



RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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Educational Bldg.: 913-675-7495

E-mail: office@fumclvks.org

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



Or visit us at FUMCLVKS.ORG

Sunday services stream at either site.

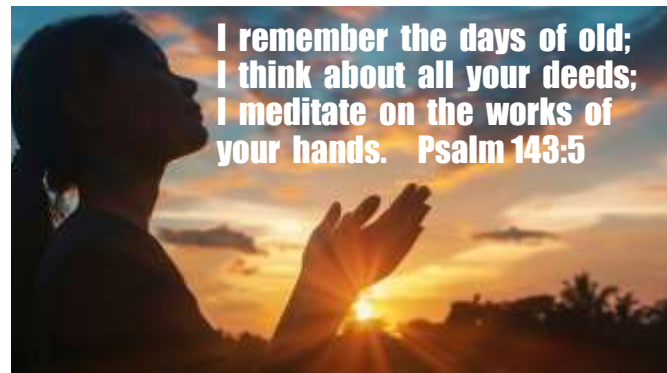
November 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
27 9:45 am SS 8:30 & 11am Worship 4:30 pm Bells 6 pm Youth	28 5 pm Virtual Grief Share	29 10 am Women's Bible Study 2 pm Surviving the Holidays	30 9 am Prayer Group 1:30 pm H & S 3:45 pm Wonderful Wednesdays 6:30 pm Choir	31 8:30am Staff Meeting 6:30 pm Women's Study	1	2 SET CLOCKS BACK
3 9:45 am SS 8:30 & 11am Worship 12 pm Fusion 56 4:30 pm Bells 6 pm Youth	4 5 pm Virtual Grief Share	5 10 am Women's Bible Study	6 9 am Prayer Group 1:30 pm H & S 3:45 pm WW 5pm Grief Group 6:30 pm Choir	7 8:30am Staff Meeting 6:30 pm Women's Bible Study	8 Soup Lunch at Anthony Elementary	9
10 9:45 am SS 8:30 & 11am Worship 4:30 pm Bells 6 pm Youth	11 Veteran's Day Church office is closed 5 pm Virtual Grief Share	12 10 am Women's Bible Study 12 pm Let's Do Lunch - Luigi's	13 9 am Prayer Group 1:30 pm H & S 3:45 pm WW 5pm Surviving the Holidays Grief Share 6:30 pm Choir	14 8:30am Staff 6:30 pm Women's Bible Study	15	16 Men's Prayer Breakfast
17 9:45 am SS 8:30 & 11am Worship 12 pm Fusion 56 4:30 pm Bells 6 pm Youth	18 5 pm Virtual Grief Share	19 10 am Women's Bible Study 2 pm Grief Share	20 9 am Prayer Group 1:30 pm H & S 3:45 pm WW 5pm Grief Group 6:30 pm Choir	21	22	23
24 9:45 am Sunday School 8:30 & 11am Worship 4:30 pm Bells 6 pm Youth	25 10 am Itchin' to Stitch field trip 5 pm Virtual Grief Share	26 10 am Women's Bible Study	27	28 Thanksgiving 8:30am Staff Meeting 6:30 pm Women's Bible Study	29 Church office closed	30





Think
on these
things....



I remember the days of old;
I think about all your deeds;
I meditate on the works of
your hands. Psalm 143:5

As we roll into November, it is filled with days in which we remember others: All Saints' Day, Veterans Day, and Thanksgiving. These days are markers in our lives to remember God and be thankful for the blessings of people and provision. The intentional act of being grateful and remembering God is vital to a healthy faith.

In Deuteronomy 8:7-17, Moses was preaching to the Israelites and reminding them of how God had provided in the hardship of the wilderness. They were given manna from heaven and water from a rock. "Your clothes didn't wear out and your feet did not swell during these forty years" Deut. 8:4. The message was clear that the Word of God sustained them more than daily bread 8:3. The outcome was that they were humbled and tested to strengthen their faith in God, not get everything they wanted in life.

We face the same challenge that the Israelites faced when they entered the Promised Land. It was not the scarcity of the wilderness, but the abundance of blessing. When we are prosperous and successful, blessed beyond measure, our faith is tested in a different way. Moses said, "Be careful that you do not forget the LORD your God, failing to observe his commands, his laws and decrees that I am giving today" Deut. 8:11. One way we can tell if this spiritual effect is happening is that "your hearts will become proud, and you will forget the LORD" Deut. 8:14. We often say, "It is my power and strength of my hands that have produced this wealth for me" Deut. 8:17. The Lord reminds us, "Remember the Lord your God, for it is he who gives you the ability to produce wealth and so confirms his covenant." Deut. 8:18. When things are going well, do you remember it was God who provided for you? Do you remember to be thankful when you have money in the bank, when your health is good, and life is sweet?

Gratitude gives us the balance to counter entitled greed and arrogance. It causes us to say, "Look at what God is doing" instead of "Look at how awesome we are." When things are going well, it's easy to lose track of God because our human nature bends toward ourselves. Be full of grace with humility and peace toward God in days of prosperity. These days are a challenge to remember God and the source of our blessing.

Pastor Dave

SURVIVING THE HOLIDAYS

GRIEF SHARE

When you have lost a loved one, the holidays can be a lonely time. This seminar can give you strategies to cope with your grief.

First United Methodist Church
Leavenworth
422 Christ, Leavenworth, KS 66049
913-482-5374 FUMCLVKS.ORG

It is open to anyone grieving
Nov. 13, 5:00 pm

If you know someone who lost a loved one recently, tell them about the Surviving the Holidays seminar. You don't have to be a part of Grief Share to attend. If you would like more information, please contact Marsha at marshagaffin@gmail.com.

NOVEMBER Happy Birthday

2nd	Pamela Gephart	16th	Sandy Davis	25th	Valynn Schmierer
	Lea Ann Weilbacher	17th	Kay Hale	26th	Michael Ralls Jr.
3rd	Kyle Lauber		Sara Kobe		Rhonda York
4th	Jeff Andrews		Pete LaMoe	27th	Jeff LaMoe
	Cheryl Rader	18th	Cindy White	28th	Madison Christy
7th	Sy Nyhart	20th	Kristen Howell		Madison Mohan
8th	David Landis	23rd	Jo Burkett		Kaelyn Mohan
12th	Marsha Gaffin		Dan Wiley		
14th	Kevin Bond	24th	Emma Yates		

November Anniversaries

3rd	Ed & Bernie Garven	24 years
13th	Bill & Sheila Bailey	59 years
24th	Dave & Cathy Landis	45 years
25th	Rod & Kathy Huskey	23 years
30th	Mark & Sherry Lauber	28 years

Celebrate

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.

November Fellowship

MEN'S PRAYER & STUDY BREAKFAST
NOV. 16
8:00 AM

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

LET'S DO Lunch

TUES. NOV. 12, 12:00 PM
LUIGI'S ITALIAN RESTAURANT
418 CHEROKEE ST.



1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

"Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus."

So, here we are in November, the first holiday of the holiday season; what could be better than food, family, friends, football, and fun? The cruel truth is that Thanksgiving and the other holidays take on a different meaning after the death of our loved one. The very last thing we want is to pretend we are having a wonderful time when all we want to do is retreat to bed and pull the covers over our head.

Studies have shown that the greatest stress, and often the most enduring one, occurs for parents who experience the death of a child. Intense feelings of EMPTINESS are perhaps some of the most difficult experiences for parents. Many have reported feeling empty, dead inside, almost as if a part of them died, too. One mother described this feeling poignantly, "A child is a part of you in a way that no other human being can ever be."

The bottom line is that any death is especially hard to bear around the holidays. Grief in the early years can be so cruel and the journey so difficult because it takes the world as we know it and literally turns it 180 degrees. Holidays, which used to bring joy and celebration, instead become a dreaded time each year filled with anxiety about how we can survive.

In GriefShare, we are able to help one another by sharing things that have helped us survive. We learn early on that we need to take care of ourselves and only participate in activities that we can handle. Thankfully, we also discover that it was okay to keep traditions that still work and to change and make new traditions as well. Somehow we get through it.

Giving to others can become part of your survival plan for Christmas. There was something very healing about helping a father who lost his daughter to buy a gift for a daughter who has no father. As the years go by and you continue to process your loss, you might want to embrace the new and different life that grief has given you. Grief teaches you that your loved one remains alive and strong in your heart, and that it is up to you to find creative ways to express that love.

I can't tell you the exact time, but one morning you will wake up as Thanksgiving is approaching. And the thought might occur that you really aren't honoring your loved one by hiding from the holiday. Then you will finally be able to start embracing the holiday season. You will still cry for what you lost, but then you can smile for all that you continue to have. Getting from there to here is not easy; there's no road map.

Wherever you are on your journey, my hope is that you will take the time to wrap yourself in a blanket of memories of your loved one. Please take care of yourself and seek support from those who understand your grief and will allow you to move at your own pace. Do things your way, and even when all you can see is that they have died, take a breath, pause and remember that they also lived. And because they lived, our love for them lives on in every tear, every smile, and in every precious memory. "The LORD is near to the brokenhearted and saves the crushed in spirit." Psalm 34:18

Have a gentle Thanksgiving, Marsha



Calling all prayer warriors! You're invited to join the powerful ministry of prayer. This ministry is open to all within our congregation. We meet every Wednesday at 9 am in Wesley Hall. We will pray as the Holy Spirit leads us, with a prayer guide sheet that leads us through the process. Let us know how to pray for you. Email the church at prayers@fumclvks.org.

"When you call out to me and come to me in prayer, I will hear your prayers. When you seek me in prayer and worship, you will find me available to you. If you seek me with all your heart and soul, I will make myself available to you," says the Lord" Jeremiah 29:12-14

*To the Good people at the Methodist church,
Thank you for your kindness and patience for the past three years. When I couldn't make the step last month, I told my niece, "Call the Methodists!" Bless you all!
Mary Theresa Lee
P.S. I am so accustomed to being bailed out by Grant, I was flummoxed when his doppelganger, Ed, helped me and my niece. Bless you both.*

Dear FUM Church Family,
Thank you so much for all the Pastor appreciation and birthday cards and gifts. I am a person who appreciates words of affirmation so they meant a lot to me. I count it a privilege to be your pastor. Blessings,
Pastor Dave

Dear Koinonia Sunday School Class,

Your support of St. Vincent clinic will make a profound difference in our community's health and well-being. Your generosity empowers us to provide essential healthcare services to those who need it most.

We are deeply grateful for your gift. Every life touched and every smile restored is a testament to your kind belief in our work. Your support doesn't just change lives - it saves them.

With heartfelt appreciation,
St. Vincent's Clinic staff

*Dear FUM Church Family,
Thank you so much for the prayers and kindness expressed to us. Everything was greatly appreciated.
Family of Jerry Logan*

Dear FUMC,
Thank you for your generous candy donation for our fall festivities! We appreciate everything you do for our school and students.
Nettie Hartnett Staff



The fall is a busy time for our youth group! Just since school started, we helped to serve at Hog Wild (the mission fundraiser with a hog roast), we visited Red Barn Farm in Weston to enjoy fall activities, and helped run the Trunk-or-Treat for neighborhood kids. It was fun to see their costumes!

Steven and I have been on The Great Sports Tour of 2024. There are a ton of student athletes in our group with fall sports, so we've gotten to see football, volleyball, and band the past several weeks in supporting our kids. If we haven't made it out to your kid's game, please let us know when they play! We would love to support them.

Here in the next couple months, we will have our winter trip. This year, we are staying in Kansas City and playing around town for our Winter Trip Dec. 26-28. This is a fun time when the youth group can bond and enjoy getting out into the community. We are really looking forward to it.

In Sunday school, we are covering the major stories of the Hebrew Bible in the order that they are recorded. So far, we have started at the beginning and are nearly done in Genesis. Next up is Exodus: one of my very favorite books, not only in the Hebrew Bible, but in the entirety of the Christian Bible, as well. In youth group, we have been covering The Apprentice Series by James Bryan Smith, which takes a different false narrative (untruths or half-truths about who God is/we are) and corrects it with the truth. At the center of the series is the belief that when we meet the God Jesus knows, it impacts the ways we treat God, ourselves, and others. And that a disordered relationship to any of those parts results in pain, suffering, or lack of intimacy that strays from God's design. I love this series. When we finish The Good and Beautiful God and will be moving to The Good and Beautiful Life. As always, thanks for sharing your teens with us! -

Kristen Howell



Our theme for Advent this year is "Rejoice!" and we will be exploring the story of Jesus' birth and the people who played a part: Zechariah, John the Baptist, Mary, Joseph, shepherds, wise men, and eventually the whole world! Our community concert "Sounds of the Season" will be held on December 7 at 2 pm and will begin with the children's program "A Crazy Night in Bethlehem". On Sunday, December 8, we will continue with "Sounds and Stories of the Season", our Advent music service, featuring the music ensembles of our church.



The financial position of the church remains strong. Every October we establish a draft budget for the upcoming year (2025) based on historical donations patterns and project expenses. That budget is presented to the church council and available at the annual charge conference.

On the second week of October pledge cards went out to every member. The pledge cards are vital for us to anticipate the projected income for 2025, as we align those giving dollars with our proposed budgeted expenses. In December, the final 2025 budget will be completed after we receive all the pledge cards and reevaluate forecasted cost. In coordination with the church council we will adjust the spending proposal based on projected income. The dollars you pledge and the weekly unpledged offering we receive go directly to operational expenses for maintaining your church staff, this fabulous facility (all four corners of Chestnut and 5th Street), the children and youth ministries and much more.

That is why, for Christ's sake, I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties. For when I am weak, then I am strong. 2 Corinthians 12:10 NIV

We all face difficult situations. Somebody isn't treating you right, or your business is not growing, or maybe you're single and still haven't met anyone. It's easy to get frustrated and anxious. You don't understand why it's taking so long or why things haven't changed. But here's a key: just because it's an uncomfortable place doesn't mean it's not where you're supposed to be. God uses difficulties to do a work in us. We grow in the tough times. That's where your character is developed, where you learn to trust God and persevere, and where your spiritual muscles are made strong. God will not allow a difficulty unless He has a divine purpose for it. If you're going to reach your highest potential, you have to make up your mind, "I'm not going to live frustrated because I am uncomfortable. I'm not going to be upset because things are not happening on my timetable. I'm not going to fight against everything that I don't like." Instead, believe that God is doing a work in you. Believe that He has the best for you. And see yourself moving forward in the victory He has prepared for you.

Our annual Blood Drive will be December 3. During the holidays there is an increased need for blood. Make sure to mark your calendars. You can make an appointment at savealifenow.org. Thank you for giving the gift of life.

BLOOD DRIVE 
December 3
First United Methodist church
422 Chestnut
MAKE AN APPOINTMENT AT
SAVEALIFENOW.ORG

Angel Tree

If you would like to make a child's Christmas special, grab a tag from the Angel tree. Gifts are due back December 8,



Our next opportunity to reach out to the schools will be our Angel tree. We will have ornaments with Leavenworth school children's names and wish lists. We will deliver the gifts to the children on December 8. Another way you can help mold the future of our youth is to volunteer at one of the schools. For more info contact Ed Garven at egarven@fumclvks.org.



Next mission task was at our marathoner friend's other daughter's house. Four huge trees, 3 feet in circumference, slapped down in her backyard - cedars and maples, leaving huge root balls exposed in red clay. Next gig was at the home of a woman who had suffered much loss of loved ones in the past year. She had lived in this home for 30 years. She prayed with us and showed amazing resilience and gratitude. In her yard, we were joined by the district superintendent and conference connections team as well as the South Carolina Bishop Leonard Fairley. (He is pictured in the photo of the opposite page wearing a blue sweatshirt).

Just a half mile down the same street, we reached our final mission task. A lovely family of 4 with a creek in their front yard. Their property was right up against local airport land. Recently, the air strip land had cut down trees. So they were much more exposed to the impact of this storm. The owner said that the storm hit on her birthday. At 4 am as the family all moved to the first level, she ran back upstairs to get something from a bedroom, rushing downstairs, a tree fell through the roof in the very space she had just left! She brought her two children to the site twice when we were working there. She told us that she wanted her children to see God's love working through strangers.

My takeaway: About 18 months ago, I started to deliberately integrate weight training into my life. Not to bulk up, but just to build hand weights into my routine with some consistency, strength training for preventative health. My daughters got into power lifting in high school, and I was so proud that they did that. Amazing how the human body can gain strength, no matter the age of those muscles, just by using them. Instead of lifting my hand weights in the comfort of my own home — last week I was using my strength to tote those logs, stumps, branches and I had the endurance to work long hours outside. I felt like Rocky in Rocky IV when he was working on the farm training the more natural way vs. Ivan Drago who was training the high tech way. Maybe God had me physically preparing for service as I started consistently weight training last year to help others this year?

What are you doing now that might be preparing you for helping others later? I gained much more than I expected to from the ERT experience. It was hard work. I will now pursue training in ERT offered by our conference. If any of you reading this have an interest in this, I am more than happy to discuss it with you! Just let me know.

We can't schedule disasters, but we can prepare for them. Carla Wieggers



These sketches were drawn by Denise. She is the wife of our mission task coordinator, Brian. They were so grateful for our help.

Loving Your Neighbor In South Carolina

What is an ERT? The mission of Early Response Teams (ERT) of the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) is to “provide a caring Christian presence in the aftermath of a disaster.” These teams are neither a first response group of emergency workers nor a recovery rebuild or repair team; rather, they fill a specific need in the early days after a disaster to establish the presence of the church.

Early Response Teams are intended to be small (7 to 12 people), self-sufficient and self-sustaining, with specialized skills for early response. While there are specific tasks assigned to early response teams, no task is more important than the people they serve.” The Great Plains Conference Disaster Response Coordinator is Reverend Hollie Talley. And as of October 16, 2024, our Great Plains Bishop Wilson has been named the Chair of the UMCOR Board of directors. On October 4, I read the church email that said the Great Plains Conference was looking for volunteers to travel to Greenwood, South Carolina in response to high wind damage there from Hurricane Helene. I contacted Hollie and let her know of my interest. She said the team would travel and serve from October 12-19.

My Team: I met nine team members at the Phillips 66 in Bonner Springs early Saturday morning. We traveled in 3 vehicles, two trucks, and a van. One truck pulled a trailer from the conference with tools, protective gear, chainsaws, ladders, etc. Strangers all on this first day, these team members would soon forge authentic friendships. Comprised of various professions, among them farmers, air conditioning installation/repair, refinery supervisor, nurse practitioner, military service, federal service, and US Geologic Survey. Two additional team members joined us in Greenwood, from Minnesota and Mississippi. Our individual experiences and skill sets joined us in a faith-driven mission that made us fast friends with a collective purpose.

Our Hosts: We arrived at St. Mark United Methodist Church of Greenwood on Sunday afternoon. The preacher and his wife warmly welcomed us, along with at least 10 others, to feed us and provide lodging at the church! The church building is located in an industrial park, a former warehouse, it is a vast structure converted into multiple rooms for classes and worship. I shared the Puppet Theater room with 3 other ladies. Our ERT Lead Susan coordinated with Bryan of St. Mark church to receive our mission tasks for the week.

Those we served: The first home we responded to was on property with a tree farm business. The owner had a tree come through the roof where he typically sat. The owner had lived in this house since he was 11 years old, so this space had special significance to him. Our chainsaws buzzed for hours, and we pulled and formed piles of stumps, logs and branches that would later be taken away by the city. Meanwhile, roofers showed up to work on the structure. As I was raking, I hit something, looked down, saw reptile scales and what I thought was a hollow dried turtle shell. Closer examination revealed a faded ceramic turtle feature underneath the downed trees. I picked up the yard feature and brought it to the owner. He smiled and told me that his mother had animals all around the yard all his life, she had recently passed in her 90s. I found one more turtle a few minutes later, intact, and put both turtles together with a little ceramic squirrel friend on the deck.

Our next mission gig was at the duplex of one of the longest active members of the St. Mark congregation. A huge tree fell on her roof. Our team was joined that day by two other ERT volunteers from southern Missouri. The remainder of their Missouri team to arrive that evening. Again, chainsaws, collaboration and creative problem solving contributed to removing the tree off the roof and lugging the pieces to the curb. I moved a lot of whimsical rooster statues and a whole family of gnomes prior to branches and logs dropping from the rooftop. Are the decorations we use to decorate our yards necessary to survival? Maybe not, but perhaps they represent a little bit of “normal” before the winds, storm, fear. Maybe they help us emotionally cope a little.

Striking up conversation with the resident’s grown son, I learned he was a marathoner, running over 50, and even ran the Boston Marathon 5 times - including the year of the terrorist attack. He ran it with his daughter, who we would subsequently learn died unexpectedly. I ran a couple marathons years ago, so we connected on the joy distance running. This man wrote a book called *Time Trials*, and gave us each a signed copy.



To feel you made a HUGE difference in the experiences youth will have when they attend Camp Horizon next summer is truly gratifying. Twelve adults cut down 40 dead trees, picked up the remaining debris from that, filled firewood racks by firepits, stained cupboards/cubby holes in dorms, painted hallways in dorms, pulled weeds, dismantled a deck at Inspiration Point so a new handicap accessible one could be constructed, power washed several areas around Camp, watered newly planted trees, trimmed bushes around buildings, and several other projects to benefit campers were the high points of three days of work. Perhaps you’d be willing to join us next year for the gratifying experience. Watch for dates for our next adventure at Camp Horizon.



HELPING HURRICANE VICTIMS

Melissa Hicks-Tesson, Leroy and Teresa Hicks’ daughter, attends Burks UMC in Hixon, TN. Their church recently went on a mission trip to UMCOR (United Methodist Committee on Relief) Sager-Brown Disaster Relief Supply Depot in Baldwin, Louisiana to help assemble flood buckets for the victims of Hurricane Milton. Each year, more than 2,000 volunteers prepare approximately \$4 million in relief supplies for shipment from the UMCOR Sager Brown Depot in response to disasters in the United States. Florida requested 10K buckets. These five gallon buckets are filled with cleaning supplies, trash bags, wash cloths and gloves. They are very valuable to disaster victims.

Their other daughter, Laura Johnson, and granddaughter, Kiernan, regularly volunteer locally at Heart to Heart International in Lenexa putting together hygiene kits for disaster relief.

If you’d like to help victims of Hurricane Helene or Milton, you can give to UMCOR through our church. Just mark your donation UMCOR. Or you can give directly at <https://umcmmission.org/give/>





Our dear friend and colleague, Orlando Rivera, pastor of Faith Walkers Outreach Ministries, has relocated right around the corner at 528 Spruce. Orlando and his team build God's Kingdom through outreach in our local community, mainly in Woodland Village. Their collective heart for serving the Lord has lead us to partner with them on back to school drives and food distributions. We are extremely excited about this Kingdom building relationship. To learn more please read below:

Ireach is the outreach branch of Faith Walkers Outreach. Faith Walkers hosts special events at Woodland Village, a low-income apartment complex in Leavenworth. FUMC has partnered with them to provide, food, school supplies, and needed commodities.

Mission of Ireach:

The mission of IReach is to form a collaborative village of school administrators and board members, local government officials, local churches, mental health care professionals, and other resources for well-being, in order to reestablish and support the family structure in our community.

Vision of Ireach:

iReach is a selfless village, composed of community members who have all pledged to affect positive change, according to the core values of love, kindness, gentleness, patience, integrity, and honor.

Purpose of Ireach:

iReach is determined to bring the family structure back to our community, providing it with necessary resources to support and sustain it for future success.

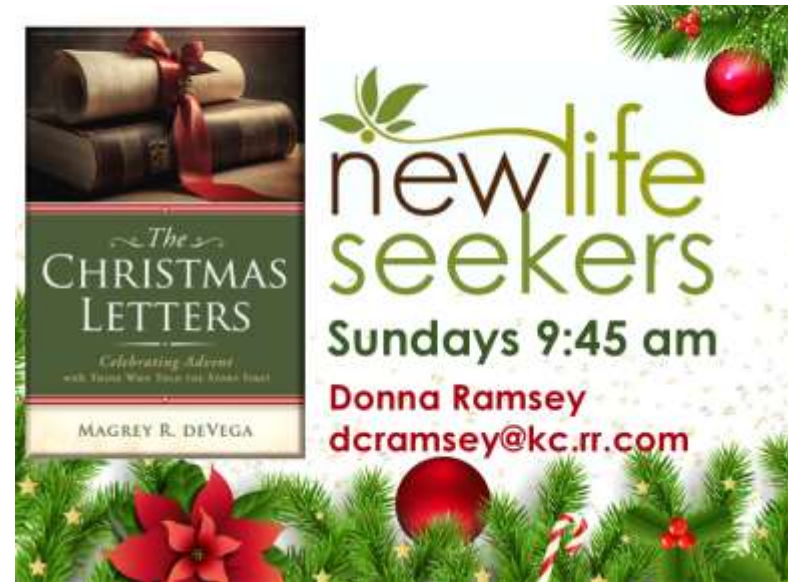
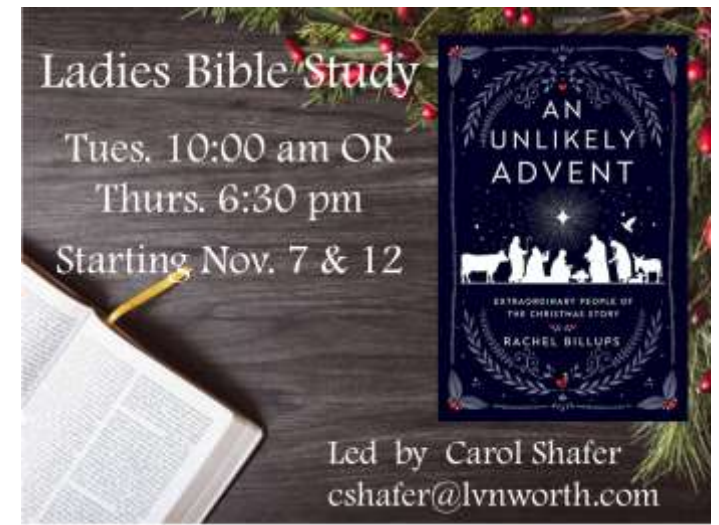
Orlando Rivera



The 7th Street Feast is a Thanksgiving tradition in Leavenworth. It provides a full Thanksgiving meal with all the trimmings for people in our community who may not be able to afford such an extravagant meal. It takes the whole community to come together to make this meal happen. If you would like to volunteer, scan the QR code.

Prepare your heart

An Unlikely Advent: Extraordinary People of the Christmas Story focuses on the experiences of four sets of often overlooked characters in the nativity story. During this Advent season, Rachel Billups guides readers through the themes of hope, love, joy, and peace by sharing the stories of Elizabeth and Zechariah, Herod, the Magi, and the shepherds. Each set of unexpected characters has something to teach about living faithfully on the journey to Christmas. Carol Shafer teaches the same class on Tuesdays at 10 am OR Thursdays at 6:30 pm. You can get info at cshafer@lvnworth.com.



In *The Christmas Letters*, Magrey deVega invites you to hear about the miracle of Christ's birth from those who first told the story. The letters in the New Testament, known as the Epistles, contain the first attempts by the church to understand and celebrate the mystery of the incarnation. They point us to the origins of what we believe about Jesus, fully human and fully divine. Read the New Testament letters, Romans, 1 John, Philippians, and Colossians as your first Christmas letters of the season and find within them an invitation from God to deepen your understanding of the incarnation and embrace a fuller commitment to Jesus Christ.

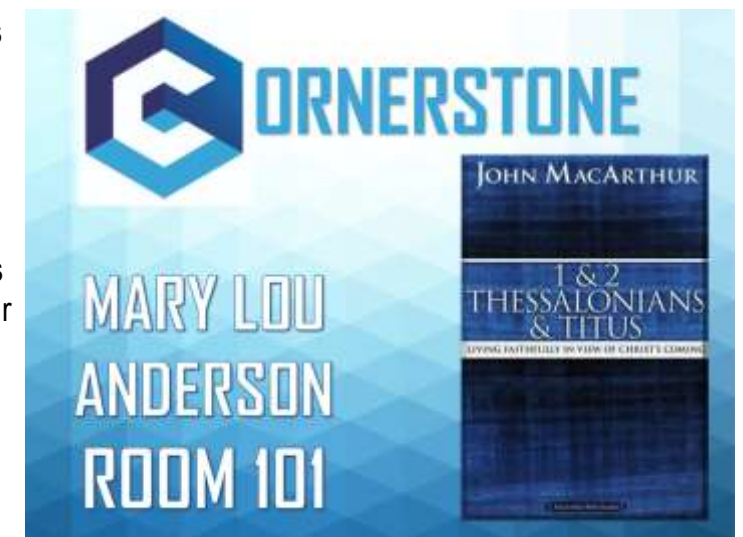
This class is taught by Donna Ramsey each Sunday at 9:45 am in room 203. They would love to have some new visitors during the Advent season.

Pastor John MacArthur will take you through Thessalonians and the short letter to Titus, passage by passage, so that you can better understand Paul's audience, his message, and his reminder to live a life of faithfulness.

Paul wrote the letters of 1 & 2 Thessalonians to the church he founded in the large city of Thessalonica. These were friends he knew, loved, and missed. His purpose in writing was to thank them for their work of faith, their labor of love, and their continued hope in the Lord Jesus Christ . . . and His coming again.

Similarly, Paul's letter to Titus—a young pastor in Crete—is filled with personal affirmation, counsel, and guidance on how to prepare church leaders for effective evangelism. These letters of instruction are as inspirational for us today as they were for these first-century Christ followers.

The Cornerstone Sunday School class meets in room 101 of the Education building Sundays at 9:45 am. They would love some new members. Mary Lou Anderson is the teacher.





Holiday art gala

Join the Leavenworth County Artists Association on December 6th for their annual Holiday Gala. This event will start at 5pm with a reception, great music and art from area artists. Nearly 100 pieces of art will be on display and many are available for sale. We have several talented artists in our church family that will be displaying their art including Libby Frashier, Heidi Eaton and Ron Roggentien. "Rollin' Down the River" is the theme for some of the items being shown and a raffle will be held to win your choice of the theme items. Light refreshments will be served and Penny Black will entertain us with their music. Don't miss it!

If you love Contemporary Christian music, there will be a collaborative concert featuring Crowder, We The Kingdom and Cain on November 24 at the T-Mobile Center in Kansas City, Mo. Tickets are available online.



Local Women's Conference

Are you seeking more joy, purpose, and fulfillment in your everyday life? What if the key to living better is loving better? At the Better Love Women's Conference, we'll explore how love—when rooted in faith—transforms not just our relationships, but the way we experience life itself. Inspired by Ephesians 5:1-2, which encourages us to "walk in the way of love, just as Christ loved us," this event is designed to help women embrace a deeper, more purposeful kind of love that can change hearts and lives. Free Chick-fil-a lunch. Also a FREE T-shirt if you register before NOV 30. T-shirts will be \$10 after Dec 1.



Thanksgiving OFFERING Say Thanks With Giving



Each Thanksgiving, our church family has a designated offering for local charities. This year our gifts will help feed our community through Trinity House food bank, Stronghold food bank on Ft Leavenworth, and Leavenworth Mission on Broadway. If you would like to contribute to the Thanksgiving offering, please make sure to designate it on your envelope.

Trinity House is a community food bank and clothing closet for any Leavenworth resident. They have seen an increase in families coming in for food assistance this year. They give food until their shelves are bare. They also accept donations of clothing, especially warm coats, gloves and hats this time of year. Trinity House is located at 2101 10th Ave and is a mission of Trinity Lutheran church. They are open Tues-Thurs from 10 am to 1 pm. We have several church members who volunteer at Trinity House, including Marsha Gaffin, Lea Ann Weilbacher, Linda Hermann, Cheryl Rader and Sherry Lauber.

The Leavenworth Mission Food Pantry and Thrift Store was a vision put into action by co-founder Iris Arnold and her husband, David, in 2010. Iris had served as Community Services director at Shiloh Seventh Day Adventist Church and developed a passion for helping people. The Mission extends their heartfelt thanks to their volunteers and donors, whose generosity ensures their pantry is always well stocked and ready to assist their clients. Your donations make a significant difference. Your donations help restock food so that our pantry is always prepared. The Mission Food Pantry assists over 550 families monthly. They provide free food, toiletries, and community outreach. They proudly partner with Second Harvest Food Bank to provide The Fresh Mobile Food Truck. They are located at 123 Broadway. Their pantry is open Tuesdays from 11 am to 1 pm, except when they have a mobile food pantry. For a complete calendar, check their website lmission.org.



During the Covid pandemic, Monica Basset, an Army spouse, saw a need that took off her blinders to a silent crisis within the military today: food insecurity. After reading multiple requests online from families asking for pantry staples and realizing that one family began checking their neighbors' trash cans for salvageable food, she launched an initiative out of her garage to help anyone in need. A recent poll found that 1 in 4 military families struggle with food insecurity. Stronghold served over 7,000 patrons in 2023. They have distributed over \$30,000 worth of food and household necessities.

Stronghold Food Pantry is a not-for-profit, 100% volunteer-operated organization serving American military families. The food pantry is set up as a free shopping pantry for families so clients can pick the items their family will eat.

Stronghold goes beyond food staples. They also provide hunger buster packs to on-base schools which are similar to Backpack Buddies because they do not have that program on fort. They have special holiday bonus bundles around Thanksgiving and Christmas. They have partnered with Happy Bottoms to provide diapers to mothers. One day, Monica saw a need for something that most food pantries don't provide. She found out girls were skipping school because they couldn't afford feminine hygiene products, so Stronghold now provides those as well.

These three charities work hard to provide healthy food for our community. If you are able to help, I know they would appreciate your gift. We will be taking the Thanksgiving Offering through the entire month of November. Everything you give will be divided between the three food pantries. Please mark your gift or use the special Thanksgiving envelope so the money goes to the right place. Thank you.

ATTITUDES of Gratitude

As we approach the season of thanksgiving, we asked the staff for their grateful thoughts. What are you thankful for this year?



Pastor Dave - In this season of life, I am working on being grateful for what I *do* have instead of what I *don't* have or used to have. Every season bring its own beauty and joy - new friends come that I didn't know before, an abundance of material blessings, and work that I truly love. I greatly respect and appreciate people I work closely with each day. I am blessed beyond measure - have been, am today and will be in the future!

Ed Garven - I am thankful for the perfect sinless life our Lord and Savior lived, for the death He endured intended for me and the glory of the resurrection so that I may have eternal life. It is through my profession



of Jesus, I am bound to Christ and have access to the Father. While my heart and mind wander, He always brings me back to the path of forgiveness, obedience and grace. He does this in good times or bad, serving me my daily bread (His word) ensuring I have subsistence prior to forgiving my sins, and realigning my position in Him. He is always available, always listening and always loving even a fool like me. I am thankful for my wife bound with Christ to be one (yes by far my best half), family, friends and you!



Nancy Shade - I am thankful for hugs. My family was a family of huggers, especially my mom. One of her hugs could make all the troubles of the world fade away. It was a place of safety, of renewal, of love. One of my prerequisites for my future husband was that he would be a good hugger – and he is! Sometimes things happen that mere words cannot respond to completely: birth of a new baby, death of a loved one, hurt feelings, having so much love for someone that you think you will burst. That's where a hug steps in and continues the response – I am here for you, this is the best day ever, you are safe, everything will be all right.

There is a thing here at the church – “Everybody gets a hug Tuesday.” Talk to the staff...it's a real thing! So, if you ever find yourself needing a hug – FUMC on a Tuesday is the place to be!

Libby Frashier - This year, I want to say a special thank you to neighbors. We have great neighbors who look out for each other and we really appreciate them. On one side, our neighbor is an older lady who actually checks on me every time I see her. On the other side, is a family who is friendly and thoughtful.



The neighbor I really am most thankful for this year lives next door to my mom. My mom fell this summer and if her neighbor hadn't been there, she would have had a much worse outcome. She didn't even blink when I asked her to clean out my mom's fridge after her accident. Carmen was there any time I asked her to go check on mom (we live 400 miles away). My mom is currently in a rehab unit and Carmen visits her regularly. When the Bible says to love your neighbor, I believe that these people are walking their faith. I only hope I am that type of neighbor too.

*Give thanks to the Lord, call on His name.
Make known His deeds among the peoples;
make them remember that His name is exalted."
Praise the Lord in song, for He has done glorious things;
let this be known throughout the earth.
Isaiah 12:4-5*



October was a busy month for the scouting ministry

You maybe thinking Halloween, but don't forget this is also Fire Prevention Week. Check the batteries in your smoke detector. Most of the Cub Scouts are a bit too short to check out batteries, and as the TV shows say, “Don't try this at home.” So, true professionals show up in the Red and White Fire Truck. Leavenworth Fire Department pulls up in front of the church and the scouts looked like ants all over it... until suddenly, the radio squawks. There's an emergency, the lights flash and the siren cranks up. This is NOT a TEST. All the Cub Scouts climb off, are accounted for and the fire truck disappears into the night...but wait, there is more. Twenty minutes later the fire truck returns to finish the demonstration and the Cub Scouts thanked the members of the fire department.

The Scout Troops are working on Personal Management merit badge and Henry Charr is beginning his preparation for his Eagle project. Next weekend the Scouting Ministry will be doing One Homeless Night to have a greater appreciation of the homeless youth in the greater Kansas City area. Let's hope the weather cooperates.

A Scout is reverent,

Bill Kibler



Book Club Dec. 10, 1 pm

If you love to read, join the book club! In December we will be discussing *The Things We Cannot Say* by Kelly Rimmer.

In 1942, Europe remains in the relentless grip of war. Just beyond the tents of the refugee camp she calls home, a young woman speaks her wedding vows. It's a decision that will alter her destiny...and it's a lie that will remain buried until the next century. Alina Dziak always knew she would marry her best friend, Tomasz. Alina is unconcerned by reports of Nazi soldiers at the Polish border, believing her neighbors that they pose no real threat until Tomasz returns from college in Warsaw. But little by little, injustice by brutal injustice, the Nazi occupation takes hold, and Alina's tiny rural village, its families, are divided by fear and hate.

Slipping between Nazi-occupied Poland and modern life, Kelly Rimmer creates an emotional and finely wrought story. It is an unshakable reminder of the devastation when truth is silenced...and how it can take a lifetime to find our voice before we learn to trust it.



Itchin' to Stitch

Itchin' to Stitch is a group of seamstresses that use their skill to make practical gifts for various charities in the Kansas City area. They will not meet at their regular time this month. Instead, they will be taking a field trip to Children's Mercy Hospital to deliver the mother's hearts. These are soft squares of material that mom keeps close to her to collect her scent and then it is left with the baby in NICU so they can feel close to their moms even though they are too critically ill to be held. Itchin' to Stitch made over 2,000 mother's hearts to donate. They're also donating flannel blankets. The field trip will meet at Teresa Hicks' house, 118 Rock Creek Loop at 10 am on Nov. 25 to carpool. They'll stop for lunch afterwards.

In addition to the donations for Children's Mercy, Sheila Bailey is taking 265 fleece scarves for cancer patients to the free KU Cancer Boutique. If you'd like to help with projects like this, you can contact Teresa at hickst@kc.rr.com.



Kids First Worship is for kids ages 3 years through 4th grade and meets during the 11:00 am service each Sunday on the lower floor of the Sanctuary building. We just finished learning about Moses and will pick up with his successor Joshua.
 November 3 – JOSHUA: 12 Spies
 November 10 – JOSHUA: Serving the Lord
 November 17 – JOSHUA: Battle of Jericho
 November 24 – THANKSGIVING: Gratitude 101

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 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 story of Joshua.

Fifth and Sixth graders join Kristen Howell in the Youth Room for Sunday school.



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 meet in the Education Building from 3:45 – 5:30 during the school year. Our theme this year is "In the Beginning". We will be studying the book of Genesis from start to finish this year. This month, we are focused on The Tower of Babel and the Story of Noah.

We will not meet on November 27 – Thanksgiving Break

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

This month's meetings: November 3 & 17.



November 13, 8:30 – 11:30a.m.

Our theme for November is "Thanksgiving." Each month, on the second Wednesday, we provide care for children ages birth through school age. There will be three groups: Nursery, Toddlers, and Preschool. Space is limited, so register now by going to fumclvks.org/MMO. Volunteers can also register at that address.

Crazy Night in Bethlehem Children's Christmas Program

We will be rehearsing on Sunday afternoons from 2:00 – 3:30p.m. The performance will be part of our Christmas Community Concert on Saturday, December 7 at 2:00 p.m.



What a great month October was here at FUMC! From all of our "regular programming" to special events like the Trunk or Treat, kids are learning, growing, and experiencing God. There's also not a week that goes by that they don't teach me something important or remind me of one of God's truths. One of the more memorable ones from this past month happened during Wonderful Wednesday. We were just sitting around, eating snacks and talking together when one of the kiddos started talking about their friend (I will call her Mary). The kiddo had been talking to Mary at school about going to Wonderful Wednesday and then started to explain what it was like. Mary thought it sounded really good, but didn't think her parents, who are not currently going to a church, would let her come. We stopped right in the middle of snack (a miracle in itself for kiddos just coming from school) and prayed for Mary and her family. What happened after that? Did Mary get to come? We don't know yet...and that's okay. The takeaway is that young kids care about their friends; they love learning about God. They want to share that with their friends and decided to talk to God about it.



Kristen Howell - I am thankful for the way the internet connects me with others who share my interests. After seminary, I really missed getting to have theological discussions like I did in the classroom. Through the internet, I have found other people who share my passion for theological inquiry and their application to everyday life.

Marsha Gaffin - We're all so thankful for the same things - family, good health, shelter, provision, etc. But this year I'm thinking about the furtive ways that God has blessed me. He gave me real friends; the kind that don't judge me, but encourage me. I'm thankful I found someone who consistently and uncomplainingly does my hair the way I want it. I'm grateful my husband empties the dishwasher every single time. I'm grateful I have the two best, most loving and considerate sons-in-law a mom could ask for, and they love my daughters too. I'm thankful that God allows me to participate in His plan, using me despite my being so old, so undeserving, so ordinary, and so unqualified to impact His Kingdom, however slightly.



Grant Zschoche - I am thankful for the women and men who have, and or are currently serving in our military. HAPPY VETERAN'S DAY! Much respect and thank you!!!



Kathy McKinley - Each year at this time we are asked to think about the things we are thankful for. This year, I am particularly thankful to have participated in such a wide variety of musical experiences growing up. Starting at a very young age, I was blessed to be a part of some unique groups and had amazing directors. I was exposed to pianos and instruments, concerts and operas, 4-part hymns in the pews and family singing around the piano. Looking back on those things, I realize that it was all part of the path that lead me to doing this job. Those experiences made music exciting and fun, imprinted on my soul, and part of my daily life. I find myself constantly recalling things a former director said or did, or remembering a piece of music that was performed. I truly believe that God put people in my path to be examples, if not ones I realized right away. I am the culmination of "so great a cloud of witnesses" to the beauty that is music. Today, I am also thankful to be a part of a church that appreciates music in all its forms: as worship, as celebration, as prayer, and so much more. My hope is that the music we create with the ensembles at First UMC are as inspiring to others as my experiences were...and will lead another generation to follow a similar path.



Steven Shade - I'm thankful for margin.

Sandy Wood - I grew up in western Nebraska and I loved reading the *Little House on the Prairie* book series and other books about pioneers. I often wondered what it would be like to be a pioneer. Those early settlers left their families behind and quite possibly never heard from them again. I think that would be so difficult. Now, I have a son on the west coast and a daughter on the east coast. I am so grateful for video chats and airplanes that allow me to keep in touch with my children and grandchildren. Recently all my children came for a visit. It was such a joy to have them all together. I am grateful for those times.



LIFE @ FUMC

October was a busy month at FUMC. We started the month by celebrating our 170th Anniversary with a potluck. We ended it with the Charge Conference and Trunk or Treat with the Presbyterian church.

