



First United Methodist Church

of

Leavenworth

422 Chestnut, Leavenworth, KS 66048

913-682-5374 FUMCLVKS.ORG

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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Office Hours—M-Th 9a-3p, Friday—9a-noon
 Or visit us at [FUMCLVKS.ORG](https://www.fumclvks.org)
Sunday services stream at either site.

April 2025

30 8:30 & 11:00 Worship 9:45 am Sunday School 4:30 pm Bells 6:00 pm Youth	31 5 pm Virtual Grief Share	1 9:00 am Prayer 10 am Bible Study 1 pm Book Club	2 1:00 pm H & S 3:45 pm WW 5:30 pm Potluck 6:30 pm choir	3 8:30 am Staff 6:30pm Women's Bible Study	4	5 
6 8:30 & 11:00 Worship 9:45 am SS 4:30 pm Bells 6:00 pm Youth	7 5 pm Virtual Grief Share	8 9:00 am Prayer 10 am Bible Study	9 8:30 am MMO 1:00 pm H & S 3:45 pm WW 5:00 pm Grief Share 5:30 pm Potluck 6:30 pm Choir	10 8:30 am Staff 6:30 pm Women's Bible Study	11 Wingtips	12
13 8:30 & 11:00 Worship 9:45 am SS 4:30 pm Bells 6:00 pm Youth	14 5 pm Virtual Grief Share	15 9:00 am Prayer 11 am - 3 pm Blood Drive 10 am Bible Study 2 pm Spouse Grief Share	16 1:00 pm H & S 3:45 pm WW 6:30 pm choir	17 5:30 pm Maundy Thursday Service	18 TGIF 6:00 pm Community Good Friday service Lansing Middle School Auditorium	19 8:00 am Men's Prayer Breakfast
20 8:30 & 11:00 Worship 9:45 am SS	21 Church Office closed 5 pm Virtual Grief Share	22 9:00 am Prayer 10am Bible Study 12 pm Let's Do Lunch - The Depot	23 1:00 pm H & S 3:45 pm WW 5:00 pm Grief Share 6:30 pm Choir	24 8:30am Staff 1:30 pm Itchin' to Stitch 6:30 pm Women's Bible Study	25	26 
27 8:30 & 11:00 Worship 9:45 am SS 4:30 pm Bells 6:00 pm Youth	28 5 pm Virtual Grief Share	29 9:00 am Prayer 10am Bible Study 2 pm Spouse Grief Share	30 1:00 pm H & S 3:45 pm WW 6:30 pm Choir	1 8:30am Staff Meeting 6:30 pm Women's Bible Study	2	3 





One of the focal points of Jesus and his ministry was the emphasis on reaching others with the Gospel. He went to the people to heal them and care for them. Many of the Gospel stories involve him meeting at a meal. Some people engaged him when he was traveling from one place to another. Jesus knew he was the Son of God and he had come to save those who were lost! Jesus came to serve and give his life as a ransom for many (Mark 10:45).

Jesus calls us to be like him and serve others. Before he entered Jerusalem, the last miracle he did was healing a blind man named Bartimaeus. When he cried out to Jesus, the Lord asked him, "What do you want me to do for you?" (Mark 10:51) Even before Jesus entered the city to praise, palms, and applause, Jesus loved people right where they were. Bartimaeus wanted to see and be restored back into his community. Isn't that the work that Jesus still calls us to do as we become disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world?

Community engagement and reaching others with the love of Christ is an essential part of bringing the Kingdom. Dying churches typically focus only on themselves. They argue about color of carpets or engage in turf wars. They lose their attention to the hurting, lost, and lonely of the world. Church becomes a social club for members only or a museum interested in the past alone. They forget that Jesus came to serve and give his life to others. They forget to ask the question, "What do you want me to do for you?"

Spring time with Holy Week and Easter is a great time to invite others into your life. Reconnect with old friends, meet new neighbors who are walking their dogs or playing outside. We have people move into our neighborhoods. Getting to know people is becoming a lost art in an isolated and technologically focused society. Invite them for a meal or invite them to worship with you. We have plenty of room for them at FUMC. Vitality of the church is found in our relationship with God and others. *Pastor Dave*

EMERGENCY
BLOOD DRIVE

APRIL 15

11 AM – 3 PM

MAKE AN APPOINTMENT AT
SAVEALIFENOW.ORG

Community Blood Center requested we have an emergency blood drive as the local blood supply have dropped to a critical 3-4-day level—well below the ideal 7-10-day inventory needed to ensure hospitals are fully prepared for both routine and unexpected patient needs.

Several factors have contributed to this decline, including lingering disruptions from severe winter storms, a seasonal dip due to spring break travel, and fewer school-based blood drives. In February alone, CBC collected nearly 2,000 fewer donations than needed to keep up with hospital demand. Unlike other medical supplies, blood can't be manufactured or synthetically produced, and donations must come directly from volunteer donors. It is also

perishable, making regular donations critical to maintaining a safe and stable blood supply.

Type O donors are especially needed. O-negative blood is vital for trauma cases when there isn't time to determine a patient's blood type, and O-positive—being the most common blood type—is heavily relied upon for surgeries, cancer treatments, and routine medical care.

Dr. Sean Kumer said, "For our patients, donated blood isn't just a resource—it's a lifeline. We cannot overstate how critical it is to ensure blood is available when it's needed most."

Blood donors can give every 56 days, and platelet donors can give twice per month. The FDA recently lifted eligibility restrictions for individuals who lived in Europe during certain periods of time. To view current eligibility guidelines, visit savealifenow.org or call 800-688-0900.

APRIL Birthdays



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

APRIL Anniversaries

9th	Mark & Amy Baehr	20 years
20th	Mike & Marti Crow	57 years
23rd	Joel & Lyndsay Hubbard	20 years
24th	Mike & Robbie Helm	4 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 swood@fumclvks.org.

UPCOMING Events

MEN'S PRAYER & STUDY

BREAKFAST

APRIL 19

8:00 AM

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

LET'S
DO
Lunch

TUES. APRIL 22, 12 PM

THE DEPOT

781 SHAWNEE ST.

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

Sam Vasquez is a sophomore at Leavenworth High School that loves wrestling. He wrestles year round through club wrestling. He said, "I love wrestling because you have to be tough and it takes a lot out of you mentally and physically. It's challenging because it all depends on me. I can't blame a teammate for not catching a ball. It all depends on me to achieve what I want to achieve." And Sam has found success. He was good enough to be able to compete as a freshman and as a sophomore at the state level. This year he placed seventh at the state level.

The high school level of wrestling is folk style which give points for controlling your opponent. But through club wrestling Sam also competes in freestyle and Greco-Roman wrestling. All the while, he keeps up his 4.0 GPA. Sam said, "Our coaches really emphasize our academics."

Sam was also on the Raiders team that won first place at the national competition this year. There are several categories the team has to compete in. Sam competed with nine other Raiders in the 5K race. He also competed in the Cross Country Rescue race where he had to run through an obstacle course carrying a ruck sack. Finally, he competed in the fitness test where you had to run a mile followed by doing as many sit ups and push ups as you could in one minute. Sam came in first doing 82 sit ups in one minute. He credits his workouts for wrestling with giving him the strength to win the sit up category.

Sam hopes to wrestle in college someday. He said a lot of people of faith are attracted to wrestling. He thinks it is because of the mental aspect of the sport. He said seven of the ten winners at the collegiate level mentioned their faith when they received their awards.



Those of you who have read my previous Grief Share articles may recall that at around this time last year, I was mourning the death of my dear friend Sally. What made it especially hard was that Don and I discovered her body, and subsequently discovered that there was no will, no directive on what to do with her pets and possessions, no direction on who was to be notified. It was very distressing for me personally. Well, guess what? It's happened again. Only this time it was a member of our church; Jef Peckham.

I can't begin to tell you how upsetting it is to be worried about someone's safety and not know where to turn to get answers. If you are one of these people, know this: I care about you and worry about you. Because maybe you a) live alone, b) have no immediate family, or c) have no relatives that live in the immediate area you are at risk, maybe even just one accident away from a crisis.

I'm pleading with you now. Please, please, please stop by the church office fill out a contact form. I promise, this information is strictly to be used if we become worried that something has happened to you. The information will be entered into a database that can only be accessed by a few people. We won't sell your information on the dark web, we won't post it on Facebook. We just want to be able to call the right person if we can't locate you.

Also, if you so desire, we can create a laminated card that you can carry in your wallet. This allows the police to be able to contact the proper person if they become involved in your care. Trust me, you don't want to lay undiscovered in your home for several days because nobody knows who to call. This should provide peace of mind for yourself, your church family who loves you, and especially me. Oh, and by the way, if you don't fill out the contact form, you just might get a visit. From me. **Marsha Gaffin**

PRAYER DOES NOT EQUIP US FOR A GREATER WORK. PRAYER IS THE GREATER WORK.



Is anyone among you in trouble? Let them pray. Is anyone happy? Let them sing songs of praise. Is anyone among you sick? Let them call the elders of the church to pray over them and anoint them with oil in the name of the Lord. And the prayer offered in faith will make the sick person well; the Lord will raise them up. If they have sinned, they will be forgiven. Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective. James 5:13-16

Have you ever needed prayer for yourself or someone you loved, but didn't know who to ask or maybe you were too shy to ask.

We have a wonderful prayer ministry here at the church. We have an email prayer chain where you can request prayer for yourself or someone you love and many of our church family will lift you up in prayer. We also have a group that meets to pray every Tuesday at 9 am in Wesley Hall If you prefer a more personal prayer request, you can ask for prayer from Pastor Dave. You are encouraged to send a prayer request to prayers@fumclvks.org, fill out a prayer card in the pews, or call the office at 913-682-5374. We invite you to join the prayer chain or our weekly prayer meeting.



Dear Friends,
Thank you! The dear people you helped with your gift to United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) may never have the opportunity to meet you, but if they did, I am certain their response would be, "thank you!"
Since 1940, UMCOR has served as the humanitarian agency of the United Methodist Church, providing disaster response and relief to areas impacted by natural and man-made disasters around the world. And, through your financial support, you are serving within a vital network of interactive relationships as UMCOR responds to increasingly frequent and destructive storms - sharing 100% of donated funds with those in need!
Together, may we continue to reveal the love of God for men, women, and children of all ethnic, racial, cultural, and national backgrounds, and to demonstrate genuine love for our neighbors.
Grace and Peace,
Roland Fernandes, General Secretary

Good afternoon,
Thank you so much for your help in creating our KAP Encouragement Letters. We have over 270 letters going out to Anthony students on the day of their test, and your contributions have been invaluable.
Each letter was thoughtfully designed to uplift our students. Some included Smarties attached as a sweet treat, while others had encouraging stickers to motivate them. Regardless of the extras, all the letters are sure to touch the students and provide them with the support they need during this challenging time.
Your support in this special project is greatly appreciated. Thank you!
Sincerely,
Kate Cervantes
Assistant Principal
Anthony Elementary

Thank You!



Greetings and love to everyone that reads this incredible newsletter. The Lord is at work in FUMC of Leavenworth Kansas. Financially we are holding steady, thanks to your faithful giving. We are still awaiting the start time for our new main church roof, however with a break from the cold weather I anticipate it will happen with the next few weeks.

Upcoming monthly events I am especially excited about: Holy week April 13-20 – the single greatest time of the year to remember the vast instruction provided for us, the price paid for us, and the love and hope bestowed upon us. Thursday we will have supper, serving and singing. Friday we will have prayer, pause, and passion. Saturday we will rest and reflect. Sunday we will celebrate!

Why we do the things we do? Matthew 25:34-40 “Then the King will say to those on his right, ‘Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.’ “Then the righteous will answer him, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?’ “The King will reply, ‘Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.’”

Last month the super serve day saw the repair of the west parking lot retaining wall which was led by Henry Chaar as a requirement of his Eagle Scout project. On that same day, 500+ meals were served by our Samaritan Buffet team and hundreds of teacher appreciation bags were filled in preparation for serving our Lansing Elementary School staff early this month.

Last month, Pastor Dave and I had the privilege to attend a worship service organized, lead, and enthusiastically attended by approximately 100 men and 11 volunteers (both men and women) at the Lansing Correctional Facility as part of Prison Fellowship Ministries. The Holy Spirit was alive and well in this medium/maximum security environment, where we were greeted with true hospitality and enjoyed uplifting and inspiring worship and praise. The praise band wrote a song they debuted that evening. As volunteers, we had the privilege of praying one on one with inmates.

“Every person is made in the image of God. No life is beyond His reach. Founded in 1976, Prison Fellowship is the nation's largest Christian nonprofit equipping the Church to serve currently and formerly incarcerated people and their families, and to advocate for justice and human dignity both inside and outside of prison.” - Jermaine Wilson Leavenworth City Commissioner and former mayor. Read Jermaine's incredible transformation from crime to Christ at <https://www.prisonfellowship.org/story/the-spiritual-awakening-of-jermaine-wilson/>

Prison Fellowship works to restore America's criminal justice system and those it affects. “We help men and women replace the cycle of brokenness that landed them in prison. We advocate for justice reform and activate grassroots networks to do the same. We equip wardens to bring restorative change to their facilities. We care for prisoners' families and help strengthen the bond between children and their parents who are behind bars. We call the Church to lead the way in caring for those impacted by the criminal justice system. And we do it all from a biblical worldview. Christians are to be salt and light in the world and that compels us to work for justice and righteousness amid the injustices of our society. When we do so, applying biblical principles to the tough situations confronting us in the prisons and the criminal justice system. It is a powerful witness to an often-skeptical world that the Gospel is not a benign, abstract philosophy, but a life-giving relationship with the living Christ who has the power not only to change human hearts, but to bring real hope to situations the world may deem hopeless”- Chuck Colson, Prison Fellowship founder.

A portion of our Easter offering is going to support this prison ministry along with the Alliance Against Family Violence and the Leavenworth Interfaith Community of Hope Shelter – all ministries that provide new beginnings in people's lives.

“Hear and obey says the Lord.” There many ways you can serve our community: feeding the hungry (Samaritan's Buffet, Leavenworth Mission Volunteers, Trinity House, Stronghold, Faith Walkers Boutique), housing the homeless (Leavenworth Interfaith Community of Hope), and loving unconditionally on our neighbors not for individual/collective recognition but to bring glory to our Lord Jesus (Itchin' to Stitch, Grief Share, Youth Mission, Kids First Worship, Bible Study Groups, Sunday School, Scouts, and Music) are all opportunities for you to serve and love.

I challenge each of us to pray, read the word, and respond to what God is telling us! In Christ, Ed



Creating Hope

One Day at a Time

The Interfaith Community of Hope at 311 Kiowa is one of the recipients of our Easter Offering where we are giving to help people have a new beginning. Taylor York, Pastor Dave's son, has first hand experience with the shelter, first as a volunteer, and now as an employee. We asked him to share a unique view of how the shelter helps people.

“In May of 2024, I finally graduated college, and it was time for me to enter the workforce. I got my first job in late June, working for a contractor on post. Things were going well enough, and I was looking for an apartment. Then I got laid off in August. The company had hired too many new workers, and I was the first on the chopping block. I ended up at the Interfaith Community of Hope, our local homeless shelter. Luckily, it wasn't as a guest. I actually got a job there.

As of April Fool's Day 2025, I have worked at the shelter for six months. Working with the homeless population is exhausting, and every day, I pray for a boring, uneventful day, because the ones that aren't have gotten me into some of the most frustrating and baffling situations I've ever been in. So the question my wonderful coworkers and I ask ourselves on a fairly regular basis is, “What are we doing here?”

The answer is: God's work. We take care of the least of these and not just by being slightly better than a tent. In my short time working at the shelter, we have gotten over a dozen guests out of homelessness. It's a two part system, the night and day shelter take care of people on the base levels. As a worker in the day center, my job consists of getting meals ready, making sure laundry and showers are done, restocking toilet paper, and making the guests feel safe and secure.

The other part is equally important. The office staff work to get people what they need to escape the vicious cycle of homelessness. My coworkers help guests apply for jobs and housing, navigate the challenges of getting on social security or getting proper IDs, and a whole host of other things that give people the opportunity to step up into a better life. Our shelter doesn't exist to be marginally better than living on the streets. It makes lives better. In my short time there, I can think of over a dozen people who have attained housing and, by definition, have left homelessness behind. One of my sayings has become, “We are a waystation to a better life.” Taylor York



Itchin' to Stitch presented Austin and Jessie Wiley a baby quilt for their son on March 16. Grandma Sonia Wiley was beaming with pride as you can see from the photo. She said, “Austin was just about this big when we started attending this church!” The quilt is a cute Noah's Ark theme which is appropriate because the baby's name is Noah.

Itchin' to Stitch lovingly creates other handmade items like this for our church and our community. If you love to sew, you should join them. They usually meet on the third Thursday at 1:30 pm. This month is the exception. They will meet April 24 at 1:30 pm because of Maundy Thursday. For more info, contact Teresa at hickst@kc.rr.com.



Leaving a Legacy of Love

Maryann McAfee served in the US Air Force Reserve as a nurse for 27 years. As a part of the military, she was strongly urged to write a will. When she married Bill McAfee and she wanted to update her will to be a joint will. Even though he was a bank officer and knew the importance of wills, Bill put off writing a will for 46 years. Finally in August of 2016, he agreed to go with Maryann to see Mike Crow to set up a trust. Maryann wonders if Bill had premonitions of his death, because within nine months, he passed away.

Maryann has been a member of our church family since she was a baby. In fact, she was baptized here. She always knew she wanted to leave a portion of her estate to the church. She thought the trust she made with Bill was sufficient, but after discussing financial matters with her friend, Kathi LaMoe, she realized perhaps it was not. She talked with Arlen Briggs, a church family member and the chairman of the church's Endowment fund committee.

Arlen said, "It's easy to make a charitable bequest of \$10,000 or more to the First United Methodist Church of Leavenworth Endowment. You can name First United Methodist Church of Leavenworth Permanent Endowment as the direct beneficiary of specific assets, or a portion of your estate or of your residual estate. Among the types of assets that typically provide a tax advantaged way to make a bequest are retirement plans, such as 401(k) or 403(b), specific stocks or bonds, mutual funds, IRA's, life insurance policies or bank accounts, CD's, or brokerage accounts. Another easy way to remember First United Methodist Church of Leavenworth Permanent Endowment in your will or trust is to include the following sentence:

I give _____ (specific amount or property, percentage or residue) to be distributed outright and absolutely to the General Fund category (or you may choose a category) within the Endowment Fund of THE FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF LEAVENWORTH, KANSAS."

Arlen also said, "Estate planning is an important step for all members of the church to assure your assets are allocated according to your wishes. In this manner, you may provide for the financial well-being of your heirs and the charitable organizations you care about. We strongly recommend that you obtain the assistance of your attorney and/or financial advisor to navigate any legal issues and minimize the impact of potential taxes. You are also encouraged to call Pastor Dave or me if you have any questions about this gift giving program."

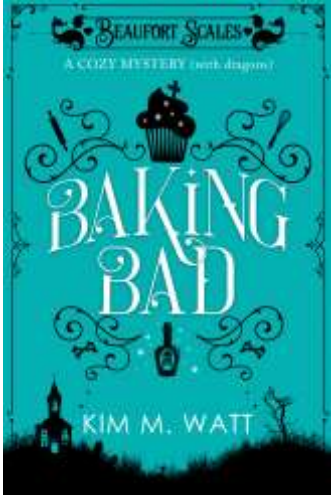
Then Maryann made an appointment with Mike Crow, her lawyer, and also a church family member. At first Mike told Maryann, this will be an easy fix, but after some work Mike said, "This was more involved that I originally thought, I really had to put my lawyer hat on for this one!" Mike did have some helpful advice for people wanting to leave part of their estate to the church. He said to consider the following. You can name a specific monetary amount or a percentage. A percentage often works better. You can restrict what your bequest can be used for, but it is often preferable to give the church flexibility. Be aware that a bequest by Will or Trust in most cases EXCLUDES your Transfer on Death or Payable on Death assets. You can leave the residuary of your estate (what is left after your specific bequests) to your church. Make sure you name the church in its correct legal name, including the city and state.

Maryann said, "I always wanted whatever I had to go to the church so it continues even after am gone. By giving to the endowment where my gift will grow by accruing interest I can make an even bigger impact." She added, "I think our church would be blessed if more people knew about the endowment and considered making it part of their will or trust."

**Honor the Lord with your possessions,
and with the first fruits of all your increase.
Proverbs 3:9**



Kathi LaMoe & Maryann McAfee



BOOK CLUB MAY 6, 1 PM

A tranquil village. A poisoned cupcake. A murdered vicar. A simple case - or it should be. But all clues point to the Toot Hansell Women's Institute, and Detective Inspector Adams is about to discover there's much more to the W.I. than bake sales and jam making. Alice Martin, RAF Wing Commander (Ret.), and current chair of the W.I., knows the ladies of the Women's Institute are not guilty. But she has a bigger problem. Toot Hansell has a dragonish secret, and she needs to keep the police well away from it. And she'd really rather not be arrested for murder. Again. Meanwhile, Beaufort Scales, High Lord of the Cloverly Dragons and survivor of the days of knights and dragon hunts, knows even better than Alice that the modern dragon only survives as long as no one knows they exist. But he also knows friends don't let friends face murder inquiries alone. Beaufort fully intends to get involved. This investigation is about to take on dragonish proportions. Best put the kettle on. A funny cozy mystery (with dragons), for anyone that likes their mysteries British, gentle, and well-stocked with cake, tea, and friendship. And dragons, obviously.

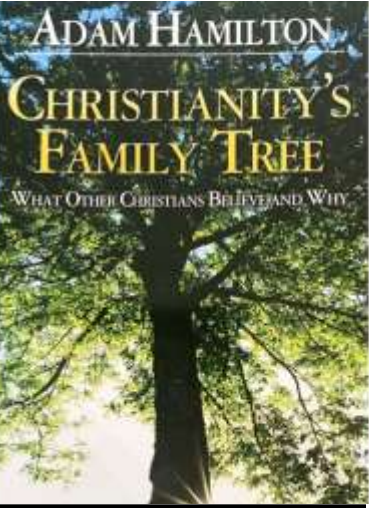
The Book Club meets on the first Tuesday of every month. We love books from all genres. We will discuss *Baking Bad* on May 6 at 1 pm in Wesley Hall. We would love for you to join us.

We have several adult Sunday School classes at 9:45 am on Sundays. Each has it's own personality and learning style. The New Life Seekers class enjoys book studies by current Christian authors. They start a new study every 6-8 weeks. Their latest Bible study is *Christianity's Family Tree: What Other Christians Believe and Why* by Adam Hamilton.

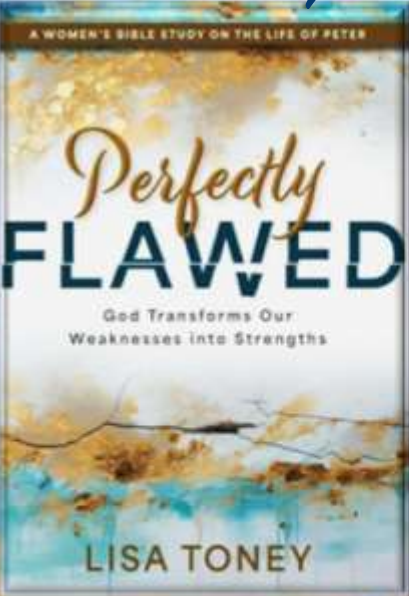
Adam Hamilton presents a welcoming, inspiring vision of eight Christian denominations and faith traditions. Comparing the Christian family to our own extended families, he contends that each denomination has a unique, valuable perspective to offer on the Christian faith. The traditions he examines are Orthodoxy, Catholicism, Lutheranism, Presbyterianism, Anglicanism, Baptists, Pentecostalism, and Methodism. For each group, Hamilton gives a brief history, outlines major beliefs, and describes some things we can learn from that tradition to strengthen our own Christian faith.

New Life Seekers meets upstairs in the Ed building in room 203. New members are welcome at any time. Donna Ramsey is a good contact to find out more about the class. You can reach her at dcramsey15@outlook.com.

NEW LIFE SEEKERS



Women's Bible Study



The Women's Bible Study meets on Tuesdays at 10 am OR Thursdays at 6:30 pm. They are starting a new Bible Study called, *Perfectly Flawed: God Transforms Our Weaknesses Into Strengths* by Lisa Toney. Carol Shafer leads the class. You can contact her for more information at carolsshafer59@gmail.com.

Lisa Toney focuses her study on the apostle Peter. His passion and imperfections make him one of the Bible's most loved and relatable people. Even when Peter gave up, gave in, and gave out, Jesus was there for him. She follows Peter through his time with Jesus, from the beginning of Jesus's ministry to the Resurrection and through Pentecost, when Peter begins to live into his call. Along the way, discover the raw honesty of a man who veered from staunch devotion to moments of doubt, mirroring our own human struggles.

In the Bible study, we see that there is an unparalleled power Jesus gives that can only be found in our weakness. We discover the strength of Jesus that is available to each of us. Learn to persevere in your faith, live confidently, and boldly step into God's purpose for you. See how Peter's story is an invitation to embrace imperfection, find strength in the relentless grace of God, and discover how each one of us is perfectly flawed but still deeply loved by God.



Arlen Briggs



Mike Crow

Welcome to the family

Briana and Chase Cornett moved to Ft. Leavenworth in 2024. Chase manages the residential properties on Ft. Leavenworth. He is from Northern Kentucky and Briana is from South Florida. They met working together in a shop right next to their college. In her spare time, Briana enjoys reading, baking, and rewatching her favorite TV shows. Chase likes sports and video games.

They have two children. Niklaus is five years old, and Marceline will turn four on April 12th. Niklaus is in Pre-K 4 at the elementary school on base. Their favorite things are crafts, puzzles, and outdoor play.

Briana was raised in the United Methodist Church, so she knew Leavenworth FUMC would have a lot of the things that she values in a church home.



We would also like to welcome Luke, Emily, and Noah People.

Luke grew up in both Chattanooga, TN and Albuquerque, NM. Emily is originally from Rapid City, SD, but also spent much of her life in Albuquerque. They met through Luke's brother, Paul. While Luke was stationed in Denver, he would often travel to Albuquerque to visit Paul—who just so happened to be Emily's next-door neighbor. They first connected at Paul's going-away party, and the rest is history!

Luke is a Cryptologic Warfare Officer in the U.S. Navy and has been on active duty since 2004. He began his career as an enlisted sailor and earned the rank of Chief Petty Officer (E-7) before commissioning as an officer. His work has primarily focused on electronic warfare, cyber operations, and intelligence.

Emily works remotely as a personal assistant for an esthetic services company based in Texas. On top of that, she's the heart of their home—managing the daily chaos, raising Noah, and keeping everything running smoothly with grace and dedication.

They both enjoy spending time outdoors—though in slightly different ways!

Luke loves hunting, golfing, and working on landscaping projects. Emily's idea of the perfect outdoor day involves a beach, a good book, and some sunshine. As a family, they love exploring new parks, hiking trails, and the occasional camping trip.

Noah is three years old and will turn four in September. He's full of energy, incredibly curious, and absolutely loves dinosaurs, animals, trucks, and anything that lets him be outside like his dad. He's also a proud big brother to their "dog toddler," Maddie—and he's very excited to welcome a baby sister this June.

They were searching for a church community where they could grow in our faith and build meaningful relationships. Luke said, "From the very first visit, we felt genuinely welcomed and at home. Noah loves being in the nursery, and we've been so blessed by the kindness, connection, and spiritual encouragement we've found here."

They will be moving to Colorado Spring, CO, the last week of June. We they were part of our church family for the brief time they were in Leavenworth. Good luck in the future!

Please keep all our CGSC families as they prepare to move to new duty stations. This is often an expensive and stressful time. It's especially stressful when you have a new baby as two of our families will. We will miss them as they find new church families in their new homes.



Holy week is such an important time in the life of our church. We have several special services planned to remember and honor Jesus' life, betrayal, crucifixion and resurrection. On Maundy Thursday, April 17, at 5:30 pm we will have a special service and catered meal. This has become a favorite event for our church family. On Good Friday, we will join with other area churches in an United As One event. Pastors from different congregations, including Pastor Dave, will lead us through the stations of the cross. Our praise team will be joining with other musicians to lead worship for the evening. It will culminate with the opportunity to share Communion with our community. What a great way to express our unity and love for Jesus. Finally, on Easter Sunday morning, we will have two opportunities for traditional worship. The choir will be singing at both the 8:30 and the 11:00 am services.

Many people who do not have a church home, will consider attending church events during the Easter season, so think about who you could invite to any of these events.



This year I have a preschooler in the Lansing School District and I caught myself for the first time saying, "Sheesh. You guys are out of school more than you're in," an oft-repeated phrase in my house when I was growing up. Unfortunately, that has been exacerbated this year with all of the snow days and has impacted how often we've been able to meet for youth group. Regardless, we've packed in a lot of learning into the weeks we have been able to meet.

This semester we've been working through the Nooma video series that was produced in the early 2000s. It's been a blast from the past for us youth leaders because we remember watching the videos when we were teens, but the subject matter is still very relevant – even if we have had to explain some outdated technology and references. The episodes provide a video on a different topic, as well as discussion questions. We've covered topics such as: suffering, compassion, silence and listening to God, worship, discipleship, sharing faith, poverty and wealth, and forgiveness. I really love the opportunities they provide for good discussion. The one on wealth and poverty we partnered the video with playspent.org where you have to attempt to survive on \$1000 for a month (it's older and has not been updated for inflation).

We are going to Tulsa, OK for our summer youth mission trip. We'll be going Monday, July 7 through Friday, July 11. We'll be offering support to communities that have experienced recent wild fires and we will have fun, too, of course. We develop good friendships and great jokes on these trips. Sunday school continues at 9:45 am every week. We're working through Exodus and will take a break to watch *The Prince of Egypt* when we get to the end of Exodus 15. Parents of youth, please keep an eye out for the youth email for further details on the mission trip and youth happenings.



For the rest of Lent, the young adults will be meeting at the Wednesday night potlucks, starting at 5:30pm. Look for our table (we have a sign!) you are more than welcome to sit with me (Kristen) every week if you want! Starting Wednesday, April 16, we will be back to our normal meetings on the first and third from 5-7 pm in the Fellowship Hall. We will be planning an escape room outing together soon. If you have questions, contact Kristen at khowell@fumclvks.org or text me at 913-742-3557



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. The month of April will be filled with major milestones in the life, death and resurrection of Jesus.

April 6: Jesus is Transfigured

April 13: Jesus and the Triumphal Entry

April 20: Jesus is Risen! (Happy Easter)

April 27: Jesus Appears (on the road to Emmaus)

Kids First Worship will be offered at both services on Easter Sunday!

Sunday School is for kids ages 3 years through 4th grade and meets on Sunday mornings from 9:45 – 10:40 am in room 202. We will be studying the same lessons as Kids First Worship, taking time to go a little deeper.



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

April 2: Jacob's Dream

April 9: Jacob and Esau Reconcile

April 16: Joseph's Coat of Many Colors

April 23: Joseph's Dream

April 30: Joseph in Prison



Fusion 56 (our special group for 5th and 6th graders), meets from 12:00 – 1:30 pm. 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 April 13 & April 27.**

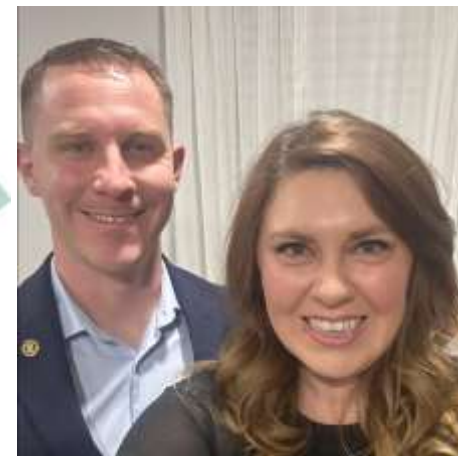


Our next Mother's Morning Out is April 9 from 8:30 to 11:30 am. Our theme for April is "Easter"! Each month, on the second Wednesday, we'll be providing care for children ages birth through school age. There will be three groups: Nursery, Toddlers and Preschool. Space is limited, so register now by going to FUMCLVKS.ORG/MMO.

Have you ever wondered why Good Friday is called "Good"? Are you looking for something for your kids to do when they are out of school on Friday, April 18? Look no further, we have your answer! We will be offering Thank Goodness It's Good Friday, an age-appropriate adventure through Holy Week for all children ages 4 years through 6th grade. The pre-school session will begin at 8:30 am and finish at 12:00pm. Kindergarten through 6th graders will be from 8:30 – 3:30. During the day we will make our way through Holy week with Bible stories, crafts, games and science. Even the snacks will help teach the amazing gift that Jesus gave us. We will end with Good Friday, so that we can celebrate the risen Christ on Easter Sunday! Registration for participants and volunteers is at FUMVLVKS.ORG/TGIGF or in the church foyer. We strongly encourage you to register early so that we can make sure we have enough materials.



If you have any questions about Children's Ministry or would like to volunteer for any of these events, contact Nancy Shade at nshade@fumclvks.org. She especially needs volunteers for Easter Sunday. She is also accepting candy and egg donations for the Easter Egg hunt during TGIGF. You can leave donations in the church office.



Ben and Stephanie Kier welcomed Hadley Faith on March 24 right at midnight. She was 8lbs 7.1oz and 19in. Mom and baby are both healthy. Tristan and Riley are excited to have a new little sister. Ben is a student at CGSC. He works with people on the Adjunct General staff. The family will be moving to Ft. Cavazos in Texas at the beginning of June where they have already bought a house, so be sure to welcome Hadley soon. Ben said, "Stephanie and I have never had so much support when the other kids were born. Thank you to everyone who brought food and goodies. It meant so much to us. We were overwhelmed."

We are so blessed by the Kiers and all the CGSC families that join us while they are here in Leavenworth.

Another new family to join us recently is Trevor Borklund and his two daughters, Nora and Penelope. He has lived most of his life in Ogden, Utah. Housing in Utah is extremely expensive and his employer allows working from home. Their only requirement was that they were near one of the company headquarters. His work has a branch in Mission, Kansas, so they began looking for houses in the KCMO area. They noticed a quaint little house in Leavenworth and they fell in love with the town, as well as the house. They have enjoyed the last three years in the community and have zero regrets.

Trevor is a Business Intelligence Analyst for the Quality Assurance department of Cox Automotive. They handle the software for car dealerships across the US and Canada, and they also support some consumer products such as Auto Trader and Kelley Blue Book.

Back in Utah, Trevor liked to spend his spare time outdoors hiking, fishing and camping, but he hasn't found many trails around here. If anyone knows of any hiking trails or has recommendations, please let him know.

Trevor enjoys spending time with his daughters. Nora will be 8 in June and is in 2nd grade at Anthony Elementary. Penelope just turned 5 and will be going into Kindergarten at Earl Lawson in the fall. They both enjoy dancing and art. They are the kindest souls and love helping others. They have a white Lab named Ripley. Trevor said, "She is also a girl. I'm a little outnumbered here. Send help!"

When Trevor first moved here, he was looking for activities that the girls could do during the summer so they weren't cooped up inside. They live just down the street from the church and would drive past it every morning when Trevor would take Nora to school. She would always call it the "castle church" and really wanted to go inside and see what it was like, so he signed her up for VBS here which she really enjoyed. Nora said she wanted to start going to church, and since they hadn't really been going to a church at the time he asked her if she wanted to go to a specific church, or if she wanted to check out different ones to see if there were any she liked. She immediately said she wanted to go to the castle church, so here they are. Trevor said, "We've felt so welcomed since we started coming."

We are so glad that Nora chose the castle church! Welcome to the family, Trevor, Nora, and Penelope!





Scouting Ministry March 2025

What were those two police cars doing in front of the church Tuesday night? What happened? When bad things happen, it is good to have a Plan A. The Leavenworth County Sheriff's Office spoke to the families at Pack 3109 about March's weather awareness for severe storms, tornados and how to have a plan BEFORE something happens.

March is a super busy month. Several Cub Scouts have transitioned or crossed over from the Cub Scout program to Scouting America. To help these new Scouts prepare for the changes they enjoyed a camp out. First order of business was learning how to set up a tent. The youth leaders helped them pick a good location, check drainage and wind, and how to put the tent stakes in properly. Later they learned to set up for making meals.

The weather was perfect and the next day adult leaders lead the new scouts in key skills, including earning the Totin' Chip, which is a certification in Scouting America that grants Scouts the right to carry and use wood tools like pocket knives, axes, and saws. To earn it, Scouts must demonstrate proper handling, care, and use of these tools, as well as understand safety rules and respect property. It's an essential step for learning responsibility and outdoor skills.

The afternoon skills included Scouting America's fire safety training. They provide guidelines for safe campfire practices, including using established fire rings, keeping fires a safe distance from tents and flammable objects, and ensuring fires are completely extinguished before leaving the site. They also discourage the use of additives or accelerants in campfires to maintain safety and environmental integrity. Success! Every scout was able to start a fire safely using flint and striker and ferro rods.

But the really big event happened at the Church parking lot across the street. Life Scout Henry Chaar lead a platoon of volunteers for his Eagle Scout Project to rebuild the retaining wall on the southwest corner. In about eight hours, and 160 man hours, the project tore down and reconstructed the retaining wall. Pictured below.

Henry wants to thank all of the church family for the support in his Scouting journey, helping with the Eagle Project and especially the Tinkler Trustees for giving him the opportunity to go to summer camp and to participate in the FUMC Global Hope Mission work.



The Journey From Immigrant to Citizen



Francois and Sandra Changuion are from South Africa. Francois was born in Lydenburg in the Mpumalanga province and Sandra was born in Welkom in the Free State Province. They met in Pretoria, in Gauteng province. South Africa has 12 official languages. Their mother tongue is Afrikaans. South Africa is well known for its wildlife, especially the Big Five (Lion, Elephant, Rhinoceros, Leopard, and African Buffalo).

Francois got an aviation related job offer in North Andover, MA. They had to go through a long and rigorous process of getting employment authorizations and then green cards. They thought the employment authorization process was taking very long so they decided to fly to the U.S. to meet with an immigration lawyer, an expat, also from South Africa, in Kansas City. He explained that the process is long and after their meeting with him, they decided to invest in property while they waited on approval.

They found a house in Leavenworth, KS. They believe that Leavenworth chose them because they could not find a house in Kansas City and surrounding areas at the time. They finally arrived in Leavenworth on April 1, 2019. They started remodeling the house in Leavenworth while doing lots of paperwork and e-mails with the immigration lawyer. They were waiting on the green cards interview to be scheduled and were supposed to sell the house as soon as they received their green cards. They planned to settle permanently in either MA or NH close to North Andover.

Covid caused the world to shut down, so they had to reinvent themselves, and very quickly. Their neighbors saw the result of their remodeling efforts and said they thought they should do that for a living. That is how their remodeling company started. They traded their South African white collar jobs for American blue collar jobs.

Francois and Sandra fell in love with the American people. The Midwestern American people, to be more specific. The warmth that welcomed them wherever they went, touched them from day one. When they attended the FUMCL for the first time, Bill Kidder welcomed them. It was a feeling they will never forget. He took them on a tour on post the same afternoon. It was a fantastic experience.

During the green card interview, they were told that after they received their green cards, they had to wait a minimum of four and a half years before they could apply for citizenship. The officer also told them that they could do the application without the assistance of a lawyer. Which is what they did. They had to pass a citizenship test and interview before they could get recommended for Naturalization. The naturalization test consists of two parts: an English test (assessing reading, writing, and speaking) and a civics test (covering U.S. history and government), with the latter involving 100 questions from which 10 are asked, requiring the applicant to answer 6 correctly to pass. You could be asked any 10 questions, therefore knowing all 100 answers is not negotiable.

Their Naturalization ceremony was March 19, and was the highlight of their U.S. journey. The friends who attended the ceremony to support them also commented on the greatness of the ceremony. Sandra said, "We can say at last that we are Americans. We have joined hands with the patriots of America and it is a most warm and wonderful feeling. I don't think we are ever going to stop smiling."



Camp Chippewa is an United Methodist Children's Camp just outside Ottawa, KS. It offers week long camps for kids from 3rd to 12th grade. There are regular sessions and sessions filled with horseback riding. The camps run from June 9 until July 25. Several kids from our church family have attended Camp Chippewa and they give it glowing reviews. But here is the best part, your children can attend camp for free. We at FUMC believe so strongly in the positive effects of church camp on a child's faith journey, that we will send your kids to camp for free. Simply see Ed Garven and he will work with you to pay the camp cost. You can email him at egarven@fumclvks.org.



Gloria Gift (the child pictured above) was found by a passerby abandoned on the side of the road, authorities were called and soon she was given to the care of the loving staff at Hope for Orphans Rescue Center (HOREC) (Above, HOREC Director, Christine Wambui, with Gloria Gift). Despite the tragic circumstances of her arrival, Gloria Gift is thriving. She is full of laughter, love, and an unbreakable spirit. She has quickly won over everyone's hearts at HOREC.

In the early hours of the morning, just before dawn, a woman on her way to work stumbled upon a heart-breaking sight—a tiny baby girl, abandoned and wrapped in a bedsheet, with only a bottle of milk beside her. The local police quickly arrived at the scene, taking the baby into their care. The case was then escalated to the Children's Department, which reached out to HOREC for immediate intervention. When she was brought to HOREC Gloria Gift was frail and weak, suffering from severe malnutrition. They immediately placed her on a specialized nutritional program to stabilize and strengthen her. At first, she was unable to stand, her little legs too fragile to support her weight. But with time, love, and proper care, she has made incredible progress—today, she can stand on her own, though she is still learning to take her first steps. Since she had no known name, we now call her Gloria Gift—a reflection of the light and hope she brings. The other kids have taken her under their wing, carrying her around like their precious little sister. If she could talk, we're sure she'd have a long list of "chauffeurs" fighting over who gets to carry her next! It is heart breaking to think that someone abandoned such a pure soul, but we are grateful she found her way to us. Now, she has a chance for a future filled with love and opportunity.



March 8 was the United Nations' International Day of Women and Girls in Science. Gender equality in science is crucial for building a better future for all, yet women and girls continue to face barriers and biases in pursuing scientific careers all over the world despite being half of the world's population.

Girls in Africa face an even greater barrier because in the past they haven't been seen as being worthy of even receiving basic education. The government and other international bodies have worked very hard to empower and educate girls in Kenya and in Africa, but it is still an uphill battle.

At Spring Valley Children's Center, it is a battle they know only too well. Pastor Stanley and Alice have had to involve the local authorities many times when guardians of some of our girls have tried to marry them off at an early age so that the family can get livestock as dowry in exchange for the girl. The Talitha Koum dorms were built specifically to rescue and shelter girls who are at high risk for early marriages, being abused or raped at home.

Pastor Stanley takes the education of girls very seriously. We have had several girls from Spring Valley top the national exams and some are even in university pursuing degrees like bio-medicine, computer engineering, journalism, teaching, nursing, and hospitality management. For most of these girls, they are the first in their families to receive a formal education and even attend college or university.



April Is Child Abuse Prevention Month

April is Child Abuse Prevention Month and April 27 is Blue Sunday, a day to remember the millions of children who are victims of abuse and neglect each year. CASA is working to raise awareness about child abuse in our community. One in four girls and one in six boys will be sexually abused before their 18th birthday. Most child abuse incidents are drug and alcohol related. Within one year of aging out of the foster care system, 66% of victims will be homeless, in jail or dead. There are over 100,000 children waiting for adoption in the United States.

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



In 2024, 41 children were served by 22 CASA Volunteers; they hosted 504 visits in our Child Exchange and Visit Center. Also, they facilitated 152 exchanges for parents. In our Child Advocacy Center they held 125 forensic interviews and offered advocacy to 87 caregivers.

The Honorable Judge Wiley said, "Services CASA provides to the domestic court are necessary, generally invaluable and difficult if not impossible to replace."

If you're willing to make the first step in changing a child's life become a CASA volunteer today by contacting Allison Burton, pictured to the left, the Volunteer Recruiter for CASA in Leavenworth and Atchison counties. Her phone number is 913-651-6440 and her email is allison@casalvks.org. The CASA office are located just down the street from the church at 100 S. Fifth Street in Leavenworth.



April Is Also Sexual Assault Awareness Month

The Alliance Against Family Violence (AAFV) is one of the recipients of our Easter Offering this year. They are a sexual and domestic violence victim advocacy organization that serves Leavenworth and the surrounding area. AAFV is dedicated to facilitating an empowering positive change in the lives of those affected by domestic and sexual violence. AAFV offers emergency shelter and advocacy services to victims of domestic violence and sexual assault, where survivors can escape abuse, receive essential services, and rebuild their lives in a safe and confidential environment. Staffed with trained professionals who offer round-the-clock support and resource assistance, services include counseling, legal advocacy, assistance with accessing medical care, and accessing permanent housing.

So how can we at FUMC help? Pray for the workers at AAFV and the survivors that they help everyday. Give to our Easter Offering. AAFV needs volunteers to answer the emergency call line. Donate supplies at the Kansas Country Store, 728 Cherokee. You can find out more info about AAFV at their website, AAFVKS.ORG or look them up on Facebook. If you or someone you know needs help, their 24 hour hotline is 913-675-7217.

FAMILY @ FUMC

Everyone is welcome at the table, whether it's the Communion table or the potluck table. We enjoyed both last month. The Lenten potlucks were a great success.



The Senior Care Seminar on March 8 gave great information on long term care and senior abuse pictured above). Children's ministry is thriving at our church. Enjoy their photos below.



Serve Day was March 22. In addition to helping with a Scout's Eagle project, we had over thirty volunteers who helped serve over 500 Samaritan's Buffet meals and we made teacher appreciation snack packs for the teachers and staff at Lansing Elementary and Anthony Elementary.



April 1 was Grant Zschoche's birthday, so the staff threw him an April Fool's birthday party!