



First United Methodist Church

of

Leavenworth

422 Chestnut, Leavenworth, KS 66048

913-682-5374 FUMCLVKS.ORG

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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

September 2026

30 8:30 Worship 9:45 am SS 11:00 am Worship 4:30 pm Bells 6 pm Youth	31 Scouts	1 Blood Drive 10 am - 3pm 1 pm Book Club	21 pm Heart & Soul 3:45 WW 5 pm Young Adults 6:30 pm Choir	3	4	5 
6 One service 10 am Worship 9 am Sunday School	7 Labor Day Church Office closed	8 10 am Women's Bible Study 6:30 pm Pastor Dave's Bible Study	9 8:30 am MMO 1 pm H & S 3:45 pm WW 5:00 pm Grief Share 6:30 pm Choir	10 6:30 pm Women's Bible Study	11	12
13 8:30 Worship 9:45 am SS 11:00 am Worship 12:00 pm Fusion 56 4:30 pm Bells 6:00 pm Youth	14 Scouts	15 10 am Women's Bible Study 6:30 pm Pastor Dave's Bible Study 1 pm Spouse Grief Share	16 1 pm H & S 3:45 pm WW 5 pm Young Adults 6:30 pm Choir	17 1:30 pm Itchin' to Stitch 6:30 pm Women's Bible Study	18	19 8:00 am Men's Prayer Breakfast
20 8:30 Worship 9:45 am SS 11:00 am Worship 4:30 pm Bells 6 pm Youth	21 Scouts	22 10 am Women's Bible Study 6:30 pm Pastor Dave's Bible Study	23 1 pm H & S 3:45 pm WW 5:00 pm Grief Share 6:30 pm Choir	24 6:30 pm Women's Bible Study	25	26 Westside 
27 8:30 Worship 9:45 am SS 11:00 am Worship 12:00 pm Fusion 56 12 pm Camp Horizon 4:30 pm Bells 6 pm Youth	28 Scouts	29 10 am Women's Bible Study 6:30 pm Pastor Dave's Bible Study 1 pm Spouse Grief Share	30 1 pm H & S 3:45 pm WW 5:00 pm Young Adults 6:30 pm Choir	1 6:30 pm Women's Bible Study	2	3 





In late September, Rhonda and I are going to take the trip of a lifetime. We'll be touring the UK on a Methodist Heritage bus tour. Over ten days, we'll visit where John and Charles Wesley were born and their boyhood home church in Epworth and Coventry. We'll spend time in Oxford where the Wesleys were students and teachers. It was there that the "Holy Club" was formed and they were derided for their "Method." Bristol holds special importance for the Methodists because their first meeting house was there. It's called the New Room. Sightseeing in London for several days, as well as time in Stratford-upon-Avon. I'll be sure to pay homage to Mr. Shakespeare.

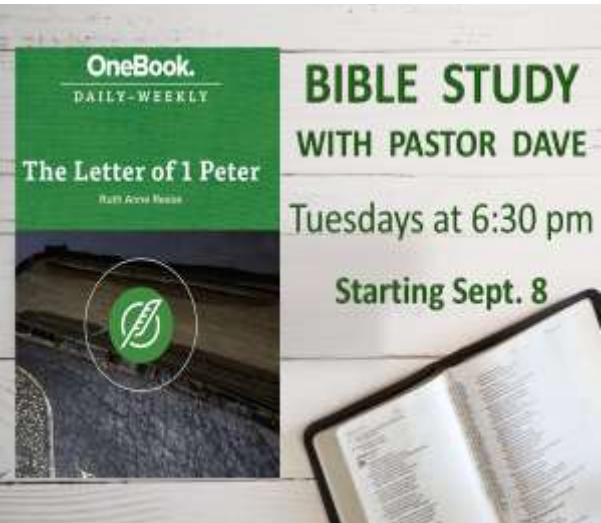
The Yorks are lifelong Methodists. We were born into, baptized, confirmed, married, and ordained as Methodists. Almost all our spiritual heritage comes from the Wesleyan/Methodist background. Our seminary training was done through the Wesleyan theological tradition at Asbury Theological Seminary. I feel as though I am going to discover some of my family heritage by going to ancestral lands. We are even going to spend two days in York, England. Maybe I'll find some far removed British cousins along the way!

Heritage is important. It has shaped part of who I am. I believe you can't outrun your family of origin. Spiritually speaking, the Wesleyan tradition is the framework of how I think and act. The emphasis on serving and loving our neighbors, our cooperative spirit among other Christians, and focus on God's grace are hallmarks of Wesleyans. The Methodists have influenced my Christian faith in ways I don't even realize. God is using all of us as living stones so that his spiritual house, the family of God, is built up (1 Peter 2:5-6). With Christ as our cornerstone, I am thankful for my spiritual ancestors, from the ancient Methodists as well as those who have come before me in my life. Each one of us influences one another as we model grace in our lives. I pray that we will "Go With God" no matter where our lives take us.



The Leavenworth Fire Department is accepting donations of new teddy bears (no larger than 12 inches) to provide to children impacted by emergencies or traumatic incidents. Donations can be dropped off at Fire Headquarters, 3600 S. 20th Street, Monday through Friday from 7:00 am to 4:00 pm.

First Peter is written to the people in Asia Minor. They are living as strangers and exiles within their cultural context. They are described as the new family of God who become the dwelling place of God. As such, their lives are to be marked by holiness that is visible to the world around them and demonstrated in very practical ways. As Christians, we are also challenged to live out our faith in a world that is more and more challenging. In this study, Ruth Anne Reese will encourage participants to think about what it means to be the church and to take up practices that demonstrate the love of God in community. The Bible Study will start Sept. 8 at 6:30 pm in Wesley Hall and will continue through early November. Books cost \$15 and are available in the office, or you can order an e-book through Seedbed Publishing.



1st	Aaron Wecas	16th	Sandy Wood
4th	Bill Kidder	18th	Nanci Smith
6th	Mary Lou Anderson	19th	Jack Burkett
	Sonia Wiley	20th	John Gable
	Brian Wood	21st	Carol Shafer
8th	Brian White	22nd	Jim Atwell
9th	LeRoy Hicks		Liz Hersey
	Brendan Jamerson		Adak Rolf
	Bailey Ko		Ron Wecas
	Becky Wecas	24th	Brian Anderson
10th	Marsali Howell	28th	Lynne Atwell
12th	Pat Deiter	29th	Joan Atwell
	Christy Wiley		Maryann McAfee
13th	Abby Martin		
15th	Breanna Banker		



1st	Sy & Shirley Nyhart	69 years
2nd	Frank & Gini Geib	37 years
3rd	Jeff & Kelley Perry	32 years
	Blaine & Merry Weeks	38 years
4th	Chez & Carol Shafer	50 years
8th	Gary & Carol Russell	25 years
14th	Wes & Christel Ludwig	58 years
18th	Rodney & Kristina Edington	27 years
21st	Frankie & Margaret McLaurin	41 years
22nd	Jeff & Kathi LaMoe	42 years
23rd	Brian & Tracy Resch	26 years
	Ernest & Wilda Wicke	9 years

ANNIVERSARIES UPDATED



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



TUESDAY, SEPT. 22, NOON
LUIGI'S ITALIAN RESTAURANT
418 CHEROKEE ST.



New Beginnings

The beginning of a new school year is busy AND expensive, but can be big fun. The Scouts visited the World War I Museum, then turned around and went to the Monarch's game. Pastor Dave enjoyed hanging with the Scouts and was checking the statistics of every batter. The heavy hitter #33 smacked two home runs, a triple and a foul ball that Scout Dave Vodarick caught. He signed the ball for him, too.

A real highlight for the Scouting Ministry this month was the Eagle Ceremony for Brady Mendenice. This is the culmination of rank advancements for Scouting, but the commencement of leadership opportunities for Brady.

It is recruitment time for the Cub Scout Pack. The competition is tough for the families of elementary age youth. Expectation management for the parents, youth and our Scouting Ministry leaders. Scouting America offered a new option of no fees for youth of active duty service members.

Well, folks, it's time for us to pack our bags and head to the woods.



Our sincere "Thank You" to our Church Family for all the prayers, special Angel bags, visits, cards, sing-alongs & kindness shown to both Frank & I over the past year. We are so blessed and thankful for Pastor Dave & our special church family. God's blessings, Frank & Gini Geib

Dear First Methodist Friends,

Thank you so much for sending me the Upper Room and Life at FUMC. It surely helps to keep me in touch with so many friends.

Alicia Moody

Dear Nurture and Care Committee,

Thank you so much for the gift bag. I enjoyed all the items. The small hand fan was especially useful the hot weather. My thanks also to Donna and Roy Ramsey who always deliver my bags. Thank you again for your thoughtfulness. God bless you. Virginia Hardaway



Richie and Summer Visocky are expecting a child in January. Summer would love for you to highlight your favorite Bible verse in her Bible. There will be highlighters and post-it notes with the Bible in the office. So please stop by and write a small note to congratulate them and share your love.



The Caring Congregation



I recently completed a study of the book *Finding Your Third Place (and Making Great Friends Along the Way)*. One chapter was devoted to the importance of friendships and brought out some points that I guess I knew but had never really considered. For example, did you know that you are extremely blessed if you have two or more BFFs - Best Friends Forever. More about them later. Instead, most of us have BFFS- Best Friends For a Season. Or maybe BFFTM's - Best Friends for the Moment, or even BFUTPNLY's - Best Friends Until That Person No Longer Needs You. I'm being facetious, but it's true.

I've had friends in each of the above categories. I think one of my favorite activities has been the true joy I received when Cindy White asked me to be an "angel". That's a ministry we have here at FUMC that pairs you up with an octogenarian in the congregation. You can see who the octogenarians are in the magazine. These people have become true friends and I have learned so much from them. As members of my parents generation, they taught and mentored me. I will always cherish the friendships I formed with Inge Cochran, Bob and Shirley Cowan and now my buddy Jimmie Stallings. It's not hard to be an angel, it's a minimum of one visit or phone call per month, plus special days such as birthdays or holidays. As you get to know them better, you might find yourself increasing the number of times you contact them. If you would be interested in becoming an angel, contact Teresa Hicks at hickst@kc.rr.com.

On the opposite side of the equation are my younger friends. I truly enjoyed facilitating the Mothers Heart Bible Study and learned so much from these delightful young adults. People like Jaimie Kirby and Kristen Howell remind me of my younger self and keep me vested in those years of motherhood, career and multitasking. I'd like to think I mentored, but the truth is that Kristen mentors me.

Of course, I also have peer friends. My Heart and Soul friends, choir buddies, and church staff are all close friends that feed my soul. We learn together, play together, work together, sing together and grow together.

And then there are my Gethsemane friends. They are the true BFFs. I can, and do call them any time, day or night and know that they are there for me. They pray for me, hold me accountable, and genuinely love me and want me to succeed. Ladies, no names but you know who you are. Thank you.

Did you notice a pattern? All of these friendships came about as a result of attending FUMC. Attending and committing to a church by joining small groups has enriched my life immeasurably. The fellowship of believers is just that: they are rare gems and need to be treated as such. Reasons change and seasons change, but true friends are there forever. Blessings, Marsha

"Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing." 1 Thessalonians 5:1

"Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ." Galatians 6:2

"How good and pleasant it is when God's people live together in unity!" Psalm 133:1



Every fall a group of volunteers travel to Camp Horizon in Ark City to prepare the campgrounds for campers the next summer. They paint, clean and do landscaping. They have a great time doing it together. This year they are going Sept 27 - Oct 1. They carpool right after the first service on Sept 27 and return after breakfast on Oct. 1. The food and lodging are free, but they do need to know who's going.

Act fast or you'll miss your Camp Horizon 2026 opportunity! If you haven't already signed up, please notify Gary or Cheryl Rader gcrader66@gmail.com or 913 651-6429 by Sept 11 if you will be attending.



Greeting and Love to all, in each of our two service Sundays!

First, the temporal side of the house: Thank you to all you good and faithful servants who share your treasures so generously, it's never equal amount always equal sacrifice.

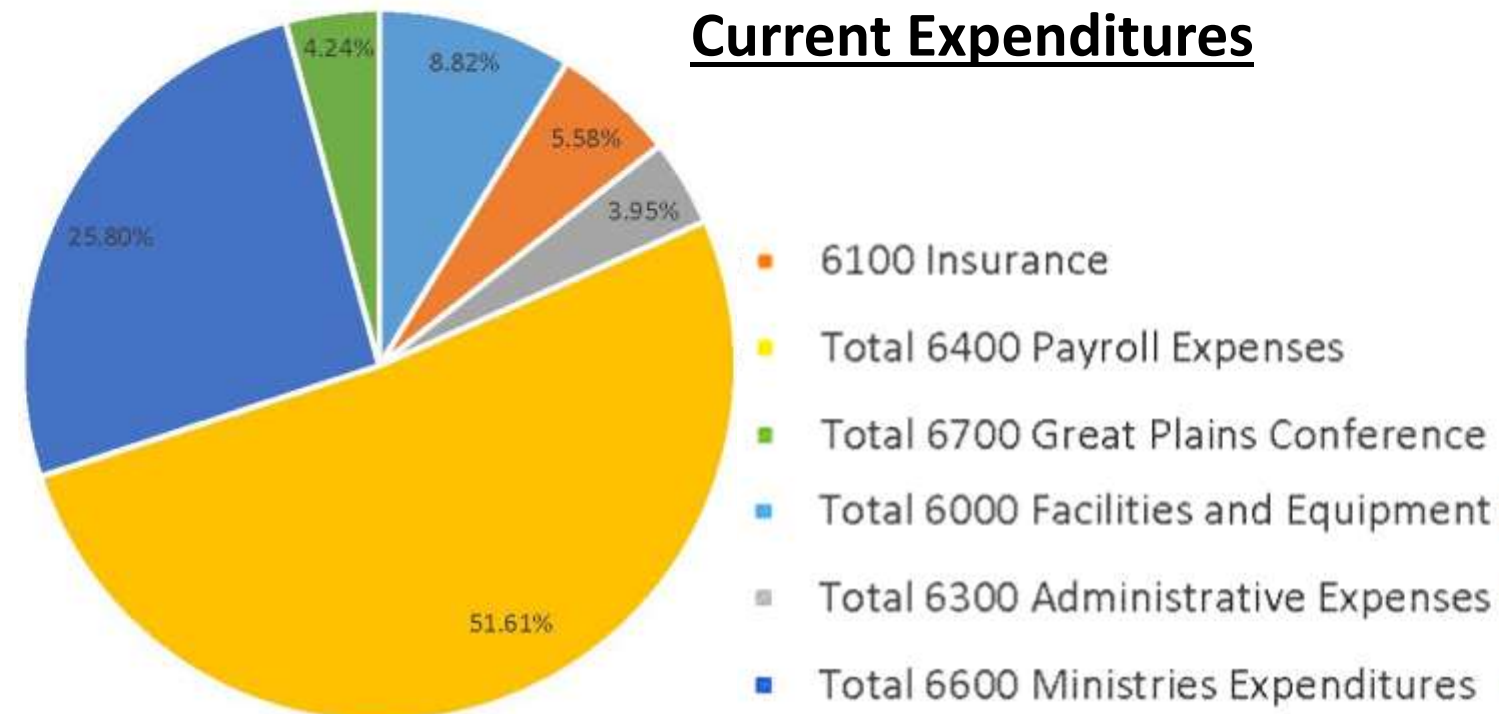
Second, the staff update: A huge thank you to Rhonda York, Jan Mix, Cindy White and Marsha Gaffin for providing beautiful organ and piano music during our services. A special acknowledgement to Kathy McKinley for directing the choir and the handbells. Thank you to all the volunteers who share their gifts through choir and handbells. Also, thank you to Sandy Wood, Taylor York, Bob Mott, Dave York, and Carla Wiegers for singing to the Lord in praise and worship during the second service.

Third, last month, your church council had our third meeting of the year, hard to believe we are 3/4 through 2026. The council held lively discussion on congregation views and expectations as we move towards 2027. Based on those discussions and recommendations the church council will start defining our church focus for the upcoming year. Please pray for our lay leaders as they faithfully guide our church ministries towards fulfilling His Kingdom in our community in 2027.

Thank you all for making this possible. If you have more questions or comments for the trustees or the church council, please contact me at egarven@fumclvks.org or call 913-682-5374. Financially the church remains strong. Your loving generosity makes Kingdom Building – loving our God and loving others through Christ Jesus possible. Below is a graph on where your offerings have been spent so far. Well over \$100,000 has been spent on loving and caring. If you have any questions, please contact me. in Christ, Ed



Carla Weigers Council Chair Michelle Briggs Lay Leader Bill Kidder Nurture Leader Marti Crow Finance Chair Maggie Myers SPRC Chair Steve Songer Trustee Chair



The youth group is entering one of its busiest seasons: back to school. At the time of this writing, our annual kick-off lock-in was last weekend. It was lovely. Every lock-in tends to have a personality of its own. This year, we went to the Hladkys' who graciously fed us and hosted us at their pool. That evening, we returned to church and held our first-ever Nerd Nite. I gave the students the opportunity to give presentations on a topic they were passionate about. The only caveats were that it had to be 10 minutes or less and it had to be 100% church-appropriate. We had four students bravely sign up and their presentations included variations of PowerPoints, costumes, acting, and what I think was interpretive dance? We had a technical difficulty at one point, so I gave an impromptu talk on my favorite online video game of the early 2000s while Steven helped the student troubleshoot. I brought craft supplies, games, and all sorts of stuff to do until mandatory bedtime at 3am (we can't do all-nighters anymore; I'm too old). A large group of students did showtune karaoke for the better part of 2 hours. I enjoyed getting to hear how much fun they were having from the craft area with my coloring book.

At the lock-in, students also got the opportunity to meet Rosemary Jacobs and Heather Shepherd who will be our new youth volunteers. We have enough students that we are splitting them into middle and high school groups for lessons. I'm really excited about this, as it will give us the ability to cater questions to specific ages and there will be more time for each individual student to be engaged in discussion.

October 10, we'll be going to the Missouri Living History Museum's 50th Annual Fall Festival. Registration can be found in our newsletter. Please have students registered by Sept. 27 so we have enough transportation for everybody.

Do you have a student between 7th and 12th grades that's interested in the youth group? We would love to have them join us! Contact me (Kristen Howell) at khowell@fumclvks.org or 913-742-3557 for information on how to join us!



Young Adults continues to hold steady every 1st and 3rd Wednesday of the month at 6pm. We are a group of 18-35 year olds who meet for food, friendship, and fellowship (how's that for alliteration?). Often we meet at Sarah Yenney's house, or local restaurants. September 3, we will be having a pool party at Alexis' family's pool, 1217 Tanglewood St. We would love to have you join our group. We have a great time together! If you want more information, please contact me, Kristen Howell, at khowell@fumclvks.org or 913-742-3557.





Kids First Worship is 3 years through 6th grade. We start in the Sanctuary for the 11 am service, and then go to the lower floor of the Sanctuary building for Bible lessons that include the story, crafts, science, games – all designed with children in mind. This fall we will be taking a Road Trip through the Armor of God. What book of the Bible is it in? What are all the different parts of the Armor for?

September 6 – The Armor of God - Basics

September 13 – The Armor of God – Introduction

September 20 – The Armor of God – Belt of Truth

September 27 – The Armor of God – Breastplate of Righteousness

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

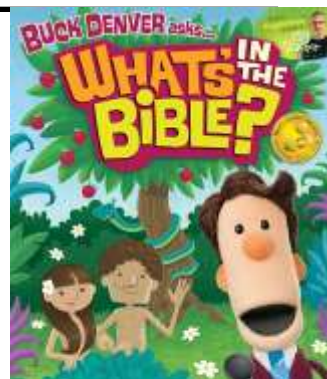


Wonderful Wednesday meet Wednesday afternoons from 3:45 – 5:30 pm during the school year. It's important for kids to know that God is not just for Sundays – he is for every day! Our theme for this year is "The Garden". During the month of September we will be focusing on what plants need to grow and survive. We will discover that God designed and created it all to work perfectly! Registration is still open at FUMCLVKS.ORG/WW.



Fusion 56 is our special group for 5th and 6th graders. It meets on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of the month from 12:00 – 1:30p.m. On 5th Sundays, we'll have a Fun Day. Our Kickoff Gathering is Sunday, September 13. This year we will be using *What's in the Bible?*, a 13-volume video series created by Phil Vischer (the creator of VeggieTales). The series uses puppet characters, animation, and music to teach how all the books of the Bible fit together into a single story of redemption. If you have a 5th or 6th grader, please contact Nancy for more information. Friends are always welcome!

September Meeting dates: September 13 and September 27



Mother's Morning Out provides care for children ages birth through school age on the second Wednesday of each month during the school year. There are three groups: Nursery (ages 6 weeks – 2 yrs.), Toddlers (2 and 3's) and Preschool (4 and up). Our first session for this school year is September 9 at 8:30 am. To volunteer or register a child, please go to FUMCLVKS.ORG/MMO. Slots fill up quickly.



For info on Children's ministry, contact Nancy at nshade@fumclvks.org.



Steve Songer



Liz Brown



Rocky Hladky



Steven Shade



Ritchie Visocsky

Let's meet our Board of Trustees. Steve Songer, the Trustee Chair, is responsible with his team of five, to evaluate, plan, and implement strategies to maintain and improve the physical assets of the church. Steve is joined by Liz Brown, Steven Shade, Richard Visocsky, and Rocky Hladky. Over the past several years we've spent over \$900,000 on capital projects designed to improve and maintain this historic facility for decades to come. These projects included: stained glass refurbishment, the external stone refurbishment and replacement, repairing the roofs on both buildings, the sidewalk project around the green space, the new inclined sidewalk and front entry to the church, repair to the west-side parking lot, the kitchen and Fellowship Hall renovation, the replacement of HVAC units, the fans in the sanctuary, the repair to the kitchen dishwasher, a new water heater, and countless smaller yet necessary repairs and replacements.

The trustees work off a council approved plan that is ever changing based on immediate needs, such as when two HVAC systems failed, and available resources. For the rest of 2026, the two main projects are sealing the extensive newly laid concrete on the church property and upgrading the fire detection system. For long term planning the trustees are looking to address the main kitchen renovation, upgrading the Education Building bathrooms and carpeting at both building locations.

Your trustees are continuously planning and executing ways to make our collective worship experience and expanding use of our facilities more accessible, in good lasting condition, and aesthetically inviting. Please feel free to engage and give recommendations to this dedicated group of faithful stewards.



Recently, I became sick with a virus that turned into bronchitis. I was sick in bed for two weeks. Fortunately for me, my daughter was able to help. But it made me think about when she won't be close. So, I did some research.

The Council on Aging seems to be the go to for aid. However, one must be over 60 and a Leavenworth County resident to qualify for Meals on Wheels. I was so sick that cooking was not possible. So, if I get sick again when I am alone, I'll contact the Meals on Wheels program at (913) 684-0777. They will even come to your house to fill out the paperwork. If you have a surgery in the future, you can schedule the service ahead. There may be a waiting period for your neighborhood if other people are trying to start the program. There is a \$3 suggested donation for each meal, but they will provide the meal for free if needed. They deliver a hot lunch Monday through Friday.

The Council provides chore assistance such as curb trash service, snow shoveling, etc. But you must own your home. They have errand and shopping support for people over 60 which is based on the client's physical and/or cognitive limitations. The Council also has transportation services. They need to be notified at least one day in advance for local transportation. They also have a program for transporting people out of Leavenworth for doctor appts etc. The services are on a first come first serve basis. The service hours are from 7 am to 3 pm when the last pickups are scheduled. Finally, they have a telephone and in home visiting program for people who are lonely or isolated. There are small fees for all these services. Some are based on a sliding scales based on income. If you want more information, the Council has pamphlets in their lobby and are very helpful. They are located in the old Cushing Hospital, 711 Marshall St, Suite 100. The church, family, and friends are always available for help. But it is nice to plan ahead before you need the services. *Lea Ann Weilbacher*

September 26
4:30-8:30pm

Berkel Stadium
University of Saint Mary

relay.org/leavenworthcoks

FUMC will once again have a team in the Annual American Cancer Society Relay For Life of Leavenworth County. This year's Relay will be held at the University of Saint Mary Berkel Stadium on Sept. 26, 4:30 pm - 8:30 pm. If you've never attended a local Relay, it includes a free dinner for cancer survivors and their caregivers, survivors' first lap, games and activities for all ages, JROTC demonstrations, and a luminary ceremony and lap, complete with bagpipers after sundown. Latest statistics indicate that 1 in every 3 American women and 1 in every 2 American men will be diagnosed with some form of cancer during their lifetimes. Each year, Relays are held across the U.S. (and world), and have become the largest source of donations for the American Cancer Society. Kathy Huskey has graciously taken over the reins of the FUMC Relay For Life Team. If you wish to make a donation, please give it to Kathy. If by personal check, please make it out to the American Cancer Society. Even if you choose not to donate, you're still welcome to come out and walk some laps in support of the fight against cancer.

Sacred + Makers

Thursday, September 10 • 6-7 PM
 St. Paul's Episcopal Church

Come slow down, create, and notice the beauty of God's creation.

This month, we'll be working with air-dry clay and elements from nature to create botanical-impressed dishes, ornaments, tiles, and keepsakes.

Use leaves, flowers, herbs, grasses, and other natural textures to leave an impression in the clay. Add a word, prayer, symbol, or design that is meaningful to you.

No artistic experience needed.
 Come as you are. All supplies provided.

STAY SALTY:

Being the Church in a Changing World

The Northeast Kansas District invites all clergy & laity to a day of worship, learning, and growing into how we can share the salt and light of Christ in our ever-evolving world.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 19
FROM 9:00-3:30

ASBURY UMC
5400 W 75TH ST
PRAIRIE VILLAGE, KS 66208

Sessions offered:

- SPRC: Leading with Grace and Accountability
 - District lay leader Beth Watson & Rev. Kathy Symes
- Hospitality for Churches of all Shapes and Sizes
 - Rev. Anne Gahn
- The Future of the UMC
 - Rev. Dr. Lovett Weems
- What Does the Conference Even Do?
 - Rev. Nicole Conard

This event is free! Lunch is provided.
 Scan the QR code to sign up!



Vera Hrabak



Jim Kinard



Linda Langley



Wesley Ludwig



Maryann McAfee



Norma McCallister



Mary Eleanor McCluskey



Marcia Myers



Sy & Shirley Nyhart



Esther Polson



Gary Rader



John Raines



Donna Ramsey



Roy Ramsey



Dale Roller



Gary Russell



Sandy Simmons



Jimmie Stallings



Karen Tish



Ron Wecas



Ernest & Wilda Wicke



Judy Wolfe

Not pictured Pat Deiter, Pat Hessenflow, Carl Langley, Virginia Schalipp,

Dinner to Honor Our Octogenarians
October 11, Noon



Honoring Our Octogenarians



On October 11, our church will celebrate Octogenarian Sunday. Our members that have reached the age of eighty or beyond have been a strong force in the life of our church for many years. Because of their unending faith, we are able to grow stronger in our faith and learn about sharing the love of Christ with others. Many of these members continue to serve our Lord each week, carrying out a vital part of our church's ministry. We'll honor our octogenarians with a dinner after the second service. If you know someone on this list, reach out via a call or letter and let them know you are thankful for their friendship, faithfulness, and mutual love of Christ.



Joan Atwell



Sheila & Bill Bailey



Bill & Pam Bay



Gary Beck



Jack & Jo Burkett



Marti & Mike Crow



Jane and Dave Davis



Nancy Dawson



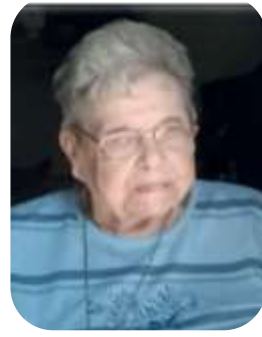
Eleanor Embree



Marge & Peter Funk



John Gable



Betty Gaumer



Gini & Frank Geib



Doug Hall



Alice Hall



Kay Hale



Carla Hamon



Virginia Hardaway



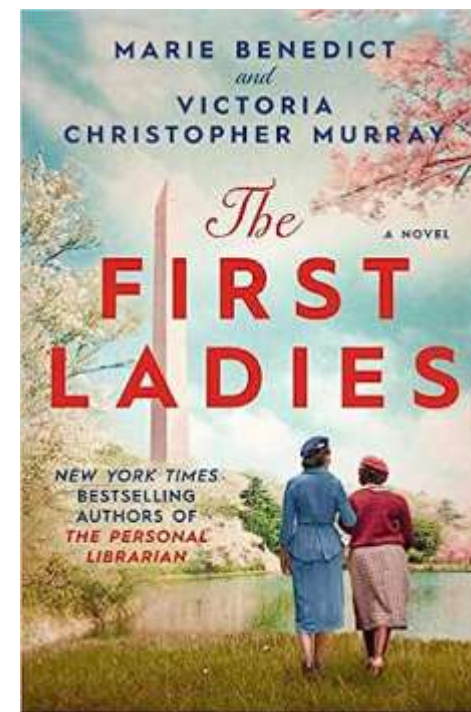
Randy Herrman



Marguerite Hilscher



Forrest & Janette Holdeman



OCTOBER 6
1 PM



In September, the book club is reading *The First Ladies* by Marie Benedict and Victoria Christopher Murray. It's a novel about the extraordinary partnership between First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt and civil rights activist Mary McLeod Bethune—an unlikely friendship that changed the world.

The daughter of formerly enslaved parents, Mary McLeod Bethune refuses to back down as white supremacists attempt to thwart her work. She marches on as an activist and an educator, and as her reputation grows she becomes a celebrity, revered by titans of business and even by U.S. Presidents. Eleanor Roosevelt herself is awestruck and eager to make her acquaintance. Initially drawn together because of their shared belief in women's rights and the power of education, Mary and Eleanor become fast friends confiding their secrets, hopes and dreams—and holding each other's hands through tragedy and triumph.

When Franklin Delano Roosevelt is elected president, the two women begin to collaborate more closely, particularly as Eleanor moves toward her own agenda separate from FDR, a consequence of the devastating discovery of her husband's secret love affair. Eleanor becomes a controversial First Lady for her outspokenness, particularly on civil rights. And when she receives threats because of her strong ties to Mary, it only fuels the women's desire to fight together for justice and equality. It's a story of two different, yet equally formidable, passionate, and committed women, and the way in which their singular friendship helped form the foundation for the modern civil rights movement. We'll discuss the book on Tues, Oct 6, at 1:30 pm in Wesley Hall. For more information, or a ride, ask Sandy at swood@fumclvks.org.



Itchin' to Stitch will meet Sept. 17 at 1:30 pm. There are also two quilt shows in Sept. If you're interested in attending, contact Teresa Hicks at hickst@kc.rr.com.

Sept 11 & 12 Eudora Quilt Show, Crown Toyota Bldg, 3430 Lawrence, 10 am- 5pm, \$5 Admission

Sept 27, 11-3 Miami Co Quilt Guild, Holy Trinity School, 509 E Chippewa St, Paola, \$5 Admission

They will be making a field trip to deliver their Children's Mercy donation on Thursday, November 12th. They'll receive a tour of their facility and have lunch on the way home. You can RSVP for this trip at hickst@kc.rr.com. Itchin' to Stitch is also collecting fabric scraps for the Lansing Library. They need strips of fabric that are between 1-2" wide and 6-8" long so that the Deeper Windows Dementia group can make rag wreaths in November. Please sort by color and leave at the library NLT the end of October. For info on any Itchin' to Stitch activity, as Teresa at hickst@kc.rr.com.



Sparrow Women's Clinic located at 100 E. Kansas Street Suite E, Lansing supports pregnant women with care, compassion, and resources. They can help you determine how far along you are and share accurate information about procedures and risks—empowering you to make a well-informed and confident decision. They also provide resources for babies and mothers. They're looking for donations of bath supplies, gently used 0-9 month boys clothes, infant toys, crib sheets, and nursing pillows. You can deliver items to their location or contact Teresa at hickst@kc.rr.com.



What I Did This Summer...

Hi there! My name is Elleanna Banker. A year ago my family friends, the Maxwell's, invited me to join them as a volunteer at SOAR Special Needs summer camp. SOAR stand for **S**pecial people experiencing **O**pportunities to use their unique **A**bilities to build a lasting **R**elationship with Jesus. Since then, I have spent the past year volunteering at SOAR's monthly parent's-night-outs and their holiday events.

My favorite event that they host is their summer camp. This year's theme was "SOARing For the Cup!" The participants got to learn about different sports, team work, and most importantly that Jesus is the ultimate goal we seek! Between both weeks of camp we served 241 campers ranging from ages 3-55y/o. Each camper is paired with a one-on-one buddy that they spend the whole week with. I was blessed with the opportunity to be paired with my buddy from last year's camp, Jameson.

Jameson and I had a blast! We spent the week coloring, playing basketball, building puzzles, and playing in bubbles. Jameson is sixteen, he has autism and is predominately nonverbal so we communicated using some sign language and through his Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC) device. This device has different words and symbols that you can click on to create audible phrases and sentences. Although we did use both of these forms of communication, we also spoke to each other with certain words. As the week went on, I learned his favorite words which he would share with me through speaking. On the second to last day of camp, he said my name repeatedly for a moment while smiling at me. This was the first time I had ever heard him say my name, including last year's camp, and it made me feel so elated! I love the connection that we have and I loved getting to know him even better this summer!

The next week of camp I spent with my buddy Waylon. He is eight, he has autism and is predominately non-verbal. Unlike Jameson he did not use sign language or an AAC device, so we communicated through body language and certain gestures. He also loved singing and would often parrot songs that I would sing to him. I sang dozens of different nursery rhymes throughout the week and oftentimes he would simply listen, but sometimes he would join in with me! This mostly happened when the songs included counting or patterns as he loved both of these things. We spent most of our week singing, building puzzles, dancing, spinning, playing with sorting games, and watching the fish swim in the church's fish tank. We had so much fun throughout the week—especially when he lost his tooth on the last day of camp!

I'm so thankful that I got to work with two of the sweetest campers! Both boys were very cuddly and gave me lots of hugs during camp. God is most definitely at work in this camp as he guides both campers and volunteers towards him. The campers exude so many of the Fruits of the Spirit and their passion for Christ only helps me grow closer to him. Getting to be at this camp and work with these individuals was hands-down the best part of my summer! If you're interested in SOAR Special Needs, check out their website soarspecialneeds.org or find them on Facebook; I would be happy to discuss it. I experienced one of SOAR's most frequently used mottos which is "God creates everyone on purpose, and for a purpose!" - Elleanna Banker



Elleanna and Jameson at camp



Elleanna with Jameson playing in foam and with Waylon, her other buddy.



INCLUSION Connections



Inclusion Connections was born out of a need for services for individuals with developmental disabilities. While there is certainly a need for educational and social opportunities for school-aged children, the greatest need presents itself when kids graduate high school. Most graduate without a job, and a critical lack of supported housing forces students to remain at home with their parents indefinitely. Inclusion Connections is addressing all these issues head-on. From Education to Employment with PawsAbilities to BelongKC's Supportive Living initiative, we are making things happen in our Kansas City community! We are focused on bringing the needs of individuals with developmental disabilities to light and working together to greatly increase access and opportunities. Through innovative, year-round programming that addresses unique needs, students build skills and achieve greater independence.

Inclusion Connections' vision is to bring real and lasting change in the hearts and minds of our community. We interface with local businesses, organizations, leaders and community members to transform our community and actively embrace citizens with developmental disabilities.

At Inclusion Connections, we strive to give opportunities for educational and social development and empower individuals with the support they require to navigate their post-graduation journey successfully. Educational classes consist of pre-employment skills, such as building resumes, exploring job interests, conducting online job searches, and growing communication skills. To the right, Sara Mulford is teaching students how to shut off the water to an overflowing toilet.



PawsAbilities

Man's best friend may be the inspiration behind PawsAbilities products, however, it was born out of a desire to provide meaningful jobs and independence for people with intellectual disabilities in Kansas City. Employment is the pathway to independence and helps define one's place in community life. During training, Paws students learn job skills baking dog treats, sewing dog bandanas, and crafting other products. Additional skills learned include operating commercial kitchen equipment, operating a cash register, cleaning and janitorial tasks, sewing, baking, packaging, inventory, and customer service. Students get job experience running the Paws retail store and mobile pop-up store which visits local businesses and events.

When you walk into our PawsAbilities store at 2073 E. Santa Fe St. Olathe, you'll realize we aren't just making dog treats and other pet products. You'll be greeted by students who radiate confidence and pride in their accomplishments. The skills they're learning at PawsAbilities are preparing them for the meaningful, community-based employment which is critical to improved health and well-being, and key to successful independent living.



There is not just a gap in available supportive housing, but a genuine housing crisis for low income individuals with Intellectual and Developmental Disability (IDD). This is coupled with a national crisis facing families across the United States: the rising number of adults with IDD who are living with aging caregivers. Most adults with disabilities will outlive their parents and caregivers, resulting in forced emergency placements. Inclusion Connections is raising money to create an innovative, affordable, and sustainable community in the KC region where adults with (IDD) can choose to live with customized supports. At BelongKC, residents will have opportunities to enjoy improved health outcomes, flourishing social relationships, and meaningful employment. Together, we will create a community where all individuals are treated equally, regardless of ability, realizing their full potential.





When God Closes One Door, He Opens Another

When I entered my first year of teaching in the fall of 1994, my dream was coming true. I had been sure I was going to be a teacher since I was in sixth grade. Fast forward to 2025, and now I was retiring from my dream job. I had been an elementary school teacher for 31 years. Early in my career, I promised myself that I would retire while I was still in love with being a teacher. The time had come to keep that promise to myself.

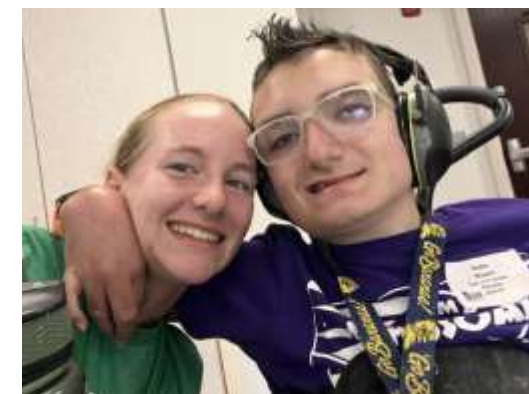
I knew that I was not ready to stop working, so I started a search for something near my home in Leavenworth that would give me a different kind of work experience. I applied for positions as a mail clerk for a large company, a receptionist at a small business, and several other jobs—all within 30 minutes of Leavenworth. I was having fun exploring the possibilities!

Then a friend sent me this message: “Hey there!! So this is kind of unusual, but hear me out. I have an interview for a position with a non-profit on Wednesday that I honestly think you might be better suited for than me.” Included in the message was a link to a job at Inclusion Connections in Olathe, KS. My friend and I both applied and interviewed. In the end, I was hired.

What had I gotten myself into? First of all, I will let Inclusion Connections speak for itself through its mission statement: “The mission of Inclusion Connections is to strengthen the lives of individuals with disabilities by creating inclusive opportunities for community involvement, access to meaningful employment, and better options for supported living.” My work is to use my skills as a teacher to work with young adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities so that they can gain living and career skills.

For 31 years, I thrived as an elementary teacher. I taught special education, second grade, third grade, and fifth grade. I loved my work and my students. All of that prepared me for a dream job that I didn’t know I was dreaming about. Working for a non-profit brings new experiences and challenges that are feeding my soul. The young adults share their energy and insight with me every day. For those who remember the sitcom *Cheers*, Inclusion Connections is a place “where everybody knows your name and they’re always glad you came.” I am part of a community. Inclusion Connections was started in 2013 by a mother, Debbie, and her son, Matthew. Matthew was born with Down Syndrome. As he was finishing high school, he and his friends wanted to do what their peers were doing. They wanted to get jobs and become more independent. A description of Inclusion Connections—job training, transportation to and from jobs, pet supplies through our PawsAbilities program, and evening activities to name a few. if you would like to know more, go to ickc.org and scroll down to the third section to watch the short video, “Our Story.” It captures the spirit of Inclusion Connections. As I watch the video, I’m grinning from ear to ear because these are the people I have the privilege of working with every day!

God works in mysterious ways. I left one rewarding career, and due to a surprising message from a friend, I ended up diving into an unexpected career that has only just begun. I am blessed. - Sara Mulford



Elleanna with team members, Ryder, Noah and Jameson.

BLOOD DRIVE
SEPT. 1
10 AM – 3 PM
MAKE AN APPOINTMENT AT
SAVEALIFENOW.ORG CODE EH47



We will host a blood drive on Tuesday, September 1, from 10 am to 3 pm. Have you ever considered the connection between blood donations and cancer patients? Blood cancers, like leukemia or myelodysplastic syndromes, often disrupt natural blood cell production. Intensive or "dose-dense" chemotherapy causes severe bone marrow suppression, lowering red blood cells or platelets. Because of this and other reasons, some cancer patients need regular transfusions over many months. Some patients may even need blood products twice a week for an extended time.

Cancer patients are one of the reasons there is a continuous demand for blood. Blood products expire quickly—platelets last only 5 to 7 days—meaning supplies must be replenished continuously every day of the year. Also, science cannot create synthetic blood, so hospitals depend entirely on voluntary human donors. If someone you love was affected by cancer, consider donating in their honor. Your donation has the potential to save three lives. Plus you get a free sloppy joe and cookies after your donation. Please give the gift of life.

FUMC ♥ KIDS

There are many Children's Ministries here, but only one goal, let children know Jesus loves them and so do we! Thank you to the many volunteers who serve our children. We wouldn't have a Children's Ministry without your help.



August 15, we partnered with Faith Walkers and TRIO to provide backpacks to local students. We collected over 290 backpacks and many other supplies for local students. Thank you for your generosity! We also helped distribute almost 4 tons of peanut butter donated through Stronghold Food Pantry at both events.



There are many ways to make new friends at FUMC. Below is the Men's Breakfast which meets on the third Saturday of each month at 8 am. We also have a monthly lunch. You can find the date and location each month on the birthday page of the newsletter. At the very bottom, every other month we host a special dinner for widows called Wingtips. You don't have to attend FUMC to attend Wingtips. If you know a widow who could use some encouragement, contact Sandy at swood@fumclvks.org.