Him for His provision and care as they return to their war-torn homeland. Thank you for being a vital part of this mission and for continuing to stand with us in prayer and action.

With deep gratitude, *Sara Hendren* Executive Director of Global Hope Inc.

BOOK CLUB

OCTOBER 1  
1 PM

The Vignes twin sisters will always be identical. But after growing up together in a small, southern Black community and running away at age sixteen, it's not just the shape of their daily lives that is different as adults, it's everything: their families, their communities, their racial identities. Many years later, one sister lives with her black daughter in the same southern town she once tried to escape. The other secretly passes for white, and her white husband knows nothing of her past. Even separated by so many miles and just as many lies, the fates of the twins remain intertwined. What will happen to the next generation, when their own daughters' storylines intersect?

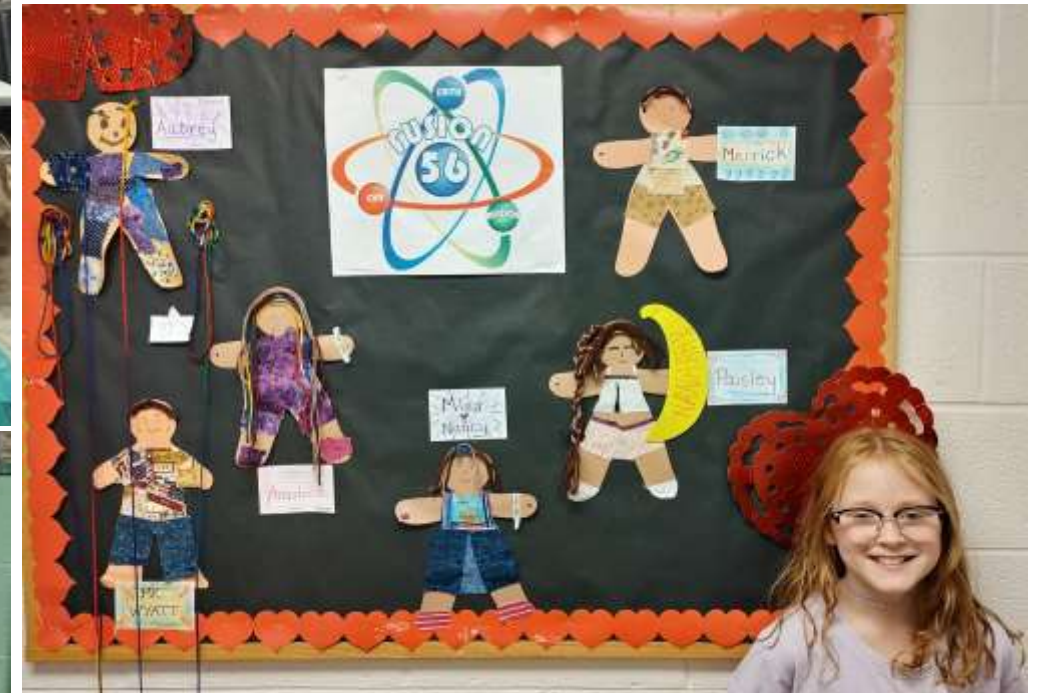


Weaving together multiple strands and generations of this family, from the Deep South to California, from the 1950s to the 1990s, Brit Bennett produces a story that is at once a riveting, emotional family story and a brilliant exploration of American history. Looking well beyond issues of race, *The Vanishing Half* considers the lasting influence of the past as it shapes a person's decisions, desires, and expectations. Join us Oct. 1 at 1 pm in Wesley Hall to discuss this book.



If you would like to receive the weekly prayer prompts and other important notifications by text on your cell phone, please send your phone number to [office@fumclvks.org](mailto:office@fumclvks.org).

# LIFE @ FUMC



Choir had a great kick-off potluck on August 21. They are rehearsing at 6:30 pm on Wednesdays and they would love to have some additional singers. They sing every Sunday at the 8:30 am service. Kathy McKinley is the director and if you have any questions, you can contact her at [kmckinley@fumclvks.org](mailto:kmckinley@fumclvks.org).

Pictured to the middle right are the ladies that met for lunch at Karma Cakes on August 21. They will meet again for lunch on Sept. 11 at noon at Tampico's Mexican Restaurant at 215 Delaware.



Wonderful Wednesdays is off to a great start. They have 16 kids registered so far. It's not too late to join the Journey Through Genesis. They meet from 3:45-5:30 pm on Wednesdays. You can register at [fumclvks.org/ww](http://fumclvks.org/ww). Fusion 56 started the school year by making paper dolls to represent who they are (pictured above and to the left) They meet the first and third Sundays for lunch after the second service. Any fifth and sixth grade students are welcome to join. For information contact Nancy at [nshade@fumclvks.org](mailto:nshade@fumclvks.org).