



First United Methodist Church

of

Leavenworth

422 Chestnut, Leavenworth, KS 66048

913-682-5374 FUMCLVKS.ORG



RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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Educational Bldg.: 913-675-7495
E-mail: office@fumclvks.org
Office Hours—M-Th 9a-3p, Friday—9a-noon



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

May 2025

27 8:30 & 11:00 Worship 9:45am Sunday School	28	29 9 am Prayer Group 10:00 am Bible Study	30 1 pm H & S 3:45 pm WW 6:30 pm Choir	1 8:30am Staff 6:30pm Women's Bible Study	2	3 
4 8:30 & 11:00 Worship 9:45am Sunday School	5	6 9 am Prayer Group 10 am Bible Study 1 pm Book Club	7 12 pm Lunch at Tampicos 1 pm H & S 3:45 pm WW 6:30 pm Choir	8 8:30am Staff 6:30pm Women's Bible Study	9	10
11 Graduation Sunday 8:30 & 11:00 Worship 9:45am Sunday School and breakfast	12	13 9 am Prayer Group 10 am Bible Study	14 8:30 am MMO 1 pm H & S 3:45 pm WW 6:30 pm Choir	15 8:30am Staff 1:30 pm Itchin' to Stitch 6:30pm Bible Study	16	17 8:00 am Men's Prayer Breakfast
18 8:30 & 11:00 Worship 9:45am Sunday School	19	20 9 am Prayer Group 10 am Bible Study 2 pm Spouse Grief Share	21 1:30 pm H & S 3:45 pm WW 5 pm Grief Share 6:30 pm Choir	22 8:30am Staff	23	24 
25 9 am Sunday School ONE SERVICE 10 am	26 Memorial Day Office closed	27 9 am Prayer Group	28 11 am Youth Worlds of Fun trip 5 pm Grief Share 6:30 pm Choir	29 8:30am Staff	30	31

LIFE @

First United Methodist church

May 2025



"Let the children come to me;
do not stop them,
for it is to such as these that
the kingdom of God belongs."

Mark 10:14



Think
on these
things...



When I was teaching, May was always a harvest month for me. It was a joy to see students have much of their hard work pay off with awards, championships, recognition, and scholarships. It was the reward for so much devotion to their labors. The pride of accomplishment was evident for all to see: a sense of completion that the school year was done. May brings us a season of celebration, too. Our magazine is filled with good news and stories.

The end of one season is the beginning of another. For some, they are entering a time of anxiety with not knowing what the future holds - a time in between "what was and what will be." It's good to remember that God is at work in those liminal spaces. Retirements, graduations, new jobs, ending relationships, or change in location can all be examples of those changes. While we may be out of our comfort zone and feeling uneasy about what comes next, God is trustworthy and faithful. The Lord has already been working to make a way for each one of us. In reflecting on the time between the resurrection and Pentecost, the disciples were confused and amazed. They knew Jesus had risen but weren't exactly sure of what they were supposed to do next. In these times, it is good to wait upon the Lord. The next chapter of life will be filled with God's grace!

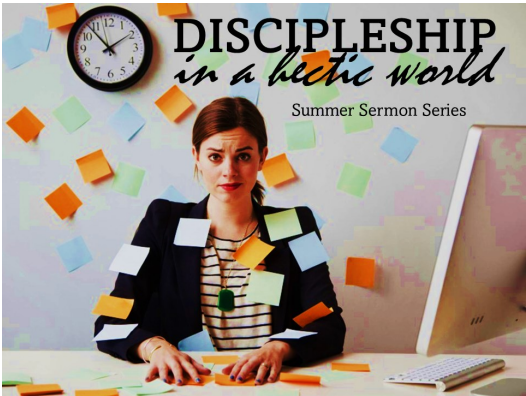
While school is ending and new chapters of life are being written, we will celebrate our graduates on May 11. The future holds good things for you. Not always easy things as you will have challenges and trials. Failures will come your way – that's how you learn. Abundant triumphs and accomplishments will happen, too. We pray blessings on each one of you as you complete the work that God has given you to do! God is with us always!!

"If one part is honored, every part rejoices with it!" 1 Corinthians 12:26



Thank you to everyone who volunteered or gave blood at our Emergency Blood Drive on April 15.

In June Pastor Dave will start a new series called *Discipleship in a Hectic World*. He will cover topics such as Sabbath, simplicity and solitude. He will include strategies to set priorities and grow closer to God.



Make plans to join us for breakfast on May 11 at 9:30 am. We will be honoring mothers and graduates. You can grab something quick if you attend Sunday School, or sit awhile and make some friends. The 8:30 and 11:00 am services on May 11 will be identical. They will feature various musical groups from the church and will focus on praise and prayer.

MAY Birthdays



1st	Ainslee Frederick	14th	Connie Poe	20th	Rosemary Jacobs
	Matthew McKinley		Jan Glick		Sandy Pepper
2nd	Megan Rust		Michael Piper		Sheryl Reddell
4th	Christine Bowser		Lawson Stuhlsatz	21st	Delany Hladky
	Jesse Stanley	15th	Lucien Rader	22nd	Penny Bowen
5th	Dean Hamon		Karen Tish		Paisley Hladky
	Sarah Williams	17th	Dinah Zeck	23rd	Sarah Lauber
6th	Willem White	18th	Don Gaffin	24th	Somer Stuhlsatz
8th	Tammy John		Isaac Papineau	25th	Dana Piper
	AnnaBella VanDyne		Luke Papineau	27th	Diane Booth
9th	Esther Polson	19th	Michael McKinley	28th	Susanna Banker
10th	Max Hubbert	19th	Cynthia Wepking		Vera Hrabak
12th	Natalie Heim	20th	Donna Cade		

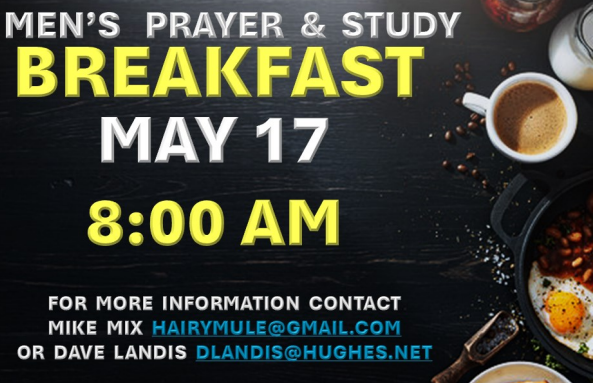
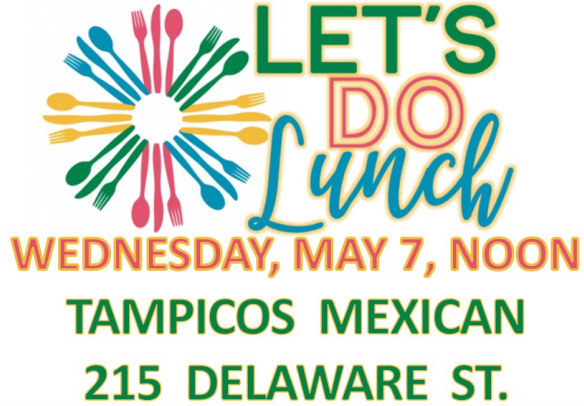
MAY Anniversaries

18th	Richard & Suzanne Gray	30 years
	Dae & Jennifer Ko	23 years
23rd	David & Christine Varnal	10 years
24th	Jim & Cynthia Walley	50 years



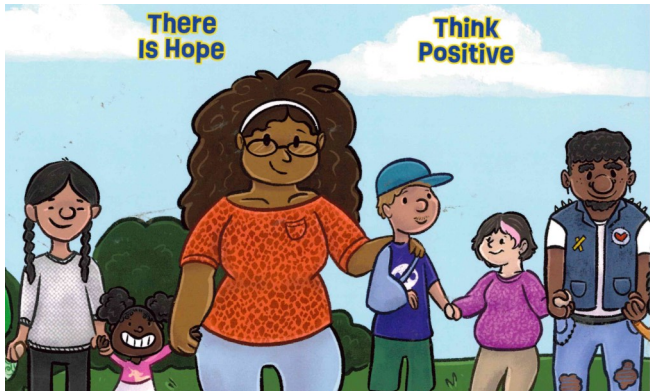
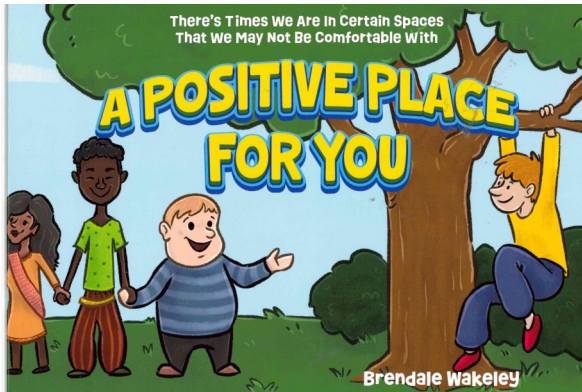
Did we miss your birthday or anniversary? Please help us update our records. Send an email with your current address, phone number and birthday to Sandy at swood@fumclvks.org.

UPCOMING Events





Brendale Wakeley



In 2024, Brendale was a caretaker for her husband, Doug, who lived with Alzheimer's. He experienced sundowners and so he became especially agitated and restless after 4 pm. These times were difficult for Brendale because she could not let him out of her sight and she had to continually distract him from negative behavior. One evening after a stressful day Brendale finally got Doug settled in bed but she knew she could not sleep yet because Doug often got up and wandered. So she began to write. She poured out her desire to create a positive place for Doug and also to remind herself to stay positive. Once she started writing, she continued for months. Whenever she had a few free moments from caring for Doug, she would write.

Brendale drew upon her experience working at Xavier Preschool here in Leavenworth. She loved working with the children. She loved watching the children and how easily they made friends. She said, "A child might get angry with another child if they take their toy, but they forgive easily."

She remembered one little boy that cursed at the other children when he was mad. The other kids avoided him because he scared them. She sat down and talked to him about why he cursed. He told her that his father always seemed angry and he would curse at him. So she asked the boy, "What makes your father happy?". He said fishing, so Brendale and the little boy would draw pictures of fish for his father to make the situation more positive. It was situations like this that inspired Brendale to publish all the things she had been writing while caring for Doug because she wanted to help other children know that they were important and that they can take action to make difficult situations more positive.

Brendale did some research and found a publishing company that would create illustrations, help her edit the book and then publish it. They went through several revisions of the book and then Doug's care took the forefront of Brendale's attention and she kind of forgot about the book for a while. Doug passed away in December 2024 so she had more time to focus on the book again.

Brendale said, "I started thinking about me and Doug. We were a mixed couple black and white - and in a way I think we were like a rainbow." One of the lines from her book says, "We are like a rainbow of colors wonderfully made. We are a bridge built on love, faith, hope and strength that endure the challenges of life. Learn from all the things that come out of a situation. There will be good times as well as bad times but the lesson learned is timing. Take time and understand everything in the moments that takes your breath away."

If you would like to purchase a copy of Brendale's book, they are available online at Barnes and Noble. Simply put Brendale Wakeley in the search bar. Hard copies are \$19.99 and soft covers are \$11.99.



We are a family. One of the ways we grow closer is by sharing our experiences, both joyful and sorrowful. We want to share your story as well. You may not think your story is exciting, but it may truly help someone who is experiencing something similar. If you have the courage to share your story, contact Sandy at swood@fumclvks.org.


Itchin' to Stitch

Itchin' to Stitch presented Stephanie Kier with a baby blanket for Hadley this month. They were also hard at work making bibs for local nursing homes. They use old men's shirts. They cut off the back and arms and leave a large front and collar the nursing home workers can button up for residents. They love them! The Stitchers also make quilts for various charities. They meet on May 15 at 1:30 pm. Anyone who loves to sew is welcome to join them. For more information, contact Teresa at hicks@kc.rr.com.

In addition to their regular meeting, there are some upcoming quilt shows. May 3rd is the annual Sunflower Piecemakers Quilt Guild Show in Lansing at the Activity Center/Gym. The show will give you lots of inspiration as well as the opportunity to shop at the vendors. June 11-14 is the KC Regional Festival at the Overland Park Convention Center. Check out their website, kcrqf.com, for classes and demo schedules. There is also a vendors market as well as competition quilts that are just breathtaking.



The Deeper Window Association and the Council on Aging are presenting an informative seminar for dementia caregivers on May 31 from 8 am to 12:30 pm. This free class will feature practical advice from doctors and professionals who work in this field. Please register by calling the Leavenworth Council on Aging at 913-684-0777 or emailing vacaregivereducation@gmail.com.



Not This!

Hope for the Caregiver

2025 DEMENTIA CAREGIVER EDUCATION CONFERENCE

Location: Leavenworth County Council on Aging
711 Marshall St., Ste 100, Leavenworth, KS 66048

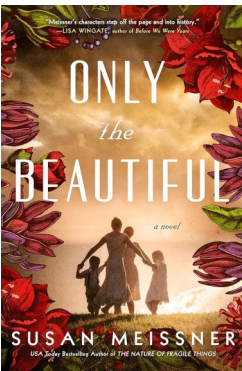
This exciting event is free and features distinguished speakers presenting exciting approaches, valuable caregiving insights, techniques, and resources. Enjoy rich discussions and Q & A's. The Virtual Reality Experience will allow you to have a better understanding of Alzheimer's from the patient's perspective.

8:00 - 8:20 a.m. - Registration / Sign-In / Refreshments
8:20 - 8:30 a.m. - Introduction / Welcome: Maritza Buenaver, MD and Connie Harmon, MSED, CPM, Director, Council on Aging
8:30 - 9:20 a.m. - Not this! A deeper look after diagnosis / family and friends: Elaine Belardo, BSN, The Deeper Window Association, Founder
9:20 - 10:00 a.m. - The Caregiver's Voice: Maritza Buenaver, MD
10:00 - 10:10 a.m. - Break / Refreshments
10:10 - 10:35 a.m. - Jessica Pontbriant, Human Services Coordinator, Leavenworth Council on Aging
10:35 - 11:00 a.m. - Awareness Presentation / Resources: Michelle King Community Program Specialist, Alzheimer's Association, Heart of America
11:00 - 11:15 a.m. - Meals on Wheels Benefits: Connie Harmon, MSED, CPM, Director, Council on Aging
11:15 - 11:30 a.m. - The Value of Caregiver Support Groups: Elaine Belardo, BSN, The Deeper Window Association, Founder
11:30 - 11:45 a.m. - Break / Refreshments
11:45 - 12:30 p.m. - Virtual Reality: Experience the stages of Alzheimer's Disease from the patient's and caregiver's perspective – "An Eye-Opening Educational Experience" – Diane Greenlaw, VR Trainer / Coordinator

MAY 31 SATURDAY 8:00 AM to 12:30 PM "Free Event" Registration Details Below



Operation International is looking for sponsors for the incoming class of international officers studying at Ft Leavenworth. They'll arrive in June and stay for one year. Each officer receives three sponsors: one from Ft Leavenworth, one from the Leavenworth/Lansing community, and one from Kansas City. Please contact Mike Brettmann at 913-724-2864 if you are interested or have any questions.



The Book Club meets on the first Tuesday of each month to discuss a new book. We read all different genres. In May we will be reading *Only the Beautiful* by Susan Meissner. We'll meet to discuss it June 3 at 1 pm. Here is a synopsis. When she loses her parents in an accident, sixteen-year-old Rosanne is taken in by the owners of the vineyard where she has lived her whole life as the vinedresser's daughter. She moves into Celine and Truman Calvert's spacious house with a secret, however—Rosie sees colors when she hears sound. She promised her mother she'd never reveal her little-understood ability to anyone, but the weight of her isolation and grief prove too much for her. Driven by her loneliness she not only breaks the vow to her mother, but, in a desperate moment, lets down her guard and ends up pregnant. Banished, Rosanne believes she is bound for a home for unwed mothers. But she soon finds out she is not going to a home of any kind, but to a place that seeks to forcibly take her baby – and the chance for any future babies – from her.



Youth group has wrapped up for the school year. We don't meet in May because everyone's schedules are so wild. That does not mean, however, that FUMC Youth will not be meeting over the summer months. We still have youth Sunday school year-round, which is a great opportunity to do a more in-depth dive into specific books and topics in the Bible. We do Bible book studies often (all contained in Sunday morning – no homework, promise!) and get more of an informational background for some of the more thematic things we discuss in youth group. Right now, we are studying Exodus (and will be for the foreseeable future. It's long!). It's one of my very favorite books in the whole Bible.



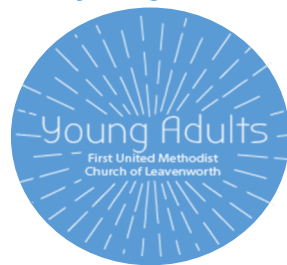
Summer Schedule

Wednesday, May 28, 11am-9pm - Worlds of Fun Outing - Lunch and dinner provided, cost is free. Please RSVP to Kristen or Steven, including for friends by May 25.

Wednesday, June 25, 9am-4pm - Service & Sky Zone - We will be helping people with lawn work in the morning, followed by lunch and Sky Zone in the afternoon. Please RSVP to Kristen or Steven, including for friends.

Monday, July 7 - Friday, July 11 - Youth Mission Trip to Tulsa - We will be serving communities that have been impacted by wildfires through outreach projects and assisting local organizations. We will also be staying on the lake and having fun around town, too. It will be a great time for spiritual growth and to make good friendships. Please let us know you plan to attend ASAP.

Friday, August 8 - Saturday, August 9 - School kick-off lock-in save the date. More specific details to follow.



Young Adults is a group for anyone ages 18-35 that meet the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of the month. We eat dinner together, discuss how our faith applies to our daily lives, hang out, and play games. It's a fun group of people and a great place to make friends. Please let Kristen Howell know if you'd like more info at khowell@fumclvks.org. On May 17, we will be going out for an escape room and food. RSVP to Kristen if you plan to attend.



Becoming a parent is a major life shift and can be isolating for many who don't already have a group of other parent friends or a community of support. We're aiming to be that community! Do you have kids between birth and 18? You're invited to join us for our new parents group. Our first meeting will be Saturday, June 7, from 10am to 12 pm at the church so we can get to know one another and determine what we want the group to be going forward (i.e. support group, community, study, family outings, a combo of all?). Childcare will be provided for any meeting we aren't doing a whole-family activity. Please RSVP to Kristen at khowell@fumclvks.org and let me know how many adults and how many kids will be present so we can plan accordingly. I look forward to seeing you there!

No Photo Available



Lucas Franssen

Kansas State University
Masters in Architecture

Ryan Johnson

St. Louis University
BS in Exercise Science
working on a medical degree



Morgan Johnson

Bachelor of Fine Arts and
Bachelor of Art Education
from Southern Illinois
University– Edwardsville



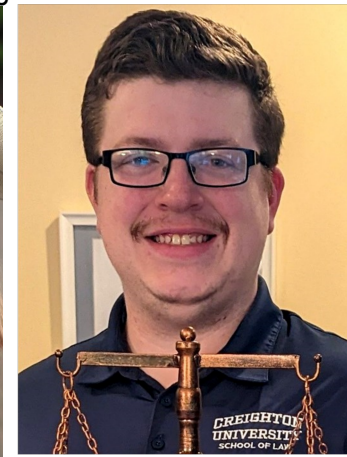
Bailey Ko

University of Kansas
BS in Nursing
She'll be working at
Children's Mercy Hospital



Sarah Lauber

Kansas State University
BS in Animal Science and
Industry. She'll work at a
vet clinic while pursuing a
master's in Veterinary
Biomedical Science and
applying to vet school



Colin Mott

Creighton School of Law
Juris Doctorate
He hopes to practice law
in Leavenworth and help
people with Estate
Planning, Contract Law,
Real Estate Law



Liam Ne Idig

University of St Mary
BS in Applied
Mathematics
He plans to continue
working on an
Engineering degree



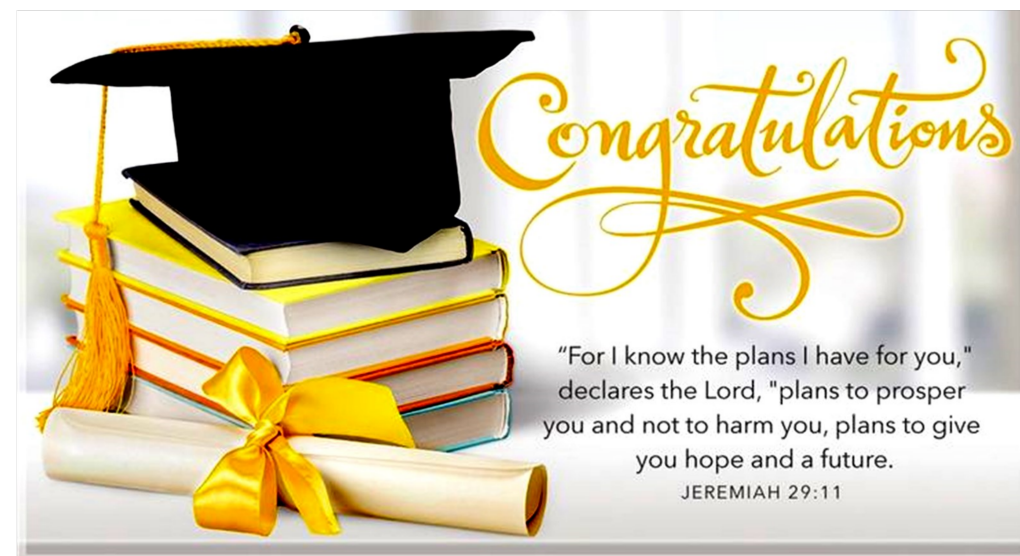
Lucien Rader

Construction Science
KCKCC
He plans to continue his
education



Christina Wiley

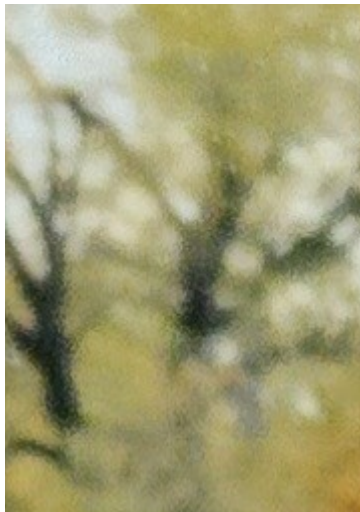
Vanderbilt University
Doctorate of Nursing



"For I know the plans I have for you,"
declares the Lord, "plans to prosper
you and not to harm you, plans to give
you hope and a future."

JEREMIAH 29:11

Congratulations! Class of 2025!



Stacey McGrew
Leavenworth High School
National Honor Society
Plans on going to
University of Arlington
to become a vet



Kaelyn Mohan
Lansing High School
Plans on going to
Junior College &
working



Madison Mohan
Lansing High School
Plans on going to
Junior College &
working



John Short
Leavenworth High School
Plans on going to
Missouri Western University
to play football and study
Sports Media/Management

No Photo Available



Emma Yates
Leavenworth High School



Aaron Brown
Missouri S&T
BS in Ceramic Engineering
Minor in music Going to
University of Arizona
To get a PhD in
Materials Science

Wyatt Brown
Associates KCKCC
going to K-State
to study Athletic Training
and Rehabilitation Science



Natalie DuTeil
University of St. Mary
BS in Biology, BA in Psychology
minor in Chemistry
Going to Med School in 2026



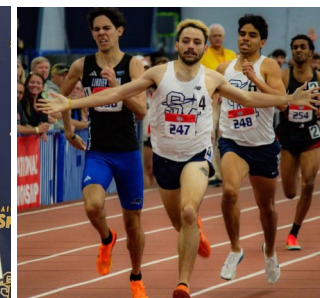
In February 2024, Rhonda York and Dr. Claudia McAllaster went on a Global Hope mission trip to India. While they were there, they met many of the children that live at the Kathryn E Larsen Children's Center (KEL). Rhonda met Mavulla and decided to "adopt" her by providing \$100 a month to Global Hope to help with her education and living expenses.

KEL is located in a small town in the state of Andhra Pradesh, which runs along the southeastern coast of India. The Children's Center, which is run by Pastor Zakkariah and his family, is in the middle of a very poor community where children are at high risk of abandonment due to a family's inability to provide basic essential care to their children. Since 2012, Global Hope has partnered with KEL to accomplish multiple purposes. It is home to 26 children who are poverty orphans. These children have become one large extended family. There is a large dining hall where not only these children have their meals, but also where other very poor children in the community can come to have a meal twice a day and receive clothing and basic care necessities. Finally, KEL has room for the children and families from the community to gather together regularly. The 26 children cared for at KEL are both girls and boys, aged 6 to 19 years old. They all attend school with dreams about being doctors, teachers, police officers, and engineers. Global Hope wants each one to have an opportunity to realize those dreams and break through the cycle of poverty!

Rhonda recently received an update about how Mavullu is doing. Mavullu is a healthy and happy young lady. She always has a smile and good word for everyone she meets. She is doing well in school, her favorite subjects are math and Hindi. She works hard in all her classes, is earning good grades, and has regular attendance. She enjoys singing songs and playing games with her friends. Mavullu had a wonderful Christmas and New Year filled with joy and laughter, she was happy to celebrate with all the other children at KEL. The photo above is from their Palm Sunday celebration

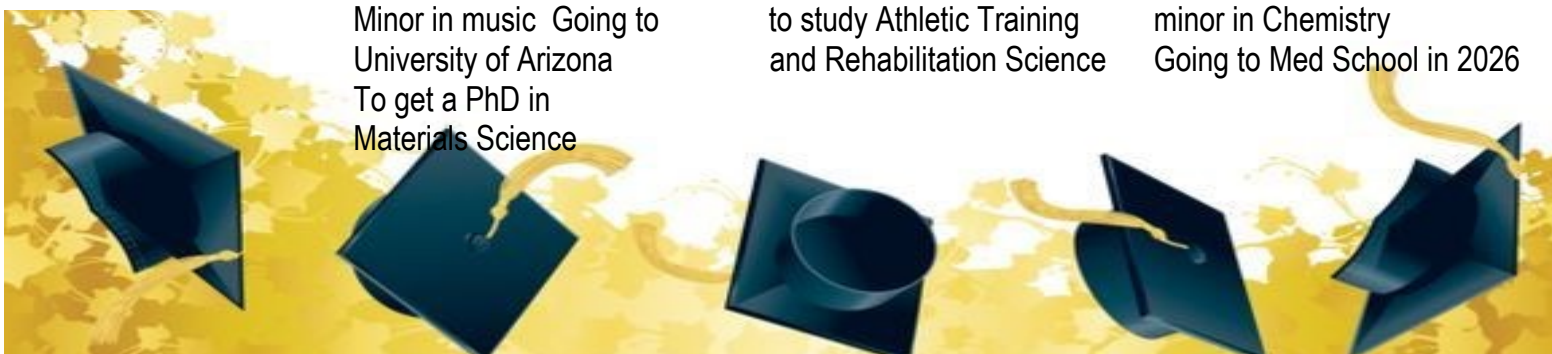
Pastor Zakkariah said, "She won first place in the college in a writing competition. She is first in all subjects. She recently participated in a running race in school." She also has developed an interest in learning how to use a sewing machine and has been practicing in her free time.

Pastor Dave said, "One hundred dollars doesn't seem like that much in America, but it goes a long way to change the life of a child in India." If you would be interested in adopting a child from India, Kenya, or Romania, go to the Global Hope website, globalhope.org.



WINNING THE RACE

In March, Liam Ne Idig competed at the NAIA Indoor Track & Field National Competition in Gainesville, Florida. Liam captured the national title in the 1000 Meter Run. This also earned him his seventh All-American honor. April 28, Liam was awarded the University of Saint Mary Male Athlete of the Year. The majority of USM's student population are athletes, so this is quite the honor. Liam graduates with a degree in Applied Mathematics. Liam will graduate, summa cum laude, with both departmental and university honors. He is a member of the honor society, Kappa Gamma Pi.





Greetings and love to each and every one of you.

The Church Council convened on April 22nd and organizational activities, thoughtful conversations, and discernment were achieved. The financial status of the church remains strong – thank you for your faithful giving. We are next in the queue for a new main church roof once there is continuous weeklong break in the weather.

After coming off a fully-loaded high activity first four months of the year, the month of May will be a time of relative rest and reflection. We still have serving and celebrating activities on the calendar (please check the back of this magazine) every week, but not nearly as many as we had during the Lenten and Easter season. One huge event we will have is May 11, Big Celebration Sunday, where we will celebrate graduates at numerous levels of achievement. It's an all music day and we will celebrate our graduates and our mothers!

Honor your father and your mother, so that you may live long in the land the LORD your God is giving you. Exodus 20:12

I know not everyone had or has the “best” parents, but we who call ourselves Children of God are to forgive as we were forgiven by Christ Jesus. My prayer is that we seek the desire for reconciliation greater than the need to be right. In Christ
Ed



ONLINE GIVING



Do you use your online banking option with your bank? Did you know you can set up recurring donations to the church through our website FUMCLVKS.ORG/GIVE? We currently have 44 families who give to the church by using our site. It is a convenient way to ensure your tithe is being met and your giving to the church continues.

When you consistently give to the operations of the church, it does a lot more than pay the staff's salary and keep the electricity on. It helps pay for kids' activities such as Vacation Bible School, Wonderful Wednesday, and Fusion 56. Your donations help fund Samaritan's Buffet, which feeds hundreds of hungry people each month. Regularly donating to the church helps keep the yards mowed and flowers in our garden patches. Our church keeps the van running so the youth group can go on their mission trips.

Our staff can help you set up your account if you decide to start giving online. You'll get a confirmation email each time the money is withdrawn from your account and if it rejects for any reason, you also get notified. So many things are automated nowadays, why not include your giving to the church? To set up an account, contact Libby Frasier at office@fumclvks.org or use the QR code above. *Libby*



National Volunteer Recognition Week was April 20-26. We would like to take a moment to thank all the volunteers in our church family who give of their time, treasure, and talent to help others. Our church would not be able to function without our many volunteers who work in the nursery, count the money, decorate the church, plant flowers, write cards, teach Sunday School, and work with the Children's ministries. We also have volunteers that faithfully help with Samaritan's Buffet, Itchin' to Stitch and Grief Share which greatly benefit our community. Then we have lots of our church family members that volunteer in outside organizations such as Meals On Wheels, Trinity House, the Interfaith Community of Hope, and Deeper Windows. You make this world a better place by giving of yourself and we really appreciate you! Thank you and keep up the good work! This is what the Kingdom of God looks like.



SCOUTS HAVE A BUSY SPRING

Just like the old *Rawhide* theme song, things are “rolling, rolling, rolling!!!!”

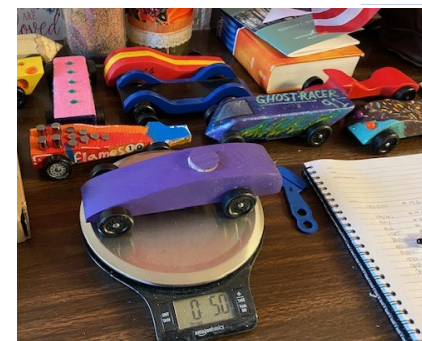
Cub Scouts did the classic Pinewood Derby race. The goal I share with the leaders is not how to win, but rather it is more important that every car makes it to the finish line. If you have ever seen a scout when the car stalls before the finish line, we ALL feel the crushing agony of defeat. It's not that every scout is a winner, but rather, NO SCOUT is a loser.

For over 100 years, the Order of the Arrow (OA) has recognized scouts and scouters who exemplify the Scout Oath and Law daily. The OA is Scouting's National Honor Society. We were fortunate that scouts from both Troops 173 and 6173 selected fellow Scouts for recognition in Order of the Arrow. Those scouts will undergo an ordeal that is an individual camping experience that focuses on service, reflection, and fellowship, with elements of challenge and inspiration before their induction into full membership. That ordeal will be in May.

Henry Chaar completed all of his requirements for Eagle Scout and passed his Eagle Board of Review this month. One of the questions asked of Henry was “What had the most impact on you during your Scouting journey?” Henry's response: “Doing the Citizenship in the World merit badge and participating in the mission trip to Romania, seeing the impacts of war, and the surviving orphans.” This is a concrete example of the incredible impact God has on the FUMC efforts to do His commandments.

A Scout is Reverent.

Bill Koehler



CAMP
Chippewa
A Great Plains UNITED METHODIST CAMP

Summer Schedule

Camp Chippewa is a Christian-based summer camp for kids from third to twelfth grade. It's located outside Ottawa, Kansas. There are lots of fun activities for kids including crafts, horseback riding, canoeing, swimming, archery, etc. Many of the kids from our church who have gone for a week have returned the same summer for a second session because they love it so much. The best part is your child can go to camp for free. We believe in church camp so strongly that the church will pay your admission. Just sign your child up for the week that works for you and contact Ed Garven at egarven@fumclvks.org. The first week starts June 9, so go to their website right now before the weeks fill up. CampChippewa.org.



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 May we will be experiencing the times that Jesus appeared to his followers after his resurrection.
May 4: In the Upper Room
May 11: Jesus Gives Instructions
May 18: Pentecost – Jesus Returns to Heaven – Holy Spirit Comes
NOTE – Kids First Worship will not meet on May 25 due to the Memorial weekend.

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

***NOTE – Kids First Worship will not meet on May 25 due to the Memorial weekend.**



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. This month we will finish our journey through Genesis.
May 7: Joseph Interprets Pharaoh's Dreams
May 14: Joseph Forgives His Brothers
May 21: Joseph's Family is Reunited – End of Year Celebration!

***NOTE – The last Wonderful Wednesday for this school year will be May 21. We will resume next August with the book of Exodus.**

Fusion 56, our special group for 5th and 6th graders, will be taking a break from regular meetings this summer but we will have fun events each month!



Mother's Morning Out theme for May is "Mothers! 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

If you have questions about any Children's Ministries or would like to volunteer, contact Nancy Shade at nshade@fumclvks.org.

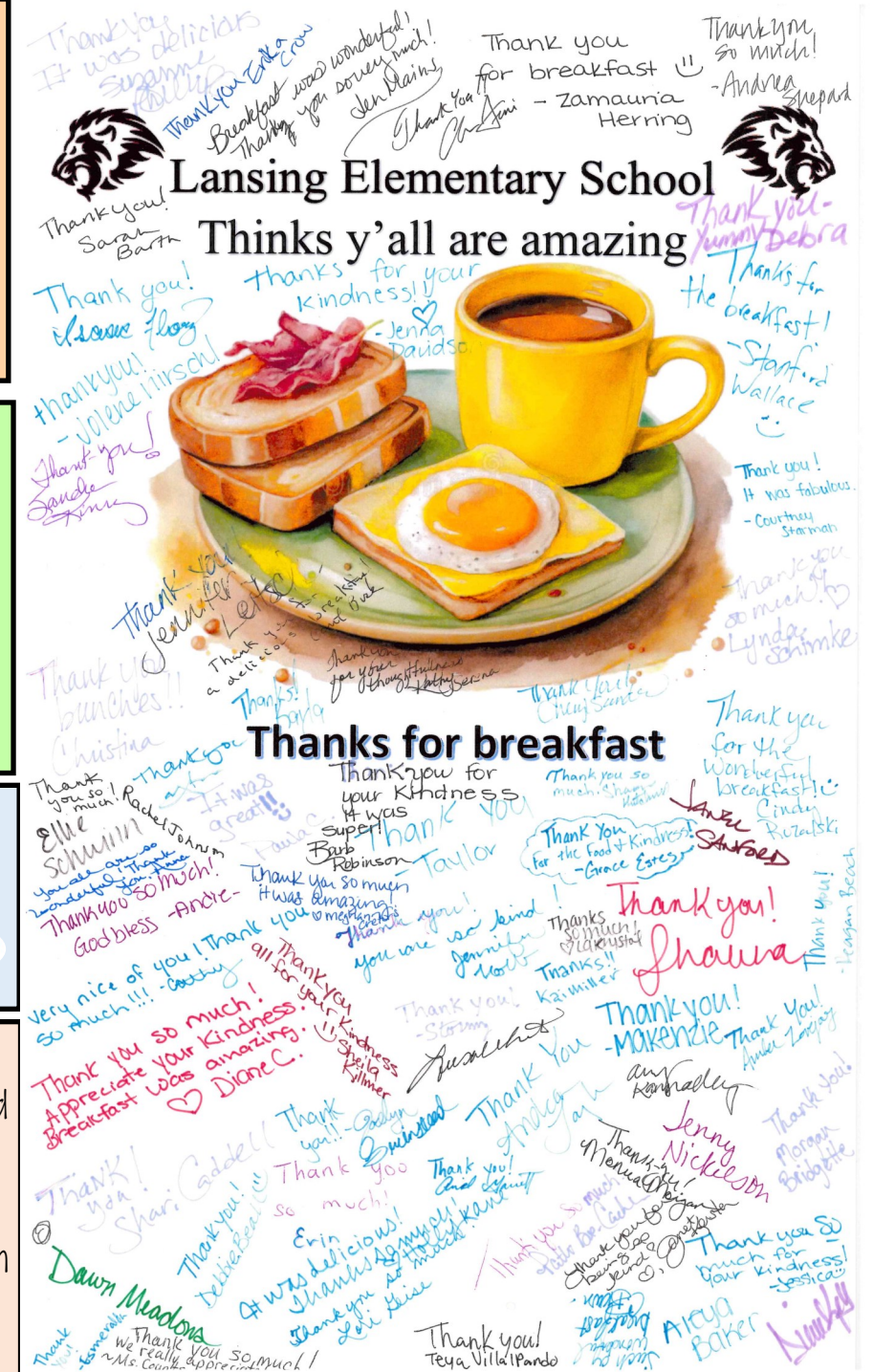


Dear FUMC,
On behalf of BUMC Worship Committee & Pastor Kyle Nelson, I want to thank you for letting us borrow the amazing banners that my dear friend, Carla Hamon, made many years ago. They were such a wonderful enhancement to the Good Friday service and Easter Sunday here at Basehor UMC.
Peace & Blessings,
Melodie Warner

Dear Friends,
Thank you for the generous gift to Leavenworth Backpack Buddies. Your donation will help provide healthy weekend food for children in the Leavenworth School system who are food insecure. Many of the children share this food with their families.
Sincerely,
Ruth Kenton

Dear Pastor York and FUMC,
Thank you for the beautiful flag! We love you all. Thanks for warmth. Thank you for giving us a home.
Francois & Sandra Changuion

Everyone at the Alliance Against Family Violence would like to extend our heartfelt gratitude to the congregation of First United Methodist Church of Leavenworth for their commitment to our agency and community. Their dedication to improving the quality of life for Leavenworth residents is a beacon of light for those weathering crisis in their lives. Thank you for being a pillar of support and for always striving to make our city a better place to live.
Alliance Against Family Violence



Dear Staff of FUMC,
Thank you so much for the beautiful flowers you gave me in honor of my 90th birthday. I also appreciate the visit from the members of the staff. Thank you again for your thoughtfulness. First United Methodist has always been very supportive of me, my husband, John, before his passing.
God bless you,
Virginia Hardaway



ONE NATION UNDER GOD...

I attended First United Methodist Church beginning in 1970 when my father, Jack Walker, was transferred by the Army to Ft. Leavenworth. We moved here from Baltimore, Maryland, where we lived for the previous six years. During those years, we attended Bethesda United Methodist and some of my most precious memories were attending Exeter United Methodist with my paternal grandparents. They lived in the city and we walked to the church. Family and church were always part of my life.

My mom, Doris, delved into genealogy after my brothers, Jack and Kevin, and I graduated from college, affording her more time to pursue her personal interests. Back in those days, research involved traveling to genealogical libraries, courthouses and writing letters requesting information. I can vividly remember calling Mom and her anticipation as she waited for the mail to arrive with an expected reply to a query.

One day my husband, Ollie, and I went to visit Mom and Dad, and Mom asked me to sign the application papers for the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR), a women's service organization rooted in service to God, home and country. I didn't know anything about the DAR, but I dutifully signed the papers. Even though I lived in Shawnee at the time, I drove to Leavenworth to attend meetings with her. One thing led to another, and 37 years later I find myself as a senior leader in the national organization.

The past three years, I have been traveling the globe to promote the DAR America 250! Committee for the National Society. As a widow, I appreciate the opportunity to be actively engaged. I have met countless members through my long-term membership and have been afforded many courtesies. One of those courtesies was an invitation last year to visit New Jersey and attend the dedication of a DAR marker which was being placed by a local New Jersey chapter in celebration of our nation's Semiquincentennial. Accepting the invitation, I left for New Jersey knowing that the first of my eight proven Revolutionary War patriot ancestors was from Perth Amboy, a neighboring town to the one that was obtaining the marker.

A longtime DAR acquaintance picked me up from the airport and took me to explore New Jersey, including the Ford Mansion in Morristown which was used as George Washington's headquarters for several months. I discovered that I am related to Jacob Ford, the father of the owners, Jacob Jr. and his wife Theodosia. The senior Jacob served as a judge in Morris County and as representative from Morris County to the New Jersey Assembly. The Ford family and related surnames of Arnold and Phillips are interred at the Burying Ground of the Presbyterian Church in Morristown. The church was founded in 1738. As I walked through the tall grass, I was equally alert to the prospect of finding a snake as I was the headstones of my ancestors!

I found my Wolley family line buried in the Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church graveyard at Oldwick, formerly New Germantown, which was founded in 1714. Some of my Martin line was buried at the First Baptist Church of Piscataway, which was founded in 1689. The trip also led me to Perth Amboy and the graveyard where James Martin, my first documented Revolutionary War ancestor on my maternal side, was buried. I was afforded the privilege of looking at and holding early church records. In an account from the church, I read "The early history of the St. Peter's Church is principally to be found in the records of the Society for Propagation of the Gospel in Foreign Parts instituted in England in the year 1701."



Loving Your Neighbor

In spring of 2023 Rosemary Jacobs was working in her garden when a beautiful red headed girl rode her scooter up and said, "Whatcha doin'?" This was the beginning of a beautiful relationship. Aubrey Visocsky said when she met Rosemary, "She had red hair like me, so I wanted to hang out. I also liked how kind, generous and gracious she was to me."

Aubrey's mom, Summer, was a little more suspicious at first but after meeting Rosemary she grew to love her and outside garden visits grew to spending more time together and getting to know the whole family. When TGIGF rolled around, Rosemary invited Aubrey to join her. Then Aubrey started coming to Wonderful Wednesday and then to Vacation Bible School.

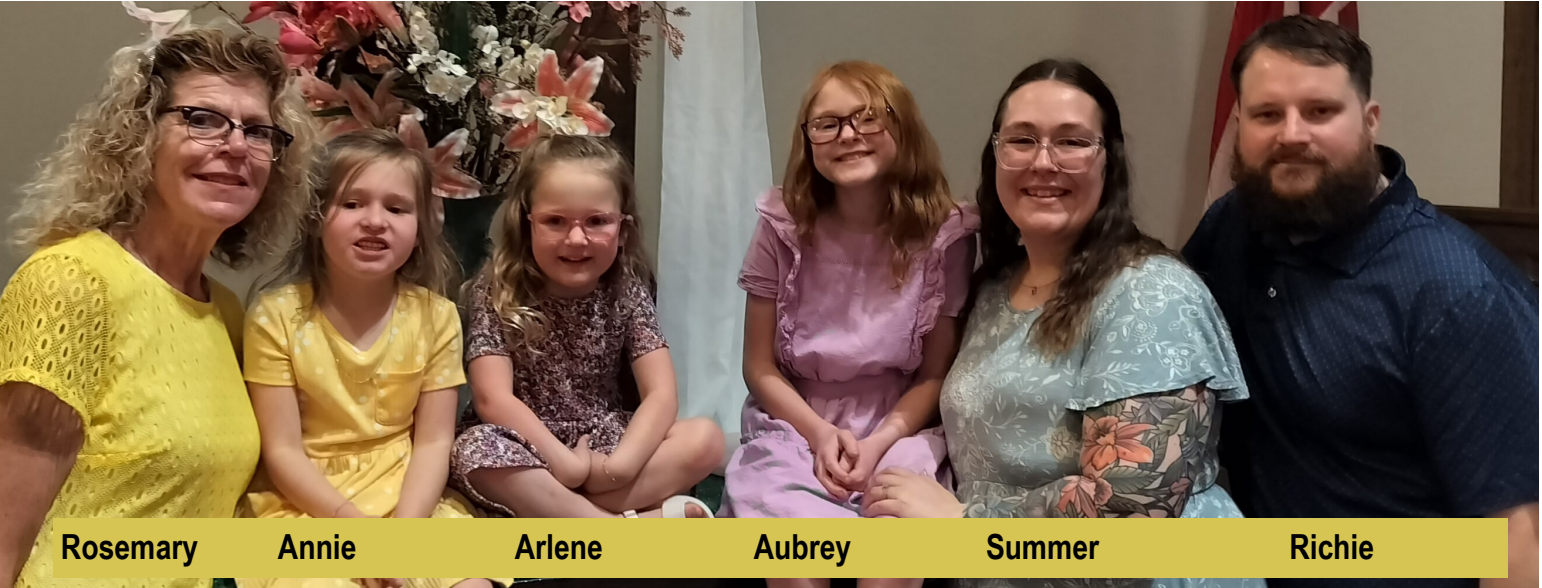
The first time Summer came to church with Aubrey was to hear her sing VBS songs on a Sunday morning. Summer said, "I remember feeling so welcome and everyone telling me how amazing Aubrey was and they just loved her so much. I had been trying to find a forever church for so long and I had never felt as welcomed and at home as I did the first time I walked in! For the first year it was just me and Aubrey coming with Rosemary but I convinced my husband, Richie, to come with me and he felt the same way I did. We are so blessed and at home at FUMC."

The whole family has been coming to church regularly ever since. On April 27 Richie and all three girls were baptized. Summer said, "How do I even put it into words how amazing and special it was to watch my husband and daughters accept Jesus Christ into their lives. I get God Bumps just thinking about it still. It was such a blessing to get to watch my husband accept our Savior and Lord into his life since typically that's something most people do when they are younger and to finally find our church home and be able to get our girls baptized was so special! To get to share that moment with our church family and our closest family members who came was truly such a privilege and blessing."

Aubrey really loves Miss Nancy, too. She said, "She explains everything in a way I can understand." She loves coming to church so much, she invited her friends Max and AnnaBella. AnnaBella loves church so much, she invited her family, the VanDyne family. Aubrey said, "I invited them because I wanted them to feel closer to God and I wanted them to have as much fun at church as I do."

Summer said, "Going to church has changed my family's life forever and for the best, we have and continue to grow our relationship with God and it has helped us in our everyday life and our relationship with each other, I love hearing my girls playing with each other and talking about God, Annie loves to play church with Arlene. One of my favorite things is to sit back and watch all the wonderful things Miss Nancy and her helpers have helped teach our girls."

Rosemary said, "God gave me three beautiful adopted granddaughters. We have grown extremely close. They are always there for me and they always seem to know what to say." She also said, "You give birth to your family, but God picks out your additional, and I really love my additional family."





GRIEF SHARE



Being the lead of the Congregational Care Team has its rewards and challenges. I've made so many good friends but, also have had to do my share of learning about grief, illness, and even death. So it was with my friend and buddy Jerry Scheele.

I first met Jerry when he started attending our caretaker support group for people with dementia and Alzheimer's. It didn't take me long to understand that he and I were kindred spirits. Over the course of the next two years, I began to learn a little about his life.

Jerry joined FUMC in 1961. His parents, devout Catholics, had wanted him to become a priest, but God had other plans for him. After meeting Marge, he knew she was the love of his life. Marge was a member of FUMC and they married in our church in April of 1962. His parents refused to attend the ceremony. I suspect they came around when those grand babies came along, and they grew to love Marge as well.

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

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

Somewhere along the way, Don and I started delivering Samaritan's Buffet meals to his house. At first I was met with resistance, but he was soon converted. He never failed to call and compliment the food and express his thanks. He even fabricated a special insulated box for the front porch so that I had a place to leave the meal if he wasn't home yet from visiting Marge at Twin Oaks.

Jerry was loyalty personified. He NEVER deviated from his devotion to Marge and faithfully visited her every day. This is what eventually led to his final illness. On a particularly icy and cold morning this past winter, Jerry slipped on the ice, falling heavily against the rear view mirror of the truck parked next to him at Twin Oaks. The fall broke several ribs which led to an infection, which led to pneumonia. Over the course of the next six weeks his strength began to fail him. Yet, up until the last week, he still called me just to check in and see how things were going. He always ended the conversation by saying, "God's in charge."

I have no doubt that my friend is busy in Heaven, drawing up house plans for Marge's arrival. I'll see you again, my friend. Yes, God's in charge **Marsha Gaffin**



Maxwell and Logan (Smith) Hubbert were married at Reynolda Gardens in Winston Salem, NC on April 5, 2025. They live and work in Tampa Florida. Max is an electrical engineer and Logan graduates from medical school in May and will be working her residency at University of South Florida Medical Center. Max is Keith and Pam Hubbert's son.



It was an honor to join with the local chapter members to clean James Martin's headstone and the stones of his son and daughter-in-law, Jeremiah and Catherine, from whom I descend. My parents previously visited the church and graveyard, but this was my first time. It's hard to put into words the feeling you have when you stand before a grave of your family member that aided the cause for independence. My DAR job promoting the 250th anniversary of the founding of the United States of America and honoring the men and women who achieved American independence had become very personal.

Fast forward and this year I received another invitation to New Jersey. This visit occurred on a Sunday morning - Palm Sunday to be specific. The local chapter arranged for the St. Peter's Episcopal Rector, the Reverend Dr. Fabian Villalobos to be part of a ceremony when a marker was placed signifying my ancestor's role in the American Revolution.

After the marker ceremony the DAR members and I attended services at the church. The parishioners were of various ethnicities and a Spanish language service was held afterward. Starting outside and holding palms, the minister blessed the palms with Holy Water and the processional of congregants entered the church which was founded in 1685. During the service the minister offered a blessing to my patriot ancestor, James Martin. I was humbled and touched for the minister's graciousness and the chapter's thoughtfulness and generosity.

Sitting in the pew and taking communion at the church of my ancestors was surreal. Knowing that my third and fourth great-grandparents offered praise and thanksgiving for the gift of Jesus Christ on Palm Sunday and every Sunday in that same church was heartwarming and soulful. My roots run deep into our American history, and thankfully, into the church as well. Praise be to God.

Kathryn Walker West

*The Lord exists forever;
your word is firmly fixed in heaven.
Your faithfulness endures to all generations;
you have established the earth, and it stands fast.
Psalm 119:89-90*



HOLY WEEK @ FUMC

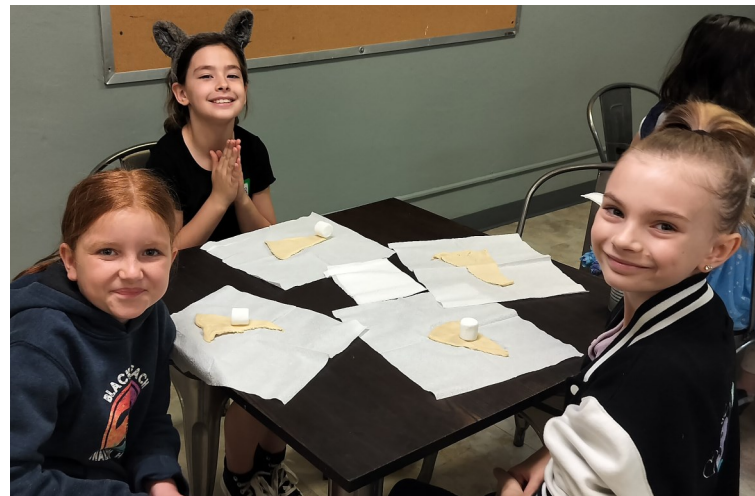
What a busy week in the life of our church family! The staff started by visiting church members in nursing homes (see Esther Polson below) and singing Easter hymns to them. Then we had an emergency blood drive on Tuesday.



Maundy Thursday was celebrated with a moving service and a delicious meal.



TGIGF kicked off Good Friday with 45 kids and almost as many volunteers. There were stories about the last week of Jesus' life, crafts, games, and an Easter Egg Hunt!



Good Friday ended with a Community Good Friday service at the Lansing Middle School Auditorium. We had a tremendous turnout as we worshiped together.



The week ended with a wonderful worship celebration featuring the choir and a packed house on Easter Sunday.