



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.

May 2026

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





Think on these things...

To this you were called, because Christ suffered for you, leaving you an example, that you should follow in his steps. "He committed no sin, and no deceit was found in his mouth." 1 Peter 2:21-22



As I reflect on seasons of joy and seasons of sorrow, I'm thinking about graduations. They mark an ending of accomplishment; awards are given, diplomas are received, speeches are heard. Graduation is also called commencement, which is a beginning or start. So, we feel the joy of celebration and the stress of starting over. We experience the end of one season and the beginning of another at the same time.

A question we ask children is "What do you want to be when you grow up?" The frequent answers are exciting and adventurous like an astronaut, princess, or athlete. Thank God we don't get what we wish for, or the world would be filled with pirates, actors, and YouTubers! As Christians, we are constantly growing up into the image of Christ. It is a lifelong process. We may hold many different jobs or professions throughout our lives. The process of becoming more like Jesus is our commencement and graduation.

One of the questions that are asked of newly minted graduates is "What's next?" That is the most critical question for our own spiritual growth. In the Christian journey of faith, we don't get many graduations. There are times when our way is not clearly marked. Uncertainty creeps in as we face the future in unknown places with unknown people. We experience joy and anxiety, confusion, and hope. We are confident of some things and doubtful of others, sounds like being a disciple of Jesus. We reflect the holy nature of Jesus as we become more compassionate, generous, patient, humble, gentle, wise, truthful, and just. We learn to bear one another's burdens and love as Christ has loved us. We practice peace among those who are friends and enemies, too. We live today anticipating our life above. Because Christ is with us through His Spirit, we are not alone, so we don't need to be afraid. Every season of life will be filled with joy and sorrow. Some seasons have graduations while others are continuous. Let's keep growing together so that we can say, "I want to be like Jesus when I grow up."

Dave York

Ecclesiastes Bible Study
Tuesdays
6:30 pm
Led by Pastor Dave York
Starting June 9

Are you tired of pat answers to your hard questions of faith? The writer of Ecclesiastes is not afraid to confront your dilemmas. Like "Where can you find fulfillment?" And "Who is really in control of this world that seems so topsy-turvy?" Or "Is there any value in my work, my struggles, my life?"

Pastor Dave will lead a Bible Study this summer to explore this fascinating Old Testament book. He will be using the *LifeGuide* Bible Study by Bill and Teresa Syrios, you will discover how God brings meaning to the world and how following God brings meaning to your life. They will meet Tuesdays at 6:30 pm in Wesley Hall starting June 9.

Over the summer we will have one united worship service at 10 am. Pastor Dave will be starting a sermon series on Ecclesiastes in June. Ecclesiastes is a biblical wisdom book exploring the meaning of life. The book of Ecclesiastes starts with the famous verses, "There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens: a time to be born and a time to die, a time to plant and a time to uproot, a time to kill and a time to heal, a time to tear down and a time to build." It concludes that existence, apart from God is fleeting, or like a breath. It argues that wealth, pleasure, and work are futile because death comes to everyone, urging us instead to fear God, keep His commandments, and enjoy life's simple gifts.

Ecclesiastes Chasing After Meaning
Summer Sermon Series
Sundays 10 am

MAY Birthdays



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

MAY Anniversaries

18th	Richard & Suzanne Gray	31 years
	Dae & Jennifer Ko	24 years
23rd	David & Christine Varnal	11 years
24th	Jim & Cynthia Walley	51 years



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

ONE SERVICE FOR THE SUMMER STARTING MAY 24
SUNDAY SCHOOL 9 AM
UNITED WORSHIP 10 AM

UPCOMING Events

MEN'S PRAYER & STUDY BREAKFAST
MAY 16
8:00 AM
FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT
MIKE MIX HAIRYMULE@GMAIL.COM
OR DAVE LANDIS DLANDIS@HUGHES.NET

LET'S DO Lunch
TUESDAY, MAY 19, 11:30 AM
Acapulco Mexican Grill
701 Cheyenne Street

BLOOD DRIVE



Tuesday, June 2

10:00 AM – 3:00 PM

Your donations really does make a difference.
Please give the gift of life.

Did you know that every two seconds, someone needs blood? We often think of blood transfusions for accidents, but did you know patients with cancer, blood disorders, and severe anemia require regular transfusions.

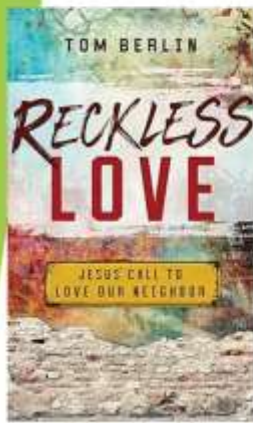
We will be hosting a blood drive on June 2, from 10 am - 3 pm. If you gave blood with Community Blood Center in the spring, you are eligible to earn a weekender bag by donating in June, September and December. Luckily we will host blood drives each of those months!

If you would like to volunteer to help with the blood drive, contact Cathy Landis at dlandis@hughes.net. If you would like to make an appointment to give blood, go to savealifenow.org.

New Life Seekers Sunday School class meet on the second floor of the Education building in room 203. They are starting *Reckless Love: Jesus' Call to Love Our Neighbor* by Tom Berlin.

In this exploration of Jesus' teaching and travels with his disciples, Berlin suggests that Jesus teaches us how to love God with heart, soul, mind, and strength by showing us how to love our neighbor. While many hope to learn to be better family, friends, leaders, and neighbors by finding a deeper relationship with God, what if becoming a better neighbor leads you to that deeper love of God?

In *Reckless Love*, you will consider your life, and learn how loving the people around you will completely renew your faith and give you a new experience of loving God. For more information about this class, contact Sara Mulford at sbmulford@gmail.com.



newlife seekers
Sundays
9:45 am
Sara Mulford @
sbmulford@gmail.com

Sacred Makers
St. Paul's Episcopal Parish Hall
May 14, 6 pm



Grandparents at Prayer
May 11th
5:30 – 6:30 pm
St. Paul's Parish Hall,
209 N Seventh St.

St. Paul's Episcopal Church has several Community groups that you are invited to join. The first is Sacred Makers, a group of crafters that meets once a month in the Parish Hall. This month they will create meaningful prayer flags. Each flag will hold a word, prayer, or intention to send out into the world as they move in the wind. No experience needed, all materials provided, but feel free to bring scrap fabric if you would like to make it extra personal. Come create, reflect, and share in a peaceful evening together.

The second group is Grandparents at Prayer. It meets on the second Monday of each month and strives to learn more about how to practice intentional grandparenting with focused prayer that God will be ever present in the lives of our grandchildren. It's not Episcopal specific. They are using the study guide, *A Guide to Great Grandparenting*, by Paul and Diana Miller.

The next meeting is Monday, May 11th from 5:30 – 6:30 pm in the Parish Hall, 209 N Seventh Street. They would love to be your prayer warriors should you like to share prayer requests for your children and grandchildren with us. Please contact Amy Masters, (913) 240-3823 or Anthea Brosnan, (913) 680-4481 if you have any prayer requests or questions.

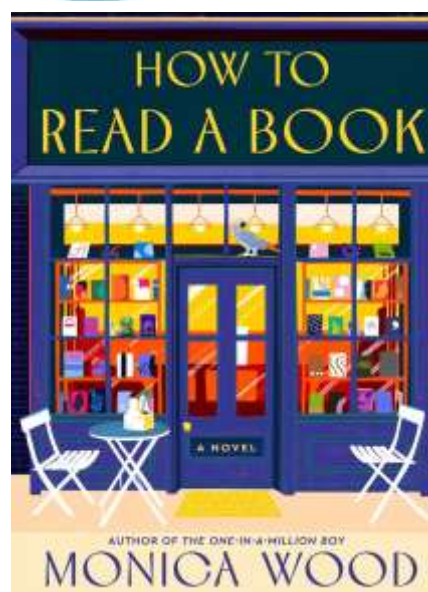
Itchin' to Stitch

Itchin' to Stitch has been hard at work to make a wedding quilt for Bellarmee Milosi, who was our summer intern in 2019. Pastor Dave has been a mentor to Belarmee who is now a Methodist pastor in Cozad, Nebraska.

In May they will be attending the Sunflower Piecemakers Quilt Show on May 2 at the Lansing Activity Center. They will also have their regular meeting on May 21 at 1:30 pm in Fellowship Hall. They are also having crocheting classes. If you have questions, please contact Teresa at hickst@kc.rr.com.



June 2, 1 pm



The Book Club is reading *How to Read a Book* by Monica Wood. It is a novel about redemption, forgiveness, and the power of literature. The story follows three interconnected characters in Portland, Maine. Violet Powell, a twenty-two-year-old from rural Abbott Falls, Maine, is being released from prison after serving twenty-two months for a drunk-driving crash that killed a local kindergarten teacher. Harriet Larson, a retired English teacher who runs the prison book club, is facing the unsettling prospect of an empty nest. Frank Daigle, is still grieving his first wife who was killed in Violet's drunk driving accident. The three encounter each other one morning in a bookstore in Portland--Violet to buy the novel she was reading in the prison book club before her release, Harriet to choose the next title for the women who remain, and Frank to dispatch his duties as the store handyman. The story explores how their lives intersect, focusing on themes of second chances, unlikely friendships, and the way stories help people navigate grief and find new paths.

The book club meets the first Tuesday of every month in Wesley Hall at 1 pm. You are welcome to join the conversation anytime. If you have questions, ask Sandy at swood@fumclvks.org.



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



May is here! Welcome to the heart of spring where we are on a mission for the Lord. This month is full of activities and opportunities to show our collective love of ourselves and for our neighbors. We kick off the month with a Samaritan's Buffet and Mental Health Awareness Block party on May 2. Starting the next week, we are showing love to our two elementary schools with lunch for the teachers and their staff. On May 5 we will celebrate with a taco lunch at David Brewer Elementary School then on May 6, same menu, at Anthony Elementary School.

We are always blessed to celebrate our graduates and that will take place on May 10, with breakfast from 9:30 am until 11:00 am. We will have grab and go items to take to Sunday School.

May 14 is the conclusion of David Brewer Elementary School's running club for kids. If you are available to cheer some of our kids on to physical success, join us at 401 N 17th St, Leavenworth, KS 66048, Thursday at 3:00 pm.

On May 22 we're preparing a breakfast for the staff at Lansing Elementary school, please see the signup in the lobby. There is also a sign up for thank you cards for teachers.

We will close out the month with church-wide camping trip to Perry Lake. Please email Thom Kirby for details at dustyroadmobile@gmail.com, for this May 29 - 31 event.

I encourage everyone to read the back of your weekly bulletins for all the activities at the church! Serving is the true manifestation of our love of the Lord and our neighbors. Serving is more than doing, more than giving; it is love. The love this congregation brings on a daily basis is steaming ahead. Feeding the hungry (Samaritan's Buffet, Leavenworth Mission Volunteers, Backpack Buddies), housing the homeless (Leavenworth Interfaith Community of Hope), and loving unconditionally 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.

If you would like more information on these service ministries or you have an idea or other area where you believe we need to serve, please contact me at egarven@fumclvks.org in Christ, Ed



Join us May 17 for All Music Sunday. The program will be the same at the 8:30 and 11:00 am services. This will be our last Sunday with two services. We will go to one service at 10 am for the summer starting May 24. Sunday School will be at 9 am.



ONLINE GIVING



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

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

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



SCOUTS HAVE A BUSY SPRING

We are in the wrap up time for the Cub Scouts. They are finishing up any rank requirements for the next year. The Arrow of Light Crossover Ceremony is the last event for a Cub Scout who wants to move to Scouting America. It is a simple, but meaningful ceremony. We have a small foot bridge; the Cub Scouts are on one side and the Troop Scouts are on the receiving side. After the Arrow of Light Cub Scout reaches the other side, their Cub Scout uniform is transitioned to the Troop uniform and he or she changes like a butterfly to a new program.

Our older scouts who were selected to the National level of Scouting's Honor Society called Order of the Arrow (OA) became candidates during a Callout Ceremony, followed by a weekend event called "The Ordeal" to test one's metal and display a higher level of leadership, conservation, and brotherhood.

General troop meetings are preparing the scouts and their families for the upcoming Summer camp. The Scout leaders conducted classes based on our current Camping Adventure. For Scouts attending Summer Camp, they will list their desired Merit Badge sessions.

The Cub Scouts in Pack 3109 will conduct their end of session Blue and Gold Banquet in May.



CONGRATULATIONS!



Congratulations to Jamie Brettmann, Ainslee Frederick, and Sophie McNeill for being inducted into the National Honor Society. The National Honor Society is a nationwide organization for high school students in the U.S. that recognizes outstanding academic achievement (typically a 3.0+ GPA) and fosters leadership, service, and character.



Summer Camp

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

Congratulations! 2026 Class of



Alexis Hoffman
Leavenworth High School
Going to KCKCC to study Culinary Arts. She hopes to get a Disney internship



Kaelan Patterson
Smithville High School
Going to K-State to study forestry and conservation.



Paige Gebhardt
Lyndon High School
Going to K State Univ. for Human Biology/pre-med



Emmaly Hagemeister
Manhattan High School
Going to Univ. of Neb. for Forensic Science

This time of year is busy, busy, busy for all of our teenagers. Between spring sports, graduations, and all of the end-of-the-year award ceremonies and honors, these last few weeks of the year are jam-packed. Add to that all of the hard work that our students have done to prepare themselves to embrace their faith as adults through Confirmation.

April 26, we confirmed 11 students into the congregation as adult members and baptized 4 students. I can not express to you how absolutely proud of them I am. They're truly wonderful people and I am so fortunate to know them.

In May, we switch over to our summer schedule for Refuge Youth Group. This is a new endeavor this year and we are hoping it will help us to keep the cohesion of our group over the summer and give us opportunities to try different things. We will be having themed weeks each month that follow the same pattern for all of May, June, and July: Service Night, Game Night, Movie Night, and Outing in the KC Metro. Service Night we will focus on doing a service project in our community either for the church, someone connected with our congregation, or a service organization in the area. Game Night will just be focused on community and fun through games and relaxing together. Movie Night will feature a film that pertains to faith and raises moral and/or theological questions for consideration. And finally, Outing in the Community is an opportunity to go play somewhere in the metro area – mini golf, bowling, escape room, etc. In August, we will return to our regular programming with a lock-in kick-off on August 14-15.

In June, we are taking a group of students via train to Chicago for a mission trip. We are so grateful to our adult volunteers that are joining us so we can more easily navigate public transit and big city life for a week. We will spend mornings serving and afternoons and evenings playing around Chicago at museums, the sky view deck, and the Navy Pier, just to name a few. Our trips are always fun and I am particularly looking forward to the new adventures we will have on this trip.



Anya Anderson
KCKCC Fire School
Plans to work at a local Fire station



Hannah Hartman
Master of Public Health and graduate certificate in Public Health Admin. Planning on engaging Public health research and developing programs that promote health.



Lucien Rader
KCKCC HVAC school
Going to study HVAC further.



Caleb Shade
JCCC
Associate of Applied Science Game Development
He's developing a portfolio.



As always, Young Adults is holding steady with our 1st and 3rd Wednesday gatherings. We've been meeting at Sarah Yenney's home lately for dinner, conversation, and games. If you are between ages 18 and 35 and interested in joining us, please reach out to me (Kristen) at 913-742-3557 or khowell@fumclvks.org and I'll get you information on our next excursion.



Cole Hubbard, son of Joel and Lyndsay Hubbard and grandson of Kathy Huskey, broke the Basehor-Linwood High School record in the 3200m this week with a time of 9:54, shattering a mark that had stood since 1983 by 12 seconds. And that's not all. Just a week earlier, Hubbard also broke the school record in the 2000m steeplechase. Two meets into the season... two school records.





Kids First Worship is for kids ages 3 years through 4th grade and meets during the 11:00 am service each Sunday on the lower floor of the Sanctuary building. In May we will explore more stories of Jesus and culminate with the coming of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost!

- May 3 – The Woman Who Touched Jesus' Hem
- May 10 – The Woman at the Well
- May 17 – The Persistent Widow
- May 31 – Pentecost!

NOTE – Kids First Worship will not meet on May 24 due to the Memorial weekend.



Sunday School is for kids ages 3 years through 4th grade and meets on Sunday mornings from 9:45 – 10:40 am. With the Bible as our foundation, we will be using science, art, and activities to not just tell God's story, but learn what it means for us. We will be studying the same lessons as Kids First Worship, taking time to go a little deeper. **NOTE – Sunday School won't meet on May 24 for Memorial Day weekend.**



Wonderful Wednesday is a fantastic way to remind children that God is not just for Sunday, he's 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. We are finishing up our year long focus on Moses and the Exodus.

- May 6 – Wilderness: God Guides His People
- May 13 – Wilderness: 12 Spies
- May 20 – Wilderness: Wandering to the Promised Land

NOTE: May 20 is our final Wonderful Wednesday for this school year. We will resume next August!

Fusion 56, our special group for 5th and 6th graders, meets after second service for lunch, Bible study and fun. Friends are always welcome. **Our final meeting this school year is May 10.**



Mother's Morning Out theme for May is "Mothers! This is our final Mother's Morning Out for this school year. We'll resume in September. There are three groups: Nursery, Toddlers and Preschool. Space is limited, so register now by going to: FUMCLVKS.ORG/MMO



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



**COMING SOON!
VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL
July 20-24
9:00 am – 12:00 pm
3 years (potty-trained)
through just finished 6th grade**



Heidi Eaton was the featured artist at the Leavenworth Public Library in April. Her main art medium is scratch board which allows her to show the individual hairs or feathers of her subjects.



Chez Shafer was named the Leavenworth County Meals on Wheels Volunteer of the Year at the Council on Aging's Volunteer Appreciation luncheon on April 10. Chez has been volunteering with the organization since 2019, currently delivering meals twice a week on his assigned routes while also frequently substituting for other drivers. Nutrition Coordinator, Georgia Moore, presented the award to Chez.

My Favorite Bible Verse

Libby Frashier's favorite Bible verse is her mother's favorite Bible verse which is Psalm 100. Libby's mom, Marjorie Cox played the piano at the Methodist churches where her husband, John, was the pastor. Her favorite hymn was "Heaven Came Down and Glory Filled My Soul." She also played the accordion. Marjorie always encouraged her children to play and sing music. Libby played the clarinet and saxophone in school and loves to sing alto. Marjorie passed away last year at the age of 97.



Shout for joy to the Lord, all the earth. Worship the Lord with gladness; come before him with joyful songs. Know that the Lord is God. It is he who made us, and we are his; we are his people, the sheep of his pasture. Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise; give thanks to him and praise his name. For the Lord is good and his love endures forever; his faithfulness continues through all generations. Psalm 100:1-5



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



Dear FUMC,
I attend ERSPA and Wingtips. I so appreciate your hospitality in providing us a place to meet. May God bless your efforts to serve our community.
Thank you.
Donna Cooper





The Caring Congregation



I spent the first seventy years of my life worrying about things that were so important to me, but they aren't anymore. It's given me so much relief, that I can live my life the way that I want to live it, under my terms. I remember for thirty years I was obsessed with doing all the "right things."

Now, I don't care about my old job, my old career, my accomplishments, awards, or successes. The "important" people I knew, the clothes I wore, the committees I was on. I'm grateful I had those experiences, but I don't care anymore about clinging on to those stories, those titles, even those relationships. There isn't enough capacity in my life with all that I have going on right now with my family and friends to keep this part. I've brought along with me maybe a half dozen critical relationships that I'm still in contact with, but those relationships still work because we have evolved. We don't really talk about the old days, we talk about who we are today. All of that old history isn't important anymore because I've reinvented myself. I'm in the discovery years, I'm redesigning my life. All of that was preparation for where I am now, to actually do something really important in my life, to work on my legacy, to work on new relationships, to try to really make a difference in the world. I don't want to spend the next 15 years of my life talking about who I used to be or who I used to know.

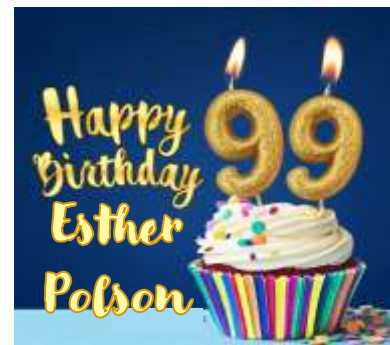
Second, I don't need daily approval for the things I do. Looking for accolades, or a pat on the back or someone's approval just doesn't work. I do what I want to do because I'm answering to a higher authority. I no longer need reassurance, I trust myself and feel that my experiences have given me the cachet I need. I feel like I do a lot of things to make my life better and bless the people around me, because I feel blessed.

Third, I don't care how I look. I used to wear suits and high heels every day, put on a full face of makeup, get my hair done. Now I want to look presentable, but rarely wear makeup; when you run into me at the grocery store and I'm in a ten year old sweater with a ball cap covering my hair, that's okay by me. My suits are long gone and I don't own a pair of high heels.

Fourth, everyone I meet doesn't have to be my friend. I have lots of acquaintances, but I'm looking now, at the age of 76, for people with whom I can be my authentic self and who accept me unconditionally for who I am. People who can be compassionate, accepting, and vulnerable are hard to find. I told Pastor Dave that unfortunately, many of my true friends have departed this earth and I am now searching for younger friends!

Colossians 3: 23-24 tells us **"Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as your reward."** Whether you're running a business, leading your family, serving in church, or showing up for a friend, every act done with love becomes worship. Purpose isn't limited to a title or position; it's revealed in the way you bring God's presence into ordinary spaces.

Blessings, Marsha



One of our oldest members, Esther Polson, turns 99 on May 9th. I had the pleasure of interviewing her and gathering some of her delightful insights. Esther was born in 1927 and grew up in the Lawrence area. Her dad worked at the Reuter Organ Company and actually worked on our sanctuary organ. Her husband Erland was from the Lindsborg area; his dad taught at the Haskell Indian School. Esther and Erland met at a church social and were married at Trinity Lutheran Church in Lawrence in 1948. Esther was 21 and Erland was 31 years old. Esther was working at KU at the university print plant and bindery shop, while Erland worked with his father at Haskell. They then spent a few years in Enterprise, KS and Kansas City, where Erland worked as a draftsman.

In the early 1950s, they moved to Leavenworth and joined First Methodist Church. Daughter Susan arrived in 1951, followed by son Michael in 1957. Little Susan was born with a congenital skeletal issue which necessitated her wearing a full body cast as an infant. Esther became a stay at home mom. She says that she loved being a mother and that her children were a delight! Twenty years passed, and when Mike was a senior in high school, they made the decision to move to the Salina/ Hutchinson area to be closer to Erland's family. In 1987, Erland tragically had an aneurysm followed by a heart attack and passed away. Esther was devastated. She decided that the best thing to do for the family was to move back to Leavenworth. So, in 1986, they relocated here and have been here ever since.

Here are some fun facts I learned as Esther reminisced about her time at FUMC. Her Sunday school class met upstairs in the "artificial flower room." Her teacher was Carl Nelson, a local eye doctor. Later, the class was moved to Wesley Hall, where they all got to sit around the big table. (see the photo below) Most of her friends went to FUMC. Her closest buddy was Vera Hrabak; husband Bob was a good friend of Erland's. She fondly recalls the friendships she had with the Cowans (Shirley taught her children), and the Rollers (Dale would tell her that he couldn't remember the kid's names but he knew what instrument they played!)

She absolutely loved the Dawsons. Her son, Mike, took one of the Dawson girls to prom. He had made dinner arrangements at the Cody Hotel restaurant. Norm and Nancy invited the Polsons over to their house so that they could take pictures of the couple. Just as they were about to go home, the disappointed teens returned to the Dawson house - Cody restaurant had refused to seat them because they were underage and the restaurant served liquor. So Nancy told them, "Don't you worry, you can eat right here!" Norm put some steaks on the grill, Nancy microwaved some baked potatoes (she was the only one in town who had a microwave!) and set a fancy table for two. She saved the day!

Other people Esther recalls with great fondness are Alice and Doug Hall, the Schrolls, Nelsons, Blanch and Erwin Balls, Dee Lord, Ira and Arlena Butler, Ron and Cindy White, Donna and Roy Ramsey (I worried every time he rode that motorcycle!), Carla and Dean Hamon (Carla is so talented!), Jake and Joy DeFrees, Sy and Shirley Nyhart, Gladys and Harold Meyer, Marion and Dorothy Anderson (he was the organist), Leonard Ayers, Norma and Bruce Bray, Martha Shore, her angel, Teresa Hicks, and of course Nancy Shade (Doesn't everyone know Nancy?).

This year, Esther and Joan Atwell sat together at Twin Oaks and watched Bob's funeral on TV. She was especially saddened when Jim Wolfe passed away; he had been a faithful visitor.

Esther resides now at Twin Oaks assisted living. Like anyone almost a hundred years old, she has a few physical ailments, but her mind is sharp as a tack! She is a delight to visit. I strongly recommend you go and see for yourself.

Blessings, Marsha



Fred and Liz Hersey welcome Andrew Baehre Hersey to their family on April 13. He'll be baptized here on May 3. Big brothers, James, John, and Luke are happy for another brother to play with.

We have loved having the Hersey family as part of our church family for the last three years. Now, they are off to a new duty station. We will miss them.



FUMC IS FAMILY

To celebrate Mother's Day here are a few of our mothers at FUMC.



At FUMC, family is just more than those related to us by genetics. We all share one Father, so family is the people in our Bible study or youth group or Sunday School class. It's the people we pray with, work with, sing with, eat lunch with, or play games with. We share our lives. We share our faith. We love each other. **We are family.**