



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.

April 2026

29 8:30 & 11:00 Worship 9:45 am Sunday School 4:30 pm Bells 6:00 pm Youth	30	31 9:00 am Prayer 10 am Bible Study	1st 1:00 pm H & S 3:45 pm WW 5:30 pm YA 6:30 pm choir	2 5:30 pm Maundy Thursday service and dinner	3 8:30 am TGIGF 6:30 pm Good Friday service	4
5 8:30 & 11:00 Worship 9:45 am SS	6	7 9:00 am Prayer 10 am Bible Study 1 pm Book Club	8 8:30 am MMO 1:00 pm H & S 3:45 pm WW 5:00 pm Grief Share 6:30 pm Choir	9 8:30 am Staff 6:30 pm Women's Bible Study	10 Wingtips	11
12 8:30 & 11:00 Worship 9:45 am SS 12:00 pm Fusion 56 4:30 pm Bells 6:00 pm Youth	13	14 9:00 am Prayer 10 am Bible Study	15 11:30 am Lunch at Hyundai 1:00 pm H & S 3:45 pm WW 5:30 Young Adults 6:30 pm choir	16 8:30am Staff 1:30 pm Itchin' to Stitch 6:30 pm Women's	17	18 8:00 am Men's Prayer Breakfast
19 8:30 & 11:00 Worship 9:45 am SS 4:30 pm Bells 6:00 pm Youth	20	21 9:00 am Prayer 10am Bible Study 2 pm Spouse Grief Share	22 1:00 pm H & S 3:45 pm WW 5:00 pm Grief Share 6:30 pm Choir	23 8:30am Staff 6:30 pm Women's Bible Study	24	25
26 8:30 & 11:00 Worship 9:45 am SS 12:00 pm Fusion 56 4:30 pm Bells 6:00 pm Youth	27	28 9:00 am Prayer 10am Bible Study	29 1:00 pm H & S 3:45 pm WW 6:30 pm Choir	30 8:30am Staff Meeting 6:30 pm Women's Bible Study	1	2 Mental Health Awareness Block Party

LIFE @ First United Methodist Church

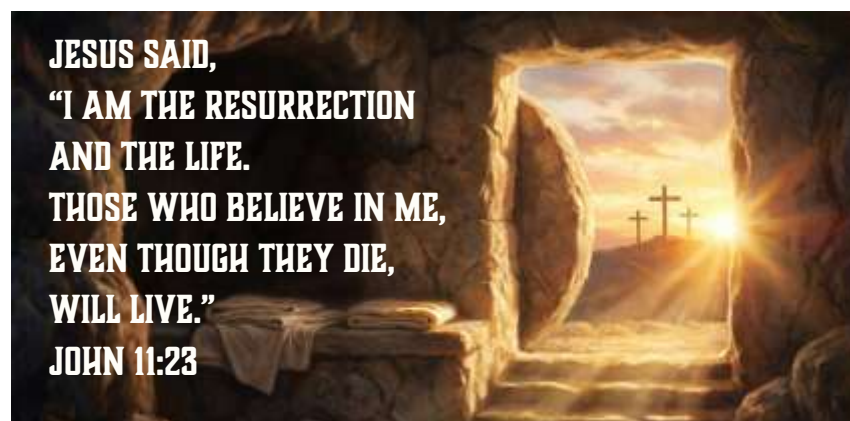
April 2026

Confirmation Sunday

April 26, 2026



**JESUS SAID,
"I AM THE RESURRECTION
AND THE LIFE.
THOSE WHO BELIEVE IN ME,
EVEN THOUGH THEY DIE,
WILL LIVE."
JOHN 11:23**



It is fitting that this year Easter Sunday is the first Sunday of April. To me, April seems like the start of spring even though the first day of spring is technically March 20. Since December, we've been journeying with Jesus through Matthew's gospel from his birth and the visit of the Magi to the empty tomb. I found it enlightening that angels appear again at the tomb like they did when Jesus was born. Instead of showing up for the shepherds, now they turn up and speak to the two Marys. The message is the same: "Do not be afraid. Jesus is here. Go and tell. Move quickly."

The resurrection is an event and a reality. Jesus was no longer in the tomb, so his resurrection is an event. However, Jesus said, "I am the resurrection and the life. (John 11:25). His presence brings life because that is who he is – the embodiment of the LIVING GOD. The incarnation of the LORD who gives abundant and eternal life. This good news is for all people. The God of the Living has conquered the grave and forgiven us of all our sins. This gift is not earned or deserved but is one to be accepted. Because of it, we have hope. We are living in a reality, that while things may not be what we want or like them to be, the future is held by the one who left an empty tomb alive and well.

Easter is our best day. As Christians, we know and believe that Christ is alive. Throughout the ages, we sing his praise and join the chorus of believers. We follow the disciples as they learn to live into the new life promised by resurrection hope. They stayed together in their sadness and waited until Jesus called them into ministry to all the world. Go, make disciples of all nations. I am with you always!



Pastor Dave will be starting a new sermon series called, *Season of Joy, Season of Sorrow*. He will look at the tension in the lives of the disciples after experiencing the joy of the resurrection while still living with the loss of expectations, the guilt of poor decisions, and their changed relationship with Jesus. It examines "Is it ok to feel sad as a Christian?" It also looks at how you respond after your whole life has been changed, or how to wait on God when there is no clear direction.

Teachers work long hours and often spend their own money on their classrooms. They are important in our community. We'll take breakfast to the teachers and staff at Lansing Elementary School on May 22 to thank them for their hard work with the students this year. We would like people to bring breakfast casseroles, biscuits and gravy, breakfast breads and fruit. There is a sign up sheet in the foyer. We will also be writing thank you card for the teachers. Please sign up. Then you will receive a set of 5-6 cards and the names of teachers at the end of April. The cards are due back on May 10. This is one way we can love people in our community.



APRIL Birthdays



1st	Grant Zschoche	13th	Teresa Hicks	25th	Ann Andrews
2nd	Sarah Yenney	15th	Deb Baeuchle	26th	Colvin Hooser
3rd	Virginia Hardaway		Bobbie Burkett		Eliza Resch
4th	Lauren Hooser	16th	Pam Bay	27th	Arlen Briggs
	Mark Lauber		Pat Hessenflow	28th	Richard Gray
6th	Daryl Brandt		Huxton Haddock	29th	Linda Martin
7th	Rachel Serena	17th	Kelsi Harris	30th	Kelley Perry
	Sandy Simmons		Thomas Hastings		Lisa Plants
8th	Corbin Holyfield	21st	Bob Landzettel		
11th	Lee Perry		Brendale Wakeley		
11th	Laurie Rust	23rd	Keith Frashier		

APRIL Anniversaries

9th	Mark & Amy Baehr	20 years
20th	Mike & Marti Crow	57 years
23rd	Joel & Lyndsay Hubbard	20 years
24th	Mike & Robbie Helm	4 years

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

UPCOMING Events



WEDNESDAY, APRIL 15, 11:30 AM
Hyundai Korean Restaurant
749 Shawnee, Leavenworth



Thank You For Giving The Gift Of Life

The Community Blood Center set a goal of 30 units for the March 2026 drive here at FUMC. Twenty three people registered online to donate. By the end of the drive 33 people had donated 36 units because some generous donors gave double red blood cells. What an amazing gift for those in need in our area.

Church members who volunteered one hour of their time to greet and serve refreshments were Jan Glick, Linda Herrman, Mary Lou Anderson, Sheila Bailey, Claudia McAllaster, Deb Baeuchle, Kathy Husky and Cathy Landis. As always, a huge thank you to Grant Zschoche and Ed Garven who assisted behind the scenes with set up, tear down and publicizing the event in the community.

Chris Major, the new Donor Recruitment Representative for the Community Blood Center, came to visit our Blood Drive (I think he really came to have a sloppy joe!). He asked that I pass along their gratitude to the volunteers who supported the blood drive, the commitment of our church to the Community Blood Center, and for helping **Save a Life, Right here, Right now.**

Our next scheduled Blood Drive is Tuesday, June 2, 2026 from 10 am to 3 pm. We will also have blood drives on September 1 and December 1. Mark your calendars! If you would like to volunteer to be a greeter or to serve refreshments, contact [Cathy at dlandis@hughes.net](mailto:Cathy@dlandis@hughes.net).



The Caring Congregation



I came across an article containing some interesting facts about Christianity. So, take them with a grain of salt since I haven't verified any of them, here are some of those "interesting facts."

- † Christianity is the world's largest religion, with over 2.4 billion followers making up nearly a third of the global population. However, Islam is the world's fastest growing religion and will soon overtake Christianity.
- † The Bible has been translated into thousands of languages, including fictional ones like Klingon from *Star Trek*.
- † The word "Christian" was first used by people in Antioch roughly 10–15 years after Jesus' death. It means "little Christs."
- † In the 1600s, a version of the Bible had to be recalled because a typo in the Ten Commandments accidentally read, "Thou shalt commit adultery."
- † There are an estimated 45,000 different Christian denominations worldwide, reflecting massive diversity in how scripture is interpreted and practiced.
- † Christianity is currently growing fastest on the continent of Africa.
There are now more Christians living in China than the entire population of the United Kingdom.
- † "Jesus" was a very common name in the first century, similar to modern names like Jim or John. "Christ" is not a last name but a title meaning "Anointed One." Messiah is another word for Christ.
- † The Bible specifically mentions a group of 501 left handed men, including an elite group of soldiers who were exceptionally skilled with slings.
- † Church is not a building. Church is people; a particular group that comes together to form a family. This means that you could knock down all church buildings and the actual church would not be wiped out; arguably, it would flourish.
- † Not all Christian ministers wear robes. Early Christians were a rag-tag bunch, with a very flat leadership structure, and very little in the way of special outfits or elaborate rituals. Christianity is designed for the ordinary guy on the street.
- † You will never encounter deeper diversity than you do in the global church. Christianity advances by the power of its message. The earliest Christians included slaves and masters worshipping alongside one another, as well as Jews and Gentiles, and every other societal division that existed in the first century Roman Empire.
- † If Christians were less involved in social issues, chaos would ensue. It's estimated that the volunteerism of Christians is worth millions every year. Believing in Jesus changes you in a basic way, so that you become more loving and kind.
- † Practices don't make you a Christian: going to church, praying, being moral. Our deepest moral instincts come from the Bible. Equality, human rights, justice – all of these have been embedded in our culture from centuries of exposure to the Bible. Morality without a Moral Lawgiver is arbitrary and vulnerable.

As I entertained myself with this trivia, I remembered one very significant difference between Christianity and other religions. In every other religion, one pursues salvation by figuring out what one has to do to get to heaven. Good works such as memorizing the Quran, sacrificing, following rules, making offerings. Christianity is the only religion where God pursues us - salvation is a free gift. Once we receive this gift, we are changed forever. Blessings, *Marsha*

PRAYER DOES NOT EQUIP US FOR A GREATER WORK. PRAYER IS THE GREATER WORK.



Have you ever needed prayer for yourself or someone you loved, but didn't know who to ask or maybe you were too shy to ask.

We have a wonderful prayer ministry here at the church. We have an email prayer chain where you can request prayer for yourself or someone you love and many of our church family will lift you up in prayer. We also have a group that meets to pray every Tuesday at 9 am in Wesley Hall. If you prefer a more personal prayer request, you can ask for prayer from Pastor Dave. You are encouraged to send a prayer request to prayers@fumclvks.org, fill out a prayer card in the pews, or call the office at 913-682-5374. To join the prayer chain or prayer meeting, ask swood@fumclvks.org.



Greetings to you all. May the Lord, our gracious and benevolent Father in Heaven, grant each of you peace and joy this festival season. We just celebrated Holy week, the time of year we collectively celebrate the flawless life, death intended for me, and glorious resurrection of our savior Jesus Christ.

Resurrection Sunday service at 8:30am and 11am. We will have both nursery and Kids First Worship at both services. Invite a friend to join you.

Financially the church is doing well, thank you all! Trustee projects will accelerate during the spring because of nicer weather. The projects will include but not limited to: new water fountains on the first floors of the main church and education building. These fountains include bottle fillers. We'll be sealing the sidewalk concrete and replacing the bell tower rope. Additionally, we received two new HVAC units to keep the church efficiently climate controlled during the year.

A huge thank you to everyone that loved/served our schools last month with soup, sandwiches, and treats. The teachers and staff truly appreciate your generosity and loving support. The schools are constantly under pressure both internally and externally. They need our prayers.

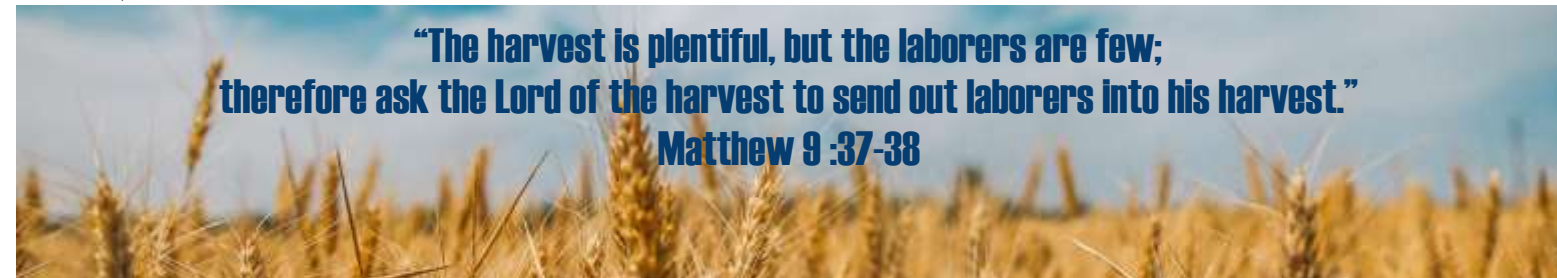
Major events to keep in mind for this spring include:

- April 26th – Confirmation Sunday
- May 5th – Teacher appreciation week lunch at Anthony and David Brewer Elementary Schools
- May 10th – Graduation Sunday
- May 17th - All Music Sunday
- May 22nd - Breakfast at Lansing K-3 Elementary School

“Hear and obey says the Lord”, there many ways you can serve our community; feeding the hungry (Samaritan’s Buffet, Leavenworth Mission Volunteers, Trinity House, Stronghold), 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, Youth Mission, Kids First Worship, Bible Study Groups, Sunday School, Scouts and Music) are all opportunities for you to serve and love.

I challenge each of us to pray, read the word, and respond to what God is telling us!

In Christ, Ed

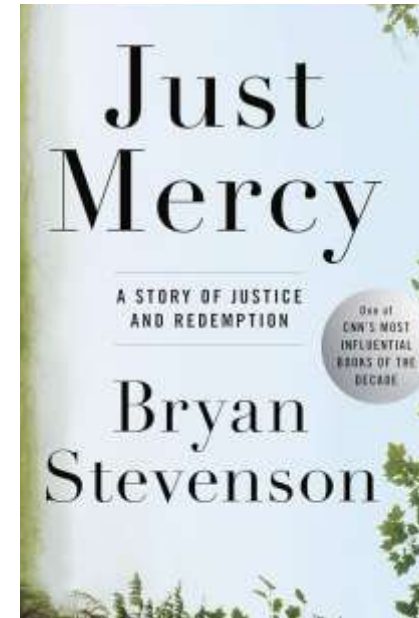


**Fellowship Camping Trip
Perry Lake State Park, KS
May 29-31**

Come for fun and fellowship

- volleyball, cornhole, games,
- fishing (must have license)
- Group Barbeque meal on Saturday.
- electricity available at each camp site
- check in by 3:00 on Friday, depart by noon Sunday.
- RV or tents.
- pets are allowed.
- cost of camp sites and Saturday meal covered by church.

Come and have a GREAT time at the lake!!



**BOOK CLUB
MAY 5, 1 PM**



In May the book club will be reading *Just Mercy; A Story of Justice and Redemption* by Bryan Stevenson. CNN called this one of the most influential books of the decade. *Just Mercy* is a powerful memoir about Bryan Stevenson's work with a nonprofit legal practice in Alabama, defending those with no other hope. He founded the Equal Justice Initiative (EJI) to defend the wrongly convicted, the poor, and the marginalized in the American justice system, focusing on cases like Walter McMillian, a Black man sentenced to death for a crime he didn't commit, the book highlights systemic racism and injustice, that was adapted into a major film. The book serves as a call to action, arguing for compassion and reform in a system that disproportionately affects the poor and minorities.

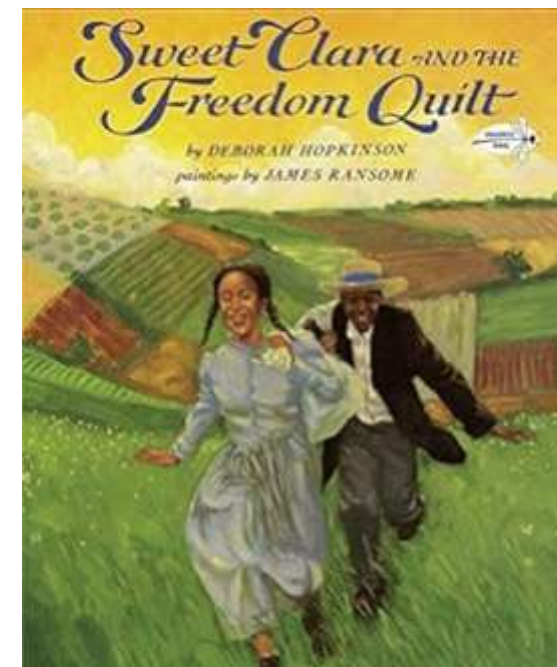
We will discuss the book May 5 at 1 pm in Wesley Hall. Anyone is welcome to join the conversation. For info, contact Sandy Wood at swood@fumclvks.org.

Itchin' to Stitch

Itchin' to Stitch has a new community project that they are excited about. They are recreating an Underground Railroad quilt for the Richard Allen Cultural Center and Museum. The squares of the quilt give directions to stops along the path to freedom. Edna Wagner, the museum executive director, will use the quilt as an illustration when she reads *Sweet Clara and The Freedom Quilt* to local school children. It will also be a part of their display at the museum.

Itchin' to Stitch has also started crocheting classes. Cheryl Rader is teaching people to crochet to help make prayer shawls to give others who are grieving or ill. If you would like a prayer shawl to give away, there is a holder in the foyer.

Itchin' to Stitch meets on the third Thursday of each month at 1:30 pm to work on all types of handmade items to donate to local charities. For more information, contact Teresa at hickst@kc.rr.com.



Reverent Camping?

You are probably wondering how Scouts are reverent if they're camping out, cooking meals, learning to handle a knife, ax, saw safely and learning to start and build a fire, even in the rain. Every spring, the Scouting Ministry of FUMC has a fun experience for the young scouts just getting involved and preparing for their first campout before going to summer camp. Things don't just happen; the scout learns that this is their responsibility. Actually, I think it is just the beginning of them learning to be a pilot in a later life. It begins with the check-list mentality. It kind of helps the parents, too. That age old question of, "what should I bring?" is followed by "what do I put it in?" Well, never put it in a bag, backpack, trunk or suitcase that the scout can't get from the car to his camp site.

The important question no one ever asks is "What shouldn't I bring?" I mean, did YOU ever ask that question? Do not bring an iPad or computer. But, you may bring a cellphone and medications. Fortunately, we have leaders who have medical certifications. Also, it is difficult to let this sink in, but do not bring "poggy bait" unless you are bringing enough cookies, cake, snacks, ice cream or gum to share with everyone else. This is not a rule to exclude fun times but it is the rule of safety. There I was, First Class Scout Bill Kidder at Fort Steuben Scout Reservation, waking up in the middle of the night as a FAMILY of racoons were tearing open my ruck sack under my cot to get at the open package of Fig Newton's. Uninvited guests in my yard could include a different family of racoons, skunks, possums, rabbits, a pack of coyotes or a big furry chocolate lab!

Another favorite question of Scouts is, "What are we going to eat?" Answer 1. "I don't know, what did you plan for your menu?" Answer 2. "Ask your Senior Patrol Leader." Answer 3. "Well, the adults are having ..." Just so you know, Mr. Kolin makes excellent cordon bleu and the best baked beans. I am thinking instead of a chili cook-off, the church should have a baked bean contest this summer.

The more experienced Scouts help the younger scouts. It begins when new scouts show up with their family and the older scouts come to the car and help carry stuff, usually the folding chair. It is a learning session. You want to be helpful but not so helpful that the new Scout does not begin to recognize they have to begin to carry their own weight. Team building continues as they work together to put up tents. New Scouting parents really want to help ... so this is the time for an adult leader to walk up, say "hi" and offer to show the new folks around and let the Scouts work on the discovery process. That is about the time Phin, our dog, starts sniffing around looking for some hidden morsel. Rule one is safety. Rule two is, "Don't feed Phin." (Except for the Scout Leaders, but only cooked bacon).

There you have it. Scouts are reverent. Whatever meal they cooked won't be eaten until grace is said. Tired Scouts might forget their prayers at night after a busy day, but the parents... they pick up the mantle. Me? I thank the Great Scoutmaster for the opportunity to work with the youth ministry of First Church. We're reverent when we give up the second night of camping of the weekend so we can attend Palm Sunday with our family at church. *Bill Kidder*



Camp Chippewa is an United Methodist Children's Camp just outside Ottawa, KS. It offers week long camps for kids from 3rd to 12th grade. There are regular sessions and sessions filled with horseback riding. The camps run from June 9 until July 25. Several kids from our church family have attended Camp Chippewa and they give it glowing reviews. But here is the best part, your children can attend camp for free. We at FUMC believe so strongly in the positive effects of church camp on a child's faith journey, that we will cover the cost of camp. Simply see Ed Garven and he will work with you to pay the camp cost. You can email him at egarven@fumclvks.org.



This season is such a busy time in the life of the youth group. Our first week back from Spring Break, students prepped the flower beds in front and on the side of the church building for the Scouts to lay mulch. Many hands made for light work.

We have officially finished our Confirmation lessons. We finished with a make up day where volunteers came in helped teach lesson stations. The kids were very attentive and asked great questions. If your student wishes to be confirmed but has missed more lessons than we are able to

make up in that day, I will contact you to schedule an alternate time for your student to meet with me and Steven and get caught up. Confirmation will be April 26 as a part of second service. Please give our students a warm welcome if you see them – for many of them, this will be their first time in a church service at our church. They are great kids and I can't wait for you to meet them! You can find their photos on page 11 of this magazine

For the remainder of the school year, we will be talking about practical applications for our faith in the real world. This past week we talked about relationships – family, friends, and dating – and what the Golden Rule (found in Matthew 22) applied means for the most important connections in our lives.

This summer, we will continue to meet on Sundays with a more relaxed rotation of service project, movie night (with spiritual discussion), game night, and outings. This will be our first year to do summer youth group during my tenure of 8 school years with the church. I'm excited for the extra time to bond and learn.

March 28 we had our secret scavenger hunt outing. Students went to the Nelson Atkins Art Museum to do a scavenger hunt and had lunch. These sorts of activities promote group bonding and are just plain fun. Students loved solving riddles and looking for artwork in the building. We used sections with Christian art liberally. You can find their photos on page 8 of this magazine.

Our summer trip this year will be to Chicago via train. I am so excited to try something new because I have never ridden the train. We have some fabulous adult volunteers already signed up to go with us, which is great because we will be navigating public transit in the city once we get there. For some of our students, this will be their first time in a big city, so it should bring awareness to a whole different lifestyle. Besides our service project we will visit the 360 Observation Deck, the Navy Pier, and several museums.

Thank you for your prayers, meals, and support for the youth group. They are invaluable.



Next meeting is April 15. If you're ages 18-35 and interested in hanging out with us, please contact me at khowell@fumclvks.org or text at 913-742-3557. We would love to have you join us!





Kids First Worship is for kids ages 3 years through 6th grade and meets during the 11:00 service each Sunday on the lower floor of the Sanctuary building. During the month of April we will celebrate Easter and continue to learn more about Jesus.

- April 5 – Jesus is Alive!
- April 12 – Jesus and the Children
- April 19 – The Widow’s Offering
- April 26 – Jesus Heals Jairus’ Daughter

Kids First Worship will be offered at both services on Easter!



Sunday School is for kids ages 3 years through 4th grade and meets from 9:45 – 10:40 am in room 202. We will be studying the same lessons as Kids First Worship, taking time to go a little deeper.



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. Our theme this year is “Exodus: From Moses to Me.” This month we are focusing on the Tabernacle, a traveling church designed by God.

- April 1 – God Provides Sustenance (Manna, Quail, Water)
- April 8 – Tabernacle: People Bring Gifts
- April 15 – Tabernacle: Outer Court
- April 22 – Tabernacle: Holy Place and Priests
- April 29 – Tabernacle: Most Holy Place

Fusion 56 (our special group for 5th and 6th graders), meets from 12:00 – 1:30 pm. Each meeting we will have lunch, a Bible lesson and FUN! Contact Nancy to get the schedule for the year. Friends are always welcome!
This month’s meetings are April 12 & April 26.



Mother’s Morning Out is April 8 from 8:30 to 11:30 am. Our theme is “Easter”! Each month, on the second Wednesday, we provide care for children ages birth through school age. There are three groups: Nursery, Toddlers and Preschool. Space is limited, so register now at FUMCLVKS.ORG/MMO.



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL 2026
CAMP FIRE “IT ONLY TAKES A SPARK!”
YOUR KIDS WON’T WANT TO MISS VBS!
JULY 20-24 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM

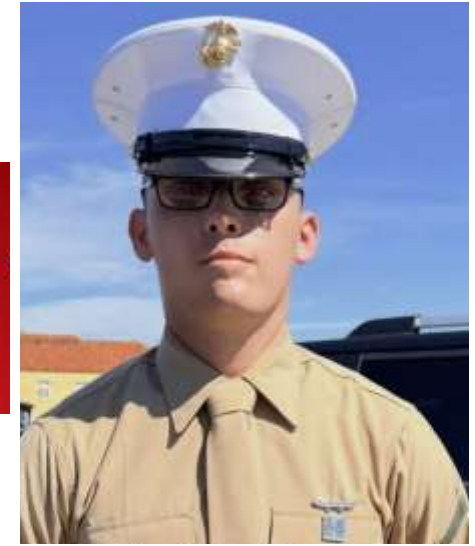
If you have any questions about Children’s Ministry or would like to volunteer, contact Nancy Shade at nshade@fumclvks.org.



March 5, 2026, Mirinda (Lowery) and Tyler Michaud welcomed their first daughter into the world. Ella Marie Michaud was 7 pounds 8 ounces and 20 1/3 inches long. Grandparents Aaron and Becky Wecas are overjoyed.



Congratulations to Private First Class Derek McManigle for finishing Marine Corps Boot Camp in San Diego, CA. He is back in California for training and then he will head to North Carolina for more training as a Vehicle Mechanic.



Lucy Heim went to the State Future Business Leaders of America convention in March and crushed her Digital Video Production presentation! It was a team event and she did it solo. She was up against larger, older groups and came out in second place —earning her a ticket to the nationals competition in San Antonio this summer!



This month, Rocky Hladky will be traveling to Daytona, Florida, to compete with the Leavenworth Pioneer ROTC Drill Team at The Army National Drill Championship which showcases regulation and exhibition drill routines.



Aniston Rolf placed 8th all around in the Missouri Gymnastics competition. Then she went to Huntsville, Alabama to compete in Elevate the Stage. This is a gymnastic competition where hundreds of gymnasts from all over America come to experience competition similar to the NCAA. She placed 1st on vault, 5th overall, and scored 37.0 all around.



Sam Vasquez placed fourth at the Kansas State Wrestling tournament in March. The real triumph lay in the community that stood strong, supporting and caring for Sam through a particularly challenging year for his family.



We are proud of all our students. Please share your child’s accomplishments at swood@fumclvks.org.



Join the Interfaith Community of Hope as they celebrate all they have achieved this year and all the exciting work yet to come. The Night of Hope Gala will be a fun and inspiring night featuring dinner, a live and silent auction, and a variety of games and activities throughout the evening.

Gather with friends, supporters and community members as we celebrate impact, share stories, and look ahead to the future. It will be an unforgettable night of connection, generosity, and hope.

Tickets are \$65 and available at the Community of Hope Facebook page.



April Is Child Abuse Prevention Month

April is Child Abuse Prevention Month and April 26 is Blue Sunday, a day to remember the millions of children who are victims of abuse and neglect each year.

CASA is working to raise awareness about child abuse in our community. One in four girls and one in six boys will be sexually abused before their 18th birthday. Most child abuse incidents are drug and alcohol related. Within one year of aging out of the foster care system, 66% of children are in jail or dead. There are over 100,000 children waiting for adoption in the United States.

One of CASA's largest fundraisers is the Nite at the Races. It will be held May 1, at 5:30 pm. There are still tickets available for \$75. See their website for information, casalvks.org.

The CASA program in Leavenworth was established in 1994 and is based on the idea that average citizens can become professionally trained volunteers who serve as the eyes and ears of the court. Even more importantly, these volunteers are a voice for the child. Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASAs) meet all involved parties and make an impartial recommendation to the judge. These advocates appear in court for the child and represent the child's best interest. CASAs monitor a case until its end, helping bring swift and permanent conclusions. CASA Volunteers are everyday people from all walks of life who have been thoroughly screened and extensively trained to be a voice for the children they serve.

In 2024, 41 children were served by 22 CASA Volunteers; they hosted 504 visits in their Child Exchange and Visit Center. Also, they facilitated 152 parent exchanges. The Child Advocacy Center held 125 interviews and offered advocacy to 87 caregivers.

Judge Wiley said, "Services CASA provides to the domestic court are necessary, invaluable and difficult if not impossible to replace."

If you're willing to make the first step in changing a child's life by becoming a CASA volunteer call (913) 651-6440 or visit their website at casalvks.org. The CASA office is located just down the street from the church at 100 S. Fifth Street in Leavenworth.



Mental Health Awareness Block Party

MUSIC - GAMES
FOOD - CONNECTIONS

MAY IS MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS MONTH

JOIN US FOR A SATURDAY FULL OF FUN, FOOD, AND FRIENDS WHILE CONNECTING WITH LOCAL ORGANIZATIONS THAT PROVIDE MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES AND RESOURCES

May 2, 10 am - 2 pm

The Feed LV COalition advances food security in Leavenworth County through coordinated action, shared resources, and systemic solutions. They serve as a centralized hub for food collection, distribution, and information sharing while working to eliminate food deserts, improve transportation access, and strengthen long-term partnerships with community organizations, retailers, and producers, while building a resilient, sustainable food system that meets immediate needs and addresses the root causes of food insecurity.

Feed LV COalition realizes that food insecurity is rarely an isolated problem. It is often accompanied by mental health issues, addiction, abuse and other issues. In order to educate the public about resources in our community in a fun inviting way, they're hosting a Mental Health Awareness Block Party on our green space on May 2 from 10 am to 2 pm. There will be food, games, and a variety of booths from area organizations that help with mental health issues.



April Is Sexual Assault Awareness Month

The Alliance Against Family Violence (AAFV) is one of the recipients of our Easter Offering this year. They're a sexual and domestic violence victim advocacy organization that serves Leavenworth and the surrounding area. AAFV is dedicated to facilitating an empowering positive change in the lives of those affected by domestic and sexual violence. AAFV offers emergency shelter and advocacy services to victims of domestic

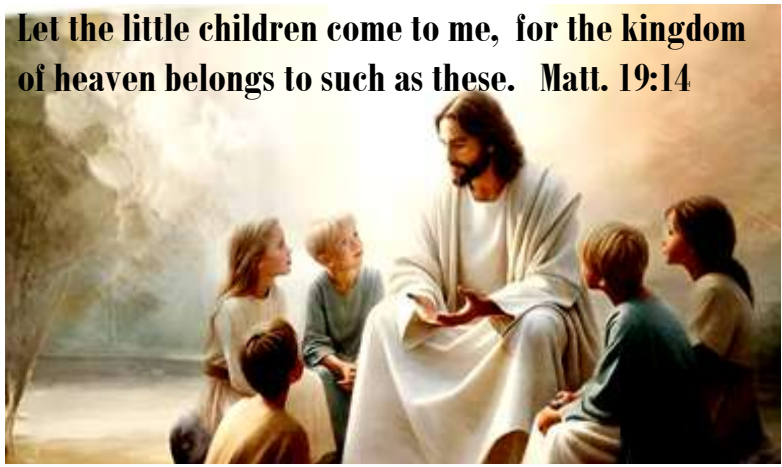
violence and sexual assault, where survivors can escape abuse, receive essential services, and rebuild their lives in a safe and confidential environment. Staffed with trained professionals who offer round-the-clock support and resource assistance, services include counseling, legal advocacy, assistance with accessing medical care, and accessing permanent housing.

So how can FUMC help? Pray for the workers at AAFV and the survivors that they help everyday. Give to our Easter Offering. AAFV needs volunteers to answer the emergency call line. Donate supplies at the Kansas Country Store, 728 Cherokee. They are always in need of ordinary household items such as paper towels, toilet paper, laundry detergent, shampoo, conditioner, soap, toothpaste, and cleaning supplies.

You can find out more info about AAFV at their website, AAFVKS.ORG, or look them up on Facebook. If you or someone you know needs help, their 24 hour hotline is 913-675-7217.

"Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me." Matthew 25:40

Let the little children come to me, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these. Matt. 19:14



The kid's choir sang *Hosanna* on Palm Sunday and Thomas Abt, Nora Borklund and Jackson Heim (pictured in order to the right) received their first Bibles. Fusion 56 took a field trip to visit the Titanic exhibit and then they ate lunch at Fritz's.



Sacred Makers

St. Paul's Lutheran's church has started a community group for creative people of faith called Sacred Makers. They meet on the second Thursday of every month at the St Paul's Parish Hall, 209 N 7th at 6 pm. Each class creates a piece of art along with a spiritual devotion. This month, they are making mosaic crosses from broken pottery and reflecting on renewal, restoration and the sacred story held within broken things. Due to the materials involved, this week is best suited for adults and older participants comfortable working with fragile, sharp pieces. If you are interested in attending, please email Skie Pearson at skie75@gmail.com so she has enough materials.



WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY
 TUESDAYS 10:00 AM OR THURSDAYS 6:30 PM

WHAT MATTERS MOST
 A STUDY OF PHILIPPIANS

Contact Carol Shafer
cshafer@lvnworth.com
 for more information.

The Women's Bible Study is starting *What Matters Most* by Karen Ehman. The world has always been full of trials, disappointments, temptations, fractured friendships, and financial hardships. Yet Paul's letter to the Philippians claims we can discover contentment and joy in the midst of it all by prioritizing what matters most—Christ. This study of the ever-relevant Letter of Philippians will deepen your relationship with Jesus, turn your worries into worship, and develop gospel-centered tools for navigating relational conflict and thriving in Christian love.

Learn to live in joy despite your circumstances. Unearth the secret of contentment—knowing Christ. Banish anxiety by implementing biblical practices to rest in the peace of Christ.

The Women's Bible Study meets Tuesdays at 10 am OR Thursdays at 6:30 pm. The new study will start April 14 and 16. For more info, contact Carol at cshafer@lvnworth.com

Richard Allen Cultural Center & Museum

Join Us For An

EASTER Festival

FOOD - MUSIC - GAME - PRIZES

APRIL 18 11 AM-1 PM

Buffalo Bill "Cody" Park
 3003 Shrine Park Road
 If the temperature is below 35 degrees the event will be rescheduled

Leavenworth Main Street Presents

First City Spring Tea

Sunday, April 26, 2026
 1:00 pm-3:00 pm
 Check In Starts at 12:30pm

RiverFront Community Center
 123 Esplanade Street, LV, KS. 66048

Tickets \$25 - On sale April 1, 2026

Music, High Tea, Unique Table settings and your friends make for a lovely afternoon out!

**2026
 Confirmation
 Class**



Trixie Charr
 9th grade
 Leavenworth High



Maleeya Davis
 9th grade
 Pleasant Ridge High



Natalie Heim
 8th grade
 Pleasant Ridge High



The youth have had a busy March. In addition to their Confirmation lessons, they cleaned out the church flower beds and they did a scavenger hunt at the Nelson Atkins Art Gallery.



David Hintz
 8th grade
 Patton Jr. High



Paisley Hladky
 7th grade
 Warren Middle



Rocky Hladky
 9th grade
 Leavenworth High



Gunner Kunkel
 7th grade
 Pleasant Ridge Middle



Heidi Kunkel
 9th grade
 Pleasant Ridge High



Dominic Norberto
 9th grade
 Leavenworth High



Ady Trentham
 8th grade
 Pleasant Ridge Middle



Abel Rolf
 8th grade
 Patton Jr High



These eleven students, mostly new to the church, have been learning the basics of the Christian faith all year in youth group. On April 26, they will be confirmed. Please keep them in your prayers as they grow in their faith.

LENT @ FUMC

Everyone is welcome at the table, whether it's the Communion table or the potluck table. We enjoyed both last month. The Lenten potlucks were a great success. We also enjoyed a great meal on Maundy Thursday.



Thank God It's Good Friday (TGIGF) was both fun and educational as kids learned about the last week of Jesus' life. Thank you to all the volunteers that make this special day happen.

