



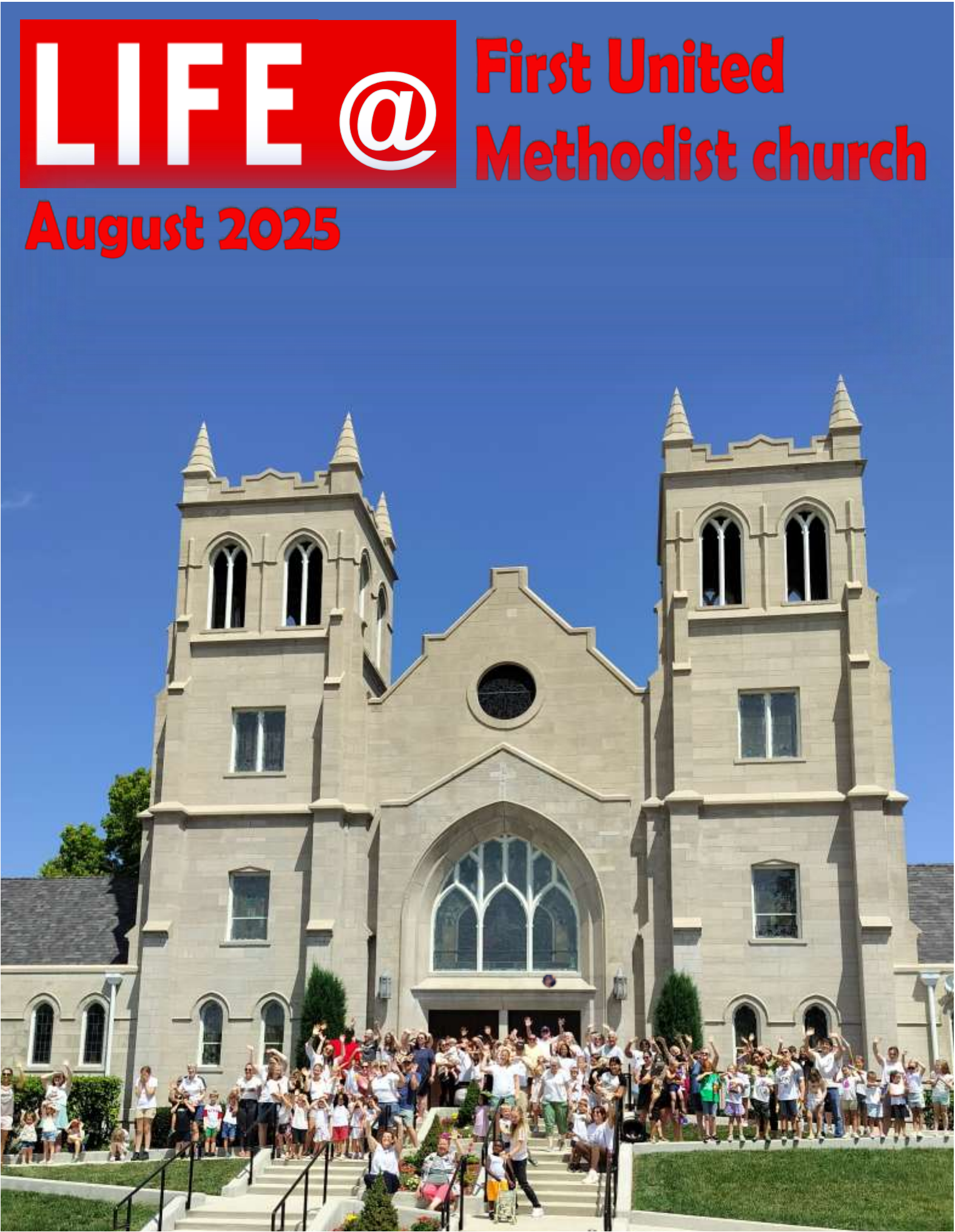
First United Methodist Church
of
Leavenworth
422 Chestnut, Leavenworth, KS 66048
913-682-5374 FUMCLVKS.ORG

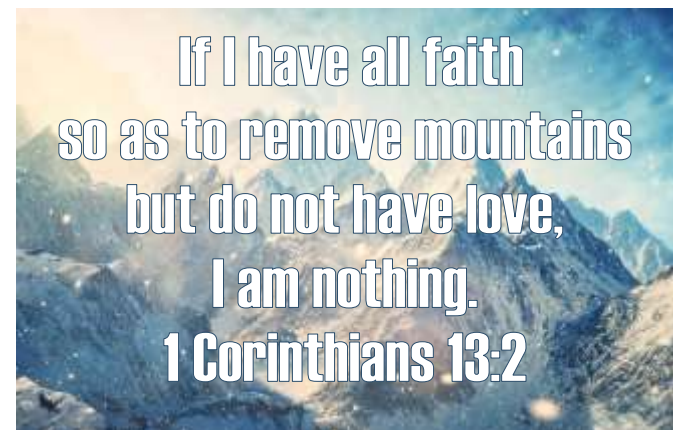
RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Phone: 913-682-5374
Educational Bldg.: 913-675-7495
E-mail: office@fumclvks.org
Office Hours—M-Th 9a-3p, Friday—9a-noon
 Or visit us at FUMCLVKS.ORG
Sunday services stream at either site.

August 2025

| | | | | | | |
|--|---|---|---|--|---|--|
| 3 9 am Sunday School 10 am Worship | 4 | 5 9 am Prayer Group 1 pm Book Club | 6 5:30 pm Young Adults 6:30 pm Choir practice | 7 | 8 5:30 pm Wingtips 6:00 pm Youth Lock-in | 9 24 Hour Prayer for Schools |
| 10 8:30 am Traditional 9:45 am Sunday School 11:00 am Contemporary 4:00 pm Bells | 11 | 12 9 am Prayer Group | 13 5:00 pm Grief Share 6:30 pm Choir | 14 8:30am Staff | 15 | 16 Men's Prayer Breakfast |
| 17 8:30 am Traditional 9:45 am Sunday School 11:00 am Contemporary 12 pm Fusion 56 4:00 pm Bells 6:00 pm Youth | 18 | 19 9 am Prayer Group 2 pm Spouse Grief Share | 20 3:45 pm Wonderful Wednesday 5:30 pm Young Adults 6:30 pm Choir | 21 8:30am Staff 1:30 pm Itchin' to Stitch | 22 | 23 Parents First |
| 24 8:30 am Traditional 9:45 am Sunday School 11:00 am Contemporary 4:00 pm Bells 6:00 pm Youth | 25 | 26 9 am Prayer Group | 27 3:45 pm Wonderful Wednesday 5:00 pm Grief Share 6:30 pm Choir | 28 8:30 am Staff | 29 | 30  |
| 31 9 am Sunday School 10 am Worship | 1 Labor Day Church Office closed | 2 9 am Prayer Group | 3 3:45 pm Wonderful Wednesday 5:30 pm Young Adults 6:30 pm Choir | 4 8:30am Staff Meeting | 5 | 6  |





In starting my eighth year as FUMC pastor and second decade in pastoral ministry, I have been thinking about what kind of church I want FUMC to become. That is no small order with a 172 year-old church. It's easy to take pride in being a church of the ages serving the present age. However, living in the past won't get us going into the future. The action we take today will determine what our future looks like. Who is God calling us to become as a church and as individuals?

In Matthew 16:26, Jesus said, "What good will it be for someone to gain the whole world, yet forfeit their soul? Or what can anyone give in exchange for their soul?" Our souls must become greater than our egos. Jesus cares far more about our BEING than our doing. The world will continue to measure greatness in terms of how many, how much, and how often. Very few things in spiritual growth are measurable so churches cling to those markers. I confess that I can easily get drawn into the game of larger attendance, more ministries, more dollars, etc. Yet, Jesus cautioned about gaining the whole world and losing our soul. The Methodists were spot on when they asked each other, "How is it with your soul?"

My desire for FUMC is to grow spiritually mature and complete – to the fullest of our ability. God creates the growth; we create the conditions. Think like a farmer who plants and waters, but God does the growing part! Matthew 5:48 refers to this growth as "Be perfect as your heavenly father is perfect." Christian perfection is about growing in our capacity to love. When we love to our fullest capacity, we become more like Jesus. We become more holy. This lifelong process is our mission and purpose at FUMC. To paraphrase Paul in 1 Corinthians 13, If we have the greatest music ministry, but have not love, we are like a banging cymbal. If our preaching is filled with prophecy or passionate fire and doesn't have love, it is nothing. If we give all our money to the poor, but don't have love, we gain nothing.

What God will show us in the future is yet to be determined. But, I know that God will use FUMC to bring the Kingdom if we are yielded and prayerful about who we are and who we are becoming. These are not the days for disciples who look good on the outside but lack depth of soul. Through suffering and failure, joy and triumph, God through Christ will move us forward. That will be attractive to anyone! Thanks for giving me a place to be loved and love others!!



Being a teacher has never been an easy job, but it is such an important one. Teachers mold the future. That is why we want to lift them up in prayer. We are asking you to join with other churches in our area to pray for teachers, staff, students and parents on August 9 at 6 pm until August 10 at 6 pm. There is a sign up at our website FUMCLVKS.ORG/PRAY. Pastor Dave will provide a prayer guide.

At 6:30 pm on August 10, we will have a prayer and praise service here. Area churches will be bringing music and messages as we join to pray for our schools. Last year's service was inspirational. Please plan to attend.

August BIRTHDAYS



| | | | | | |
|------|-----------------|------|------------------|------|-----------------|
| 3rd | Wes Ludwig | 13th | Ed Garven | 22nd | Jan Mix |
| | Steven Shade | 13th | Betty Logan | 24th | Trudy Holyfield |
| 4th | Karen Kidder | | Abel Rolf | 25th | Brenda Coats |
| | Trish Simms | 14th | Kiernan Riffel | | Ashley Hansen |
| 5th | Amy Brandt | | Nancy Shade | | Ruth Ann Logan |
| | Steve Scrimsher | 15th | Linda Langley | 26th | Kathy Serena |
| 6th | Tim DeFrees | 17th | Aileen Hastings | | Caleb Shade |
| | Katie Short | | Janette Holdeman | | Jim Walley |
| 7th | Jennifer Bell | 18th | Robbie Helm | 27th | Nancy Dawson |
| 9th | Jack Kobe | | Christine Owens | | Suzanne Gray |
| 10th | Bill Bailey | 19th | Taylor York | | Avery Holyfield |
| 11th | Mary Seymour | 20th | Steve Songer | | Violet Varnal |
| 12th | Randy Herrman | 21st | Pam Hubbert | 30th | Robin Sanders |

August ANNIVERSARIES

| | | |
|------|----------------------------|----------|
| 2nd | Keith & Libby Frashier | 45 years |
| 3rd | Ryan & Kristen Howell | 12 years |
| 4th | Marlin & Trudy Holyfield | 48 years |
| 7th | Ron & Diane Booth | 24 years |
| 10th | Wade & Valynn Schmierer | 52 years |
| 11th | Douglas & Alice Hall | 52 years |
| 12th | Roy & Donna Ramsey | 58 years |
| 18th | Brendan & Allaura Jamerson | 3 years |
| 20th | Dean & Carla Hamon | 60 years |
| | Gary & Cheryl Rader | 59 years |
| 22nd | Mike & Jan Mix | 48 years |
| 25th | Jack & Jo Burkett | 58 years |
| 28th | Jim & Lynne Atwell | 43 years |
| | Bill & Pam Bay | 59 years |

If we missed your birthday or anniversary, please contact the office so we can update our records.
swood@fumclvks.org

Upcoming EVENTS



Refuge Youth

Youth Mission Trip Recap: Tulsa, Oklahoma July 7–11, 2025

July 7–11, our youth group journeyed to Oklahoma for a week filled with service, learning, community, and faith-exploration. We began our trip with a drive to Tulsa, making a fun and wonder-filled detour to Fantastic Caverns in Springfield, Missouri. We arrived at Keystone State Park in Sand Springs that evening and got settled into our cabins, ready for the days ahead.

Day 2 kicked off our service work at the Food Bank of Eastern Oklahoma, where we sorted and packaged food to be distributed across the eastern region of the state. On the first and third days of service, we focused on packaging tomatoes, while on our second day we tackled macaroni. All together, our group contributed 72 hours of labor—a meaningful effort supporting communities still recovering from wildfires earlier this year.

That afternoon, our focus shifted to learning. We visited The Sherwin Miller Jewish Art Museum, which included a powerful Holocaust exhibit, and Greenwood Rising, a museum that tells the story of the Tulsa Race Massacre. The theme of the day was dehumanization—how it leads to harm and injustice, and what our faith in Jesus calls us to do in response. Super lighthearted stuff, right? But the students engaged deeply, and the conversations were profound.

Day 3, began with more service at the food bank, then shifted to a different kind of awe as we visited the Tulsa Aquarium. This was a favorite stop for many of us (myself included!). We explored themes of God's creativity, watching as piranhas, an electric eel, and archer fish were fed—an up-close glimpse at how uniquely God designs each part of the natural world to thrive. With a bit of free-time before swimming, we strolled around the local mall, then cooled off at an indoor YMCA pool, thanks to a UV warning and 100-degree heat. We closed the day with ice cream at Braum's - an Oklahoma must.

Day 4, our final full day, focused on rest and Sabbath. After our final shift at the food bank, we drove to Oklahoma City in search of play. We began at Factory Obscura, an immersive art experience that's hard to explain - think bright colors, strange shapes, and a massive bean bag that quickly became our favorite spot to rest and recharge. Air-conditioning was short-lived, however, as we headed to Frontier City, a small Six Flags park. The intense heat proved too much even for the teens, so after a couple hours we wrapped up and headed to Cracker Barrel - because, let's be honest, we were all ready for a meal with real vegetables.

Day 5, was our travel day home, with a final stop at the Tulsa Air & Space Museum. We rolled back into Leavenworth that evening, tired but full - of memories, new insights, and stronger connections with each other and with God.

This trip wasn't just about what we did, but about how we grew. Through service, learning, and rest, we explored what it means to be the hands and feet of Christ in the world: to feed the hungry, confront injustice, delight in creation, and embrace the sacredness of Sabbath. We're so proud of our youth for showing up with open hearts, willing hands, and a whole lot of flexibility (and sweat).



What I did on my Summer Vacation

Twenty-six percent of the US population are individuals with special needs/disabilities, making it the largest minority group. An organization titled “SOAR Special Needs” exists for this reason. SOAR stands for **S**pecial people experiencing **O**pportunities to use their unique **A**bilities to build a lasting **R**elationship with Jesus. SOAR was founded by Dr. Stephan “Doc” Hunsley. He started SOAR after his five-year old son, Mark, passed away. Mark had severe special needs, so Doc knows first-hand what the life of a parent with a special needs child is like. One of SOAR's opportunities is summer camp. This was their eleventh year of summer camp. SOAR has two sessions of a week-long day camp that are the largest special needs/disability camp in the nation! One of these camps takes place in Lenexa, KS and the other in Lee Summit, MO.

I am Elleanna Banker and I had the pleasure of volunteering at both camps as a buddy this summer. My friends the Maxwells invited me. A “Buddy” is paired one-on-one with a camper and assists them through the whole week. There are a lot of moving parts at camp, so there are many other roles for volunteers. There are team leads, station leaders, hospitality team, kitchen team, medical team, and a trained behavioral team. In total, Lenexa's camp had 280 volunteers and Lee Summit's camp had 370! Lenexa's camp had 92 participants and Lee Summit's camp had 125! I was impacted by my experience with SOAR camp and I'm confident that all the other volunteers and campers would say the same. At Lee Summit's camp my buddy was Jameson. He is 15 years old and he's nonverbal. Working with him for a week was the highlight of my summer. He was so full of joy. He was very patient with me as I learned how to communicate with him through his talker, which is a term for an electronic device with icons that speak when they are pressed. So it amazed me when he showed what he wanted or needed through his talker.

Another Fruit of the Spirit he had was gentleness. Jameson was significantly larger than I was but he was always very gentle. He held my hand at almost every station. We went to all of the stations together. The stations were Sensory Room, Missions, Outdoor Games, Craft/Science, Bible Story, Calming Worship, and Dance Party. His favorites were playing with kinetic sand in the Sensory Station, playing basketball in Missions, drawing with chalk outside, finger-painting in Craft, listening to music during Calming Worship, and of course, the Dance Party. I loved all the stations, but my favorite was Calming Worship. During Calming Worship the campers listened to someone sing and play the guitar. By this point of the day, Jameson, and I were pretty tired, so he would lay beside me while I sang along with the music to him. While doing this on one of the days, my heart felt so full and it wasn't until after camp that I realized I was experiencing the Holy Spirit. I knew my heart felt completely full and I felt so at peace but I couldn't immediately name what I was feeling. As a high-schooler with many hobbies, it's easy to get caught up in all of the busyness of life but it's not so easy to let go of life's busyness long enough to allow yourself to experience God's peace. I'm guilty of being a busy-body who can't sit still long enough to practice silence and solitude. I normally can't shut off my mind, so when I was filled with complete peace through the Holy Spirit that day, I knew I wanted to share what I'd experienced with others.

Thanks to my buddy in the Lee Summit camp, I experienced so much joy. My buddy was a 13 year old named Will. He is autistic and has one of the best memories ever. His favorite things are the weather, recycling trucks, playing catch, dancing, and M&M flavored cookies. This was his fifth year of camp so he used his great memory to help guide me through the week. He had so much energy so we typically went to the hallway to play catch halfway through each station. He had so much fun at camp playing with his best friend, Tristen, who he had met at last year's camp, dancing, and dunking me multiple times in the dunk-tank during outdoor games. Overall, we had a great time learning together. This year's camp theme was Fruit Warrior, so the campers got to learn all about the Fruits of the Spirit and how they can share them with others.

Next year's camp theme will be “SOARing For The Cup” since Kansas City is hosting the World Cup for soccer. If you're interested in learning how to get involved, check out their website at SOARSpecialNeeds.org. The next opportunity to serve is their monthly Respite Night. This is an evening for the participants to have fun and for their families to get a chance to catch their breath. All ages, diagnoses, and support needs are welcomed. Please spread the word of this wonderful organization! We'd love to have you come SOAR with us!!



Elleanna & Will



Jamerson





Greeting to each and every one.

Through the first seven months of the year, financially, the church has stayed even with income and expenses. We had a big expense in the replacing the roof, but through your faithful giving we have remained in budget. Moving into the latter half of the year, new challenges will arise and I have full confidence if we remain faithful and obedient, we will accomplish whatever comes before us.

As believers, everything we have belongs to Him, we are stewards or managers of what God has entrusted to us. This means we are responsible for how we use our time, talents, possessions, and resources. God requires our strength or utmost (everything we have).

Psalm 24:1 “The earth is the Lord’s, and all that is in it, the world, and those who live in it.”

Eighteen months ago your church leadership gathered to prioritize our focus on God’s plan and our primary mission is to make disciples that make disciples. We went back to the church of the Acts of Apostles and reengaged in these five core values: Prayer, Apostles’ Teaching, Worship and Sacraments, Generosity and Justice, and Fellowship. Of note, none of these values are mutually exclusive of the other, all remain a primary focus at building the Kingdom of God.

I believe prayer is powerful. I believe worship and sacraments are wonderful. I believe justice is humbling and fellowship is fundamental to building Kingdom. I also believe generosity is glorious, though painful at times. Giving is a God given gift to us. As the Apostle Paul says, “we give not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.” We give as He gave, willingly, joyfully, and cheerfully.

As believers, if everything we have belongs to Him, are we faithful stewards or managers of what God has entrusted to us? Have we prioritized how we use our time, talents, possessions, and resources – our utmost to glorify Him?

In the Gospel of Matthew, the Lord illustrates obedient giving, “For you tithe mint, dill, and cumin, and have neglected the weightier matters of the law: justice and mercy and faith. It is these you ought to have practiced without neglecting the others.” The commandment is both/and not either/or.

In the Gospel of Mark, Jesus explains about a poor widow who donates two small copper coins to the temple treasury. Jesus uses this act of giving to illustrate the concept of sacrificial giving, highlighting that the widow gave all she had, unlike the wealthy who gave from their surplus. The story emphasizes that the value of a gift is not measured by its monetary amount, but by the sacrifice it represents.

Our giving always follows our affection. What causes our heart to burn leads to our giving. We do not compare nor boast for it’s not equal amounts we give, its equal sacrifice. In our giving I pray each of us align our hearts with how the Lord has prioritized us to use the treasures He has provided. In Christ, Ed



Exciting changes are unfolding at Spring Valley! Under Kenya’s new school curriculum, students will be tested on hands-on science experiments in chemistry, biology, and physics. The school has received new lab equipment to support these efforts. In June, Tr. Derrick kicked off lessons with Grade 9 students, introducing them to experiments they’ll face in October’s national exams. For many, it was their very first glimpse of a real science lab...and they loved it!

In Kenya on July 19th, Hope for Orphans Rescue and Education Center had a Charity Run; a joyful celebration of hope and unity! Four local schools engaged and a popular Kenyan celebrity influencer emceed the event.

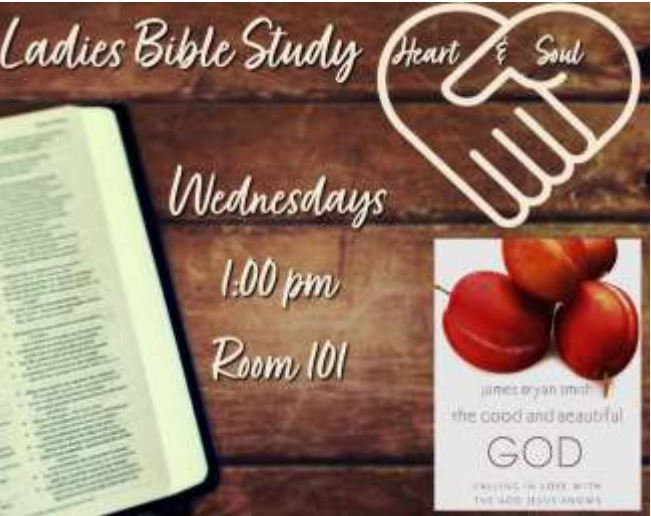
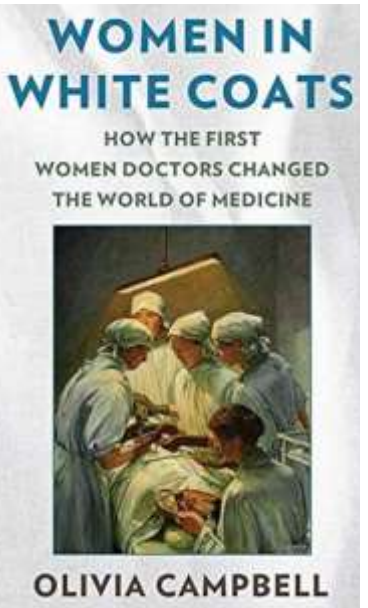
In early August, a mission team will head to Kenya to serve, encourage, and connect. Please join us in praying for their safety and impact. To find out more go to GlobalHope.org.



Sept. 5, 1 pm

If you love to read, consider joining the Book Club. In August we are reading *Women in White Coats* by Olivia Campbell. It is the remarkable story of three Victorian women who broke down barriers in the medical field to become the first female doctors, revolutionizing the way women receive health care. In the early 1800s, women were dying in large numbers from treatable diseases because they avoided receiving medical care. Examinations performed by male doctors were often demeaning and even painful. In addition, women faced stigma from illness—a diagnosis could greatly limit their ability to find husbands or jobs.

Motivated by personal loss and frustration over inadequate medical care, three women fought for a woman’s place in the male-dominated medical field. *Women in White Coats* tells the history of these women who, despite countless obstacles, earned medical degrees and paved the way for other women to do the same. Though very different in personality and circumstance, together these women built women-run hospitals and teaching colleges—creating for the first time medical care for women by women. We’ll discuss the book on Tuesday, Sept. 5 at 1 pm.



Heart and Soul is a Ladies Bible Study that will begin on Sept. 3rd. They meet at 1 pm in room 101 of the Education building. They will be studying *The Good and Beautiful God* by James Bryan Smith. Smith believes we all have ideas that we tell ourselves about God and how he works in our lives; some are true, but many are false. Those thoughts determine not only who we are, but how we live. In fact, Smith declares, the most important thing about a person is what they think about God. The path to spiritual transformation begins here. Turning to the Gospels, Smith invites you to put your ideas to the test to see if they match up with what Jesus himself reveals about God. Once you’ve discovered the truth in Scripture, Smith leads you through a process of spiritual formation that includes specific activities aimed at making these new narratives real in your body and soul, as

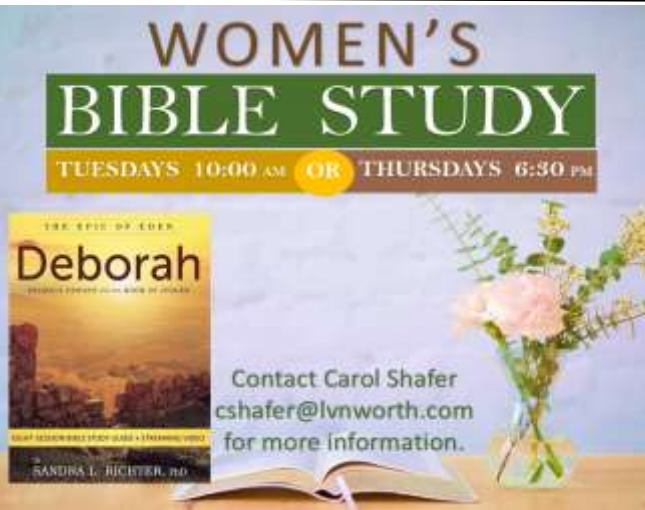
well as your mind. This deep, loving and transformative book will help you discover the narratives that Jesus lived by—to know the Lord he knew and the kingdom he proclaimed. If you would like more information about Heart and Soul, contact Margaret at Margaret.Burland@gmail.com.

The Women’s Bible Study will start September 9 & 11. Carol Shafer teaches the same class at 10 am on Tuesday OR 6:30 pm on Thursday. They meet in room 101 of the Education Building. She will teaching another in the Epic of Eden series by Sandra Richter, *Deborah: Unlikely Heroes and the Book of Judges*.

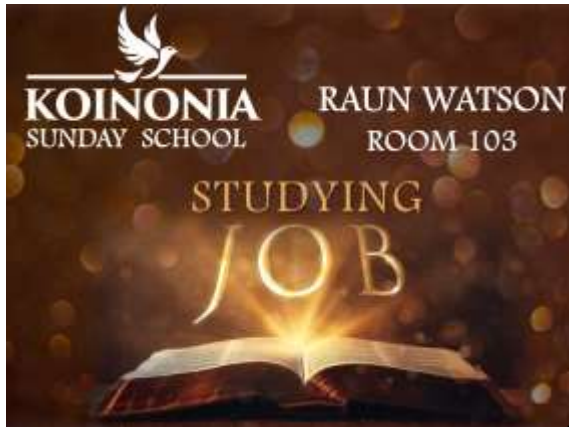
The Book of Judges narrates one of the most chaotic and morally dark eras of Israel’s story. Into this morally-ambiguous time comes one of the most unlikely leaders of the biblical text—the prophet Deborah. Also a wife, mother, priest, and judge, Deborah responds to her call and transforms chaos into order by leading Israel in a pivotal victory.

Dr. Richter illustrates the era of the Judges with archaeological record, historical geography, cultural context, and the hard facts of warfare in the ancient world. You will consider and answer three critical questions: What territory can you see from where you’re standing that you know belongs to the Kingdom, but is not yet won? Is it worth fighting for? Are you willing to step out on faith and trust God for the victory?

For more information about this Bible Study, contact Carol at cshafer@lvnworth.com.



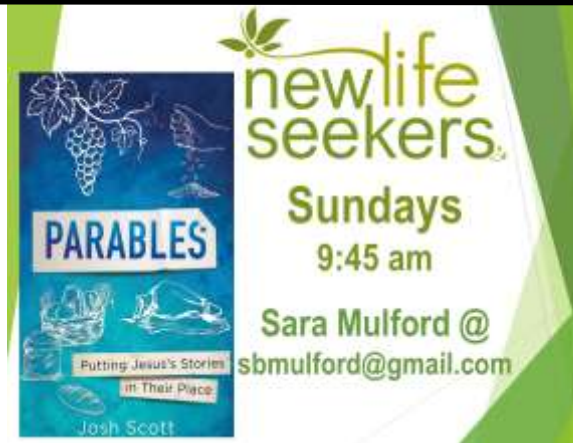
Sunday School and Bible Study



The Koinonia Sunday School class is doing an in-depth study of the book of Job. The Book of Job explores the complexities of suffering - particularly why bad things happen to good people - and the nature of God's justice and sovereignty. It challenges the simplistic idea that suffering is always a punishment for sin and emphasizes the incomprehensible nature of God's ways. The book also highlights the importance of faith and perseverance in the face of adversity. Teacher Raun Watson uses a lot of Bible commentaries and a Bible Atlas to prepare his lessons. For more information, contact him at cavemanrg@earthlink.net.

The New Life Seekers Sunday School class will be starting a new study in August. They meet in room 203 of the Education Building. They're starting Josh Scott's *Parables*.

When Jesus taught in parables, he was doing more than telling simple morality tales. His stories were grounded in the world in which he lived and his vision of the Kingdom of God. This book explores six parables that give us a window into Jesus's message and movement, and, once they are heard in their own context, ask what they might mean for us today. Contact Sara Mulford for more info at sbmulford@gmail.com



Mary Lou Anderson leads the Cornerstone Sunday School class. They are currently studying Titus with John MacArthur's book, *1 & 2 Thessalonians & Titus; Living Faithfully in View of Christ's Coming*. Paul wrote the letters of 1 & 2 Thessalonians to the church he founded in Thessalonica to friends he knew and loved. He wrote to thank them for their work of faith, their labor of love, and their continued hope in the Lord Jesus Christ and His second coming. Paul's letter to Titus, a young pastor in Crete, is filled with guidance on how to prepare church leaders for effective evangelism. These letters of instruction are as inspirational for us today as they were for these first-century Christ followers. For info, contact Mary Lou mlouanderson21@gmail.com.

The Family Matters class meets in room 107. They are currently studying *Parables from the Back Side* by J. Ellsworth Kalas. It presents new insight into twelve of Jesus' parables through the eyes of a minor or unsympathetic character. By approaching the stories in this way, Kalas releases new meaning and clarifies basic teachings. Personal stories from the author's own experience and modern-day illustrations enrich the retellings even more. These refreshing glimpses from the back side will provide new food for thought for everyone - even those most familiar with Jesus' parables. For info, contact Arlen Briggs at ammkm@yahoo.com



BLOOD DRIVE



The Community Blood Center set a goal of 22 units for the July 2025 drive. Twenty six people registered online to donate, with one of them being a first time donor. Three of those registered made a double red donation. By the end of the four hour drive, 28 units had been collected. What an amazing gift for those in need!

Church members who volunteered one hour of their time to serve refreshments were: Roy and Donna Ramsey, Jim Wolfe, Cathy Landis, Deb Baeuchle, Margarite Hilscher, Cheryl and Gary Rader, and Teresa Hicks.

Thank you Grant Zschoche and Ed Garven who assisted behind the scenes with set-up and break-down and publicizing the event in the community. Many of our church family and staff members were blood donors. A big thanks to all who helped make the day a success. Our next scheduled blood drive will take place on Tuesday, December 2, 2025.

Maryann McAfee, Church Blood Drive Coordinator



Abigail Showalter was baptized on July 13. Welcome to the family, Abigail!



The Caring Congregation



Here in America, people seem impressed by youth, as evidenced by the plethora of anti-aging creams and the plastic surgery industry. Other cultures revere and honor their most senior citizens, respecting their contributions to society and the value of their hard earned wisdom, which entitles them to a place of honor in the family. Perhaps I am reflecting on this as I am at the gateway of becoming this generation. (Let's just say that in a couple of months I'll be the number of trombones in The Music Man). This led me to interview one of our esteemed seniors, Betty Gaumer. I spoke with Betty as she celebrated her 95th birthday. I asked her, "to what do you attribute your longevity, was it clean living? Genes? Active lifestyle? Hard work?" I had to chuckle at her answer: "I have absolutely no idea! But I do know this, at an early age, I learned how to be independent."

Betty Peyton was the second of three children, and grew up in Danville, IL. Her older sister had severe esteem issues, requiring a lot of attention, and her younger brother contracted polio which effected his left side. She remembers her mother taking him by bus across town every day for hydrotherapy. As the "normal" middle child, she often felt left out. As an adult she understands how difficult this must have been for her parents but the feeling of neglect stayed with her and shaped her childhood. She became fiercely independent and learned problem solving skills at an early age.

Her family was very active in church, and Betty attended Methodist Youth Fellowship in her teens. They frequently combined activities with the big church downtown, which is how she met David Gaumer, her future husband. They courted while square dancing together! After high school, David went to college, while Betty went to nursing school. It was here, working with the nuns, that Betty met Sister Florita, who inspired her with the way she modeled her prayer life. Sister Florita was the "baby whisperer," and when there was an especially difficult case, she would go to the hospital chapel and pray for her little charges. They forged a friendship and continued writing until Sister Florita's death. Years later, Betty learned that her cards were the only personal correspondence that Sister Florita had kept.

David joined the Air Force. When faced with deployment to Korea, they decided to marry. But Betty still had three months of nursing school left. In those days, marriage of the nursing students was frowned on. Sister Florita not only called David's commanding officer to make sure everything was on the up-and-up, she gave them exactly three days to tie the knot, AND Betty was required to make up those three days before she could graduate!

The Gaumers settled in Collinsville, where they welcomed two sons, David Jr. and Craig. They were active in their children's activities. As a nurse in great demand, Betty was able to pick and choose her hours, ensuring that she could be there with her children. Most of her career was in Catholic hospitals, working in the NICU with babies. Following Sister Florita's example, she had many deep and meaningful conversations with the parents of the sick babies, and spent hours in prayer. Eventually, caring for so many addicted babies began to weigh on her. She transferred to the Psychiatric Ward and spent the last 12 years of her career there. Betty loved the Psych Ward. She really felt she was making a difference, and even established a grief group there.

During this time, Betty also established a support group for military families whose service members were deployed to Iraq. She thought it would be for a few families. But a TV station promoted it and within months, there were around 75 families. That group still exists today, and she's very proud of the things they accomplished.

David and Betty were married 58 years. Unfortunately, David became diabetic and wasn't a good patient. As a nurse, Betty knew the importance of proper diet, but he was non-compliant and would sneak food. Eventually it caught up with him and he died at the age of 78, spending the last three years of his life in a care facility. Betty recalls how angry she was, feeling that he could have lived to see his grandchildren grow up and missing out on so many life events.

When Betty could no longer live alone she had to make the difficult decision; live in Des Moines with Craig, or Leavenworth with David. Unfortunately, a shattering event occurred after she settled here. What started out as a routine knee replacement surgery became an infection that would not heal. Eight weeks later, MRSA set in and Betty had to have her right leg amputated above the knee. To say that this was a life-altering event for such an active person would be an understatement. David was now required to take her wherever she needed to be because her wheelchair was so heavy and cumbersome. This greatly impacted her ability to be independent.

Above and Beyond!

Above and beyond is the only way to describe everything about Vacation Bible School this year. Our church family's response to our donation requests, the volunteers who were so fantastic with the kids and the kids themselves! We had an average attendance of 68 each day. We had six brand new volunteers, but you wouldn't know which ones were new because they were so outstanding with the kids. Set up and clean up was completed in record time even though we built a boat!

The kids brought in over 420 food items to be donated to our community. They learned how God came to the rescue for Noah. We had a few children who had never heard the story of Noah. God even provided a rainstorm on the day we learned about Noah to emphasize the story. They heard how Moses was rescued from the river. That is just a preview of what the kids are going to learn about Moses in Wonderful Wednesday this year. They heard about Jesus calming the storm and helping Peter walk on the water. These lessons were as powerful for the adults as they were for the children. Finally, we learned about Paul's shipwreck and how God not only rescued him, but also everyone who was with him. God is truly amazing.

This wonderful week would not be possible without hours and hours of hard work from our volunteers, lots of craft and snack supplies and hours of prayer. Thank you to the Station Leaders who chose to use their time in service to witness for God. Thank you to the Crew Leaders who built relationships with kids. Thank you to the many artists that shared their talents in visual arts, videography, music, and technology. We are exceedingly thankful for your support of this church and our Children's Ministry. Please keep praying for the kids and our children's ministry volunteers.

We are already planning for next year's VBS. We can't wait to share Camp Fire with you.

Nancy Shade





Kids First Worship is for kids ages 3 years through 4th grade. We meet during the 11:00 service, unless otherwise noted, each Sunday on the lower floor of the Sanctuary building. During the month of August, we will be focusing on the Book of Judges.

August 3: Why Judges? The Cycle of Apostasy

NOTE: August 3 is a 10:00 service!

August 10: Deborah

August 17: Gideon

August 24: Samson

August 31: Hannah

(Mother of Samuel, who would be the last Judge)

Sunday School is for kids ages 3 years through 6th grade and meets in room 202 of the Education building from 9:45 – 10:40 am. We'll be studying the same lessons as Kids First Worship, taking time to go a little deeper.

NOTE: On August 3 we will meet from 9:00 - 9:45 am.



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 past school year we took a journey through the book of Genesis. Next year we will pick up where Genesis left off with the stories of Moses and the Exodus.

NOTE – Our first session for this school year is August 20!

Fusion 56 There's a huge transition that happens between Elementary school and Junior High. Everything is changing and it can be difficult to navigate all the changes. This special group is just for 5th and 6th graders and focuses on the unique challenges and joys that come with being "in-between" We meet every other week from 12:00 – 1:30 pm. We will gather together for lunch, to support each other and grow in our faith. Friends are always welcome!! We will usually meet on the 1st, 3rd and 5th Sundays of the month.

August 10: Getting to Know You

August 24: What Does God Say About You?

August 31: FUN DAY!



Mother's Morning Out is taking a break for the summer but resumes in September! The second Wednesday of each month during the school year, we will be providing care for children ages birth through school

age. This is a great way to volunteer if you love children. There will be three groups: Nursery (ages 6 weeks – 2 yrs.), Toddlers (2 and 3's) and Preschool (4 and up). Our first session for this school year is September 10. To sign up a child or to volunteer, register at fumclvks.org/mmo. Space is limited, so sign up early.

For information on any Children's Ministry contact Nancy Shade at nshade@fumclvks.org



The Caring Congregation continued

When asked how she coped, she said that her years of prayer got her through. Years prior, her pastor, Danny Cox, was instrumental in making the scriptures come alive for her. His Bible studies showed the characters as real people with real problems. She continued to seek out Bible studies as a way of strengthening her faith. She took her anger to God and struggled with making sense of her loss. But over time, she realized that you just have to take what life gives you and go with it. Her favorite life verse, Galatians 6:9, sums it up: "And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up".

Betty still continues her lifelong quest for knowledge by attending Sunday School and started a church group for the ladies at Twin Oaks Independent Living center. Pastor Dave facilitates and takes communion to them. She's grateful for her life experiences and blessed with good health and mental acuity. She is a fascinating conversationalist, as well. I think, like Paul, we can say, "well done, good and faithful servant". **Marsha Gaffin**



Camp Horizon is a United Methodist church camp near Arkansas City, Kansas. Every year, hundreds of children attend this camp in the summer to swim, hike, play games, do crafts, make friends, but most importantly, to learn more about Jesus. After the summer is over, there are things at Camp that need to be repaired, painted, trimmed, organized, etc. Our church sponsors a work crew that will be going there October 12 – 16. You are invited to join our crew for our 15th year of service at Camp Horizon. We leave Sunday (12) morning after the 8:30 service and return after breakfast Thursday (16). There is no cost for individuals for food or lodging. Over the years we have accomplished such things as: stringing bows, cutting brush, planting landscaping plants, mulching, painting, carpentry, office work, and deep cleaning of buildings to name a few tasks. It is not all work and no play, as we enjoy fellowship too. Please contact Gary and Cheryl Rader, gcrader66@gmail.com, or 913-651-6429, if you have any questions, or to join the crew. Food needs to be purchased for meals, rooms assigned, and the staff of Camp Horizon notified as to the number attending, so PLEASE let Gary and Cheryl know by September 21, if you will be joining in this service project.

Dear Church Family,

Thank you so much for the cards, meals, prayers and hugs when my mom died and Keith was in the hospital. Keith is doing great and I'll always have wonderful memories of my mom to help me through losing her. My church family is precious and it shows through your kindness. Libby Frashier



Thank you Pastor Dave and FUMC for sponsoring my trip to Camp Chippewa. It was very fun and a new experience. I am very excited to go again next year.

Thank you!

Paisley Hladky



Dear FUMC,
Thank you so much for your donation. The children appreciate your kindness.
CASA



A big thank you to Teresa Hicks and the wonderful team that puts together the lovely bag of goodies for the "over 80" members. When Teresa brought the bag recently, Bill carefully checked out each carefully thought out item. The berry theme was very appropriate. We both are enjoying everything she brought, but most of all appreciate being remembered. Thanks again. Sheila Bailey

Dear FUMC,

On behalf of DePaul USA, I would like to extend my deepest appreciation for your generous contribution to Leavenworth attainable housing program. Your donation contributes to the success of this innovative program that provides permanent supportive housing to homeless and housing insecure families.

Charles Levesque, Executive Director, DePaul USA



Dear Pastor Dave, Rhonda & the ladies who made the lunch, Words can't express how grateful we are for your support for our family. Thank you, Pastor York, for your love and doing the funerals for Jerry and Margary Scheele. Thank you, Rhonda for playing the music. Thank you to the ladies who unconditionally prepared the meals for our family. Your compassion and love are greatly appreciated. Love, the Scheele family



Itchin' to Stitch

The Itchin' to Stitch ladies have been very busy this summer. They made hundreds of bookmarks for the Basehor library. They sewed pillowcases for foster kids in June. They also gifted several baby blankets, tied fleece blankets, and made mother's heart swatches for the Children's Hospital as well. If you love to sew, consider joining them. They meet on the third Thursday at 1:30 pm in the Fellowship Hall. For more info, contact Teresa at hickst@kc.rr.com.



Dear Itchin' to Stitch Ladies,
Thank you so much for the baby quilt for my granddaughter, Sophia. It's a work of heart. I really appreciate the way you use your talents to benefit others. I'm sure this quilt will "bee" special to her for years to come. Thank you. Sandy Wood



Music Notes

Music at First UMC
is about to **crescendo!**

Sanctuary choir starts their Wednesday evening rehearsals on Aug 6th at 6:30 pm. They sing at the 8:30 am service. No audition or experience required, just a desire to make a joyful noise.

Wesley Ringers, our main handbell ensemble, begins rehearsals on Aug 17 @ 4 pm.

Beginner Hand Chime/Bell group for fourth grade through adult will start in September. They will meet from 5-5:45 pm on Sundays and play on Sunday mornings. If you have always wanted to try playing bells, this is your opportunity.

Children's Choir will learn songs during Wonderful Wednesday and Kids First Worship. They will also begin rehearsals for a Christmas play later in the fall.

If you are interested in joining any of these groups, please email Kathy at KMckinley@fumclvks.org.



During the Lenten season, Pastor Dave put out a call for donations to Trinity House. Your response was overwhelmingly positive. For the first time in a long while, the pantry shelves were full of canned goods and staples. Now, I'm asking you to build on that response by flooding them with fun stuff! By that, I mean supplies that may not be essential but sure make life easier. Examples might be: instant potatoes, pop tarts, sandwich bread, taco shells, toilet paper, hand lotion, cookies, paper towels, cake mixes, shelf stable milk, coffee, Ensure, instant breakfast packets, granola bars, pudding, nuts, chips and crackers. You get the idea. Staples are always welcome, but so are these little treats that make life a little sweeter. Use your imagination, the sky's the limit! You can drop your donation off at the church, or at Trinity House, 2101 10th Ave. They're open Tues.-Thurs. from 10 am to 1 pm.



Parents @ First: Finding Community in the Chaos

Being in the thick of parenting doesn't leave much time or space to build friendships—but Parents @ First is here to change that. We're a group committed to helping parents connect, support one another, and simply be themselves. Whether it's cookouts, potlucks, adults-only hangouts, or whole-family fun, we gather once a month to share life together. In July, we gathered at the Moore's home for a laid-back evening of grilling and laughter while the kids played in their awesome backyard setup. It was the perfect chance to catch up and relax. Next up: Join us Friday, August 23 from 10:30 AM–12 PM at Stubby Park in Leavenworth for a casual playdate and adult conversation. We can hang out under the awning while the kids play. Want to learn more? Contact Kristen Howell at khowell@fumclvks.org—we'd love to have you join us!



Young Adults at First UMC: Midweek Moments & Meaningful Connection

Our Young Adults at First UMC group meets on the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of each month from 5:30–7:00 PM for connection, laughter, and a break from the weekly grind. Whether we're gathered around a table or out exploring together, we're all about building community through friendship and faith. Anybody ages 18-35 is welcome! In July, we met up at Ten Penny in Leavenworth for food and fun. It was especially great to catch up with some of our college crew who are home for the summer and hear about their next adventures! Earlier this summer, we even tackled an escape room in Lawrence—proof that teamwork really does make the dream work.

August 13 – Join us at the church for food and fellowship.

August 27 – We'll be heading out for an off-site activity (details coming soon!).

Want to come hang out or learn more?

Reach out to Kristen Howell at khowell@fumclvks.org—we'd love to see you!



Be a Superhero! The CASA Superhero Run is Sept. 20 at the Sports Field Recreation Complex in Leavenworth. It is split into certified 10k and certified 5k routes. The 5k is a run/walk event. Runners are encouraged to dress as a super hero. After the run our 12 and under superheroes will get their chance to participate in a 100 yard dash. Bouncy castle, face painting, and costume contest are a few of the activities rounding out the morning event. For more information, visit casalvks.org.





Camp Chippewa is a United Methodist camp outside Ottawa, Kansas. It's a great opportunity for kids to try new activities while learning more about God. This year, Lucy Heim was a counselor in training for two weeks. She loved doing all the behind-the-scenes activities and working with the church pastors, Alex and Eduardo. She hopes to go back as a counselor-in-training again next year.

Many other kids attended camp as well. Paisley Hladky explains what a typical day at camp looks like.

"Our day started at 7am. Then we'd head to the barn to get the horses ready for the day. After that, we'd eat breakfast and have worship before leaving for our choice activities (mini golf, archery, 9 squares, gaga ball, swimming, and other outside activities). After lunch, we'd have FOOF (feet off of floor). We'd then spend more time with horses or go to the pool. We would then eat dinner and come together for worship. To end our day, we'd have one more cabin group activity before getting ready for bed. Riding my horse, Tulsa, was my favorite activity because I have never ridden a horse before and I loved it! My whole cabin of boys and girls became my new friends, but I made a few super close friends in my cabin that I still text or call every day."

Miles Moore went to the two-day family camp. He said his favorite activity was archery. Sadie Heim was reluctant to go to camp the first time, but when her mom picked her up on Friday, she asked if she could go another week.

Thank you, church family, for making the Boots and Bible camp possible for Paisley to attend. She just got home from her five day camp and was so excited about it! When I picked her up today, she hugged me and immediately said, "Sign me up for next year. This was so much fun!" Thanks to our church for making her experience possible! She was able to do lots of fun activities like horse back riding, archery, swimming, canoeing, hiking, Bible study, worship, and so much more! She told me all about it on the ride home. I'm so glad she made many memories and friendships while learning to grow in her faith. Here's a few pics! On the last day, they invited families to their worship and the very first song Laney knew too. She was singing along and said, "Miss Nancy taught us this one!" Leslie Hladky



Scouts Have A Great Summer!

This month is definitely youth ministry in action at FUMC! The Scouting Ministry had Pack 3109 Scouts at We-belo, Bear, Wolf Camps at Camp Naish. Younger Scouts from Troops 173 and 6173 Camp Hohn in Missouri and the older Scouts did the High Adventure Camping based out of Camp Chris Dobbins located in Elbert, Colorado.

Camp Chris Dobbins is a private Scout Ranch and provided us with a secure area to establish our campsite for no additional cost. Scouts slept in troop tents and Scout Leaders used personal tents. The Scouts cooked many of their own meals. The weather ranged from 50s to 80s...and you remember the 4+ inches of rain we got in July? Well they got it too in the mountains and ended up with some wet gear, but nothing was ruined.

High adventure started in route where the Chaar family hosted the Scouts at their property in Jetmore, KS. They also enjoyed Pistol and Rifle Target Sports as well as a good meal. They made their own breakfast on Sunday, headed to Colorado and pitched camp. You may have been to Garden of the Gods, but did you do it on horseback?

Personally, I am afraid of heights. If you have been to the Royal Gorge and walked across the bridge and saw people white water rafting ... it could have been our Scouts going down the gorge, looking up at the bridge, thinking, "I wonder what those people are thinking?" Oh, the heights! You won't get me to do what the scouts did: climb the towers and zipline at 55-60 miles per hour over 9-11 extensions for about one mile. "Don't look down!" Talk about the wild west. Speaking of "Don't look ..." when they turn out the lights in Cave of the Winds, you can't see anything in the dark. Just sayin'...

Back in the day, it seemed to me the perfect 2-mile run was starting at the top of Pikes Peak. Do you know that Zebulon Pike never reached the top either. Well, our Scouts did not go there. Instead, they took the challenge to explore the mountain at Manitou Incline. A couple facts: length: about 1 mile / 1.4 km (plus nearly 3 miles / 4.8 km down Barr Trail); elevation gain: 2,020 ft / 615 m; base elevation: 6,530 ft / 2012 m; summit elevation: 8,550 ft / 2606 m; average grade: 41%; steepest grade: 68% and total stairs: 2,744.

The Scouts and their families thank the First United Methodist Church and the Tinkler Trustees for providing scholarships for the youth and including the Scouting Ministry in our total Youth Ministry. For the Scouts, this was about fun and adventure; for the adult leadership and the FUMC congregation, the Scouting Ministry is about building young men and women of Character. A Scout is reverent.



LIFEBOAT VBS @ FUMC

Vacation Bible School was a great success. The kids learned how God came to the rescue for Noah, Moses, the disciples, Peter, and Paul. Every day they shared “God sightings,” sang songs, made crafts, played games, ate snacks, made friends, but most of all, they learned that they can trust God because He loves them deeply.

