



RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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



Or visit us at FUMCLVKS.ORG

Sunday services stream at either site.

October 2024

29 8:30 am Traditional 9:45 am Sunday School 11:00 am Contemporary 12 pm Fusion 56 4 pm Bells	30 5 pm Virtual Grief Share	1 10 am Women's Bible Study 1 pm Book Club 6:30 pm Pastor Dave's Bible Study	2 1:30 pm H & S 3:45 pm WW 6:30 pm Choir	3 8:30am Staff Meeting 6:30 pm Women's Bible Study	4	5 
6 8:30 am Traditional 9:45 am Sunday School 11:00 am Contemporary 12 pm Potluck 4 pm Bells 6 pm Youth	7 5 pm Virtual Grief Share	8 10 am Women's Bible Study 6:30 pm Pastor Dave's Bible Study	9 8:30 MMO 1:30 pm H & S 3:45 pm WW 5pm Grief Group 6:30 pm Choir	10 8:30am Staff Meeting 6:30 pm Women's Bible Study	11 5:30 pm Wingtips	12 9 am Navigating the Golden Years
13 8:30 am Traditional 9:45 am Sunday School 11:00 am Contemporary 4 pm Bells 6 pm Youth Camp Horizon Mission Trip leaves	14 5 pm Virtual Grief Share	15 10 am Women's Bible Study 2 pm Grief Share 6:30 pm Pastor Dave's Bible Study	16 1:30 pm H & S 3:45 pm WW 6:30 pm Choir	17 8:30am Staff Meeting 6:30 pm Women's Bible Study	18	19 8 am Men's Breakfast
20 8:30 am Traditional 9:45 am Sunday School 11:00 am Contemporary 12 pm Fusion 56 4 pm Bells 6 pm Youth 6 pm United As One Night of Praise	21 5 pm Virtual Grief Share	22 10 am Women's Bible Study 6:30 pm Pastor Dave's Bible Study	23 1:30 pm H & S 3:45 pm WW 5pm Grief Share 6:30 pm Choir	24 8:30am Staff Meeting 1:30 pm Itchin' to Stitch 6:30 pm Women's Bible Study	25	26 
27 8:30 am Traditional 9:45 am Sunday School 11 am Charge Conference & Lunch 4 pm Bells 6 pm Youth Trunk or Treat	28 5 pm Virtual Grief Share	29 10 am Women's Bible Study 12 pm Let's Do Lunch @ Luigi's 2 pm Spouse Grief Share	30 1:30 pm H & S 3:45 pm WW 6:30 pm Choir	31 8:30am Staff Meeting 6:30 pm Women's Bible Study	1	2 



Now to him who by the power at work within us is able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen. Ephesians 3:20-21



By now, many of you have received a letter and pledge card asking for a financial commitment for 2025. One of the reasons that FUMC is able to be a caring and loving church is the generosity shown by its people. Giving is a form of obeying the Great Commandment of loving God with all of your heart, soul, mind, and strength and loving your neighbors as yourself. We often see people at the church who are different stages of their discipleship. See if any of you are in one of these stages.

1. **Nothing** – These people don't give anything to the Church to advance the Kingdom of God. I'd estimate about 25% of FUMC members are here.
2. **Charitable givers** – They see the Church like any other charitable organization; like giving to American Cancer Society or other charity. The Church does good work so they should get a few bucks.
3. **Club members** – Club members treat the Church like they belong to Costco or Sam's Club. I will pay a membership fee but expect as many goods and services at cheap prices as I want. Consumers of religious goods and services for low, low prices. Minimal givers – I pay a little so I can consume what I want.
4. **Baby Step Disciple** – This is a person who doesn't connect giving with discipleship. Yes, he/she is committed to the Church with time or attendance but not heart, soul, mind, and strength. May give consistently but doesn't put much thought into the giving. Gives the same amount as they did decades ago.
5. **Growing Disciple** – you are connecting generous giving to being a follower of Jesus. It is an aspirational goal to give 10% of income to the Lord, but you aren't quite there yet. Part of the change would involve examining spending habits and committing to give God the first dollars that are earned. Growing disciples go beyond Required Minimum Distributions and include those dollars as part of their giving, not all of it.
6. **Committed Disciple** – A committed disciple gives the first fruits (first dollars earned) to God as part of their obedience to Christ. Tithing is giving 10% of their income as habit. They have learned that tithing is an act of being Jesus followers just like prayer, worship, Bible study or service. They take seriously the commitment of prayers, presence, gifts, service, and witness. A fully devoted, generous giver who begins at tithing and beyond.

This year might be a time to prayerfully consider what your discipleship means to you. Ideally, everyone would be a committed disciple, but we know following Jesus is part of a process of becoming like Jesus for the sake of others. Jesus gave much instruction through story and teaching about money. Where your treasure is, there your heart is.

Pastor Dave

October is Pastor Appreciation month. Some people joke that pastors have the easiest jobs because they only work on Sundays. But the reality is pastors do much of their ministry behind the scenes. Pastors are called when someone is in the hospital, when a marriage is crumbling or when a child is in trouble. Often times the only time a church member talks to the pastor is to criticize something. Here are some statistics from the Soul Shepherding organization.

- 75% of pastors report being "extremely stressed" or "highly stressed"
- 90% work between 55 to 75 hours per week
- 90% feel fatigued and worn out every week
- 65% feel their family is in a glass house

If you feel Pastor Dave is doing a great job, take a moment to write him an encouraging note. Dave's birthday also happens to be this month on October 27. Tell him how much you appreciate his service to our church family.



- 1st Kathryn West
- 2nd Jim Glick
- 4th Margaret McLaurin
- 7th Lou Ann Roggentien
- 8th Alicia Moody
- 9th Jacob Brandt
- 12th Linda Hermann

- 13th June Bond
- 14th Kathy Huskey
- 16th Steve Johnson
- 17th Morgan Johnson
- 18th Chet Cole
- 19th Roy Davis
- 20th Mallie Rust
- 21st Sherry Lauber
- 22nd Helen Parks
- 24th Roma Keller
- 25th Kathy McKinley

- 26th Wayne Parks
- 26th Cape Rust
- 27th Austan Sargent
- 28th Blaine Weeks
- 28th Sherri Williams
- 28th Dave York
- 28th Frank Geib
- 29th Harold Poe
- 29th Haylie Dilka
- 29th Jeff Perry
- 30th Navya Hopkins
- 30th Maia Songer
- 31st Kristina Edington



- 1st Jeff & Tammy John 29 years
- 7th Rick & Shari Hansen 40 years
- 9th Tim & Bobbi Burkett 30 years
- 11th Steve & Carla Wieggers 26 years
- 12th Klaus & Shannon Sanford 21 years
- Grant & Amy Zschoche 27 years
- 13th Matt & Laura Johnson 8 years
- 25th David & Sheryl Reddell 43 years
- 30th Forrest & Janette Holdeman 30 years



MEN'S PRAYER & STUDY
BREAKFAST
OCT. 19
8:00 AM

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



TUES. OCT 29, 12:00 PM
LUIGI'S ITALIAN RESTAURANT
418 CHEROKEE ST.

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.



After listening to a recent sermon that Kristen Howell preached, I couldn't stop thinking about what she was saying. The essence was, we are designed to be a part of a group. Whether it is your extended family, friends from high school, Bible study, choir, bowling league or civic club, we need and crave acceptance by others into the sort of family that comes from participating and interacting with other like minded people. The group that is most important is the church family, that "come as you are" fellowship that Christ invites you to join, with the only requirement being you declare that Jesus is Lord.

So, what happens when grief enters the picture? What happens when couples who have been united by marriage are suddenly separated by the death of a spouse? Or maybe, even crueler, by the pain and rejection that comes from divorce? How does one go on after the death of a beloved child or parent? Many things change, but significantly, people undergoing these traumatic events might no longer feel comfortable in their "group". Maybe because they are no longer a couple, they feel uncomfortable, or maybe their grief is so intense that they no longer have anything in common with their former life. Even going to church can be painful if the one who died is the one you always sat with in the same pew.

Some people cope, if they're flexible, by changing. This requires reaching out, making new friends, and becoming part of a new group. More power to them, as they will heal faster. But unfortunately, more often than not, it's easier to retreat and drop out of formerly fulfilling groups. This produces isolation, leads to depression and inability to heal.

Another situation which is becoming more common as we age is people who are forced to give up their "groups" because of infirmity. Physical or mental deterioration causes them to become homebound or in care facilities. They are no longer able to participate in group activities and the likelihood of loneliness, isolation and despair is high.

What can you and I do? We often take our health and social interactions for granted. Instead, remember that our independence is a blessing from God. As an expression of gratitude, look around. Find someone (whether they are church members or neighbors down the street) who is living alone and might feel isolated or lonely. Befriend them. Offer them a ride. Take them to lunch or out for coffee. Invite them into one of your groups. Did you know that over a fourth of the people in this congregation are living alone? Don't assume they have their ducks in a row, reach out to one of them. Off the top of my head, I can think of seven of our own who are in care facilities. I'd be happy to share a name or two with you if you'd like to adopt a new friend. Remember, someday, it may be you.
Shalom, *Marsha Gaffin*

The holidays can be an especially hard time for someone who is grieving. They can bring up painful memories and loneliness. Grief Share has a special program to help grieving people cope. You don't have to be a member of Grief Share to attend, in fact, this is a great way to introduce someone to the program. Oct 29 at 2 pm is only for people who have lost a spouse. November 13 at 5 pm is for anyone grieving.

Topics covered will include managing family and friends expectations, surviving social events, honoring your loved one and not overburdening yourself. If you know someone who could use help to get through the holiday season, please tell them about "Surviving the Holidays".

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 Chestnut, Leavenworth, KY 60048
913-652-5374 FUMCIVKX.ORG

October 29, 2:00 pm
November 13, 5:00 pm

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

Friends, our Loving Church Family Seminars have been so well received that we've decided to continue the theme on Navigating our Senior Years. So far, we've had speakers who addressed getting your affairs in order. This next seminar will be the final part of the trilogy. Because they have been so popular, I'm asking you to respond at your earliest convenience so that we can ensure that we have enough hand outs. I'm looking forward to seeing you then.

Speakers:

- Rick Van Dyke, Council on Aging**
- Long Term Care & Assisted Living Options
- Elaine Belardo, Deeper Windows**
- Dementia & Caretaker Respite
- Kris Meinert, St Luke's Hospice**
- Hospice vs. Palliative Care

Please join us and invite your friends and family for this free, informative, and much needed seminar. To register contact Marsha Gaffin, marshagaffin@gmail.com, or 913-547-0286.

Nelson Mandela said, "Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world." But teachers in our community are facing more and more challenges in the classroom. So again this year, we will be partnering with other churches in Lansing and Leavenworth to show teachers we care about them and the work they are doing. On Nov. 8, we'll be taking a soup & bread lunch to Anthony Elementary and Nettie Hartnett schools. We will need volunteers to make soup, bread and desserts. Please sign up in the foyer or call the office if you are willing to donate.

We will also be writing personal thank you cards to all the teachers and staff at these two schools. We will supply the cards and the names, we just need your gratitude for five teachers. There is a sign up in the foyer for that as well.

Would you like to do even more? You can volunteer to be a tutor one hour a week. You would help students with math or reading on a one on one basis. Pastor Dave has been a tutor at Anthony Elementary for a year. He said, "This is one way I can give back to the community. I can really make a difference. I was assigned to a teacher and the kids are really easy to work with. You can get a lot accomplished in an hour. A classroom teacher can't do everything by themselves." Contact the office if you're willing to volunteer.

UNITED TO SERVE

TUTORING
CARDS
MEALS

Join churches across Leavenworth and Lansing in sharing God's love to our neighbors in the public schools

Change the future by caring today.

UNITED AS ONE PRAISE NIGHT

OCTOBER 20
6 PM

WESTSIDE FAMILY CHURCH

**Shout for joy in the LORD, O you righteous!
Praise befits the upright.
Give thanks to the LORD with the lyre;
make melody to him with the harp of ten strings!
Sing to him a new song;
play skillfully on the strings, with loud shouts.
Psalm 33:1-3**

Churches from Lansing and Leavenworth will be joining together in worship on Sunday, October 20, at 6 pm at Westside Family Church, 738 Eisenhower Rd. Join us for a wonderful time of praise.



The Lord is at work in the First United Methodist Church of Leavenworth. Financially we are holding steady through three quarters of the year, thank you everyone. Thank you to everyone for your support during the missions' fundraiser – "Hog Wild for Missions." The food, fun, and fellowship was enjoyed by all!

The main roof project is the immediate focus, along with restorations of the front doors and main church gutters. Grant continues to install a new fire detection system, pulling wire in the ceilings and walls and installing new sensor and alarms. Thank you to everyone for your contribution of treasure, sweat and prayers. Your trustees will now turn their attention to the three-year revitalization and renovation plan, years 2025-2028. Forever driving forward, we shall move to glorify Him whom has called us to be His ambassadors in the proclamation of the Gospel; "as we go making disciples".

The annual Church Charge Conference will be on the Oct 27. Everyone is encouraged to participate. United worship will be at 8:30am, followed by brunch or Sunday School Classes. The Charge Conference will start at 11 am. "Decisions are made by people that show up."

Pledge cards have been mailed out, so we can forecast ministry expenditures for 2025. Please look into your heart and ask the Lord where he wants you to spend your treasures for the coming year. If we sincerely want to change ourselves for the better, we must start on the inside and work our way out from there. Lasting change doesn't occur "out there", it occurs "in here". Life is constantly changing. Our circumstances change; our opportunities change; our responsibilities change; and our relationships change. Transformation starts with God, and it starts in the silent center of a humble human heart...like yours.

"And the one sitting on the throne said, "Look, I am making everything new!" And then he said to me, "Write this down, for what I tell you is trustworthy and true." Revelation 21:5 NLT

in Christ Ed

CHARGE CONFERENCE SUNDAY
OCTOBER 27
 9:30 AM BRUNCH
 11:00 AM MEETING

What is a Charge Conference? And why should I go?

The Charge Conference is the annual business meeting of our church family. I know, your first thought is "Ugh! I hate boring meetings!" Me, too! So, why should we go? Well, first of all, there will be good food! This year we will serve brunch during the Sunday School hour. Everything will be provided. Just come and enjoy. Or you can go to your regular Sunday School class. The meeting will start at 11 am.

Most importantly, this is our opportunity as church members to understand important decisions being made by our church leaders. You may not even know who those church leaders are, but you will meet them at the Charge Conference. If you financially support this church, this is your chance to see how your money is being spent. It will also give you a vision for the future of our church. Attending the Charge Conference is a way to show you care about the church and our mission. It's a way to be informed and hopefully inspired. This is your church and you have a voice. Use it! Decisions are made by people that show up, so show up! See you there!

Kathy McKinley, Director of Music, went to a workshop by Mark Miller, a well known anthem and hymn composer. The choir recently sang his song, "Welcome". He focused on ways to include justice and equality in music and worship. Kathy said, "He is a favorite of mine and it was quite an experience to talk with him and sing for him." There was a concert at the end of the workshop and they presented several of Mr. Miller's songs. Kathy was asked to lead one of the acapella songs! While she was there, she met Claudia McAllister's sister, pictured to the right. Kathy came home with a bag full of music, a mind full of ideas, and a heart full of hope and joy.



Scouting in September

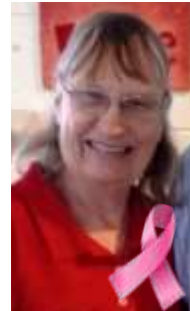
You know the old adage asking how do you eat an elephant? Well, for Scouting in September it is like trying to eat THREE elephants. This is the annual Recharter month for Pack 3109 and Troops 173 and 6173. AND, they have a spiffy new software program to enhance productivity.

The super news is that this month Nathan Sickler received his Eagle Scout Rank and we recognized his accomplishments and honored him with his family. But the Scouting Ministry is not about earning ranks; it is about building character and learning to live with values. Who taught you to be honorable in your dealing with others? Family, school, church, and the Scouting community helps to reinforce the values. In today's world of mass media, instant gratification and competition for time, many of us believe that helping to prepare youth for tomorrow is our business today.

This month the Scouts conducted an outdoor family event to recognize rank advancement and merit badges and special accomplishments like the mile swim. That was followed by a twilight campfire with a solemn flag retirement ceremony that invited all present to participate.

One of the best moments was watching parents and Scouts talk to Mr. Arlen Briggs and thank him and telling how the generosity of the Tinklers, through their Trust, has made a HUGE, positive impact in their lives and in the family.

Thank you, congregation of First United Methodist Church, for supporting the Scouting Ministry. *Bill Kidder*



October is breast cancer awareness month. Schedule a mammogram, it could save your life. A regular mammogram, 22 years ago, discovered a cancerous lump in my breast. Since it was found early, stage one, no chemotherapy was needed. This even led to further events for me when nine months later, stage four ovarian cancer was discovered. Surgery and chemotherapy followed. A genetic test indicated I am positive for the BRCA1 mutation. People who inherit harmful variants in one of these genes have increased risks of several cancers—most notably breast and ovarian cancer. Speak to your health care provider to determine when you should begin regular mammograms. Early diagnosis is important. It could be life saving! YOU are important, and this is too. **Cheryl Rader**

Dear Church Family,
 We did it! Our team met our goal of \$1,000 for the Relay for Life Walk. I would like to extend a sincere thank you to Sandy, Ed, and Bill Kidder for their help in preparing for the event. I would also like to thank Cheryl Rader for crocheting 100 Prayer Bits that we handed out during the Walk. They were a huge success! And last but not least, an enormous thank you to all of our walkers and donors who made it possible to meet our goal. Thank you! Brenda Sheumaker



WE NEED CANDY!
 Please donate candy for local elementary schools, the Richard Allen Cultural Center and our own Trunk or Treat.
 Candy needed by October 13.

WANTED
 Futon frames for the youth room.
 Contact Kristen if you have one at khowell@fumolivs.org

C+H RESTOCKtober
 Community of Hope's annual event to restock necessities that they use everyday. Donations can be dropped off at 311 Kiowa from 8 am to 3 pm. (913) 702-8108

Food	Paper Goods	Cleaning Supplies	Clothing
Cereal	Toilet Paper	Toilet Bowl Cleaner	Adult Underwear
Breakfast Bars	Paper Towels	Disinfectant	Men's Mesh Shorts
Coffee	Trash Bags	Laundry Detergent	Coats
Juice	Kleenex	Dryer Sheets	Hats & Gloves
Lunch Meat	To Go Coffee Cups	Pine Sol All Purpose	Sweatshirts & Sweatpants
Peanut Butter	Feminine Hygiene	Hand Sanitizer	
Jelly			



Kids First Worship is for kids ages 3 years through 4th grade and meets during the 11 am service on the lower floor of the Sanctuary building. Last month we started traveling through the story of Moses. That's a big story to take on, so we are continuing with Moses in October as well.

- October 6 – MOSES: Baby Moses
- October 13 – MOSES: The Burning Bush
- October 20 – MOSES: Let My People Go! (12 plagues)
- October 27 – MOSES: Parting of the Red Sea

Sunday School meets on Sunday mornings from 9:45 – 10:40 am. We have two classes, one for Preschool/Kindergarten and one for first through fourth 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 Moses.

***NOTE: fifth and sixth graders will be joining Kristen Howell in the Youth Room for Sunday school.**



Fusion 56, our special group for fifth and sixth 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 are October 6 and 20.

Mother's Morning Out is an outreach for young families in our community. But we need volunteers to keep this ministry going. The next Mother's Morning Out will be October 9, from 8:30 am to 11:30 am. Our theme for October is "Pumpkins." We have three age groups; babies, toddlers and pre-K. If you are willing to help, please contact Nancy at nshade@fumclvks.org.



For info on Children's Ministry contact Nancy Shade nshade@fumclvks.org



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 pm 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. Last month we learned about the first four days of Creation. This month we are finishing up the Creation story, learning about the Fall, and about Cain and Abel's story.

What: Trunk or Treat with a Twist!

Time: October 27, 5 - 7 pm

Treasure: Donate needed candy or other treats.

Talent: Decorate a Trunk!

This year we are partnering with the Presbyterian church.

There will be a costume contest and other surprises.

Contact Nancy to volunteer! nshade@fumclvks.org



Leavenworth Attainable Housing will be blessing their new duplex on October 24 at 11 am. The duplexes were built for \$220,000 using a \$600,000 COVID recovery grant from the City of Leavenworth and donations from area residents. LAH also used the grant money to buy nine local houses which they are in the process of repairing and restoring. This will bring the number of units that LAH manages to 19. Currently, they have 16 adults and 15 children living in homes around Leavenworth.

Sister Vickie Perkins worked with many churches in 2021 to start this program as she realized that a homeless shelter is a wonderful emergency resource, but it doesn't end homelessness. This community needed housing options that meet housing code standards, are affordable, and sustainable. But there were still pieces of the puzzle missing, so she developed a four pillar program for LAH. To qualify for the program, an individual or family must have employment. The program will help the person find employment before moving into the unit if necessary. The rent for the unit is one third of their income. The program also offers financial counseling and budgeting services. A person in the program is required to care for their physical and mental health. The final component of the program is community. Each week, Chris Leach, the Housing Support Specialist, meets with each person to help them maintain the property. In addition, each month all of the people living in LAH homes meet for a community gathering to build relationships.

Sister Amy Willcott is the new administrator of LAH. She is excited about not just restoring homes, but restoring community. If you would like to help, you can pray for the people who are working for LAH, but also for the people LAH are helping. If you have a skill such as construction, plumbing or electrical, you can volunteer your time to rehab the nine homes LAH recently acquired. If you have a vacant home that you can't manage any longer, you can donate it to LAH, or loan it to them. They manage several homes that are owned by someone else. Of course, you can also support them financially. To help in any of these ways, contact Sister Amy at awillcott@scls.org.



Every day Iona, a larger-than-life magazine advice columnist, travels the ten stops from Hampton Court to Waterloo Station by train, accompanied by her dog, Lulu. Every day, she sees the same people, whom she knows only by nickname: Impossibly-Pretty-Bookworm and Terribly-Lonely-Teenager. Of course, they never speak. Seasoned commuters never do.

Then one morning, the man she calls Smart-But-Sexist-Man chokes on a grape right in front of her. He'd have died were it not for the timely intervention of Sanjay, a nurse, who gives him the Heimlich maneuver. This single event starts a chain reaction, and an eclectic group of people with almost nothing in common except their commute discover that a chance encounter can blossom into much more. It turns out that talking to strangers can teach you about the world around you--and even more about yourself.

If you love to read and talk about books, please join us. We meet on the first Tuesday of every month at 1 pm in Wesley Hall. We read different genres and have great conversations. Join us!



A Brief History of Our Church Family

October 8, 1854, Rev. W.G. Caples, an elder from the Methodist Episcopal Church in Weston, Missouri, came across the river and held the first worship service under a cottonwood tree on the banks of the river. At this time, Leavenworth was the oldest town in the Kansas territory. It was not a state yet! It was a bustling town next to a frontier Army post. Early photos show steamboats queued up on the Missouri River taking on freight. The Sante Fe and Oregon trails were filled with wagon trains headed west.

Services continued to be held at the Leavenworth Hotel at Main and Delaware or under an elm tree at Second and Shawnee street. In October 1855, a rough plank meeting house large enough for 200 people was built at Seneca and Second Street. It cost \$400 to build. In 1958, Rev. Hugh D. Fisher (pictured above) came to Leavenworth from Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, to "create an atmosphere of permanency." In 1859, the church began construction on a new building at Fifth and Choctaw, right next to the new railroad tracks. The completed building is pictured on the cover. In 1883, Mrs. Fairchild donated \$3,000 to buy the finest and largest organ in the city. It's pictured on the cover.

In 1887, Mr. Fairchild donated two lots at Michigan and 10th Ave. to establish a mission church. The congregation raised \$600 to start the Michigan Ave. Methodist Episcopal Church. In 1969, the Michigan Ave. Church moved to south Leavenworth and changed their name to Southern Heights United Methodist Church.

If you look closely at the photo of the church on Fifth and Choctaw, you can see how close the railroad tracks were to the building. There was a railroad switch right at that intersection. The noise, dust, and cinders seriously interrupted worship, so in 1908, the congregation paid \$2,400 for a lot at Chestnut and 5th. By 1912, the building was completed at a cost of \$34,271.

In the early 1940s the church boiler failed and needed to be replaced, but there wasn't any money in the budget. The Official Board sold small wooden banks to church members for 35 cents. They were asked to put a penny for each meal they ate. Within months enough money had been raised to buy a new boiler. In 1949 the new organ was installed. It is the same organ we use today.

In 1960 the Education Building was built. The photo above show the demolition of the previous building which had been a restaurant and a filling station.

In 1967 the Wesley Weds Sunday School class started the Neighborhood House, a community center primarily for fifth through seventh grade youth. What began as a place for children to get a hot meal became the Head Start Center.

In 1970, the congregation renovated the original church. They added the east and west wings. They totally gutted the sanctuary and put on a new roof. See the above photo. The photo on the cover shows that the front of the church used to be angled differently and the West door used to be the front door. The church met for one year in East Junior High School during the construction. The cost of the renovation was \$375,000. In 1986, the mortgage for the church was paid off three years early.

Over the years, this congregation has been served by 55 pastors. Thousands of children have been taught about Jesus in Sunday School. Thousands of songs of praise have been sung in our sanctuary. Hundreds of weddings and funerals have brought joy and sorrow to our church family. Millions of dollars have helped people in need in our community and around the world. Strong relationships have been built between church members. First United Methodist Church of Leavenworth is more than a building, more than a historical fact. This church is a body of Jesus followers that is committed to loving God and loving their neighbors.

Itchin' to Stitch



Bea Yenney was one of the founding members of Itchin' to Stitch. She passed away unexpectedly in July. The Stitchers had already been working on a quilt especially for her with a bee theme. Unfortunately, she passed before they could give it to her. So they gave it to her daughter, Sarah, at Bea's private Celebration of Life on Sept. 14. Above you will also see the quilt that Bea made for the 150th Anniversary of the church. Marge Krattli and Shirley Hutabarat also helped make the quilt. Itchin' to Stitch will meet again here in the Fellowship Hall on October 24 at 1:30 pm. Anyone who loves sewing is welcome to join. Contact Teresa for info, hickst@kc.rr.com



We had two baptisms in September! September 1, Jackson Heim was baptized in the first service and September 29, Luke Hersey was baptized in the second service. Each family had lots of extended family here to celebrate. We are so blessed to have each of these families in our church. Itchin' to Stitch made a quilt for Luke Hersey, pictured below. Jackson received a compass.



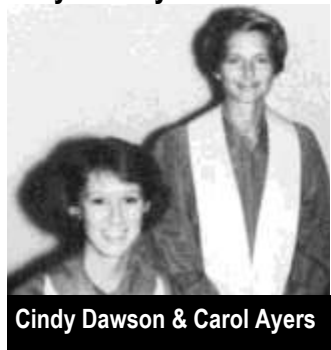


My former husband, Stan Hubbard, and I joined this church 50 years ago in 1974, coming from First Methodist in Lawrence. We moved in June on our son, Grady Hubbard's, first birthday. We joined the same day as the Crow family. Our minister was Dwight Dussair and he baptized our second son, Joel Hubbard in 1977. Later, Joel was married in our church. (see the photo above)

The Dussairs were a lovely couple who welcomed us warmly. Bill and Leah Johnson were a welcoming couple who wanted us to come to their Sunday School class but we started our own with the Crows and Halls while our little kids were in Sunday School. Sometimes we just went out for coffee and came back for the 11:00 service. We often met in the balcony.

Norm and Nancy Dawson were always in our church life. I served on several committees with him. Nancy and I collected Sunday School money with Louris Boyer. It was fun watching families come in.

The children's choir was led by Carol Ayers when my sons were of that age. Grady had the lead roll in Noah's Ark. He's pictured above in "Moses and the Freedom Fanatics." They had some fantastic Sunday School teachers. Don and Emily Giles were wonderful when Joel was in high school. The years have gone by quickly, but my church was always there for me in good times and bad. I married Rod in the chapel in 2001. This is my church and I love it. **Kathy Huskey**



Cindy Dawson & Carol Ayers Rev. Dwight Dussair

Mike and I moved to Leavenworth in July 1974. We had one child, Jennifer, who was 2 years old. We had belonged to the First Methodist Church in Topeka while Mike was in law school at Washburn. Dwight Dussair was the minister here when we joined. Kathy Huskey and her first husband joined the same service as us.

Some of my favorite people during our early years were my parent's age. Leah and Bill Johnson had a son who we knew at Baker. Leone and Buck Jones and Genevieve and Vernon Tinkler made an interest in our young family. We also knew Ed Schneeberger at Baker. He had grown up at Leavenworth First Methodist because his dad was a Methodist minister.

As our family grew, our second and third children were baptized at the Christmas Eve service, Emily in 1977 and Bryan in 1979, both by Pastor Dussair. We started a Sunday School class that we called "The Class." Several couples, including the Andersons, the Hubbards, (Kathy Huskey), the Holdemans, and the Halls belonged. Alice Hall was our teacher. Later the Morrisses attended too. I remember long conversations about issues of the day and how Christianity spoke to worldly matters.

As my children grew, I got involved with the church children's ministry. I helped construct several structures on the altar in the sanctuary for children's plays. We had a furnace for the story of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego; a whale for the story of Jonah; and an ark for the story of Noah.

There was a tough time when our church had a serious schism. A Cokesbury Sunday school lesson included a poem that said in the first verse, "God is my father," and described the fatherly character of God. In the second verse, it said, "God is my mother," and described God's motherly traits. A group of congregants objected to the poem because it depicted God as feminine. Our congregation became so divided and many families left.

Rev. Dussair stayed until he retired. He was a wonderful minister. He and his wife were lovely people. During the 50 years of our membership here, we have had many ministers. I have found that each one expanded my theology and deepened my faith.

I grew up in the Air Force and spent most of my church time in Chapel so I've experienced other denominations. I attended VBS at my grandmother's Methodist Church several summers. I went to youth groups, church camps and retreats growing up. Then I attended Baker, a Methodist college. I became a Methodist at age 26. I love this church. It has been my faith home for 50 years. In every way possible, this has been my family in every stage of my adult life. I am so blessed by this holy place. **Marti Crow**



With the 170th anniversary of First UMC coming up, I started looking at pictures of our church over the years. I found several photos of the choir: in the old sanctuary, in the old directories, and with all the ensembles together. I decided to talk to the choir about how long everyone had been a choir member and any memories that stood out. Bill and Pam Bay have been singing since the 1970s. Marti Crow said she sang from 1976 to 1996, and then took a little break for law school. Sy Nyhart, Trudy Holyfield, and Claudia McAllister joined in the 80s. They said the choir has seen times with lots of attendance and times of low attendance. Pam Bay remembered when she was the only alto, and Claudia said there were Sundays she had to count to make sure there were enough extra chairs because the pews were full.

Everyone started to reminisce about past directors and organists. Cindy White was in the director and organist seat from 1984-2011, by far the longest in tenure, but Bill remembered a few before her arrival...including one who had a very unique style. There were discussions about the many holidays and special occasions, like cantatas and musicals, over the years, with the altar area being filled with musicians of all ages.

I found out that Andy Hall, who has grown up in the church, has been in every level of choir: Cherubs, Kids Praise, Youth, and now the Sanctuary Choir. Andy and his father Doug are some of the multi-generational members, along with Bill and Nancy Shade and daughter Christine Varnal, and Jef Peckham sang in the choir with his mother Sue and sister Kay. A favorite memory of several members was when Cindy's son Brian and Alisha (Anderson) Holyfield sang duets, like "The Prayer". Lately we've enjoyed the Bays bringing their grandson to sing!

While Mike and Jan Mix are relative newcomers to the choir, Mike remembered when we switched from pews in the choir loft to the chairs we have now...and is grateful for the change because the chairs are much more comfortable. He also has enjoyed watching people get in and out of the organ. Claudia said she misses the hymnal racks, though...

There are many more members who have come and gone through the music program, including me. When we were here from 2003-2005, I helped Cindy with Kids Praise and sang in the sanctuary choir. And I am so thrilled to be a part of the long history of this church, and look forward to see what the future has in store!

Kathy McKinley





Roy Ramsey & Louris Boyer

Jerry Scheele joined FUMC in 1961. His parents, devout Catholics, had wanted him to become a priest, but God had other plans for him. After meeting Marge, he knew she was the love of his life. Marge was a member of FUMC and they married in our church in April of 1962. His parents refused to attend the wedding. Rev. Schneeberger made them attend premarital counseling.

The Scheeles and their three children all attended FUMC. Marge taught Sunday School. Louris Boyer was the director; she counted the Sunday School money. If you missed a Sunday, you'd be sure to get a post card from the church - We Missed You! In those days, classes were held in the church loft as well as in Fellowship Hall. The adult class was called "Kum Joy Nus". Marge attended Bible studies led by Marilyn Belcher.

One of the activities Jerry recalls is being a part of the church camper club. Many weekends were spent at Perry lake, rain or shine. The kids got muddy, the wood ticks feasted on them, the pop-up camper got soaking wet but everyone had a ball. Some the camper families were Jerry and Marge Scheele, Dale and Bernie Roller, Miriam and Don Cade, Arlena and Ira Butler, Leonard and Carol Ayers, Roger and Nancy Burrows, Stan and Paula Frederick, and Leah and Bill Johnson.

A graphic artist by trade, Jerry did a lot of artwork for the church. When the church was remodeled under Jake Defrees's direction, Jerry drew up a lot of the prototypes. The church added the two front wings, redesigned the sanctuary to face north, and totally remodeled the kitchen. Jerry also designed the souvenir plate commemorating the centennial. He made the front outdoor sign. When kids from the junior high school next door would deface it, he purchased bulletproof plexiglass to cover it. The vandalism stopped. He also created artwork for the Bishop in Topeka.

Jerry sang tenor in a men's quartet Jeff Borbely. They participated in Tables of Eight, a rotating church potluck in people's homes. For a time, he and Marge attended Rock of Ages Church, which promptly made him the congregation president - "the worst job I ever had!" He returned to FUMC after Covid because he knew that Pastor Dave preached the Bible. Marge is now a full time resident of Twin Oaks, but you can still catch Jerry sitting with his buddy Dale at the first service. **Jerry & Margary Scheele**



Natives of Kansas, the Nyharts moved to the area when Sy was transferred here in the mid 1980s. One of the first things they did was look for a good Methodist church. Shirley descends from a long line of Methodists, in fact, some of her ancestors were baptized and married by John Wesley himself! Sy's only criteria - the church had to be big enough to have a good choir. Singing was a huge part of his worship experience. Shirley was looking for a church with an active youth program for their kids. FUMC fit the bill on both counts.

The Nyharts quickly immersed themselves into church life. Shirley taught Sunday School kindergarten, and Sy was a charter member of the New Life Seekers group. They also for many, many years drove the church van to the elementary schools to take kids to the Wonderful Wednesdays program led by Nancy Shade. Daughter Linda was married in the church. Shirley enjoyed playing bells for many years. Now, forty years later, they are still much loved members. Sy still occupies a seat in the bass section of the choir and plans to continue as long as possible. **Sy & Shirley Nyhart**



Noodle Lunch Preparations

Flossie & Emmett Martin Sr.

Rev. Schneeberger

170 years! Wow! So much history and so many memories. Choosing the best memories will be like choosing the prettiest bloom in a sunflower field. The history, the pastors, the people, the lasting friendships, the wonderful music, the Christmas Eve services, the children's programs, the wonderful talent we have ...how do I pick?

I was eight years old when I started coming to our church. I am seventy-five now so that was more than a few years ago! The church had a different layout then. The pews were in a semi-circle like pattern and we sat about where the Sanctuary Choir sits now. I came with my Granny every week. She had been a member for many years by then. My Granddaddy didn't attend church. He was a religious man. He could quote the bible word for word, but he believed that where two or more are gathered in the Lord's name, that was his church. Except for when the church had an Associate Pastor in the early 1960's. Granddaddy was in the congregation for those years in support of him. I didn't understand why at the time. But I was happy to have Granddaddy with us. Plus, we stopped at the Dairy King (Yes, King) after church for a pineapple soda every week! I now know that the associate pastor had positive active community involvement and participated in events advocating peace and people's rights. Granddaddy thought enough about him to attend church while he was here to show respect and support.

I was baptized in this church by Rev. Schneeberger. My son, Michael, was baptized in this church by Rev. Frogge and my son, Jason was baptized in this church by Rev. Dussair. Gary and I were married in this church by Pastor Tim Hutabarat. I met forever friends in this church. So many memories!

I remember saying to my young boys before church. "Please don't poke me today!" They somehow thought it was funny to poke me slightly in my side during service until I started giggling. They were teenagers before they stopped doing this. So, don't fret about your children upsetting the older folks in the church. We've been through it all. I also remember dozing a little bit in church one Sunday and my crossed leg became uncrossed and kicked the back of Shorty Rogers' pew and he jumped and hollered mid-sermon. I couldn't stop giggling, so I had to leave.

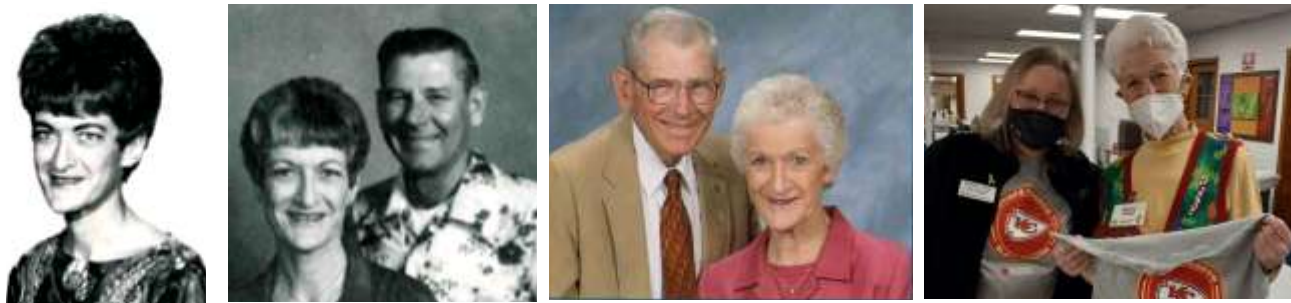
Our church has offered many Religious Studies and Disciple Classes. I have taken many throughout the years with wonderful instructors like Esther Peters, Donna Ramsey, Rita Wood, Rev. Hutabarat, Rev. Bruce Emmert and Pastor Dave York. My favorite was "The Mayberry Bible Study." We watched an episode of The Andy Griffith Show then discussed how each program was a Bible lesson.

I was treasurer of the United Methodist Women at one time. A yearly fund-raising event that I loved was the UMW Noodle Luncheon. Homemade noodles and homemade pies, yum! I remember Frances Rogers' pies! She baked me a coconut cream pie every year for my birthday until she died. The UMW had several circles at that time; Esther Circle, Lydia Circle, Friends of Jesus Circle, and Martha Circle. The Martha Circle had been around for many years when I joined Friends of Jesus Circle, a younger group of women. We all secretly yearned to become a "Martha". Some of us did join Martha Circle eventually as we aged. It was the last circle to survive. COVID ended the Martha Circle. After the lock down membership dropped to only a few of us "younger members". Some had died and many couldn't attend any longer.

My husband, Gary and I set up communion every month for many years. One Saturday after the new security system was installed I was nervous that I would set off the alarm when we entered the church to set up communion...and I did. The brand new pastor, Kevin Hopkins, came to the church when he was called by the security company. He confessed that he had "popped in to the church" the day before to "check it out" and he had set off the alarm too. Two alarms in two days!

A long time member of our church, Doris Brownson, sent out birthday and anniversary cards to every member of the church for many years. My husband and I took over when she could no longer continue. It has been so rewarding for us to do this. We get such wonderful feedback from the congregation. People love getting cards in the mail because it takes effort from someone who cares. Just like coming to church takes effort but its so rewarding.

I am so proud to be a member of The First United Methodist Church and all that it provides. I loved when we did the Lenten Devotionals. I wrote for every one of them, I think. We have great Sunday School classes, kids programs, the very best choirs, the stitching groups that make quilts for veterans and new babies, the prayer shawls they make for all that need comforting. The military families that come and go are so wonderful and many have kept in touch throughout the years. We are a church for the ages. I always say life is a series of changes and when we stop changing we stop living. But, we also have to remember and learn from the past. A long time ago, I attended East Junior High School. It was located where the "green grass area" to the east of our church is now. A teacher said to me as I was outside waiting for the school bell to ring, "You cannot sit on the steps of the church. It is not the property of the school." I replied, "I can sit here. It's my church." And I'm still sitting here. It's my church. **Carol Russell**



In 1936, baby Maryann was born to her parents, Howard and Mary Stucker, who chose to have her baptized here at First Methodist Church soon after her birth. The Stucker family lived at 1218 Spruce Street about the time she started school but soon moved to 419 Linn Street, about a half block west of Homer's Drive-in. She faithfully walked to FUMC every week to attend Sunday School. In those days, there was no Ed building; classes were downstairs where Fellowship Hall is now. Maryann still fondly remembers one of her teachers, a kindly spinster named Miss Daisy who had long braided hair coiled around her head, and wore long dark-colored dresses. She was in the third grade when confirmed and gifted a Bible that has Rev. Waring's name in it.

The church was laid out differently in those days. The area where the altar is now had a narrow balcony that was divided into 4 or 5 Sunday School rooms complete with accordion-type doors that could be pulled down during sessions. The usual entrance was the west door off Fifth Street with a few stairs leading up to the sanctuary and another set going up to the balcony. And the sanctuary pews were arranged in a semicircle facing east. The choir was to the left of the altar. As a teen, Maryann sang in the choir, directed by the formidable Mrs. E. Paul Lessig, a PRESBYTERIAN!

Maryann remembers as a teenager going to the Grange to dance and seeing Marguerite McCarthy and Charlie Hilscher. Her Grandpa English was always at the back door, watching to ensure no alcohol was brought into the premises. She was a regular member of the Methodist Youth Fellowship. Once, when they planned to have dancing, old Judge Hall, a church deacon, immediately shut down that idea- "there will be NO DANCING WITHIN THE WALLS OF THIS CHURCH"!

Maryann remembers the devastating flood here in the plains states the summer of 1953 while some of the teens were at Baker University in Baldwin for the annual Institute. Most, roads were flooded, and it seemed like they were stranded in Baldwin. Finally the KCMO police chief gave the group permission to drive across the intercity viaduct which was closed to traffic. She remembers, with horror, seeing some cows on roofs of buildings in the stockyards holding out until the water receded.

After graduating college in 1958, Maryann decided to see a little of the world. She spent three years in Germany as a Dept. of the Army Civilian, working as an RN in the Army hospital at Frankfurt. That's where she encountered Elvis Presley who was serving in the Army. In 1967, after returning to the states, she was commissioned in the Air Force Reserves as a flight nurse, serving for 27 years. She also worked full time at the Leavenworth VA Hospital. Her two weeks of active duty 1968-1970 were spent flying to Japan and accompanying Vietnam military casualties to stateside hospitals.

Due to her schedules with her two careers, she was rather inactive at church for several years but finally was in a position to regularly attend FUMC. She served with her friend Iva Fern Parsons on the Memorial Committee for several years. Iva Fern was passionate about the need to install an American flag in front of the church. For some reason, the pastor said no. He eventually left, and some time later the Boy Scouts were allowed to install the flagpole.

On Valentine's Day 1970, Maryann married Bill at Memorial Chapel on Ft. Leavenworth. They couldn't be married at FUMC because the entire building was being remodeled, and the sanctuary was gutted. Rev. Don Frogge conducted the ceremony.

Tragedy struck in 1987. Maryann remembers calling Alice Hall on Sunday evening saying something was wrong with her hands (and also with her feet the next day). She was admitted to KUMed and diagnosed with Guillain-Barre Syndrome. She spent the next three months at KUMed. About all she could do was talk. She could eat only by being fed since all four extremities were paralyzed. In those days there was no definite treatment, just had to run its course. She had to relearn how to walk, use her hands, care for herself and do simple chores. During those dark days, the young, fresh-out-of-seminary Associate Pastor at FUMC visited quite often and sat with her even during the worst days of winter. They became good friends.

After she was released, she spent several months recovering at home. Eventually she returned to her job at the VA. Her rehab doctor wasn't too happy about that!. In 1988, while still recovering from GBS, Dr. Nelson, an optometrist, slumped over in his pew during the church service. She performed CPR on him in the aisle until EMS arrived. Unfortunately, he didn't survive. Several people were concerned for her since she hadn't been home from the hospital very long.

Bill was diagnosed with a cancer in 1994, and succumbed on March 14, 2017. They had been married 47 years, 1 month. By then, Maryann had retired. She still remains active today. One of the blessings of retirement is that she was able to take a deep dive into Bible study. Rita Wood's college level Disciple class was where she really got an in depth foundation. She continues to attend studies, now in Carol Shafer's classes. She also has been FUMC's Coordinator for the Community Center Blood Drive for the last 20 years. Another interesting note - Maryann was on the 150th church anniversary committee and remembers where the time capsule was buried in the front! **Maryann McAfee**



Norm and Nancy Dawson and their children Cheryl and David moved to Leavenworth in 1962 and became church members within a few months. Rev. Charles Schneeberger had been the pastor for a number of years and had built the congregation to over 500 in attendance. He referred to them as the "Faithful 500".

Because of Norm's banking experience, he was asked to serve on the finance committee and then became the church treasurer where he served for ten years. During that time he initiated plans to establish the endowment fund that has grown tremendously over the past 50 years. Norm was also a major part of fund raising to remodel the church. Nancy said, "Children were asked to pledge a weekly amount, just as their parents were doing. I have always felt that was a major factor in teaching our children the value of paying it forward." The demolition of the interior of the old sanctuary was supposed to begin right after the Christmas Eve service. During the candlelight service, a candle sitting in some live greenery caught fire. It was extinguished quickly, but comments were made about that being a quick way to tear out the interior so the remodeling could start. Norm also helped to acquire the East Junior High building, the old bank drive in and the property for the parking lot. Norm also worked with John Tillotson to help Vernon and Genevieve Tinkler set up the Tinkler Trust which benefits the youth of FUMC. The Dawsons and the Tinklers were neighbors and dear friends for many years. Managing the trust was a rewarding responsibility for Norm. His daughter, Cheryl manages it now.

The Dawson children were active in the children's choir who sang from the balcony. They also played bells under the direction of Merceda, Rev. Dwight Dussair's wife. Nancy was active in the Women's Society of Christian Service and she really enjoyed the turkey dinner and noodle dinner fund raisers. Norm and Nancy served on every committee at least once and often served as the chairperson. Nancy said, "It is always an honor to do God's work in that small way." **Nancy Dawson**



In 1984, Cindy White became the music director and organist for our church and continued for 27 years until she retired in 2011. She worked for 5 different pastors and wore other hats including being the Children's Ministry Director.

Whenever Cindy introduced a cantata to the choir, they would start with punch and cookies. They'd listen to a recording of the music and brainstorm how to make this production uniquely theirs. For one cantata, they had a nativity scene as a background. Dr. Carol Vorhees needed to move from the choir loft to the front of the stage. He decided to take a "short cut" through the manger scene and the whole set fell on him. Luckily only his pride was hurt!

Cindy's favorite musical was "The Technicolor Promise" which was the story of Noah. She loved it because it incorporated all ages from 4 to 84 years old. Teresa Hicks made animal hats as costumes. They kept the set and the costumes and performed it several times.

Christmas Eve was when Cindy pulled out all the stops. The Children's Choir would sing at the 5:30 service. The Bell Choir would play for the second service. One Christmas Eve it started to snow heavily. Shirley Nyhart couldn't stay for the second service because they lived in the country and the roads were getting bad. Cindy looked into the crowd arriving. She saw Eric Hanson, who she had taught in the youth bells for many years. He was home from college visiting his family. He ended up taking Shirley's place with no rehearsal so the bell choir was able to play.

She fondly remembers working with soloists and watching them develop as artists. She loved rehearsing with her son, Brian. He sang beautifully, but with a straight face. She worked hard to get him to show his emotion while singing. Her hard work paid off because Brian is now the choir director at Lansing High School and has been honored many times and taken choirs to the state level many times. His choirs are known for their musical expression. **Cindy White**

LIFE @ FUMC

We had several great events in September! Thank you to everyone who made the Octogenarian Dinner a success. We also had a Hog Roast to raise money for missions and several volunteers worked at the Anthony Elementary Family Night.

