




RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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 Or visit us at [FUMCLVKS.ORG](https://www.FUMCLVKS.ORG)  
Sunday services stream at either site.

June 2025

24 10:00 Worship	26 Memorial Day Church office closed	27 9:00 am Prayer Group	28 11:00 am Youth World's of Fun Trip 5:00 pm Grief Share 6:30 pm Choir	29 8:30am Staff	30	31
1 9:00 am Sunday School 10:00 am Worship	2	3 9:00 am Prayer Group  1:00 pm Book Club	4 Annual Conference	5 Annual Conference	6 Attainable Housing Dinner  Annual Conference	7 10 am Parents Helping Parents 
8 9:00 am Sunday School 10:00 am Worship 11:00 am Mission Trip Meeting	9 Sweet Exchange Bake Week	10 9:00 am Prayer Group	11 5:00 pm Grief Group	12	13	14 Juneteenth Sweet Exchange Bake Sale Music Academy Recital
15 Father's Day 9:00 am Sunday School 10:00 am Worship	16	17 9:00 am Prayer Group  2 pm Grief Group	18 12 pm Lunch at Pullman Place	19 1:30 pm Itchin' to Stitch at Plain Jane's  6:30 pm Choir Practice	20 Juneteenth Office closed  5:30 pm Wingtips Dinner	21 8 am Men's Prayer Breakfast
22 9:00 am Sunday School 10:00 am Worship	23	24 9:00 am Prayer Group	25 Youth Trip to Sky Zone 5:00 pm Grief Group 6:30 pm Choir	26	27 6:00 pm Monarch's Game	28 







Recently, the Council of Bishops announced a new vision statement for the UMC. The Council of Bishops is the denomination's highest governing body. Here is what they produced for us:

***The United Methodist Church forms disciples of Jesus Christ who, empowered by the Holy Spirit, love boldly, serve joyfully, and lead courageously in local communities and worldwide connections.***

They believe it is complementary to our mission statement inspired by Matthew 28:18-20, "The mission of The United Methodist Church is to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world." The local church provides the most significant arena where disciples are formed and made!

Isn't this what Jesus people should look like in all churches? Shouldn't we be loving God and all people "our neighbors" of every age, gender, race, nation, ethnicity, and walk of life? How do we follow Jesus without serving joyfully among the poor and vulnerable with compassion and care? Spirit-filled leadership in any organization takes courage to face oppression, evil, and injustice. Peacemaking isn't an easy task anywhere.

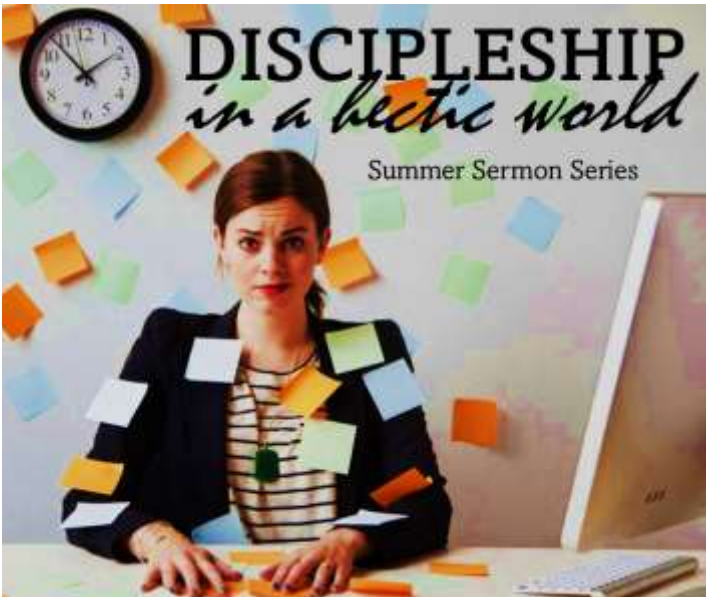
My question for FUMC of Leavenworth is this: **Where do we see this happening in our families, church, schools, businesses and community?** If it is not happening, who are we missing? Who are the invisible people that we do not see and fail to love, serve and lead?

I like that our new vision statement is biblically based and grounded in scripture. When I think of vision statements, I come back to the idea of "What should we look like as a church and as individual followers of Jesus Christ?" Love boldly, serve joyfully, lead courageously – sounds like and looks like Jesus. May the Spirit empower each of us and the Church to be formed in Christ's image for the sake of others!

**June 27, 6:00 pm**  
**Tickets \$42**  
Reserve your tickets at  
[egarven@fumclvks.org](mailto:egarven@fumclvks.org)

God created us to be human beings, not human doings, yet we often get so busy doing things that we forget to simply be. This summer, we will have one united worship service each Sunday at 10 am. Pastor Dave's summer sermon series will address God's desire to simply be with us, and give us strategies to help us focus on what is important to develop a deeper relationship with God.

If you love baseball the way Pastor Dave does, join us for a Monarch's game on June 27 at 6 pm. The ticket includes a buffet. Seats are all together so you can enjoy great fellowship during the game. To reserve your seats, sign up in the foyer or contact Ed at [egarven@fumclvks.org](mailto:egarven@fumclvks.org) by June 20.



## JUNE Birthdays

4th	Norma Moore	13th	Marguerite Hilscher	23rd	Shari Hansen
5th	Debbie Gebhardt		Mirinda Lowery		Rick Hansen
6th	Brenda Sheumaker	14th	Jeff John		Madison Martin
7th	Hank Keller	15th	Patti Edington	24th	Erika Tebbetts
	Dale Roller		Scott Glick	25th	Anya Anderson
8th	June Baker	18th	Libby Frashier		Jonas Anderson
	Shirley Nyhart		Kelsi Ko		Sadie Heim
9th	Steven Glick		Alyssa Wiegers	28th	Megan Briggs
	Jim Kinard	19th	Carolann Perry		Robyn Kellogg
10th	Karyn Dawson	20th	Bill Bay	30th	Donna Ramsey
11th	Virginia Perry		Gene Pepper		
12th	Sophie McNeill	21st	Jackson Kobe		
	Zack Short	22nd	Carla Hamon		
13th	Bethany Bond	23rd	Sheila Bailey		



## JUNE Anniversaries

4th	Scott & Aileen Hastings	43 years
6th	Colvin & Karen Hooser	38 years
	Bob & Linda Landzettel	43 years
8th	Bob & Mary Seymour	56 years
9th	Chris & Christine Owens Eckley	7 years
	Brian & Cynthia Wepking	41 years
10th	Arlen & Michelle Briggs	36 years
14th	Roy & Sandy Davis	55 years
	Dan & Sonia Wiley	39 years
	Brian & Sandy Wood	38 years
20th	Steve & Brenda Coats	38 years
	Chet & Stacey Cole	27 years
	Jeff & Debra Eyerly	44 years
21st	Thom & Jaimie Kirby	11 years
25th	Gene & Sandy Pepper	42 years
26th	Jim & Kaki Kinard	54 years
29th	Bob & Joan Atwell	73 years

If we missed your birthday or anniversary, please contact the office so we can update our records.  
[swood@fumclvks.org](mailto:swood@fumclvks.org)

## UPCOMING Events

**LET'S DO Lunch**  
WEDNESDAY, JUNE 18, NOON  
PULLMAN PLACE  
230 CHEROKEE ST.

**MEN'S PRAYER & STUDY BREAKFAST**  
JUNE 21  
8:00 AM  
FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT  
MIKE MIX [HAIRYMULE@GMAIL.COM](mailto:HAIRYMULE@GMAIL.COM)  
OR DAVE LANDIS [DLANDIS@HUGHES.NET](mailto:DLANDIS@HUGHES.NET)





We concluded youth group for the year on a strong note the last Sunday in April to give space for all of the end-of-school activities in May. May 11, we celebrated graduations across all ages (high school, college, post-graduate) with breakfast and a slideshow of our graduates during services.

Over the summer, we have monthly youth activities. In May we will be going to Worlds of Fun on May 28. We do this most years and it's always a hit. This year we got smart and

put it in May instead of July!

Don't forget, youth Sunday school goes all year long! During the one service weeks, we will meet from 9-9:45 am.

Here are the rest of the events for the summer:

**May 28, 11am-9pm** -- Worlds of Fun\*

**June 8, 11am-12pm** -- Pre-mission trip meeting

**June 25, 9am-4pm** -- Service project followed by Sky Zone\*

**July 7-11** -- Summer Mission Trip to Tulsa\*

**August 8-9** -- Annual Beginning of School Lock-In

**August 17** -- First Refuge Youth Group of the year

Registration is required for the events that have an asterisk and the registration links can be found in the parent email. Need help or want to be on the parent newsletter? Email Kristen at [khowell@fumclvks.org](mailto:khowell@fumclvks.org).



Young Adults meets every 1st and 3rd Wednesdays from 5-7pm for dinner and fellowship. May 17 we went to Breakout Lawrence for a Civil War and an Alice in Wonderland themed rooms with half of us going to one and half going to the other. I was in the Civil War room and I have got to say that it was maybe the best escape room I've ever done. Both groups escaped in time, though my group's was a real nail-biter with 1:19 still on the clock. Come join us at one of our twice-monthly meetings and keep an eye out for more fun outings. I will be starting an email newsletter soon, so let me know if you want me to put your email on the list!



**PARENTS HELPING PARENTS GROUP**

**JUNE 7, 10 AM**  
CHILD CARE PROVIDED

CONTACT KRISTEN FOR INFO  
[KHOWELL@FUMCLVKS.ORG](mailto:KHOWELL@FUMCLVKS.ORG)



It can be difficult to find friends once you have kids, especially with other parents who understand your life experience. Out of that struggle for connection, we are starting our Parents Group to create a place where all parents of Ages 0-18 can find comradery and fellowship. Our inaugural meeting is June 7 from 10am-12pm at the church. Coffee and donuts are provided, as well as childcare. Our first meeting will be spent getting to know one another and discussing what we want the structure of our group to be: study, fellowship, outings with kids, outings without kids, a little of everything...

We will also be choosing what day works best for us at this meeting, as I know

Saturdays can be a bit busy. Our plan right now is to meet once per month. Please RSVP if you will be there and if you need childcare by emailing Kristen at [khowell@fumclvks.org](mailto:khowell@fumclvks.org). Please also email me even if you won't be able to make it but want to receive information about events going forward. Hope to see you there!

Dear Friends,

Thank you so much for loving my kids during Mother's Morning Out! It was such a blessing to have some "me" time to do whatever I wanted or needed to do. The time, energy and effort you put in the morning is noticed, amazing and much appreciated. Thank you for being such a blessing to my family!

Love, The Richeys, Blake, Kamiko, Naomi, Braxton and Everett



Linus William Stupinski was born in West Virginia to parents of unknown origin and spent his early years as an orphan forced to support himself in any way he could. He was educated in the school of hard knocks, where he met his soulmate, Lucy. Together, they made the perfect team of scout and hunter, where he earned the nickname of "Artful Dodger." In 2020, Potomac Highlands Animal Rescue found Linus and Lucy roaming West Virginia ten miles from the nearest town. After reeling them in with hot dogs and the promise of a new life, Linus and Lucy—full of fleas and bloodsucking ticks—joined our family. Thus, began a journey of endless, unconditional love.

Linus lived in Virginia, Kansas, Minnesota, and Nevada. He ventured with his humans everywhere, seeing parts of this country that many haven't. He hiked in national parks in many different states, seeing mountains, oceans, forests, and canyons. However, his favorite place to visit was Mimi and Papa Gaffin's house where he was sure to have unlimited access to pupsicles, chewy bones, and delicious table scraps.

Linus had many enemies, notably the garbage truck, as well as UPS, FedEx, and mail trucks. He believed that protecting the house was his greatest mission. He had a disdain for gardening and peed on all pretty flowers. His favorite hobby was barking and bullying his little sister. He also was an excellent jumper, able to reach six feet straight up from a standing position. Linus hated to be dressed up – he let everyone know he was not there for their amusement.

He loved dinner, cookies, the cheese tax, his favorite ball, rides in the car (where he was a backseat driver), and his humans. He demanded a bed in every room in the house, and he switched beds often. But his favorite spot was on the sofa with his head resting in the lap of one of his humans.

Linus is survived by his humans, Danny and Karen, his grand-humans, Don, Marsha, Walter, and Bernadette, and his sister Lucy. He was preceded in death by his half sister Dagny. Unfortunately, he contracted metastatic lung cancer, which spread rapidly and for which there was no cure. Our tough boy has no more pain, and he never has to fear a thunderstorm again. If you knew Linus, you loved him, too. Rest assured, we held his paw until the very end. *Marsha*



## Why Are So Many People Homeless And How Can I Help?

Since 2019 inflation is up ~25% and wages have not kept up. Low- and fixed-income households are being priced out of their homes, leading them to move in with family or friends, or live in their car or outside. According to a HUD report, the US saw a 18% increase in homelessness in 2024 with families seeing a 38% increase. Many Kansans experiencing homelessness are employed and have an income, like disability. Lack of affordable housing drives up rent prices. There is no county in Kansas where a person working full time at minimum wage can afford a two bedroom apartment. A renter would need to work 75 hours a week at \$7.25 an hour or make \$16.91 to afford that in Kansas. When a family has to spend more than one third of their income for rent, they don't have enough money each month for necessities like food, utilities, transportation and medical care. Without adequate savings and support systems, these vulnerable households risk falling behind in rent and losing their housing when unexpected expenses arise.

**The Community of Hope is in urgent need of a few critical items.** First, they are low on bottled water and electrolyte packets. Staying hydrated during the summer heat is essential—especially for those living unhoused who don't have regular access to dishwashing facilities or bottle-filling stations. Your donation of bottled water helps prevent hospital visits due to dehydration and ensures our guests stay safe and well. They are also in need of laundry detergent. This is used daily to wash bedding from the Night Shelter as well as guests' clothing. Clean laundry may seem simple, but it offers dignity, health, and comfort to those they serve. Donations can be dropped off at the Community of Hope, 311 Kiowa, Sunday through Friday from 7 to 3 pm.







Greetings to each and every one.

This is a time of joy and gratitude to be alive – alive in this congregation and alive in the Kingdom of God. The Lord has blessed us with an abundance of water (rain) in the last two months in preparation for the planting, pruning and harvesting of our mission ahead. The roof is in progress. Now comes the guttering which will require some engineer drilling through the limestone facing of Wesley Hall and the office to allow exterior drainage of rain water. Thank you all for your support and patience during this longer than expected but weather dependent project. The entire goal of this project was to keep the water that comes from outside the church, outside the church. A special thank you to Grant “yes I can still climb a 30- foot ladder, but probably shouldn’t” Zschoche for supervising the project along with Mike Mix and your team of trustees that remained flexible, if not fluid (another water pun) during this complicated process.

Financially, the church is holding strong thanks to your loving obedience and stewardship of treasure. The love this congregation brings on a daily basis is serving ahead the rest of the year. Feeding the hungry (Samaritan’s Buffet, Leavenworth Mission Volunteers, Backpack Buddies), 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 (Itch’n to Stitch, Grief Share, Men’s Breakfast, Youth Mission, Kids First Worship, Bible Study Groups, Sunday School, Scouts and Music) are all opportunities for you to serve and love.

If you would like more information on these service ministries or you have an idea or other area where you believe we need to serve, please contact me @ [egarven@fumclvks.org](mailto:egarven@fumclvks.org).  
In Christ, Ed

# BLOOD DRIVE



## Tuesday, July 15



## 10 AM – 2 PM

Book an appointment at [savealifenow.org/group](https://savealifenow.org/group)  
enter group code:EH47

Every two seconds, someone needs blood. And every patient is different. While someone being treated for leukemia may need platelets, burn victims frequently need plasma. Red blood cells can mean the difference between life and death for a premature baby. Blood is typically collected as “whole blood” and then separated into its unique components: platelets, red cells, and plasma. Each can deliver a lifesaving benefit to someone in need.

**There is no substitute for blood.** Blood components cannot be synthetically made and can only come from volunteer donors. A unit of red blood cells can be stored for up to 42 days but platelets have a much shorter shelf life, lasting only 5 days. This is why there is a constant need for blood.

A healthy body produces about 2 million new red blood cells every second. Red blood cells have a lifespan of about 120 days. White blood cells are also constantly being made in the bone marrow. The lifespan of white blood cells varies depending on the type, with some living for only a few hours and others for much longer. Platelets are essential for blood clotting. They are also constantly being produced in the bone marrow and have a lifespan of about 6 days. Because your body is constantly making new blood, there is no such thing as being too old to give blood. The blood of a 90 year old person is exactly the same as a 19 year old. Also, the body quickly replenishes the blood that you give in a donation.

Nine out of 10 individuals will need blood or a blood product at some time in our lives. One out of every 10 hospital patients requires a transfusion. Although the average transfusion is three pints, some patients require more.

Only three percent of the population donate all the blood that is used by the US. Donating blood is a selfless act by one person to help save the lives of others. You can schedule an appointment at [savealifenow.org](https://savealifenow.org) or you can walk in on July 15. Will you take the time to give the gift of life?

## Well Done, Good & Faithful Servant

When I first started working here at FUMC, I inherited a wonderful group of volunteers that taught Sunday school, Children’s Church and Wonderful Wednesday. At this point, 18+ years later, those original volunteers have moved away or retired. Early on, I needed a new Pre-school Sunday school teacher. Enter Jeff Brown. For almost two decades, he has faithfully come Sunday after Sunday to teach our littlest ones about God’s story and Jesus’ love. He was also there for each Sunday school Christmas program, helping in whatever way he was needed from lighting to crowd control.

One of my favorite stories about him was when my son Caleb, who was in Mr. Brown’s class of 4-year-olds at the time (now he is 20!), saw Mr. Brown in the local Dillon’s and said, “Mr. Brown! How surprising to see you here!” Apparently, Caleb thought that Mr. Brown lived in the Sunday school room at the church!

In the last few years, Mr. Brown has been helping me to lead the children’s Sunday school class. He comes with his bag of supplies, his copy of the lesson for the day, and a positive and generous spirit. As he prepares to retire from his job and eventually move with his wife Elizabeth to be closer to his two daughters, he has decided it is also time to retire from teaching Sunday school. I will miss seeing him each week, although he has volunteered to be a back up if I need a substitute during the next year.

God has blessed FUMC with so many amazing volunteers. Each one of the children and our ministries benefit from the gifts that they bring. As Mr. Brown moves on, Jan Mix has already agreed to take his place. Many thanks to all of our volunteers. I say to Mr. Brown with heartfelt gratitude, “Well done, good and faithful servant.” *Nancy Shade*



## My Favorite Bible Verse

**The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands.  
Day after day they pour forth speech; night after night they reveal knowledge.  
They have no speech, they use no words; no sound is heard from them.  
Yet their voice goes out into all the earth, their words to the ends of the world.**

**Psalms 19:1-4**

For two weeks in May, I had the privilege of working from my mother’s home in southeast Kansas. There is nothing like a Kansas sunset, listening to the birds and the frogs. The stars are a little brighter out here as well because there isn’t as much light pollution. The incredible beauty of creation always leads me back to the Creator. God didn’t have to make so many different shapes and colors of flowers, but he did because he knew we would enjoy them. I find it difficult to understand how someone could look at the complexities of nature and how everything is interrelated and dependent on other species and not see that it has an intricate design, and thus, a designer. To me, nature sings a beautiful song of praise to our Creator.

*Sandy Wood*







**Kids First Worship** is for kids ages 3 years through 4th grade. In June we will meet during the 10:00 service each Sunday on the lower floor of the Sanctuary building. The month of June we will begin a Road Trip through the Fruit of the Spirit.

June 1: Love  
June 8: Joy  
June 15: Peace  
June 22: Patience  
June 29: Kindness



**Sunday School** is for kids ages 3 years through 4th grade and meets on Sundays from 9:00 – 9:50 am in room 202. We will be studying the same lessons as Kids First Worship, taking time to go a little deeper



**Fusion 56** (our special group for 5th and 6th graders), will be taking a break from regular meetings this summer. We will meet July 13 after church. Invite your friends to join you. Please let Nancy Shade know if you plan to attend at [nshade@fumclvks.org](mailto:nshade@fumclvks.org).

**Wonderful Wednesday** is a fantastic way to remind children that God is not just for Sunday, he is for EVERY day. Designed for kids ages 3 years through 6th grade, we will meet in the Education Building from 3:45 – 5:30 pm during the school year. This past school year, we took a journey through the book of Genesis. Starting in August, we will pick up where Genesis left off with the stories of Moses and the Exodus.



**DAY 1 Noah and the Ark** **Donation: Canned tuna**  
**When you Obey....God Comes to the Rescue!**

Bible Verse: If we have to choose between obedience to God and obedience to any other human authority, then we must obey God. Acts 5:29

**DAY 2 Baby Moses in a Basket** **Donation: Pasta and Spaghetti Sauce**  
**When you Trust...God Comes to the Rescue!**

Bible Verse: He's the Rock and his work is perfect, everything he does is right. He's the God who can be trusted... Deuteronomy 32:4

**DAY 3 Jesus Calms the Storm** **Donation: Peanut Butter and Jelly**  
**When Storms Come...God Comes to the Rescue!**

Bible Verse: When you face stormy seas, I will be there with you with endurance and calm... Isaiah 43:2

**DAY 4 Peter Walks on Water** **Donation: Cereal**  
**When you Doubt...God Comes to the Rescue!**

Bible Verse: Don't be shy, don't be doubtful; lift up your eyes and look around. Isaiah 60:4

**DAY 5 Paul is Shipwrecked** **Donation: Canned Fruit**  
**When you are Scared...God Comes to the Rescue!**

Bible Verse: And He will be leading you. He'll be with you and He'll never fail you or abandon you. So don't be afraid! Deuteronomy 31:8

We will need LOTS of volunteers for VBS. To register as a volunteer or a participant, go to our website [fumclvks.org](http://fumclvks.org). For more information on Children's ministry, contact Nancy Shade at [nshade@fumclvks.org](mailto:nshade@fumclvks.org).



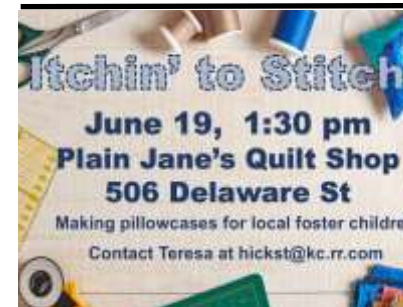
## Juneteenth Celebration

On June 19 we celebrate Juneteenth because in June 1865 the enslaved Black people in Texas found out about the Emancipation Proclamation, which freed them. It had been signed by President Lincoln two years earlier. The holiday is referred to as "Freedom Day" because that's when all Americans were finally free.

On June 14, the Leavenworth NAACP is hosting a Juneteenth celebration. They believe that sharing traditions with fellow community members creates strong bonds that transcend differences. Their celebration will begin with a parade at 6:30 pm, followed by a festival at Haymarket Square. The festival will include games, crafts, food, and music.

**Jesus called a little child to him, and placed the child among them. He said: "Truly I tell you, unless you change and become like little children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. Matthew 18:2-5**

Kristen and her daughters, Junia and Marsali were at a store when a huge storm with hail and thunder and heavy rain started pounding on the roof. Junia and Marsali got very frightened. About ten minutes in to the storm, Juni said, "Oh! I know! Jesus will calm the storm! Jesus always calms the storms!" The storm would die down and pick back up intermittently and every time it picked back up, she would say, "Sounds like Jesus is still working on that storm!" Oh, to have the faith of a little child when the storms of life hit us!



The Itchin' to Stitch June gathering will be on the 3rd Thursday, June 19th at 1:30 pm; however, just for June, their location will be at Plain Jane's Studio 506 Delaware St. They'll be working assembly line style on pillowcases to give to a newly opening closet for local foster children. They hope to meet the woman who is establishing this new undertaking and gift her their items. Parking is tight but call Becky or Teresa so that they can meet you at the front door if you need to unload, then you will need to park in a public parking space or lot nearby. Please call Teresa if you have questions. (913-680-5196)



Many of our military families mentioned how welcome they felt here. They need to find a church family quickly and first impressions really do matter whether you are a military family or not. The new CGSC families are moving into our area. We can expect visitors any time this summer. So here are some tips to help any visitor feel at home.

- \* **The 3 minute rule.** Sometimes when we come to church we get so caught up talking with our old friends, that we forget to look for new people. Hospitality is not just the responsibility of the greeters. We all need to be friendly and welcoming. It can be very intimidating to come into a large building full of people when you don't know anyone. The 3 minute rule says, "Look for new people to greet the first 3 minutes that you enter the church, before you get caught up in other conversations and activities."
- \* **Smile.** The "experts" say that someone needs five smiles in the first 15 minutes of arriving at a new place to feel welcome. Even if you're shy, you can smile.
- \* **Help visitors find restrooms and the nursery.** We all know there is coffee and doughnuts in Wesley Hall, but a visitor doesn't. Our restrooms and children's areas may be hard to find. If you see a new family with kids, offer to walk them downstairs and help them find their way to the nursery. Studies have shown that many families choose a church based upon their children's needs and we have a wonderful children's program, so let's help them find it.
- \* **Remember names.** If you meet a new family, make a point to write down their name so you will remember it the next week. Nothing makes a person feel more welcome than someone remembering their name.
- \* **Look for ways to go the extra mile.** If someone is coughing, bring them a bottle of water. Let them know about our newsletter or the Upper Room. If there is a church function coming up, give them a personal invitation. If you really want to go the extra mile, invite them to lunch after the service.

**This church is filled with loving and generous people. Let's help visitors discover all we have to offer.**



# Loving Our Neighbors As Ourselves

Most of us have had the privilege to live in a safe and comfortable home our entire lives. But there are some people who were not born with the same resources we enjoy. The Interfaith Community of Hope is a wonderful alternative for an emergency homeless problem, but it is not a long term solution. Sister Vickie Perkins realized this as she was working with people who used the shelter. Rent in Leavenworth is extremely expensive and it's very hard to come up with a rental deposit along with first month's rent when you are just starting a new job. So, Sister Vickie, and a board of 30 people joined forces with DePaul, a charitable grant organization, to form Leavenworth Attainable Housing (LAH). They were donated some homes that needed repair and they purchased some other homes. Soon, they were providing homes for people who may have never had a home before. But LAH is more than just a home: there are four pillars that each resident must agree to.

**Financial Help** - LAH has several financial advocates that meet with participants weekly to help them learn to budget. The house is not free. Participants must have an income. They pay approximately one third of their income as rent. Financial advocates find out what the participants hopes and dreams are and then they create a plan to make those dreams a reality. One participant's dream is to build her own house and they are helping her toward her dream.

**Physical and Mental Health** - If they don't have insurance, LAH helps them with the paperwork needed for healthcare and St. Vincent's clinic provides basic health needs. Almost all the participants need mental health care and the Guidance Center provides those needs. Some participants need help with addictions to be successful.

**Community** - If a person has been homeless for a period of time, they may not have family or community connections. They may need help building relationships. Everyone in the program gets together once a month. They are learning to help each other. They're also asked to be a part of our greater community by registering to vote and participate in community events like the City Clean Up Day.

**House** - The house is the fourth pillar and only comes after the other three pillars are in place. A Housing Specialist checks with the residents every week to teach residents how to maintain the house. They look to see if the house needs any repairs. Often people that live in low income housing will not report repairs because they are afraid of their rent being raised or being evicted. LAH uses the rent money for repairs and to pay the utilities.

In 2024 LAH owned or operated 19 houses. They served 22 adults and 18 children. Their residents are between the ages of 2 and 75. They have a 98% retention rate. Sister Vickie said, "This is God working. No one person or one church could do this alone. It is because of God and people coming together. When we all come together, it works."

In 2025, LAH will build four more one bedroom duplexes and continue to renovate unused homes so they can help more families. Sister Amy Wilcott, the current director of LAH said, "Our vision is that LAH may lead to the flourishing of all – including the local community. It takes all of us to provide the financial, volunteer, and prayerful support to renovate homes and help rebuild the lives of our brothers and sisters exiting homelessness. It is possible and it is solvable, if we only work together."

She also said, "In each of our houses are people who now feel safe and have a circle of support to assist them.

They contribute to this community by working, patronizing businesses, sending their children to school – just like the rest of us. We are all God's beloved."

Tay Denson, who has been a resident for two years said, "There is no judgement. I am treated with respect which makes me feel welcomed, loved and appreciated for being myself."

If you would like to hear more about LAH, they are having a fundraising dinner on June 6 at 6 pm at the St Francis de Sales Catholic Church in Lansing. There will be community leaders speaking about LAH and other ways our community is working together to make real changes. The tickets are \$40 for adults and \$15 for children. You can purchase tickets by contacting Sister Amy Wilcott at [awillcott@scls.org](mailto:awillcott@scls.org).



# Scouts Are Learning To Become Good Citizens

May is a very good month. Not because it is the end of the school year, but rather it is the ramp up for summer camp. That means the Cub Scouts finish all of their requirements for advancement and finishing. The Cub Scouts had BIG fun out in the green space. They had to build a fire and cook dinner. Just in time for that cast iron oven dessert, Scouts from Troop 173 returned from completing their Order of the Arrow Ordeal.

The Ordeal is a big deal for a young scout stepping into a new role. Order of the Arrow Ordeal is the first step in becoming a member of the Order of the Arrow (OA), the honor society of Scouting America. It is designed to test a Scout's dedication to service, leadership, and the values of Scouting. During the Ordeal, candidates experience:

- Silence – Encouraged to reflect on their commitment to Scouting.
- Limited Food – A simple meal to symbolize self-denial.
- Arduous Labor – A full day of service to the camp or community.
- Sleeping Alone – under the stars, reinforcing self-reliance.

The ceremony itself is meant to be memorable and mysterious, but it is not a test—there's no skill requirement, just a willingness to embrace the experience. After completing the Ordeal, members can later advance to Brotherhood and Vigil Honor levels.

May is also memorable because it is Memorial Day weekend. All Scouts and families are invited and encouraged to participate in placing flags at the graves at the VA Cemeteries. Then on Memorial Day, Troop 173 actively participated in the Leavenworth VA Memorial Day Ceremony, a solemn event honoring fallen heroes. It is one thing to have hundreds of people helping to place 48,386 flags, but it is another when only a handful of folks volunteer to pick up those flags the following weekend. That is right, the Scouts from our Scouting Ministry were there to help pick up, sort and return the flags for next year.







Chef Kelly Jenkins, Morgan Belardo, Chef Cece Krelitz, Elaine Belardo

# Sweet Changes

In 2017, when she was still in high school, Morgan Belardo decided to participate in the Alzheimer's Association's Longest Day fundraiser because her father, Jose, was living with dementia and she knew what a difference that had made in her family. She loved to bake, so she invited some of her friends to her house and they baked cookies and cupcakes and held a bake sale. They sold the items out of her home

and raised a couple of hundred dollars for the Alzheimer's Association.

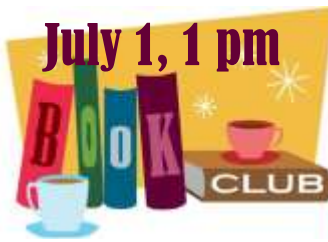
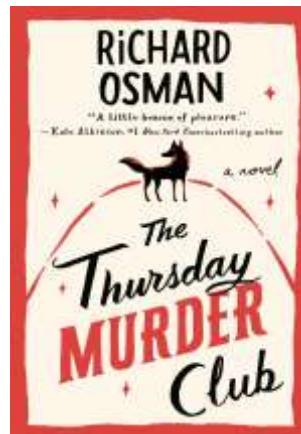
For six more years, Morgan organized a bake sale. The sales got bigger and bigger and they have raised tens of thousands of dollars for the Alzheimer's Association, and now, The Deeper Window Association here in Leavenworth. But this year, Morgan is working as a pastry chef at Walt Disney World Resorts and will not be able to come home to organize the bake sale. But never fear, the sale will go on thanks to two of Morgan's teachers and the wonderful volunteers that have helped for seven years.

This year many things about the sale will be different. Chef Cece Krelitz and Chef Kelly Jenkins will be leading the volunteers in baking at the KCKCC Pioneer Career Center where Morgan was once a student. This is a professional kitchen with culinary equipment designed for large scale baking. Chef Kelly Jenkins, her instructor at KCKCC said, "The Sweet Exchange is very important to me. When I found out that they were looking for a place to have the longest day bake sale this year, I offered the use of our culinary kitchen. Morgan will always be a part of our KCKCC Culinary Arts family. This event she has created is not only a wonderful tribute to her father, but an everlasting way to help families in our community navigate dementia."

Chef Cece Krelitz was Morgan's baking instructor at Johnson & Wales University in North Carolina. She said, "When I found out about the event, I wanted to be a part of it. In 2022 I sent cookies and some candied nuts. In 2023 I was able to fly to town on a Thursday to help bake or do whatever Morgan needed. I was so amazed and impressed with Morgan and her event that I wanted to return and be able to help more with baking so in 2024 I was in town for over a week. Now this year, I am coming back for 10 days. The past two years have given me the best understanding of what this event means to the Belardo's, The Deeper Window and the community at large. I look forward to being part of another successful Sweet Exchange."

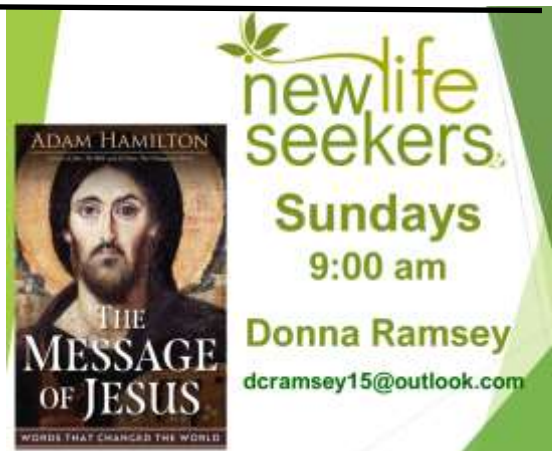
Another change in the sale this year is that it will not be held at The Deeper Window Association building; it will be at the KCKCC Pioneer Center at 1901 Spruce St. The Deeper Window is excited to be starting construction to expand their current building. Sister Vickie Lichtenauer, The Deeper Window director said, "We are so grateful for the new expansion. It will provide a safer flow to the day and more opportunities for a new space with natural light." Currently the Deeper Window program has 18 regular attenders. They enjoy music, exercise, crafts, and community service opportunities. They often have visits from local preschools and Human Animal Bond members bring their pets for visits. They recently added yoga, bowling and arm chair travel around the world to their activities. Deeper Windows also has a support group for caregivers that meets on the first and third Wednesdays of each month at 729 Pennsylvania.

Elaine Belardo, the founder of the Deeper Window Association said, "The bake sale is held for 12 hours in solidarity with families braving a dementia journey where all of their days are long. People can expect the same high quality baked goods they have enjoyed in previous bake sales." The Sweet Exchange is June 14 from 7 am to 7 pm. But you don't want to come late. Even though last year they baked over 7,000 items, they sold out.



If you are looking for a fun book to read this summer, consider *The Thursday Murder Club* by Richard Osman. In a peaceful retirement village, four unlikely friends meet weekly in the Jigsaw Room to discuss unsolved crimes; together they call themselves the Thursday Murder Club. When a local developer is found dead with a mysterious photograph left next to the body, the Thursday Murder Club suddenly find themselves in the middle of their first live case. As the bodies begin to pile up, can our unorthodox but brilliant gang catch the killer, before it's too late? Join us to discuss this entertaining mystery on July 1 at 1 pm in Wesley Hall. For more information, contact Sandy at [swood@fumclvks.org](mailto:swood@fumclvks.org).

There are four great Sunday School classes that meet at 9 am each week in the Education building. The New Life Seekers class meets on the second floor in room 203. They are starting a new Bible Study in June by Adam Hamilton from Church of the Resurrection in Kansas City. *The Message of Jesus: Words That Changed The World* explores six of the most important themes in Jesus's teachings, why they matter, and how they speak to us today. The book will explore Jesus's preaching on the Kingdom of God, the Sermon on the Mount, the parables, the "I am" sayings in John, and more. Jesus's message is not only life-changing, but world-changing. Donna is a great resource if you have questions. Contact her at [dcramsey15@outlook.com](mailto:dcramsey15@outlook.com).



Today, for most Kenyans, access to basic quality services such as health care, education, clean water, and sanitation, is a luxury. Forty-two percent of its population of 46 million people live below the poverty line (set at \$1.46 per day in urban areas and \$0.68 in rural ones), and there is no government assistance to people living in poverty. Subsequently, many poor families cannot provide basic needs to their children so their children are abandoned, dropped off at orphanages, left at hospitals, or sold into slavery or sex trafficking. It is estimated that there are 2.8 million orphans and vulnerable children in Kenya. While poverty is a significant problem leading to children being abandoned and vulnerable, about 47% of these children are said to be orphaned because of HIV and AIDS.

Dominion Model School plays a vital role in the lives of children from the village of Obaga, Kenya, particularly those from families impacted by the dual challenges of widowhood and HIV. With a capacity to support 250 students, Dominion Model School currently serves 75 children across grades 1 to 9. The children are supported there by Godparents through Global Hope.

It costs \$45 per month to be a Global Hope Godparent. When you choose to become a Godparent, your support provides for your Godchild's necessities such as quality caregivers, education, medical care, clothing, and food. The money is sent by Global Hope to the ministry partner entrusted with the care of the children; the money is not sent directly to families. You can learn more about Global Hope and their work not only in Kenya, but also India and Romania at [Global Hope.org](http://Global Hope.org).



# FAMILY @ FUMC

May 11 we celebrated graduates and moms, both are the future of the church. Enjoy photos of their special day.

