



**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**

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Office Hours—M-Th 9a-3p, Friday—9a-noon

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

**March 2026**

<b>2</b> 8:30 & 11:00 am Worship 9:45 am SS 12 pm Fusion 56 4:30 pm Bells 6:00 pm Youth	<b>3</b> 5:00 pm Virtual Grief Share	<b>3</b> 9 am Prayer <b>10 am Blood Drive</b> 10am Bible Study 1 pm Book Club	<b>4</b> 1 pm H & S 3:45 pm WW 5:30 pm Potluck	<b>5</b> 8:30am Staff 6:30pm Women's Bible Study	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> 
<b>8</b> 8:30 & 11:00 am Worship 9:45 am SS 12 pm Fusion 56 4:30 pm Bells 6:00 pm Youth	<b>9</b> 5:00 pm Virtual Grief Share	<b>10</b> 9 am Prayer 10 am Bible Study 12 pm Let's Do Lunch at Harbor Lights	<b>11</b> 8:30 am MMO 1 pm H & S 3:45 pm WW 5 pm Grief Share 5:30 pm Potluck 6:45 pm Choir	<b>12</b> 8:30am Staff 6:30pm Women's Bible Study	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>15</b> 8:30 & 11:00 am Worship 9:45 am SS 4:30 pm Bells	<b>16</b> 5:00 pm Virtual Grief Share	<b>17</b> 9 am Prayer Group 10 am Bible Study 1 pm Spouse Grief Share	<b>18</b> 1 pm H & S 5:30 pm Potluck 6:45 pm Choir	<b>19</b> 8:30am Staff 1:30 pm Itchin' to Stitch 6:30pm Women's Bible Study	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> 8:00 am Men's Prayer Breakfast
<b>22</b> 8:30 & 11:00 am Worship 9:45 am SS 4:30 pm Bells 6:00 pm Youth	<b>23</b> 5:00 pm Virtual Grief Share	<b>24</b> 9 am Prayer Group 10am Bible Study	<b>25</b> 1 pm H & S 3:45 pm WW 5 pm Grief Share 5:30 pm Potluck 6:45 pm Choir	<b>26</b> 8:30am Staff 6:30 pm Women's Bible Study	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> 
<b>29</b> 8:30 & 11:00 am Worship 9:45 am SS 12 pm Fusion 56 4:30 pm Bells 6:00 pm Youth	<b>30</b> 5:00 pm Virtual Grief Share	<b>31</b> 9 am Prayer Group 10am Bible Study	<b>1</b> 1 pm H & S 3:45 pm WW 5:30 pm Potluck 6:45 pm Choir	<b>2</b> 8:30am Staff Meeting 5:30 pm Maundy Thursday Service and Dinner	<b>3</b> 6:30 pm Good Friday Service	<b>4</b> 

**LIFE @ First United Methodist church**

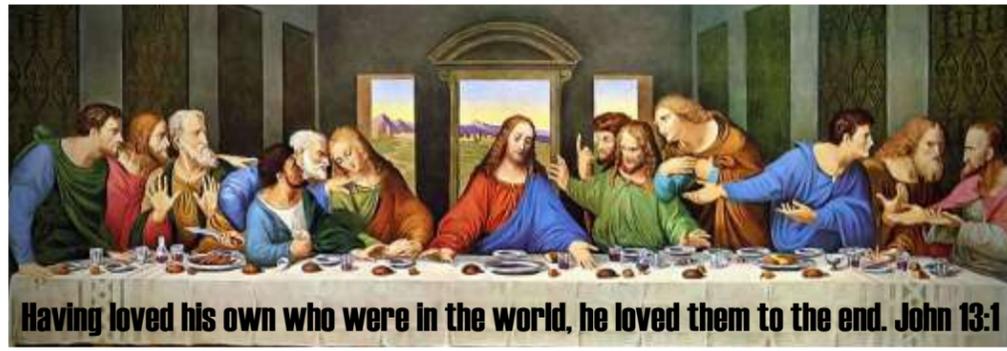
**March 2026**



Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. Acts 2:46



Think on these things...



Having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end. John 13:1

I've been thinking about Jesus and the Last Supper meal lately. For them, it was the Passover celebration. It has been and is celebrated by the Jewish community for thousands of years now. It marks the deliverance of God's people by Moses from the Egyptian Pharaoh. Centuries of slavery broken by God's work through people. The Passover is full of life, singing, storytelling, ritual, food, and drink. As Jesus knew death was coming, he eagerly desired to spend his last night recalling what God had done in the past. He also wanted to spend this night with his friends even knowing that they would betray and desert him in a matter of hours.

The Christian Church has many names for our sacrament of Holy Communion. It's called The Lord's Supper, The Eucharist, The Mass, or The Great Thanksgiving. Regardless of what it is called, we remember that God has made a new covenant with us through the blood of his Son. We remember God's faithfulness to all generations. When God makes a promise, then the promise is kept because of who God is, not our goodness. Our commitment to the Lord is to live in Christian community that consistently offers mercy and forgiveness. It mirrors God's own character.

It is not for us to decide who is worthy of grace. The test of our Christ like love is not our love for Jesus. But how do we sit at the table and love Judas? Jesus did not disown or disassociate with sinners. He spoke with them, healed them, cried with them, served with them, prayed with them, and ate with them. He loved them to the very end. Jesus knew all his friends would desert him and he stuck with them, celebrating the Passover meal with them. There is a strong lesson for all of us in his actions and words.

*David Clark*



Lent offers a lot of opportunities to build a stronger relationship with God and with your church family. But have you considered that it is also a great opportunity to invite someone on the Lenten journey with you? Coming to church for the first time can be intimidating for someone who isn't used to it. But coming to a potluck or a catered meal is much easier and there are opportunities for people to talk to them and help them feel welcome. If a person used to go to church but has just fallen out of the habit, an invitation to the Easter service could be a way to reconnect them to their faith. This Lent, pray about who God may want you to invite to one of our special services. Pray for the right words to use and pray for the courage to ask. You may be pleasantly surprised at what God can do through you.



It is not too early to start thinking about summer camp for kids. Camp Chippewa is a Methodist church camp near Ottawa. They have camps for K-12 grade starting June 9 through July 21. You can find their entire camp schedule at [campchippewa.org](http://campchippewa.org).

Several of our kids have attended in the past few years and highly recommend it. But the best part is **the church will pay for your child to attend!** Contact Ed Garven at [egarven@fumclvks.org](mailto:egarven@fumclvks.org) for more information on free tuition for church camp. Don't delay because camp times can fill up quickly. Summer is on the way!

# MARCH Birthdays



1st	Amanda Parks	11th	Aaron Brown	22nd	Roy Ramsey
3rd	Elleanna Banker	13th	Jimmie Stallings	23rd	Sara Mulford
	Ryan Howell	14th	Debra Eyerly	24th	Christel Ludwig
4th	Amy Baehr	15th	Steve Short	26th	Jordan Johnson
	Cynthia Walley	19th	Chase Cole	26th	Annette Voorhees
5th	Martha Nielsen	21st	Klaus Sanford	27th	Marlin Holyfield
8th	Oliver Frashier		Garret Wecas	30th	Alexis Cole
	Alisha Holyfield	22nd	Tim Burkett		Christine Varnal
	Aiden Johnson		Kathi LaMoe	31st	Amy Zschoche

# MARCH Anniversaries

21st John & Vera Raines 32 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](mailto:swood@fumclvks.org).

# UPCOMING Events

**MEN'S PRAYER & STUDY**  
**BREAKFAST**  
**MARCH 21**  
**8:00 AM**

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT  
 MIKE MIX [HAIRYMULE@GMAIL.COM](mailto:HAIRYMULE@GMAIL.COM)  
 OR DAVE LANDIS [DLANDIS@HUGHES.NET](mailto:DLANDIS@HUGHES.NET)

**LET'S DO Lunch**

**TUESDAY, MARCH 10, NOON**  
**Harbor Lights Coffee House**  
**316 Shawnee, Leavenworth**



# Scout Sunday and the Pinewood Derby

Our Scouting Ministry appreciates the incredible support of the FUMC congregation and the Tinkler Trustees. To give back and honor that support, the Scouts helped with Samaritans' Buffett on Saturday. Then they flooded the church at the 11 AM service on February 8 to greet the congregation.

Although you saw a brilliant video collage showing years of service, fun, travel, and adventure by the Scouts. Conner Walsh underpinned the entire message of values in youth by reciting the Scout Oath, just as we all do, 50 times a year. Rev York says this compliments the intent of the Nicene and Apostles Creeds. "On my honor I will do my best to do my duty to God and my country and to obey the Scout Law; to help other people at all times; to keep myself physically strong, mentally awake, and morally straight"

From the serious to the downright FUN, NASCAR has NOTHING over the Pinewood Derby held in the basement of the Education Building. We had eight crockpots of chili that were absolutely incredible. A couple of them really caught my attention if you get my point. The big winners this year: Addison Shurtz 1st place; Jackson Shurtz 2nd place; Max Kenny 3rd place

*Bill Kibler*



Please love the neighbors across the street from the church by respecting their home parking spaces. Also, if you don't have mobility problems, please park in the lot on Fifth Street and save the close parking on Chestnut for those who need close spots.

# The Caring Congregation



I heard it said on the radio program that I was listening to while driving, "Wouldn't it be nice if we (speaking of married couples) could live with one another in the same romantic relationship that we had when we first got married? Those were great days"! Then they began to extol the virtues of keeping romance "alive". I couldn't disagree more. Looking back on those honeymoon years, I cringe. There's no other way to put it, I was a spoiled brat and my Dearly Beloved was more interested in learning Army matters than catering to my every whim. Yes, it was a voyage of discovery, but not always a happy one. The people we were during courtship and engagement had little in common with the people we became after the vows were said. It's a miracle we survived.

But survive we did. We survived deployments, short tours, 17 moves, overseas assignments, and warfighter exercises. Somehow we managed to create two beautiful daughters, who continue to bless us every day. So we subjected them to cross country moves, school transfers and upheaval. And they survived too.

As Don and I look forward to celebrating our 55th wedding anniversary in June, my perspectives are vastly different than they were as a newlywed. Here's what I think true love really is:

It's knowing that in spite of all my failings, I am accepted, warts and all.

It's a soft place to go to for protection and reassurance.

It's knowing that he and I "belong" to each other. He's mine, and I'm his. Don't you think that Jesus feels that way about us too?

It's the way he takes care me when I'm sick, and I take care of him when he's sick.

It's when he still remembers to thank me for cooking breakfast or lunch.

It's when he's forced to give up driving for four months and I become his chauffeur.

It's keeping my mouth shut because it's just a trivial matter after all.

It's deep secure companionship, based on shared history, respect, and intentional daily choices to love.

It's not demanding perfection, love offers grace and allows each other to be themselves.

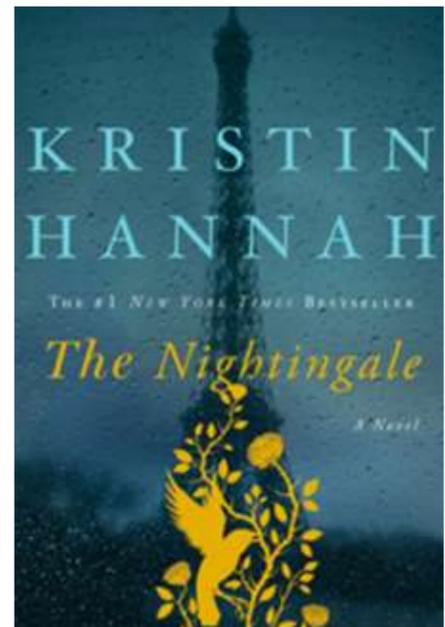
If you're still in the first decade of your marriage, take heart. If you're in the golden years, congratulations! But the most important thing you can do for each other is to make sure that you allow God an equal part in your marriage.

*Marsha Gaffin*

## Book Club, April 7, 1 pm

In March, the book club is reading *The Nightingale*, a bestselling historical fiction novel about two French sisters, Vianne and Isabelle, and their different paths of survival, love, and resistance during World War II. The story follows the older, more cautious Vianne as she shelters a German officer to protect her family, while the rebellious sister, Isabelle, joins the Resistance to fight the Nazi occupation. With courage, grace, and powerful insight, bestselling author Kristin Hannah captures the epic panorama of World War II and illuminates an intimate part of history seldom seen: the women's war. *The Nightingale* tells the stories of two sisters, separated by years and experience, by ideals, passion and circumstance, each embarking on her own dangerous path toward survival, love, and freedom in German-occupied, war-torn France—a heart-breakingly beautiful novel that celebrates the resilience of the human spirit and the durability of women.

We'll discuss the book on April 7 at 1 pm. Join us! For info, ask Sandy.





Greetings and love to everyone that reads this incredible newsletter. The Lord is at work in FUMC of Leavenworth, Kansas. Financially we are holding steady, thank you everyone. The planning committee for a possible main kitchen renovation is under way, headed by Mike Mix in consultation with the Trustees. I encourage everyone to get involved in any/all areas of ministry in this church. The children's' ministry always needs help with Wonderful Wednesdays, Mother's Morning Out, Kids First Worship and the Nursery. Please contact Nancy Shade at [nshade@fumclvks.org](mailto:nshade@fumclvks.org).

The love this congregation brings on a daily basis is steaming ahead this spring. Feeding the hungry (Samaritan's Buffet, Leavenworth Mission Volunteers), housing the homeless (Leavenworth Interfaith Community of Hope), and loving unconditionally on our neighbors not for individual/collective recognition but to bring glory to our Lord Jesus (Itch'n to Stitch, Grief Share, AIR, Youth Mission, Kids First Worship, Bible Study Groups, Sunday School, Scouts, and Music) are all opportunities for you to serve and love. If you would like more information on these service ministries or you have an idea or other areas where you believe we need to serve, please contact me at [egarven@fumclvks.org](mailto:egarven@fumclvks.org).

Thank you to everyone who are participating in the Lenten Potlucks. Around the table fellowship is vitally important in our spiritual maturity. Fellowship is doing life with people we already know. True hospitality is opening our doors and hearts by inviting new people in to our lives and into our walk with our collective Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

In Christ, Ed



Every person deserves grace. For our Easter Offering this year, we will support three agencies that help people make a new life for themselves; Community of Hope, Prison Fellowship, and Alliance Against Family Violence.



The Leavenworth Interfaith Community of Hope has been helping people without homes since 2016. The Night Shelter offers those within Leavenworth County with no place to go or in need of temporary emergency shelter a warm, safe place for men, women, and – whenever possible – families to stay. The Night Shelter is able to operate because of a network of volunteers. It takes 70 volunteers each week for our night shelter to operate.

Sometimes a person has a home, but needs other services. Welcome Central provides those services to people in Leavenworth County living in poverty which include instructions about daily living skills, information about social service providers, access to job seeking skills, and assistance in getting personal documents. They also offer transportation to helping agencies and other essential local places like Walmart and other grocery locations, pharmacy, DMV, etc.

The Day Center provides a space for individuals from Leavenworth County to safely gather during the day to access equipment and facilities for basic needs such as showers, computers and mental health professionals. The Day Center provides 2 meals a day and is always in need of contributions. Breakfast is served 6:45 – 9:00 am. Lunch is served from 11:30 – 12:30 pm Sunday-Friday. Saturday meals are served via community meals. The Shelter serves between 50-100 meals everyday. You do not have to stay at the night shelter to come and eat a hot meal.

The Community of Hope works closely with other area agencies to address the causes of homelessness such as addiction and mental health. They also work to provide permanent solutions by working with Attainable Housing and other assistance programs.

For info, check out [lvcommunityofhope.org](http://lvcommunityofhope.org), or look for Leavenworth Interfaith Community of Hope on Facebook.



Heidi & Gunner Kunkel are brother and sister and both are part of our youth group. Heidi is training to race motocross this summer. Gunner finished his first basketball season for Pleasant Ridge.



Joel and Lyndsay Hubbard's son, Cole, finished 7th at the regional meet and qualified for the 5A State Championship. The meet at Rim Rock Farms in Lawrence, is one of the tougher courses. He re-set the Basehor-Linwood school record at 16:25 in the 5K and finished 15th in the state championships. This also earned him 5A All-State honors. Cole is currently training for the track season and expects to break the school records for the 1600M (1 mile) and 3200M (2 mile) races this spring. His brother, Bryce, played wide receiver and safety for Basehor-Linwood Middle school utilizing his skills to make several big plays. Then he tried wrestling and ended up with an 8-2 record. He is getting ready for baseball season. His dad, Joel, coaches his team.

Alexis, Jeff and Carole Hoffman's granddaughter, enjoys riding her horse, Kansas Breeze.



Rocky and Leslie Hladky's son, Rocky, is a freshman at LV High. He's on the Pioneer ROTC Drill team. He competes on the armed regulation team and armed exhibition team. Both tournaments they competed in the past two weekends, their team came home with the championship trophies. He is also on the wrestling team. Their daughter, Paisley, a 7th grader, is a cheerleader at Warren Middle School. She cheered for boys basketball. Their team competed at a cheer competition in Baldwin City in February. She was also on the volleyball and basketball teams.



Lucy, Sadie, and Jackson, the children of Jeff and Kelly Heim compete on the Ft. Leavenworth Lancers Swim Team. They swim year round. Natalie and Sadie play club volleyball. Jackson plays basketball and soccer. Natalie is also a cheerleader for Pleasant Ridge.



Maleeya Davis is a freshman at Pleasant Ridge and a member of our youth group. She and four other girls qualified to wrestle at the state level this year. This is the first time this has happened at Pleasant Ridge.

Jamie, daughter of Mike and Catherine Brettmann played tennis last fall for Lansing High School and this spring she will be playing golf.



Eleanne and Breanna, daughters of John and Sheldi Banker, run cross country and track for Lansing High School. Breanna swims year round for the Ft. Leavenworth Lancers and also Lansing High School. Breanna made it to the Senior Championship meet with the Lancers. They also dance with Katie's Dance Studio.

We're proud of **all** our church family kids. If we missed your child, please let us know. We want to share all your children's special accomplishments. Send news to [swood@fumclvks.org](mailto:swood@fumclvks.org).





Run in such a way that you may win it. Athletes exercise self-control in all things; they do it to receive a perishable wreath, but we an imperishable one. 1 Corinthians 9:24-25

Sara LaMoe, Jeff and Kathi LaMoe's daughter is in the Air Force and is stationed in Italy. She had an opportunity to attend the opening ceremonies of the Olympics in Milan. This is her photo. Since we have been enjoying the world's greatest athletes in the Olympics, we thought it would be a great time to highlight some of our church family athletes.



The daughters of Scott and Lynn Yingling, Sadie, Dinah, and June have been fencing for three years. They take classes at the Heartland Fencing Academy in Overland Park three times a week. Their father is their coach. They have competed in tournaments in Colorado, Iowa, Nebraska, Virginia, Texas, and Washington DC. They recently went to Florida and June won first in the Regional Tampa tournament. She intends to go to and win next year's Junior Olympics in Oklahoma City.

Dinah said she loves fencing because "it's a very strategic sport. It is the tactics that win." Sadie said, "There is no question of whether you're good or bad, you know who is winning."

Jose and Tristan Vasquez's son, Sam, is the East 5A Regional Champion and is headed to state. His record this year is 33-5. Last year he finished 7th in State. He said, "My favorite part of wrestling is showing up and always improving a little bit at a time and the community you can build around that one idea. It's only possible with the group of people around me from my coaches to my parents to my teammates always helping and adding what they can to my wrestling so I can become not just a better wrestler, but the best version of myself."



Aubrey Visocsky, Richard and Summer's daughter loves to play softball in summer rec leagues. She loves pitching but because she is so small she has to wear a batter's helmet to pitch.

TJ and Jesse VanDyne's children play many sports. TJ coached Noland's second year of baseball and loved it. Now He coaches both football and baseball for the boys. Noland plays football, basketball, baseball, and track. Annabelle plays softball and has been the cheer captain 2 years in a row. Gannon plays football, basketball, soccer, and baseball. Mattie started cheerleading and soccer this year.



Addie Trentham is an eighth grader at Pleasant Ridge Middle School. She's also a member of our youth group. She won second in league for wrestling.

Zach and Katie Rolf's daughter, Aniston, has been competing in gymnastics since the 2020-2021 season. Aniston competes in floor, balance beam, uneven bars, and vault, but her favorite is the beam. She placed second in Missouri for her age group last season. She is excited to compete again at State in about a month. Aniston said, "I love that the coaches push you to do harder things. They believe that you can do harder things, even if you might not believe it."



Sophie and Sadie McNeill are the granddaughters of Tony and Nina McNeill. Sophie plays volleyball for Lansing High School. She is also on a traveling softball team. Sadie plays basketball.

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PRISON FELLOWSHIP



Founded in 1976, Prison Fellowship is the nation's largest Christian nonprofit equipping the Church to serve currently and formerly incarcerated people and their families, and to advocate for justice and human dignity both inside and outside of prison. They help men and women replace the cycle of brokenness that landed them in prison. They advocate for justice reform and activate grassroots networks to do the same. They equip wardens to bring restorative change to their facilities. They care for prisoners' families and help strengthen the bond between children and their parents who are behind bars. They call the Church to lead the way in caring for those impacted by the criminal justice system.

A large component of Prison Fellowship's work is The Academy; an in prison, year long curriculum that replaces criminal thinking and behaviors with renewed purpose and biblically based life principles. The Academy includes one on one mentoring, community service projects, and developing a life plan. They also host Hope events which provide worship music and an inspirational message to give incarcerated men and women the chance to respond to Jesus and take the next step of joining a faith community. Create: New Beginnings is a series of ten restorative art workshops designed for women in prisons. Rooted in scripture and the core values of the Prison Fellowship Academy, this program empowers women to acknowledge critical emotions and develop self-awareness through the lens of artistic expression.

Prison Fellowship also cares for families through the Angel Tree program. Angel Tree not only provides Christmas gifts for children with an incarcerated parent, they also sponsor camp opportunities for those children. A camp experience can change a child's life forever. It offers a chance for children to get away from their daily challenges and have fun in the great outdoors, making new friends, meeting caring adult counselors and encountering the love of Jesus.

Finally, Prison Fellowship is the leading faith-based voice shaping the public debate on justice reform. They advocate for a restorative approach to justice that advances proportional punishment, constructive prison culture, and second chances. Recognizing the dignity and value of every person, they call for churches and communities to lead the way in providing care for victims and restoration for those responsible for crime. Their justice reform resources equip individuals and policymakers to bring about meaningful policy change on both the federal and state levels.

"Nearly 50 years of ministry has taught us: We don't bring Jesus into prison. He's already there. Revival in His Church starts with each of us, inside and outside prison, as we encounter Him together." Heather Rice-Minus, President.

For more information, check out [prisonfellowship.org](http://prisonfellowship.org) or look up Prison Fellowship on Facebook.



The Alliance Against Family Violence is an advocacy organization for sexual and domestic violence victims that serves all Leavenworth County, and the surrounding area. The Alliance Against Family Violence is dedicated to facilitating an empowering positive change in the lives of those affected by domestic and sexual violence and to providing safety and security for members of the communities it serves.

The Alliance is staffed twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week by Advocates who have completed at least 40 hours of training and are competent to provide immediate assistance to survivors of domestic violence. They have a 24 hour hotline that can provide immediate assistance.

You may think that Leavenworth county is too small to need an agency like AAFV, but in 2022 Leavenworth county had 631 reported cases of domestic violence, 31 reported rapes, and two reported cases of human trafficking. AAFV has a home with five bedrooms. They can house up to 20 people at a time. The location of the safe house is confidential to prohibit abusers from retaliation.

They also have advocates that work with survivors. They will go with them to the hospital or to court, help them gather documents such as birth certificates and driver's licenses, and help them find a job and housing if necessary. Their goal is to help survivors start a new life within 90 days. In 2023 they helped 66 unique families.

For more information, check out [aafvks.org](http://aafvks.org). Or you can find them at Alliance Against Family Violence on Facebook.



**Soup/Sandwich Lunch  
for Anthony & Brewer  
Elementary  
March 13**

**Sign up today!**



**Jesus said, "Let the children come to me, and do not stop them, for it is to such as these that the kingdom of heaven belongs." Matthew 19:14**

One of the most effective ways to make the world a better place is to help the most vulnerable and the youngest members of society and to partner with those who are already helping. For the past few years, we've been working in our public schools to encourage the teachers and staff and love the children who attend there. They are very appreciative of our efforts. Through these acts of service and generosity, we are building relationships, building trust, and hopefully making a real difference.

We have two current opportunities to help the public schools. David Brewer is desperate for volunteers to read with children. There is a QR code above if you are interested in volunteering. Also, we will be supplying soup and sandwiches to Anthony and Brewer Elementary on March 13 as a way to encourage teachers. If you can help with food, please sign up in the foyer or contact Sandy at [swood@fumclvks.org](mailto:swood@fumclvks.org). We will be supplying meals to other schools later this spring, so if you can't help this time, perhaps you can next time. Thank you for your generosity.



Over this past month, we have continued our confirmation lessons. We are almost done! We have a review/makeup day for kids to catch up on anything they missed over the 14 weeks of confirmation! They are smart and curious and ask really great questions. Those that wish to be confirmed will do so on April 26 in second service.

We are so grateful to the people who have brought us food this year. It's always nice to have a break in the carry out food for some home cooking. Let us know if you want to provide food. You don't have to provide the whole meal, just dessert would be appreciated. Food is essentially the youth group's love language.

March 28, the youth will go on a scavenger hunt at a surprise location and out for lunch. If parents would like to know where we are taking your students, please contact Kristen or Steven and we are happy to share – just don't tell the kids! Please register using the link in the youth email ASAP so we know we have enough transportation.

We have decided to have youth group over the summer! We will adopt a more relaxed schedule, rotating between activities in the community, service projects, movie night plus faith-based discussion, and game nights. We have made this decision because our group is a little community and we don't want them to lose the opportunity to connect with each other over the summer. I'm really excited about meeting with them all year long!

Finally, we have set the dates and location for our 2026 Summer Mission Trip. This year, we are traveling by Amtrak to Chicago. Once there, we will use public transit to get to various activities like a river boat cruise, museums, the Sky deck, and, of course, our service project. The registration deadline for this trip is May 4 so we have enough time to purchase train tickets.

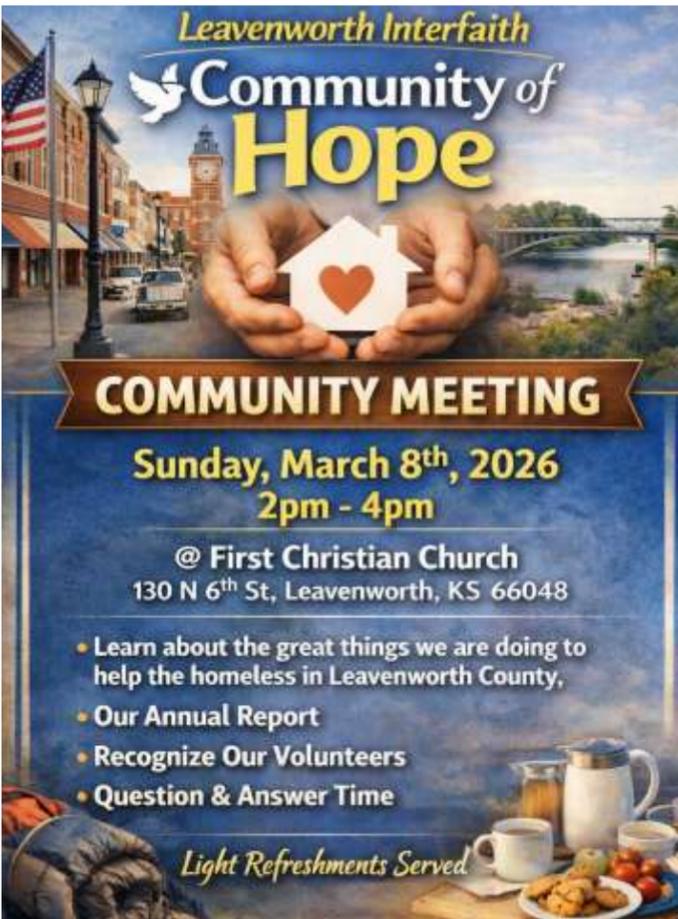
Questions? Please contact Kristen at [khowell@fumclvks.org](mailto:khowell@fumclvks.org) or Steven at [sshade@fumclvks.org](mailto:sshade@fumclvks.org).



Young Adults are holding steady with our first and third Wednesday night meetings. Right now, we're meeting at the Lenten Potlucks.

Though we technically only meet 1st and 3rd Wednesdays, I plan to be there every week and you all are always welcome to sit with me! We're doing Bible Project videos for our potlucks this year, so of course I'm excited about it.

Young Adults is a group for people ages 18 (post high school) to 35 and provides an opportunity to make friendships with other younger people in the congregation. We meet for fellowship and games, as well as for occasional outings in the community. We would love for you to join us! Contact Kristen Howell at [khowell@fumclvks.org](mailto:khowell@fumclvks.org) for more information.



**Night of Hope Gala  
April 18, 2026**

**Levels of Giving**

**DIAMOND | \$5,000 – Limited to 1 Sponsorship**

- All Platinum Incentives plus
- Company name to appear as the official sponsor of the event
- 16 drink tickets

16 event tickets (two tables) at a designated sponsor table complimentary with Diamond sponsorship.

**PLATINUM | \$2,500 – Limited to 3 Sponsorships**

- All Gold Incentives plus
- One of three underwriter sponsors; dinner, bar, & entertainment

12 event tickets (one table) at a designated sponsor table complimentary with Platinum sponsorship.

**GOLD | \$1,000**

- All Silver Incentives plus
- Recognition in our 2025 Annual Report
- Company announcement at event

8 event tickets (one table) at a designated sponsor table complimentary with Gold sponsorship.

**SILVER | \$500**

- All Bronze Incentives plus
- Social media promotion prior to the event

4 event tickets complimentary with Silver sponsorship.

**BRONZE | \$250**

- Company name/logo on screen during event\*
- Company recognition in program

2 event tickets complimentary with Bronze sponsorship.





**Kids First Worship** is for kids ages 3 years through 4th grade and meets during the 11 am service each Sunday on the lower floor of the Sanctuary building. In March we will be in the New Testament, hearing parables of Jesus and learning about some of his friends.

- March 1 – Lost Things
- March 8 – Lost Son
- March 15 – Mary and Martha
- March 22 – Lazarus
- March 29 – Triumphal Entry (Palm Sunday)

**Sunday School** 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 activities tell God's story, and what it means for us. Our lessons will be a deeper dive into the stories from Kids First Worship.



**Wonderful Wednesday** reminds kids that God isn't 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. Our theme this year is "Journey of Faith: From Moses to Me". This month's focus is how God provided for his people when they left Egypt.

- March 4 – God Provides Escape (Parting of the Red Sea)
- March 11 – God Provides Rules (10 Commandments)
- March 18 – SPRING BREAK – WW will not meet.**
- March 25 – God Provides Consequences (Golden Calf)
- April 1 – God Provides Sustenance (Manna, Quail, Water)



**Fusion 56**, our special group for 5th and 6th graders, meets at noon every other Sunday (unless otherwise noted). Each meeting we will have lunch, a Bible lesson, and FUN! Contact Nancy for more info. Friends are always welcome!



**This month we meet on March 1, 15, and 29.**



**For more info about our Children's Ministry, contact Nancy at, [nshade@fumclvks.org](mailto:nshade@fumclvks.org).**



**Mother's Morning Out** is March 11, 8:30 to 11:30 am. Our theme for March is "Spring." The second Wednesday of the month, we provide care for children ages birth to school age. There are three groups: Nursery, Toddlers and Preschool. Space is limited, so register now by going to [FUMCLVKS.ORG/MMO](http://FUMCLVKS.ORG/MMO).

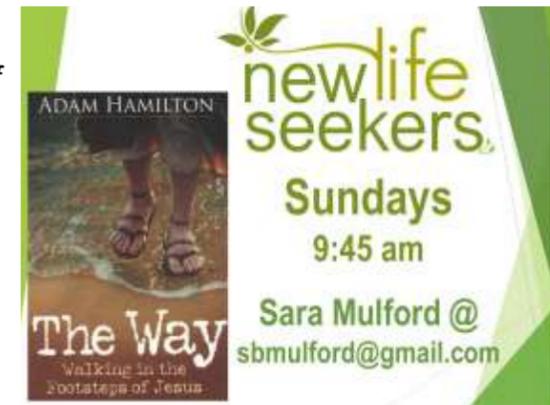
**Thank Goodness it's Good Friday (TGIGF): Friday, April 3**

Ages 3-5 years: 8:30 am-12:00 pm Kindergarten-6th grade: 8:30 am-3:30 pm So many times, we jump directly from Palm Sunday to Easter. While there is nothing wrong with both of those celebrations, we miss so much of the power, compassion, and love God and Jesus exude during the time in between. During the day we will discover how Jesus spent his last week on earth, culminating in the events of Good Friday. We'll answer questions like, "What is salvation? What is redemption? What's so good about Good Friday?" The day will be filled with stories, art, science, and games. We will have lunch and a morning and afternoon snack. And don't forget the Egg Hunt! Space is limited, so be sure to register early! Participant and volunteer registration can both be found at: [FUMCLVKS.ORG/TGIGF](http://FUMCLVKS.ORG/TGIGF)



The New Life Seekers Sunday School class meets in room 203 of the Education building. They are starting *The Way; Walking in the Footsteps of Jesus*. Author, Adam Hamilton, retraces the life and ministry of Jesus Christ. Using historical information, archaeological data, and stories of the faith, Hamilton follows in the footsteps of Jesus from his baptism to the temptations to the heart of his ministry, including the people he loved, the parables he taught, the enemies he made, and the healing he brought.

The class is led by Sara Mulford. For information, contact her at [sbmulford@gmail.com](mailto:sbmulford@gmail.com).



**BLOOD DRIVE**  
**MARCH 3**  
**10 AM – 3 PM**



**MAKE AN APPOINTMENT AT**  
**SAVEALIFENOW.ORG CODE EH47**



We have a new Blood Drive Coordinator, Cathy Landis. Another change is that we will be hosting four blood drives this year and we will be serving sloppy joes at all of them. Mark your calendars now. The blood drives will be March 3, June 2, Sept. 1, and December 1. If you donate at each drive you will receive a weekender bag from the Community Blood Center. At this drive, you will also receive a coupon for two free cookies from Sis' Sweets.

**Tips for Preparing to Give Blood**

- Hydrate well:** Drink extra water two to three days beforehand.
- Eat iron-rich foods:** Boost your iron levels by eating foods like meats, fish, poultry, beans, spinach, and raisins
- Eat a healthy meal:** Have a full, healthy, low-fat meal at least two hours before your appointment.
- Get plenty of sleep:** Get a full night's sleep the night before your donation to be less likely to feel lightheaded afterward.
- Wear appropriate clothing:** Choose a shirt with sleeves that can be easily rolled up above your elbow.
- Bring necessary items:** Remember your photo ID.

The Blood Drive will be from 10 am to 3 pm. They do take walk-ins, but prefer appointments to manage the flow. To make an appointment, go to [savealifenow.org](http://savealifenow.org). Our group code is EH47.

Cathy will be looking for volunteers for the other three blood drives. She said, "My priority is hospitality. They are doing the big part by donating. We just want to make them feel welcome. At the last blood drive a donor told me, 'I'm here to give blood, buy more importantly, I'm here for the sloppy joes!'" Volunteering is very easy. It involves greeting people, escorting donors and serving snacks. To volunteer, contact Cathy at [dlandis@hughes.net](mailto:dlandis@hughes.net).

**Your donation really does make a difference. Please give the gift of life on March 3.**



Itchin' to Stitch has been very productive this winter. Most recently they donated nursing capes/coverups and diapers to the Sparrow Clinic in Lansing. This faith based organization is a free and confidential pregnancy resource center and includes a clothes closet for children and baby items.

They make baby quilts, fleece blankets, walker bags and other items for local charities. Their next meeting is March 19 at 1:30 pm. For more information, contact Teresa at [hickst@kc.rr.com](mailto:hickst@kc.rr.com).

# FAMILY FUN @ FUMC

February had many opportunities for fellowship. Congratulations to the winners of the Chili and Dessert Cook-Offs. Their food was delicious. We had a soup and bread supper for Ash Wednesday. We also kicked off our Lenten Wednesday night potlucks. The kids especially love the potlucks. Join us on Wednesday nights at 5:30 pm for great food and fellowship. We will discuss a short Bible Project video and kids will have a lesson.



Special thanks to our cute potluck clean-up crew, Junia and Marsali Howell, who love cleaning the tables.



Other fellowship opportunities in February included the Men's Prayer Breakfast (not pictured) and the Let's Do Lunch crew. The next Men's Prayer Breakfast is March 21 at 8 am in the Fellowship Hall and the next Let's Do Lunch is March 10 at noon at Harbor Lights at 316 Shawnee St. You are invited to attend. On February 13 we hosted 25 widows for a Galentine Celebration with Wingtips. This is the third Galentine for Wingtips. They meet bi-monthly on the second Friday at 5:30 pm. Any widow is welcome.

