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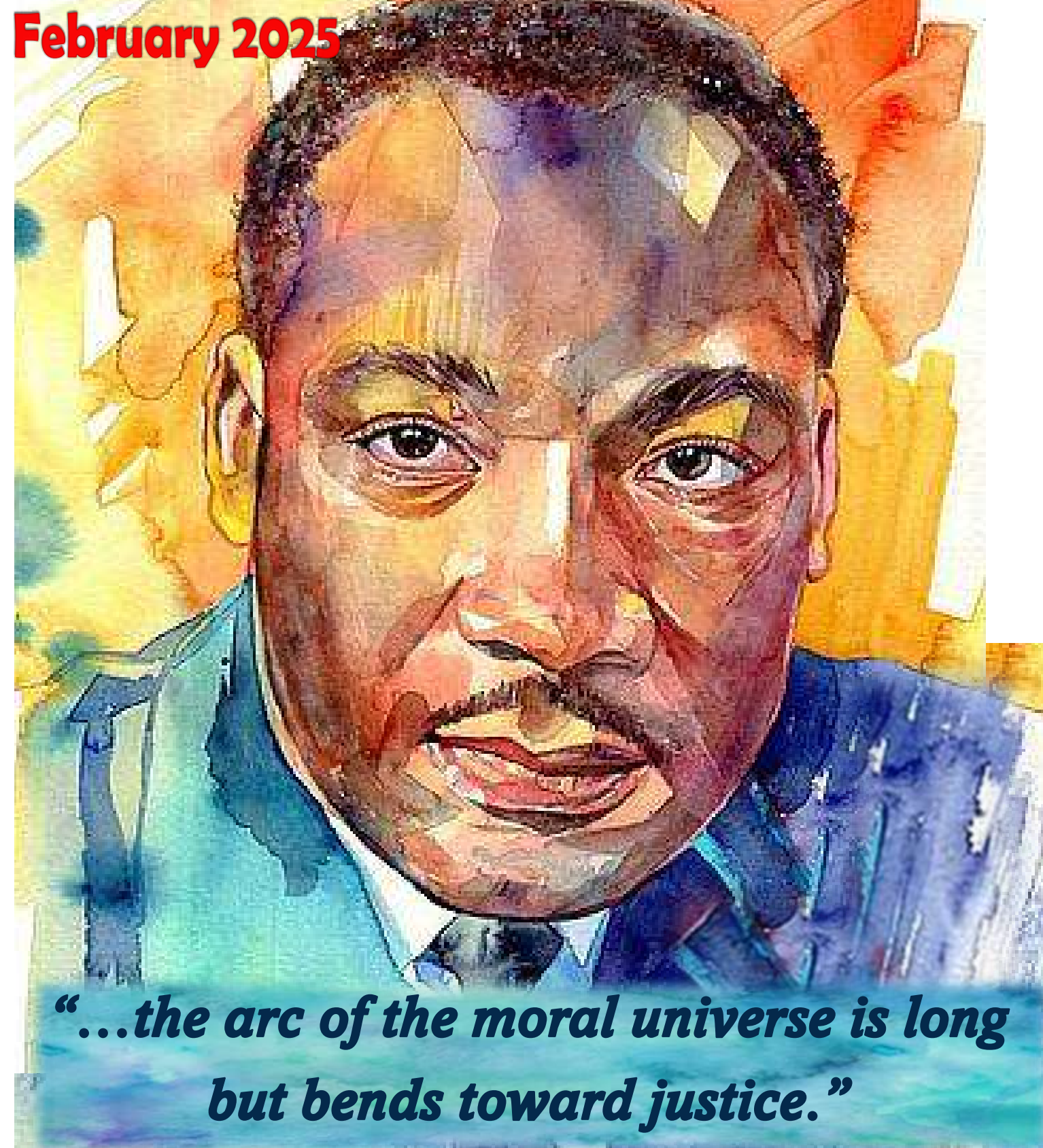
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 Educational Bldg.: 913-675-7495
 E-mail: office@fumclvks.org
 Office Hours—M-Th 9a-3p, Friday—9a-noon
 Or visit us at FUMCLVKS.ORG
 Sunday services stream at either site.

February 2024

26 8:30am Traditional 9:45am Sunday School 11:00am Contemporary 12:00pm Chili CookOff 4:00 pm Wesley Ringers 6:00 Refuge	27 5:00pm Virtual Grief Share	28 10am Bible Study 6:30 pm Ruth Bible Study	29 9 am Prayer 1 pm H&S 3:45pm WW 6:45pm Choir	30 8:30am Staff 6:30pm Women's Bible Study	31	1
2 Scout Sunday 8:30am Traditional 9:45am Sunday School 11:00am Contemporary 12:00 pm Fusion 56 4:00 pm Wesley Ringers 6:00 pm Youth	3 5:00pm Virtual Grief Share	4 10am Bible Study 1 pm Book Club 6:30 pm Ruth Study	5 9 am Prayer 1 pm H&S 3:45pm WW 5:30 pm Young Adults 6:30pm Choir	6 8:30am Staff 6:30pm Women's Bible Study	7	8
9 8:30am Traditional 9:45am Sunday School 11:00am Contemporary 4:00 pm Wesley Ringers 5:00 pm Youth Super Bowl Party	10 5:00pm Virtual Grief Share	11 10am Bible Study 12 pm Lunch at Heather Beez 6:30 pm Ruth Study	12 8:30am MMO 9 am Prayer 1 pm H&S 3:45pm WW 5:00pm Grief Share 6:30 pm Choir	13 8:30am Staff 1:30 pm Itchin' to Stitch 6:30pm Women's Bible Study	14 5:30 pm Wingtips	15 8 am Men's Prayer Breakfast
16 8:30am Traditional 9:45am Sunday School 11:00am Contemporary 12:00pm Fusion 56 4:00 pm Wesley Ringers 6:00 pm Youth	17 President's Day Church office closed 5:00pm Virtual Grief Share	18 10am Bible Study 2pm Spouse Grief Share 6:30 pm Ruth Bible Study	19 9 am Prayer 1 pm H&S 3:45pm WW 5:30 pm Young Adults 6:30 pm Choir	20 8:30am Staff 6:30 pm Women's Bible Study	21	22
23 8:30am Traditional 9:45am Sunday School 11:00am Contemporary 4:00 pm Wesley Ringers 6:00 pm Youth	24 5:00pm Virtual Grief Share	25 10am Bible Study	26 9 am Prayer 1 pm H&S 3:45 pm WW 5 pm Grief Share 6:30 pm Choir	27 8:30am Staff 6:30 pm Women's Bible Study	28	1

LIFE @ First United Methodist church

February 2025





Think
on these
things...



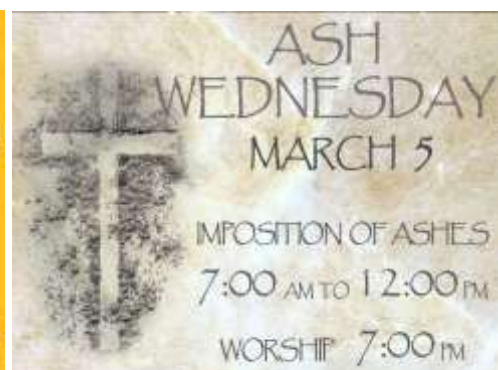
Love is a word that displays the English language's lack of precision and nuance. What kind of love do we mean? What type of love is being displayed in our story of Ruth? It's not patriotism which is a love for country. Nor is it brotherly love "philo" to the Greeks. We get root words from this type of love like philosophy – love of wisdom or Philadelphia – City of Brotherly Love. With Valentine's Day coming up soon, we know that romantic love – that between lovers or married people – is seen and heard in songs, poems, flowers, and public displays of affection. Different kinds of love but not what we see in Ruth's story.

The Hebrew word, hesed, is what we experience in Ruth's story. It takes many English words to encompass its meaning – kindness, mercy, strength, faithfulness, steadfastness, grace, love. Hesed is all of this rolled into one concept! It's a concept that is deep and powerful. Hesed is covenant loyalty that is one of the most positive attributes of God. It is love that goes beyond dutiful requirement. God's steadfast loving kindness is seen in the actions of Ruth toward her mother-in-law, Naomi. Naomi saw her life as a dead end – no hope for the future. She urged both of her daughters-in-law to go back to their homes and start a new life without her. But Ruth said, "Do not urge me to leave you or to return from following you. For where you go, I will go, and where you lodge, I will lodge. Your people shall be my people, and your God my God. Where you die, I will die, and there will I be buried. May the Lord do so to me and more also if anything but death parts me from you." (Ruth 1:16-17).

Hesed was embodied by Ruth when she was clinging to Naomi – abiding love that remains no matter what the situation. No circumstance can make me leave you, even if it means taking the more challenging path in my own journey. That's the kind of love God has for you. Covenant loyalty – we like the word "grace" in the Methodist tradition. It tells us NO MATTER WHAT, I WILL STAY BY YOU AND LOVE YOU FAITHFULLY.

Commitment to another at the deepest level of our being. Jesus instructed disciples of all ages "Abide in me as I abide in you" John 15:4. Just as Ruth stuck with Naomi through the hardship and triumphs of their lives, Christ has made the same promise to us. His challenge for us: "As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Abide in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. (John 15:9-10).

Pastor Dave



This Lent we will be joining with churches around the Kansas City metro area in reading through the book of Mark in the OneKC program. Pastor Dave will begin a sermon series called *Exploring the Power of Jesus Over All Things* on March 2 which will highlight passages from the book of Mark.

Ash Wednesday is March 5 and we will have a Soup and Bread potluck which will kick-off our Wednesday night potlucks which will continue through Lent. After the Soup and Bread potluck, we will have a special Ash Wednesday service at 7 pm. Imposition of ashes will also be available during the day from 7 am to noon.

FEBRUARY Birthdays

2nd	Jamie Brettmann	13th	Junia Howell	20th	Joyce Goss
	John Hersey	15th	Carl Langley	21st	Logan Kobe
3rd	Mary Eleanor McCluskey	16th	Anne-Marie Short		Robert McKinley
7th	Emily Wecas	17th	Barbara Peiper	23rd	Hannah Banker
8th	Kyle Sanders		Junia Howell		Sara LaMoe
10th	Claudia McAllaster		Ernest Wicke	25th	Bob Hale
11th	Cathy Landis	18th	Steve Coats	27th	John Short
12th	Annabelle Estep		Jack Walker		



FEBRUARY Anniversaries

15th Michael & Karen Piper 37 years



Did we miss your birthday or anniversary? Please help us update our records. Send an email with your current address, phone number and birthday to Sandy at swood@fumclvks.org.

UPCOMING Events



HEATHER BEEZ
510 SHAWNEE ST.

If you need to schedule use of any of the church buildings, please send a detailed request email with dates and times to egarven@fumclvks.org and swood@fumclvks.org. You'll receive a confirmation email after the event has been added to the church calendar.



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. This month we will be focusing on some of Jesus' parables – stories that used things that people are familiar with to explain an important spiritual truth.

- February 2: Salt and Light
- February 9: Two Builders
- February 6: The Soil
- February 23: The Kingdom of Heaven is Like...

Sunday School meets on Sunday mornings from 9:45 – 10:40 am in room 202 of the Education building. We'll be studying the same lessons as Kids First Worship, taking time to go a little deeper.



NOTE: 5th and 6th graders Kristen Howell in the Youth Room for Sunday school.



Wonderful Wednesday is a fantastic way to remind kids that God is not just for Sunday, he's for EVERY day. Designed for kids ages 3 years through 6th grade, we meet in the Education Building from 3:45 – 5:30 pm during the school year. We'll be continuing our journey through the book of Genesis. This month we will focus on Abraham and Isaac.

- February 5: Isaac is Born
- February 12: Abraham is Tested
- February 19: Rebekah
- February 26: Abraham Helps Lot Escape

Fusion 56, our special group for 5th and 6th graders, meets from 12:00 – 1:30 pm every 1st and 3rd 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 February 2 and February 16.



Mother's Morning Out: Feb. 12, 8:30 – 11:30am
Our theme for February is "Love." 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



Jesus is the Way,
the Truth
and the Life.
John 14:6



**July 21-25
9 am to 12 pm**

There are two Children's Ministry events coming soon. TGIGF will be an all day Good Friday event on April 18. Kids will learn all about the crucifixion and resurrection. Life Boat will be our Vacation Bible School July 21-25, 9 am to 12 pm.



If you have any questions about Children's Ministry, please contact Nancy Shade (pictured above) at nshade@fumclvks.org.



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

Change the future by caring today.

During Lent we'll be joining with churches in Lansing and Leavenworth to share God's love with our public school teachers. We did something similar in the fall with all the Leavenworth schools. This time we will reach all the Lansing schools. Our church family will be providing a breakfast for the Lansing Elementary Kindergarten through third grade teachers and staff on March 13. We will provide a variety of goodies such as breakfast casseroles, biscuits and gravy, breakfast breads, and fruit. Please bring food in disposable containers so we can leave the leftovers there. This was so appreciated by the teachers last spring.

We will also write thank you letters to each of the staff at Lansing Elementary. There are 100 employees so we will need lots of writers. We will provide the names and cards. The cards will need to be done by March 9 and will be delivered with the breakfast. Many teachers expressed how good it made them feel that the community recognized their hard work. Contact Sandy for info, swood@fumclvks.org.

Children Church Camp Scholarships



- Why?** Camp is an opportunity to explore the world and their personal faith in a safe setting. Many people look at their camp experiences as foundational to their faith.
- What?** There are different options for camp depending on the child's interest. There are camps that focus on horses or sports or STEM or the arts. Each camp has a faith basis for their activities.
- Where?** There are many choices for church camps in our area. The United Methodist church sponsors Camp Chippewa near Ottawa. Institute is at Baker University in Baldwin City.
- Who?** Camp Chippewa has programs for third through eighth grade students. Institute is for ninth through twelfth graders.
- How?** Every child wanting to go to camp can have their full admission paid for by the church. Simply submit the scholarship form to the church office.

Last year Lucy and Natalie Heim, Merrick Moore and Alexis Hoffman went to Camp Chippewa. They loved it so much, they plan to go back this year! Lucy said, "My favorite thing about camp was making new friends." Natalie said, "I really enjoyed nature because we were outside a lot."

Camp sessions are offered weekly throughout the summer. Sessions are on the Camp Chippewa website. Go to campchippewa.org for more information.





Greetings and salutations. I want to thank everyone for their prayers and well wishes for my surgery and recovery. I appreciate your words and thoughts during this physically challenging time in my life. February is upon us and with the change of the month comes new and exciting opportunities in our church life.

January was cold, wet, and slick but here we are ready to thaw out and continue His mission. A special thank you to everyone that braved the cold to serve and celebrate Dr. Martin Luther King's birthday play at the University of Saint Mary. Our sisters and brothers at the NAACP love celebrating life with us.

We closed the books for 2024 last month, and we had an exceptional year. We gave more treasure, we reached more people and we partnered with more organizations to bring His Kingdom to Leavenworth than we thought possible. As long as we remain focused and obedient – **the Lord always provides more.**

Thank you to everyone that prayed, that gave, that served and responded to what you heard from the Lord. We anticipated a small budgetary shortfall of a few hundred dollars at the end of 2024 and through your generosity and giving we have a surplus large enough to pay for the new roof for the main church building – faith in action. **God always provides more!**

There are many exciting events taking place this month in church, please check the calendar on the back of this magazine. My heartfelt prayer for you is get involved – join a Sunday School class or small group! Besides two fabulous services every Sunday, we kick off the month with Scout Sunday on February 9 at 11 am. If you are currently in the scouting ministry or were previously, we encourage you to wear your uniform or scout t-shirt.

The next men's breakfast is scheduled for February 15 in Fellowship Hall at 8am. Please attend if you are available and invite a friend – iron sharpens iron! If you have any questions please contact Dave Landis (dlandis@hughes.net) or Mike Mix (hairymule@gmail.com). The January breakfast was a wonderful time of comradery and devotion focused on daily intentional prayer and praise.

Praise is not just words; it's an attitude. Our life should always be praise to God. We should be grateful, have a smile, be good to people, and be passionate about our lives. When you've learned the secret to bless the Lord at all times, you can be in a hard period of life but nobody around you knows it. You're not sour. You don't have a chip on your shoulder. You don't complain. You just live, love, and praise the Lord.

Anyone can give God praise when things are going well. But the test is, will you praise Him in the wilderness? Will you worship Him in spite of what's not working, praise Him in spite of who did you wrong? The way you bless the Lord at all times is by your praise, by always finding something to be grateful for, by not dwelling on wrongs but thanking God for what's right.

in Christ, Ed



When I worked at Trinity House in December I was so gratified to see your response, embodied in shelves of canned goods. The give-away table was almost sagging from the weight of all the goodies - everything from chocolate, cake mixes, instant mashed potatoes, and stuffing to shelf stable milk, canned meat, eggs and toiletries. We even had toilet paper and detergent!

So I was equally dismayed this week to see that all the bounty had disappeared. The poor table had maybe six cans of garbanzo beans (do people eat that?) some rice and a few bags of dried beans. Since I know that each family can only select 2-3 items from the table, I could only imagine how many families had visited Trinity House. I know that during my shift, I never was able to sit down.

If you have it in your heart (get it, Valentine's Day?) please consider bringing any surplus food, toiletries, or cleaning supplies either to our church or to Trinity House. Know that your gifts will be used and gratefully appreciated. There are so many families in our community who are living on a shoestring. We have a real opportunity to bless them.

Remember the "least of these" are God's children, too. *Marsha Gaffin*



Leavenworth also has a great museum for Black History, the Richard Allen Cultural Center, at 412 Kiowa. It is a great source for local history, but also national and military history. They're open 11 am to 4 pm. Above and to the right are a few photos from the museum. Below is information about the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People and some of their upcoming events.



The NAACP advocates, agitates, and litigates for the civil rights due to Black and Colored people of America. Our legacy is built on a foundation of grassroots activism by the biggest civil rights pioneers of the 20th century and is sustained by 21st century activists. From classrooms and courtrooms to city halls and Congress, our network of members across the country works to secure the social and political power that will end race-based discrimination. That work is rooted in racial equity, civic engagement, and supportive policies and institutions for all marginalized people. We are committed to a world without racism where Black people enjoy equitable opportunities in thriving communities.

NAACP OPEN MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS

THIRD SATURDAY OF EVERY MONTH 12 - 1 PM
RICHARD ALLEN CULTURAL CENTER
412 KIOWA STREET
(913) 674-9612

NAACP Leavenworth Branch Objectives

- To ensure the political, educational, social, and economic equality of all citizens
- To achieve equality of rights and eliminate race prejudice among the citizens of the United States
- To remove all barriers of racial discrimination through democratic processes
- To seek enactment and enforcement of federal, state, and local laws securing civil rights
- To inform the public of the adverse effects of racial discrimination and to seek its elimination
- To educate persons as to their constitutional rights and to take all lawful action to secure the exercise thereof, and to take any other lawful action to further these objectives, consistent with the NAACP's Articles of Incorporation and Constitution.



BLACK HISTORY MONTH



I covered our recent youth staycation in the last edition of the church newsletter, but because it's Black History Month, I wanted to take the opportunity to focus on the first day's activities in the 18th and Vine District. If America committed to sharing the history of all Americans, we wouldn't necessarily need a Black History Month. But because history isn't written from the margins, we must allocate time, space, and resources to tell the stories of history that are unlikely to get much focus without intentionality.

That is why it is so cool that we live in a place where there are little alcoves of history from the margins within our very community. We spent the morning of Day 1 serving at City Union Mission downtown sorting coats and other donations. After that, we went to Arthur Bryant's BBQ and had lunch from the very restaurant started by "The Father of Kansas City Barbecue." As anyone who's talked to a KC native for more than 5 seconds knows, we have the best barbecue in the world (a few other communities will argue otherwise, but they're clearly wrong), and it all started in the hub of Black businesses at 18th and Vine.

We followed this delicious excursion with a trip to The Kansas City Jazz and Negro League Museums which are housed in the same building. If barbecue is Kansas City's edible claim to fame, Jazz is our greatest artistic export and the 18th and Vine District was the heart of jazz in Kansas City. Despite Prohibition being in full-force during the 1920s and early 1930s, jazz clubs and dance halls hosted jazz musicians and bands from dusk to dawn where a very distinctive type of Kansas City sound started to develop. Nationally-known musicians like Count Basie and Charlie "Yardbird" Parker not only got their starts in Kansas City, but heavily influenced the trajectory of jazz music here and throughout the country. I had never been to the Jazz Museum before, despite living my entire life in the metro, but I was surprised that so much of the museum is audio-based. The museum features all sorts of different speakers with recordings of jazz musicians of up to a century ago and allows you to hear how music evolved over time right in our own backyard. Because it is so audio-based, I would not recommend the museum for people who are largely visual learners, but for everyone else, and especially those who enjoy music, it is a fabulous stop.

Our next stop was the Negro League Baseball Museum which tells the story not only of Kansas City's Negro League team, The Monarchs, but also the story of Negro League Baseball as a whole during a time when teams weren't allowed to be integrated in the Major League Baseball. The museum is full of triumphs and setbacks and filled to the brim with cool pieces like jerseys, balls, bats, and other memorabilia. In the center of the museum is an infield with life-size statues of real players. It was a lot of fun to watch little kids running the bases to burn energy. It was a favorite of our youth because of how visual the whole museum was.

Finally, we followed that with a small trek to the African American Archives of Kansas City, which, as you might guess, was filled with Kansas City's own African American history and art. It's a smaller museum, but free and definitely worth the short walk from the other two museums. It featured pictures and information you're unlikely to get anywhere else because of how specifically localized the history is. It was really cool to see the ways that the events happening in Kansas City mirrored and interacted with the events happening on a national scale. All in all, I highly recommend this outing to anybody looking to learn more about history in our own backyard. *Kristen Howell*



Scouts Go To Jail



The general rule is if there is no school, we don't have Scouts... We had two holidays and a very snowy Monday. However, the Cub Scouts had a great visit at the Justice Center. When was the last time you were in a jail cell? Don't answer that... The courtroom is more comfortable; not to mention a patrol car.

We're looking forward to Scout Sunday, 9 February, but you are probably thinking of it as Superbowl Sunday. The Scouts will be here at the second service. To bring awareness to the Scouting Ministry at FUMC Scouts will assist with Samaritan's Buffet on the first Saturday in February. The Scouting Ministry is thankful for all the support the congregation provides. *Bill Huber*



Anyone post-high school ages 18-35 is welcome to join the young adults group. Starting Feb. 5, we will meet regularly on the 1st & 3rd Wednesday from 5:30-7pm. This group seeks to create an intentional community of young adults in the church for friendship, learning, and fun. Anyone is welcome to join. Places of community for young adults in Leavenworth County can be few and far between, so this provides a space to get to know each other and make connections with people in similar life stages.

This group will offer a mix of fellowship opportunities and fun outings, as well as studies and service projects. Our goal is to not just be the Church of tomorrow, but also the Church of today. For more information contact Kristen Howell at khowell@fumclvks.org.

Itchin' to Stitch

The ladies at Itchin' to Stitch recently made a donation of quilts, blankets and Mama's Hearts to the Children's Mercy Hospital and they received this thank you note.

"Thank you for making a gift that will bring joy to kids and families at Children's Mercy. Your in-kind donation brings children just what they need to help them on their journey. More than 250 children are patients in the hospital—a journey that is often unplanned and unexpected, for them and their families. Gifts like yours spread joy throughout the hospital because care is more than just medicine. We believe care for kids includes a good book to read, a coloring book to pass the time, a reminder of home. Donations that make kids comfortable while receiving care are a crucial piece of the services we provide."

Itchin' to Stitch creates all kinds of handmade articles for charities in our community. If you love to sew, you can join them on Feb. 13 at 1:30 pm. For more information, contact Teresa at hickst@kc.rr.com

Leavenworth Mission Food Pantry



Scarlett, a Leavenworth student, helped collect and then delivered a little over \$2000 worth of medicine, food, clothing, and health products to Iris Arnold at the Leavenworth Mission Community Food Pantry as a part of her Miss Kansas Volunteer Honeybee Princess program. What a great example for all of us!



UMCOR DISASTER RELIEF UPDATE

United Methodist Committee on Relief

UMCOR is the mission organization of The United Methodist Church. Global Ministries works in 115 countries, partnering with local churches and organizations to amplify the impact of its projects and programs around the world.

Through its networks, programming, and missionary personnel, Global Ministries reaches thousands of people every year.

Shortly after Hurricane Helene inundated communities in North Carolina with nearly three feet of rain in just a few days in September, Spruce Pine United Methodist Church became a hub for disaster relief. It wasn't their plan, but God needed a way to send help to this community, and this congregation provided that way. Though the church had neither electricity nor water, it was spared severe water damage, and on the third day after the storm, church members and their pastor, Rev. Holly Cobb McKim, assessed their own situation and turned to help others.

For weeks following Hurricane Helene, every square foot of Spruce Pine UMC was in service to the community. They offered a food pantry, water, a clothing closet, and baby supplies. The Western North Carolina Disaster Response office asked if the church would be willing to host Early Response Teams (ERTs) already making plans to travel to the region to serve. Within days, the United Methodist Committee on Relief sent the conference a grant to help with relief efforts.

The church set up dormitories in children's ministry rooms and constructed a temporary shower facility outside for what turned out to be literally hundreds of UMCOR-trained ERTs coming from conferences across the country. They visited for a week at a time to serve the people who had seen tremendous devastation, loss of property and natural habitat and worst of all, loss of family members. Pastor McKim noted: "I've been United Methodist all my life. How many times have we taken up special offerings for UMCOR? And we've sent money, and this is the first time it's been right here in my own backyard! That's actually a very humbling experience. Learning how to receive everything that everyone has given us has been extremely humbling and gives me hope in humanity."

On Jan. 7, strong winds in Los Angeles caused wildfires to spread rapidly in multiple communities. Thousands of homes and businesses were destroyed, as well as many United Methodist Churches. Preliminary assessments of the damage is underway. UMCOR has awarded two solidarity grants to the California-Pacific Annual Conference to undergird their immediate relief efforts. This includes evacuee support like food and essential supplies as well as support for volunteer efforts and other relief activities. If you would like to give to UMCOR Disaster Relief mark your check Advance # 901670.

Welcome to the family



On January 12 we had two baptisms. Robyn Graves was baptized in the first service. Robyn graduated from Lansing High School in 2023 after living most of her life in Georgia. She loves learning about animal conservation. She has done a lot of research on painted dogs (African wild dogs) and how crucial they are in the African savannah. It is something near and dear to her heart. She is currently a student at Kansas University studying behavioral Neuroscience. She hopes to get a master's degree in social work. She has four cats shown above. She loves reading, thrifting, and Legos.

Robyn said, "I liked how friendly everyone at the church is, but I really enjoyed that no one tried to talk to me too much. I love talking, but I'm very shy and no one made me feel pressured to talk." Welcome to the family, Robyn!



Curtis Carpenter was baptized in the second service. His parents are Will and Marcy. Will grew up in Connecticut. Marcy grew up in Pennsylvania. They met at Will's cousin's wedding. A year after the wedding, Will asked Marcy to a formal event at West Point. Marcy said yes and we fell in love quickly after that.

Will was an Air Defense Officer for the Army before joining to JAG Corps. Now he is an Army lawyer as a JAG Officer. After Will completes the CGSC course at Fort Leavenworth, they are set to go to Fort Belvoir this summer. They will be at Fort Belvoir for two years and then off to another Army adventure for the next assignment.

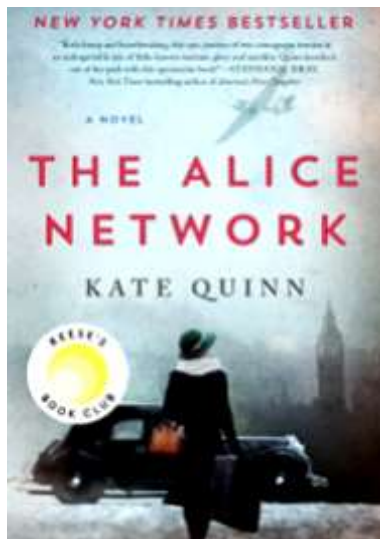
Marcy works part-time at the Lansing High School as the Special Education Homebound Instructor. It is a rewarding job that allows Marcy to be home in the morning with Curtis and work while Curtis attends Pre-K in the afternoon. Marcy is looking forward to teaching high school math once again when they move to Fort Belvoir.

Curtis is 4 years old. He attends Pre-K on post at MacArthur Elementary School. Curtis loves school and learning. He is proud to be able to count up to 546. He recently earned the gratitude award at his school for showing gratitude to his peers and teachers. He enjoys playing outside with his sister and friends, loves airplanes and trains, building forts, skiing, and swimming. Curtis said, "Being baptized was the best day of my life."

Piper is 7 years old. She's in 2nd grade at MacArthur Elementary. Piper also loves school and learning. She enjoys gymnastics, roller skating, skiing, swimming, playing soccer, playing basketball, and making jewelry.

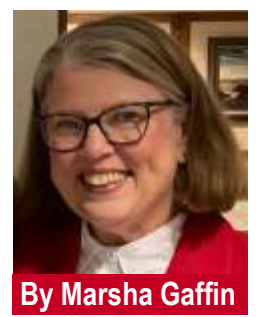
Marcy said, "Our family spends a lot of time playing outside together. We also spend a lot of time flying our small airplane. Will is a private pilot and has shared his love of flying with Marcy, Piper, and Curtis. We are fortunate to be able to use our plane to fly to see our family."

Marcy said, "Because we move a lot, we go through the process of finding a church that works for our family often. We feel so blessed to have found this church with such a fantastic children's program. Ms. Nancy is the absolute BEST! She is so kind, caring, and loving. Pastor Dave is wonderful too! We really enjoy his sermons and his attentiveness. FUMC is really just the best!" Welcome to the family, Carpenter family!



BOOK CLUB MARCH 4, 1 PM

The Book Club is reading *The Alice Network* by Kate Quinn. This best selling novel is about two women—a female spy recruited to the real-life Alice Network in France during World War I and an unconventional American socialite searching for her cousin in 1947. In the chaotic aftermath of World War II, American college girl Charlie St. Clair is pregnant, unmarried, and on the verge of being thrown out of her very proper family. She's also nursing a desperate hope that her beloved cousin Rose, who disappeared in Nazi-occupied France during the war, might still be alive. So when Charlie's parents banish her to Europe, Charlie breaks free and heads to London, determined to find out what happened to the cousin she loves like a sister. If you love to read, come and join us on March 4 at 1 pm in Wesley Hall.



By Marsha Gaffin

Ah, here we are in February already. We managed to get through Thanksgiving and Christmas. Now we can cocoon in the comfort of our fireplace-lit recliner. No uncomfortable triggers here, just a three day weekend ahead. But wait—OH NOOOO! Not Valentines Day! This seemingly inconsequential holiday is loaded with triggers, from the heart shaped candy boxes to the profusion of roses. And don't get me started on the cards (be my valentine!), lingerie, Hallmark movies and restaurant specials. If you're one of the many who have lost your sweetheart, these things are painful in the extreme, a reminder of what you no longer have and how painful it feels to be left out.

As Christians, we are commanded to love. And what better time than now is there to show your love, especially to someone who is experiencing grief and loneliness? Don't try to tell me that you don't know someone like that - I won't believe you. Of course, you can't replace that special person, but you can be kind to them. And who knows, that act of kindness can make all the difference to someone who is especially vulnerable.

Here's how it works. Pick someone outside of your normal circle and think of some way you can bless them. It doesn't have to be a grandiose gesture, often the simple things resonate more. Below are a few suggestions, but you can get much more creative. Remember, when you bless someone, you receive a blessing too.

- ♥ Bake 4 dozen cookies. Divide into bags of 12, tie with a bow, and deliver to 4 different unsuspecting people.
- ♥ Treat someone to coffee and a Danish at Harbor Lights or Starbucks.
- ♥ Send someone a thoughtful note, timed to arrive on Valentine's Day.
- ♥ Offer to run errands for a shut-in.
- ♥ Call someone you haven't spoken with for a while.
- ♥ Send a sweet letter to a grandparent.
- ♥ Tell someone how proud you are of them, and why.
- ♥ Give praise to a colleague.
- ♥ Take someone to lunch.
- ♥ Let someone in traffic merge into your lane.
- ♥ Visit a friend who is in a nursing home.
- ♥ Send someone a care package.



GO CHIEFS!! Sunday, February 9, anyone in 7-12 grades is invited to join us for the Annual Youth Super Bowl Party as we cheer on our Kansas City Chiefs. We will have smoked meat and other delicious food and snacks, board games, and, of course, the big game. We will gather in the youth room starting at 5 pm; kickoff is 5:30 pm. Pickup will be just whenever your ride can get to the church after the game ends. Feel free to bring games and snacks to share, and most importantly, bring friends! Please RSVP to Kristen at khowell@fumclvks.org so we know how much food to prepare.

Dear FUMC,
Thank you from the bottom of our hearts. We are so humbled by your incredible generosity. We received your donation. We are so grateful for God's provision and our partnership with you. Thank you for your love and care of God's children. We just want to express our gratitude for this amazing blessing.
Tom Corcoran - Global Hope in response to our Christmas Offering



We are looking for a special person to lead our Prayer Shawl/Mantel Ministry. Our records are kept in a simple Excel spreadsheet and it is not necessary that you know how to crochet or knit! Call Teresa Hicks at 913-727-2694 for more information.



Dear Congregational Care Team,
Thank you so much for my gift bag which I recently received from your group. My thanks also to Donna and Roy Ramsey who always deliver my bags. Your work with the seniors as well as your other projects is much appreciated. Thank you and God bless.
Virginia Hardaway

Thank you for your generous donation in support of our Holiday Art Gala. The Members of Leavenworth County Artist Assoc.

Dear Itchin' to Stitch,
Thank you so much for the colorful walker bags for my Aunt Claris and sister Valessa. They have helped both of them during very difficult times.
Valynn Schmierer

Dear Christian Friends,
Thank you for the \$3,000, food and clothing donations, and the five volunteers you give to Trinity House. May God continually bless all of you and all that you do.
In Christ, Carol Wind

Senior Care Seminar
March 8
9:00 am – 12:00 pm

Long Term Care Options and Cost
Matt Anderson – First Command Financial Advisor

Elder Abuse Symptoms and Prevention
Bessie Tolbert – KS Attorney General Program Consultant

Please register at FUMCLVKS.ORG/SRCARE
by March 2

The congregational care team is happy to present our final seminar on senior care. Please reserve March 8 from 9 to noon to attend this educational and informative seminar. If you're a senior, or have parents who are seniors, this is a must. Matt Anderson, a financial consultant at First Command, will be presenting information about all aspects of long term care and the associated costs with each option. This will be a huge factor in what decisions are right for yourself and your loved ones.

Our second presenter, Bessie Tolbert, is a program manager for the Kansas Attorney General's Office in Topeka. She's coming up to talk to us about elder abuse, an uncomfortable but necessary topic to be familiar with. There's a signup sheet in the church foyer, or you can let me know via email at marshagaffin@gmail.com or sign up on our website FUMCLVKS.ORG/SRCARE.

LIFE @ FUMC

We had a great time at the Chili Cook-Off. Congratulations to all the great cooks who competed. The winners from left to right are Nancy Shade, Brian Wood, Karen Kidder, Rhonda York, Jan Mix and Diane Booth.



Pastor Dave and Carla Wieggers performed in the NAACP play *Divine Resilience: Covenant of Faith* to celebrate Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day. It was a true story about black nuns who came to Leavenworth in the 1800s to open a black orphanage and the resistance they received from the community.



We have three ladies Bible studies available. Above is the Tuesday morning class Shafer teaches. Below is the Heart and Soul class that meets on Wednesdays at 1 pm taught by Margaret Burland. Below that is Carol Shafer's Thursday night class that meets at 6:30 pm. You are welcome to join these ladies anytime.

