



First United Methodist Church

of

Leavenworth



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

January 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
28 10 am United Worship 9 am Sunday School	29 Youth Mission Trip	30 9 am Prayer Youth Mission Trip	31 Youth Mission Trip	1 Youth Mission Trip	2 Youth Mission Trip	3 
4 8:30 & 11am Worship 9:45 am SS 12 pm Fusion 56 4 pm Bells 6 pm Youth	5	6 9 am Prayer 1 pm Book Club	7 3:45pm WW 5:30 pm Young Adults 6:30pm Choir	8	9	10
11 8:30 & 11am Worship 9:45 am SS 4 pm Bells 6 pm Youth	12	13 9 am Prayer	14 8:30 am MMO 12 pm Let's Do Lunch @ The Depot 1:00 pm H & S 3:45pm WW 6:30pm Choir	15	16	17 8 am Men's Prayer Breakfast
18 8:30 & 11am Worship 9:45 am SS 12 pm Fusion 56 4 pm Bells 6 pm Youth	19 Martin Luther King Jr. Day Songs of Resilience 6 pm Church Office closed	20 9 am Prayer 2 pm Spouse Grief Share	21 1:00 pm H & S 3:45pmWonderful Wednesday 5:30pm Young Adults 6:30pm Choir	22	23	24 
25 8:30 & 11am Worship 9:45 am SS 12 pm Chili Cook Off/ Family Game Day 4 pm Bells 6 pm Youth	26	27 9 am Prayer	28 1:00 pm H & S 3:45pmWonderful Wednesday 6:30pm Choir	29	30	31

LIFE @

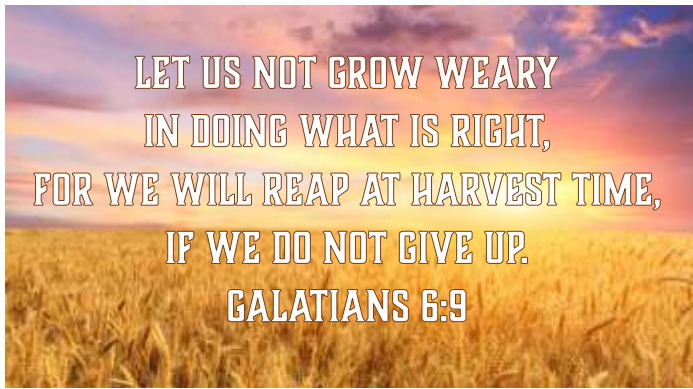
First United Methodist church

January 2026





Think
on these
things...



2026 is a year full of opportunities and possibilities for FUMC. Each person will have the chance to be the light of the world wherever they are sent by the Lord – your family, friends, work, church, or fun activities. I'd like you to consider this equation for spiritual and relational growth this year.

EFFORT + TIME = HARVEST

So often, we believe that if we simply work more or try harder, then we'll get the results we want. We often overlook time because endurance is a consistent effort in one direction over time. If we want our lives to be fruitful with an increase of wisdom, hope, joy, peace, kindness, faith, and love (always love), we must invest BOTH effort AND time to see the desired results. The farmer works hard during the preparation and the planting of the field but must wait for the proper season to grow and ripen the fruit. Our lives are the same.

If you think about the relationship you are trying to build or the discipline you are trying to make a habit, it takes our energy and regular repetition to achieve the goal. Your prayer life is a consistent habit. Your physical health takes constant attention. Your financial outlook takes stable investment to achieve wealth. Most importantly, our relationship with Jesus must be at the center.

In John 15, Jesus said, "No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me. I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing." My hope for your 2026 is that you bear much fruit, fruit that will last, and fruit that glorifies the Father!

Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. was an American civil rights activist and Baptist minister who was a leader of the civil rights movement from 1955 until his assassination in 1968. He advanced civil rights for people of color in the United States through the use of nonviolent resistance and civil disobedience against legalized discrimination. Each year around his birthday we celebrate his legacy. This year we are honored to host the NAACP and area churches with a musical tribute called Songs of Resilience on January 19 at 6:30 pm. You won't want to miss this exciting evening.



There is nothing like a bowl of warm chili on a cold, winter's day. And there is nothing like the way laughing around a board game with good friends can warm your soul. We have an event for both. Make plans to join us for the Chili Cook-Off on January 25. There will be prizes for the best chili/soup. Afterwards, we will have a family game day. You can bring your favorite board game, or we will have many to choose from. Start your new year off right with some great food and fellowship.



2nd	Jack Spicklemier	14th	Bill Shade	25th	Bill McCollum
3rd	Paul Estep	15th	Tristan Tebbetts	27th	Linda Landzettel
	Mary Catherine Perry	16th	Alex Burkett	29th	Tony McNeill
4th	Kaki Kinard	20th	Jim Wolfe		Rick Sanders
6th	Chez Shafer	21st	Joel Hubbard	30th	Michael Burkett
7th	Gini Geib		Barbara Kempf		Helen Pepper
	Alice Hall	22nd	Mike Crow		John Raines
8th	Adriane Bakke	23rd	Jennifer Ko		Verna Raines
8th	Emily Hansen		Leah Wieggers	31st	Brooke Frederick
11th	Daniel Eyerly		Adriana Yates		Virginia Schalipp
12th	Lynne Sepulvado	24th	Leona Sanford		



2nd	Bill & Karen Kidder	36 years
9th	Ron & Lou Ann Roggentien	16 years
23rd	Jeff & Ann Andrews	30 years
31st	Jim & Jan Glick	53 years



WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 14, NOON
The Depot
781 Shawnee Street

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



Honoring Our Heroes

December for Scouts is super busy for the older scouts with mid-term exams at school and then the typical holiday rush. The Scouts invited the Cub Scouts who are transitioning to the Scouting program. There was a lot of laughter and a few "wows!" Scouts learn to tie some knots. They learn to make a litter that will carry another person. They learn the animal tracks in their back yard. They also learn basic first aid like how to wrap a sprained ankle or treat a bee sting. Important information for life!

Time goes fast when you are having fun. Football season is ending; basketball and wrestling are starting... and the winter band concerts. How do we do it all? We take a few hours and have a party!!! The adults from the Troops gave warm blankets to the Scouts and the Pack Leaders gave Pinewood Derby Car kits to the Cub Scouts.

The Scouts participated in the nationwide event called Wreaths Across America. Our Scouts placed wreaths on hundreds of graves at both the Leavenworth and Fort Leavenworth National Cemeteries. We made special care to include former members of our congregation who were veterans. When we place the wreath, we pause and say the name so that veteran is not forgotten.

You see, Advent is about Christmas, and our Scouting Ministry will pause activities to observe the holiday. But the concepts of advent; hope, peace, joy, and love are a reflection on not just the birth of Christ, but looking forward.

You see, a Scout is Reverent. We look forward to seeing you in 2026.



This was the first year for our church family to participate in the Prison Fellowship Angel Tree program. Former Leavenworth Mayor Jermaine Wilson introduced us to the program in August when he came and spoke to us. We were assigned one family whose father was in prison. There were two children, a three year old boy and a two year old girl. Because we had already put out 80 children's needs for gift from Anthony and Brewer Elementary, we had decided to purchase gifts for those children with church funds.

Nicole Flatt and her four year old son, Isaac, recently started attending here. She is a Behavioral Health NCO and am currently working to provide case management, therapy, rehabilitative workshops/groups for inmates in the USDB. She asked Isaac if he would like to choose to donate any of his toys and clothes. She brought in six bags of like new toys, boys bedding and boys size four clothes. She also brought in a tote full of Legos and a brand new Hot Wheels race track. She had bought the race track on Black Friday, but Isaac found a different racetrack he wanted so she bought that. These were all items that had been requested. We purchased items for the little girl. The mother was thrilled with our gifts.

Nicole said, "I remember my mom used to always say that there's no such thing as coincidences, that it's God's way of winking at you."



Dear FUMC,

So nice seeing you and the Christmas group! In all of my years at schools, this is the first time I've had the opportunity to see parents receiving gifts for their children. It was amazing to see the generosity of your group-helping families keep the sparkle and joy of Christmas. Every parent left happy and ready. There was one woman in particular who came in with visible emotional weariness and not knowing what to expect. To see that weariness lift when Callie brought the bags of gifts to her, was one of the most wonderful things I've ever seen. What you all do has a beautiful impact on our town. I want to thank you and wish everyone a very Merry and Joyous Christmas!

Sincerely,

Nancy Levine, David Brewer Secretary

Thank you!

Dear FUMC,

Thank you for the continued support of Anthony's Holiday Assistance program. We appreciate all you do for our staff, students, and families.

Thank you,

Anthony Elementary

Dear Friends,

Your generous gift to Trinity House is greatly appreciated. Your support helps Trinity House continue to share bags of food to our community.

Trinity House

Trinity Lutheran Church

Thank You!

To the First United Methodist Church of Leavenworth,

This is a long overdue thank you for so many kindnesses. We enjoyed the gifts brought to us. We enjoyed the Octogenarians and the biggest thanks to the quilters for the beautiful quilt given to Gary. It has a place of honor on the wall in our living room. We have felt a warm welcome in our nearly 3 years back in KS and attending 1st Methodist. Our Sunday School class has become our group of friends that we have grown to know and love. Thank you.

Gary and Celless Beck

Dear FUMC,

Thanks for all the well wishes, prayers and beautiful card. I am truly blessed to be a part of this wonderful church.

Much love, Rosemary



Dear First United Methodist Church,

I have heard many wonderful things about your church. The Lord blessed me with some money and I wanted to tithe. Please use this where it is needed by the church. I am happy to do this! It brings me much joy! My wish is to remain anonymous.

thank you

Dear FUMC,

Thank you for your willingness to serve Angel Tree families! Angel Tree wouldn't be possible without many faithful church coordinators and volunteers who act as the hands and feet of Jesus. Because of you, families are experiencing restoration, and family relationships are healing.

Prison Fellowship Angel Tree Program



Global Hope's mission is to provide Christ-centered care for orphaned children Romania, Kenya, and India.



Greetings and Happy New Year to all!

Last year was truly a Kingdom building year at FUMC Leavenworth. Participation at every level was on the rise, from giving to attendance to baptisms to loving on our neighbors as ourselves. Giving last year increased over 15% from the previous year. The youth program has outgrown our in-house transportation assets. Thousands of meals were served to the community by your Samaritans' Buffet team and their cooperative partners the Sisters of Charity and Westside Family Church. Thousands of volunteer hours were logged by our members throughout the community, and on Wonderful Wednesdays, in small groups and with every stitch in every quilt given away. Additionally, tons of donated food was delivered to families in need.

This beautifully wonderful growth was never more apparent than your expressed generosity during this advent season with three different Angel Tree programs. You provided hundreds of gifts to children and families from Anthony and David Brewer Elementary Schools, along with encouraging letters and treats to every staff member at both locations. Through your obedient giving you provided 1,000 cookies with milk served at both locations to students, teachers and the entire facilities. A special thank you to Nicole and Isaac Flatt, see their article on the last page of this magazine, for providing gifts for our Prison Fellowship Ministry Family Tree!

Great job and many thanks to all for 2025. Now we refocus and reignite for 2026, the mission field is always moving forward. We look to sustain and expand community partnerships at every level to ensure everyone in this community, our community, sees and knows they are loved by us.

In Christ

Ed

Dear First United Methodist Church Friends,

What a gift you are to us and so many in our community! Your generosity is unmatched. As we celebrate the birth of Jesus this Christmas and reflect on the blessings of 2025, the work of Depaul Leavenworth Attainable Housing stands as a living testament to God's grace—made possible through your faithful generosity. Lives have been changed and hope has taken root in tangible ways as expressed in the smiles of Cindy and Samuel.

- Two homes were remodeled and opened to welcome new program participants.
- Our office was renovated into a warm and inviting gathering space for community.
- A resident was able to relocate to another state to reunite with her family.
- A man who had experienced homelessness for 20 years was welcomed into our congregated living home.
- Three residents worked diligently and received their driver's licenses, increasing independence and opportunity.
- A mother and her adult daughter with autism found stability and welcome in our program and their new home.
- We celebrated a resident pursuing an education in medical coding and billing while working full-time and raising two children.
- 100% of the adults in our program maintained their income.
- All 18 school-aged children in our families remained in school, growing academically while witnessing their parents' perseverance and faith.

Looking ahead to 2026, we will continue to accompany residents in our 19 homes while responding to God's call to serve more. With your continued support, we will build four new duplexes and renovate abandoned houses in North Leavenworth—restoring both homes and hope.

Through Depaul USA Leavenworth Attainable Housing, safe and supportive housing is transforming North Leavenworth and empowering residents to realize their God-given potential. Thank you for your partnership, prayers, and support, and may Christ's peace and joy be with you this Christmas season.

With gratitude and blessings,

Chris Leach, Lead Housing Support Specialist; April Penn, Housing Support Specialist; Sister Amy Willcott; Director



As 2025 comes to a close, so does our first semester of youth ministry for the year. It has been such a fun semester as our youth group is growing in curiosity, energy, and new friends. With all of the new people we have joining us, it came to my attention that many of our students have never been in church before, so we decided to start at the very beginning and go through Confirmation as a whole group. As of the end of December, we have covered through the crucifixion and I find myself amused at the symbolism of starting the new year with the resurrection.

Although we've spent a lot of time on some pretty cerebral stuff this year, the students are keeping up great, asking really insightful questions, and also having a lot of fun, too. We've discovered a new game -- Romans and Christians, that the students love and we finished out our year with a Christmas party. December 29 through January 2, we will be driving a van-full of students down to San Antonio to serve at The Texas Diaper Bank and enjoy the sights. This will be the second time Steven and I have taken the students to San Antonio, so we have a bit more knowledge of what is fun to do down there. We will spend New Year's Eve at Six Flags and will spend time in a giant adult-sized ball pit at Hopscotch. We also plan to eat well. I look forward to giving a report of how it went in the next monthly newsletter.

As the year closes up, I want to express my gratitude to many people who make our youth ministry great. First, I want to thank our amazing co-workers who support us in any way they can. I want to thank people who have donated things to us this year, such as our new love seat that has quickly become a favorite. And the people who feed us! We have had some delicious meals and have been blessed that people in our congregation who don't even have a student in our program have brought food for us to eat. I want to thank Nancy and Bill Shade who are taking a week to drive our luggage to San Antonio since the van is bursting at the seams, and who stand at the ready whenever we need any extra eyes or hands. And I want to thank my co-leader and friend, Steven, who drives the 15 passenger because I don't like to, who balances out my anxiety with his ever-chill demeanor (though it should be noted that I also balance out his ever-chill demeanor, too. Ha), and who has been a steady presence in our group for the past 8 school years that we have worked together. I am blessed and we, as a youth group, are blessed.

Please pray for us as we are on our trip for traveling mercies, good experiences, strengthened friendships, and that no one will throw up in the van (please Lord, we beg). We'll see you in the new year!

Young Adults

Our core group of young adults are holding strong and meeting twice monthly for fellowship and camaraderie on the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays, 5:30-7:30(ish).

This past month, one of our members went off to basic training, so we are feeling his absence. In the coming year, we are looking forward to more time together and some fun outings, too. If you're an adult aged 18 (post-high school) - 35, contact Kristen at khowell@fumclvks.org to get on our texting list where we put information about our meeting locations and times. We know different people get off work at different times, so even if you can't be there right at 5:30, please do come join us! We hope to see you there!



The Nurture/Care Team is looking for some new members. Our group is a combination of special folks who are involved with several events throughout the year including the care packages to seniors and the Octogenarian Dinner. If you are interested in joining this group or would just like to know more about what we do, please contact Teresa Hicks at 913-727-2694 and leave your name and number. We look forward to meeting you!

The Caring Congregation

Another Christmas has been successfully celebrated, and thoughts now turn to the new year. Welcome 2026! Remembering childhood events surrounding the new year consists mostly of being thrilled at the prospect of staying up till midnight to welcome in the new year, followed by a day of football and, for some strange reason, eating black eyed peas and cornbread. I asked Don for his memories, and he responded that his dad, brother and he always had a game of tag using pistols that shot plastic darts with suction cups on the end. New Year's Day meant a mandatory visit to Mother Horn's house for the family reunion. I guess every family has some quirky tradition associated with the advent of January 1.

And, who doesn't at least TRY to make a well intended resolution? I asked that well known oracle Siri, who told me that most New Year's resolutions fail within the first two weeks. There's even a day, the second Friday in January, called Quitters' Day. So much for good intentions. I actually was, however, successful a couple of years ago in keeping my resolution for the entire year. I vowed to not purchase a single article of clothing for myself or Don for the entire year. I included two exceptions should they occur, which were if I was invited to the White House or Buckingham Palace. Since that didn't happen, I had no problem following through.

I wonder what would happen if we as a congregation all made and kept the same New Year's resolution? What if, for example, we all vowed to bless someone besides ourselves every day for an entire year? Start out small to get into the groove, with family. A kind word to your teen, doing someone else's chore for them, making someone's favorite meal for no special reason, an unexpected hug, the list is endless. Next, tackle your friendship circle - an encouraging text, offering to drive, listening politely to a boring story, taking a friend to lunch. Move on to people you encounter at work or church that you don't really know - give a sincere compliment, really notice the cashier at Walmart or Dillons, donate blood, remember and call people by their name. As summer rolls around, help an overburdened senior with a lawn project, volunteer at Samaritans Buffet or the Shelter of Hope. When school starts in September, offer to tutor a child, or anonymously sponsor a teen's sports expenses or a child's piano lessons. Now that you're in the groove, branch out into your community by getting involved. Know your leaders and vote responsibly. Share the gospel with someone who is struggling, listen to people whose opinions do not match your own and don't judge. And, while we're at it, pray earnestly for others, including our "frenemies" and world leaders.

We have somewhere around 250 active members in our congregation. If we all kept this one resolution, would it make a difference? Peace, Marsha



HOLIDAY ART GALA

Ron Roggentien, Teri Nabors, Libby Frashier and Heidi Eaton are members of the Leavenworth County Artist Association and each displayed their art at the Holiday Art Gala in December. The theme for the show this year was "Boundless Imagination" and each of these artists showed that to be true. Heidi won Honorable Mention for her scratch drawing of a gorilla.



Also displaying his artwork at the Holiday Gala was Fred McDonald. He won Honorable Mention for a stained glass artwork named "Yellowjacket Sky". Fred made this piece as a gift for our church. This is his 183rd work of stained glass and the 36th cross that he has made. It shows off a full sheet of Yellowjacket Fusers' Reserve, a Gabbon ebony cross and a Limba black base. We are so grateful to Fred for his generous gift.



Rick and Robin Sanders raised their children in our church. Each one has moved into the world to pursue their life callings. We thought you might enjoy an update about how their kids are making the world a better place.

Liz graduated from the MCC-Blue River Police Academy. While she still is aiming for the job of Naturalist and using her geology degree, this is a great stepping stone. She loves working at Jackson County Parks and will be there at least 2 years. She is considering an advanced degree in outdoor education to further pack her resume.

Rachel received her LPN this year and continues to work at Twin Oaks in Lansing. She plans to get some good experience and work full time to save some money before she continues to work toward RN/BSN. She wants to continue working with the elderly, specifically those in memory care.

Kyle has a one year old daughter, Juniper, and started a new job in Topeka as a recruiter for Kansas State Health Department. Kelby lives in Topeka and is working in Lawrence. He is an addiction counselor and works with the Lawrence Homeless Resource Team. He goes with his team into the homeless camps of Lawrence. They make contact with individuals and assess their well being and hopefully, provide necessary resources and get them housed. The HRT in Lawrence is a new concept with amazing success. The team will be traveling to cities across the US in the coming year, to discuss their approach and why it has been so successful.

Itchin' to Stitch

In December, Itchin' to Stitch made cute bowl cozies for Inclusion Connection. The mission of Inclusion Connections is to strengthen the lives of individuals with disabilities by creating inclusive opportunities for community involvement, access to meaningful employment, and better options for supported living. January 15, they will be delivering their bowl cozies and will get a tour of their facilities. If you would like to go on the trip, please contact Teresa at hickst@kc.rr.com.





Kids First Worship is for kids ages 3 years through 6th grade and meets during the 11 am service each Sunday on the lower floor of the Sanctuary building. During the month of January we will be in the New Testament, learning the stories of Jesus before he began his teaching.
January 4 – Simeon and Anna (Jesus brought to the Temple)
January 11 – Jesus in the Temple (Mary thinks Jesus is lost!)
January 18 – John the Baptist (The cousin of Jesus)
January 25 – John Baptizes Jesus (This is my son, with whom I am well pleased.)

Sunday School meets at 9:45 am in room 202 of the Education Building. With the Bible as our foundation, we use science, art and activity to not just tell God's story, but learn what it means for us. Our lessons will be a deeper dive into the stories from Kids 1st Worship.



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 during the school year. Our theme this year is "EXODUS: From Moses to Me". This month we are focusing on the Israelites leaving Egypt and all the things God did to make that possible.
January 7 – God Brings Plagues on Egypt (Plagues 1 – 9)
January 14 – The Final Plague (Death of the firstborn)
January 21 – Passover (The celebration of God passing over Israelites' homes)
January 28 – Egyptians Give Gifts (God caused the Egyptians to favor the Israelites with gifts as they exited Egypt. These will be important when we get to the construction of the Tabernacle!)



Mother's Morning Out: January 14, 8:30 – 11:30a.m.
Our theme for January is "snow." On the second Wed. every month, we provide care for children ages birth through school age. There will be three groups: Nursery, Toddlers, and Preschool. Space is limited, so register now by going to: FUMCLVKS.ORG/MMO

Fusion 56, our special group for 5th and 6th graders, meets from 12:00–1:30 pm every other Sunday (unless otherwise noted). Each meeting they have lunch, a Bible lesson and FUN! Contact Nancy to get the schedule for the year. Friends are always welcome!

This month's meetings: January 4 and 18.



For information on any of the Children's Ministries, contact Nancy at nshade@fumclvks.org.



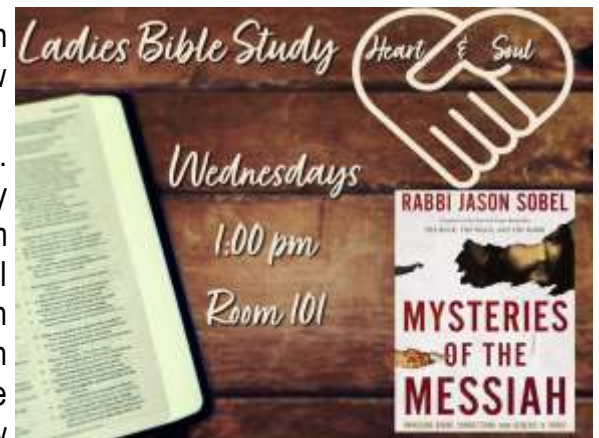
The children's Nativity play *Glory to God in the Lowest*.

Heart and Soul Ladies Bible Study meets Wednesdays at 1 pm in room 101 of the Education Building. January 14, they will be starting a new study by Rabbi Jason Sobel called *Mysteries of the Messiah*.

God has an intricate plan and purpose for both the Old and the New. In *Mysteries of the Messiah*, Rabbi Jason Sobel reveals the many connections in Scripture hidden in plain sight. Rabbi Jason guides us from the story of creation in Genesis through the book of Revelation to reveal God's glorious plan and bring us a deeper understanding of the passion and purpose of Jesus, our Messiah. Known for his emphatic declaration "but there's more!" he guides us in seeing the passion and purpose of the Messiah. This Bible study uncovers connections between the Old and New Testaments and connects the dots for readers with details about Jesus, the Torah, and biblical characters. It is written with the unique perspective of a rabbi with an evangelical theological degree

No matter how many times you have read the Bible, *Mysteries of the Messiah* will bring fresh perspective and insight. God's Word, written by many people over thousands of years, is not a random selection of people and stories. Rabbi Jason Sobel connects the dots and helps us see with clarity what God intended.

If you have questions about Heart and Soul, contact Margaret at margaret.burland@gmail.com.

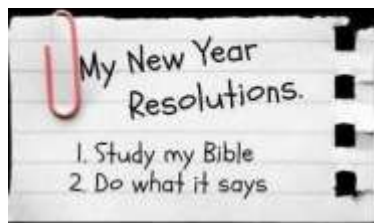


In January, the book club is reading *The Orphan Collector* by Ellen Marie Wiseman. Powerful, harrowing, and ultimately exultant, it is a story of love, resilience, and the lengths we will go to protect those who need us most.

The story revolves around a thirteen-year-old German immigrant Pia Lange in 1918, who longs to be far from Philadelphia's overcrowded slums and the anti-immigrant sentiment that compelled her father to enlist in the U.S. Army. But as her city celebrates the end of war, an even more urgent threat arrives: the Spanish flu. Funeral crepe and quarantine signs appear on doors as victims drop dead in the streets and desperate survivors wear white masks to ward off illness. When food runs out in the cramped tenement she calls home, Pia must venture alone into the quarantined city in search of supplies, leaving her baby brothers behind. Pia must confront her own shame and fear, risking everything to see justice – and love – triumph at last.

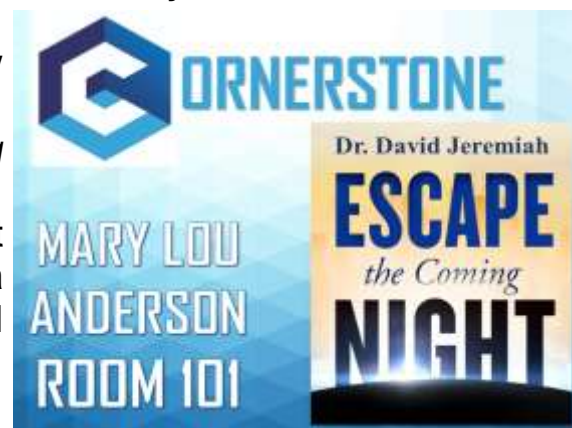
We will meet on February 3 in Wesley Hall at 1 pm. We would love for you to join us. For more information, contact Sandy at swood@fumclvks.org.





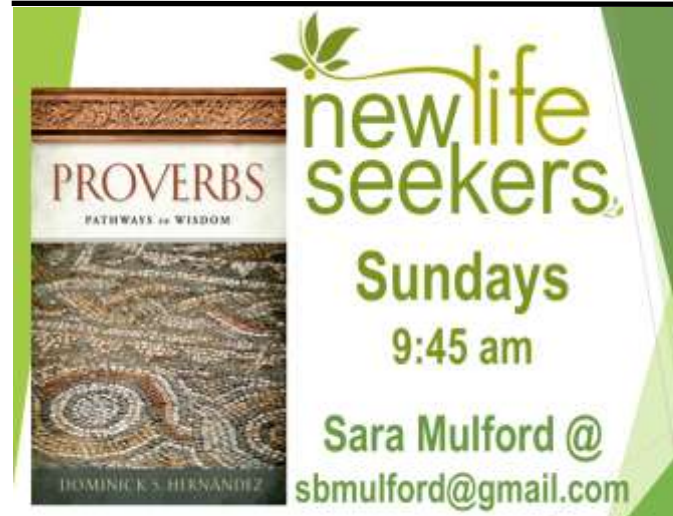
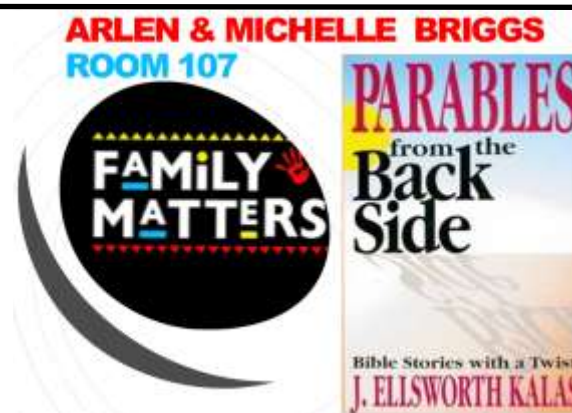
Is your New Year's resolution to grow deeper in your spiritual walk? Bible study is a great way to do that and Sunday School is a great way to study the Bible with friends who are on the same journey. Here's a preview of our classes to help you decide which class is best for you.

The Cornerstone Sunday School class is a smaller class led by Mary Lou Anderson. They meet in room 101 of the Education building. They are studying Dr. David Jeremiah's book, *Escape the Coming Night*. As one of the world's most beloved Bible teachers, Dr. Jeremiah goes verse-by-verse through one of the most challenging and rewarding books of the Bible: Revelation. Gain a deeper understanding of biblical prophecy, uncover key events, and see how it all connects to God's greater plan. For more information, contact Mary Lou Anderson at mlouanderson21@gmail.com.



The Koinonia Sunday School class enjoys digging deep into the Old Testament one verse at a time. In January, they will begin studying the book of Psalms. It is a collection of 150 Hebrew poems, prayers, and songs used for worship, expressing the full range of human emotion—praise, lament, thanksgiving, and trust in God. It acted as a spiritual songbook for ancient Israel and is a guide for believers to process life's joys and sorrows in relationship with the divine, often featuring Messianic prophecies and themes of God's sovereignty and faithfulness. For more information, contact Raun Watson at cavemanrg@earthlink.net.

The Family Matters Sunday School class focuses on how to be a godly parent. They take turns leading discussions. They enjoy brunch together the first Sunday of each month. They are currently studying *Parables from the Back Side: Bible Stories with a Twist* by J. Ellsworth Kalas. It offers a new understanding of twelve of Jesus' parables by viewing them through the eyes of a minor or unsympathetic character. They meet in room 107 of the Education building. If you would like more information, you can contact Arlen and Michelle Briggs at ammkm@yahoo.com.



The New Life Seekers Sunday School class is starting a new Bible study called, *Proverbs: Pathways to Wisdom* by Dominick Hernández. It explores the context, language, and interpretation of the book of Proverbs. Each chapter covers well known verses and examines prevalent themes throughout the book. The book of Proverbs is a book written for people like us—parents, children, friends, and coworkers. It's a collection of biblical sayings and wisdom that are intended to help us with practical matters in our lives. Inside, we encounter the wise and the foolish, and instructions for the journey to find the wisdom that comes from God alone. They meet upstairs in the Education building in room 203. For info, contact Sara at sbmulford@gmail.com.



We are blessed here at First UMC to have some really wonderful children ready to learn and grow in their love for God. **This also means that we need your help!**

We have wonderful volunteers who give of their time and talents weekly to help our children, but we need more! Please prayerfully consider volunteering in one of the following ways:

1. **Sunday school** leaders needed! Right now, we have one Sunday school class for all age groups (3 years through 6th grade). We meet from 9:45 – 10:40 a.m. each Sunday. While each week is lovely, it is not optimal. It will be of great benefit to the children to be in a group where they are all of similar age.

Current need: 2 volunteer leaders (one for each class)

2. **Wonderful Wednesday** leader needed! We have three groups, and each one needs two leaders. We are so close to that! Our middle group of 1st – 3rd graders is in need of someone to help their leader each week. We meet from 3:45 – 5:30 pm.

Current need: 1 volunteer leaders

3. **Kids First Worship** is going strong with an average of 15 kids each week. We meet during the 11 am-service. Three leaders are needed most weeks. Right now, we have three, but sometimes one of us is gone. It would be wonderful to have a list of volunteers that could be called on to fill in when needed.

Current need: 3 or more substitute leaders

4. **Mother's Morning Out** is a special ministry for moms (or dads!) with little ones – ages 6 weeks through pre-school. We meet on the second Wednesday of each month from 8:30 – 11:30a.m. We have three age groups which each need 2 volunteers to care for the children.

Current need: 1 volunteer for the preschool group AND 3 or more substitute volunteers

Thank you to the following volunteers who have all put in countless hours helping the kids of FUMC!

Sunday school: Jan Mix

Kids First Worship: Kathi LaMoe, Susanna Banker, Sheldi Banker

Mother's Morning Out: Carol Shafer, Pam Hubbert, Jan Mix, Kathi LaMoe, Libby Frashier, Marti Crow, Kristen Howell

Nursery: Ryan Howell, Rick and Shari Hansen, Summer Visocsky, Alexis Hoffman, Christine Varnal, Natiley McManigle

Wonderful Wednesday: Carol Shafer, Pam Hubbert, Jan Mix, Kathy McKinley, Diane Booth

Fusion 56: Jesse Van Dine, Derrick McManigle



CHRISTMAS @ FUMC



Christmas at FUMC means giving to others. From delivering Christmas packages to kids at Anthony and Brewer Elementary, to delivering milk and cookies on the day before break. We loved on our local children.



We delivered the money you gave through the Thanksgiving offering along with your food donations to the Leavenworth Mission, Stronghold, Trinity House and Meals on Wheels.



Wonderful Wednesday, the choir and the staff went caroling to our church family that live at Twin Oaks.

Is that Santa? No, it's just Steve Scrimsher.



Thanks to everyone who made cookies and treats for the first Responder Christmas bags.

Wingtips completed their second year of ministry to widows with their Christmas dinner.



The Community Christmas Concert included an adorable Christmas Nativity play from our children, the bells playing from the balcony, the Lansing High School choir, and our own choir. It was a celebration of Christmas carols.

