



First United Methodist Church  
of  
*Leavenworth*  
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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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



YouTube

October 2026

|                                                                                                                                                                 |           |                                                                                                     |                                                                                                                     |                                                                   |                           |                                                                                                 |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>27</b> 8:30 am Traditional<br>9:45 am Sunday School<br>11:00 am Contemporary<br>4:30 pm Bells<br>6 pm Youth                                                  | <b>28</b> | <b>29</b> 10 am Women's Bible Study<br>6:30 pm Pastor Dave's Bible Study                            | <b>30</b> 1 pm H & S<br>3:45 pm WW<br>6:30 pm Choir                                                                 | <b>1</b> 6:30 pm Women's Bible Study                              | <b>2</b>                  | <b>3</b>   |
| <b>4</b> 8:30 am Traditional<br>9:45 am Sunday School<br>11:00 am Contemporary<br>4:30 pm Bells<br>6 pm Youth                                                   | <b>5</b>  | <b>6</b> 10 am Women's Bible Study<br>1 pm Book Club<br>6:30 pm Pastor Dave's Bible Study           | <b>7</b> 1 pm H & S<br>3:45 pm WW<br><b>5:30 pm Potluck</b><br>6:30 pm Choir                                        | <b>8</b> 6:30 pm Women's Bible Study                              | <b>9</b> 5:30 pm Wingtips | <b>10</b> Pathway to Home Fundraiser                                                            |
| <b>11</b> 8:30 am Traditional<br>9:45 am Sunday School<br>11:00 am Contemporary<br>12 pm Fusion 56<br>4:30 pm Bells<br>6 pm Youth<br><b>Octogenarian Dinner</b> | <b>12</b> | <b>13</b> 10 am Women's Bible Study<br>6:30 pm Pastor Dave's Bible Study                            | <b>14</b> MMO 8:30 am<br>1 pm H & S<br>3:45 pm WW<br>5:00 pm Grief Share<br><b>5:30 pm Potluck</b><br>6:30 pm Choir | <b>15</b> 1:30 pm Itchin to Stitch<br>6:30 pm Women's Bible Study | <b>16</b>                 | <b>17</b> 8 am Men's Breakfast                                                                  |
| <b>18</b> 8:30 am Traditional<br>9:45 am Sunday School<br>11:00 am Contemporary<br>4:30 pm Bells<br>6 pm Youth                                                  | <b>19</b> | <b>20</b> 10 am Women's Bible Study<br>1 pm Spouse Grief Share<br>6:30 pm Pastor Dave's Bible Study | <b>21</b> 1 pm H & S<br>3:45 pm WW<br><b>5:30 pm Potluck</b><br>6:30 pm Choir                                       | <b>22</b> 6:30 pm Women's Bible Study                             | <b>23</b>                 | <b>24</b>  |
| <b>25</b> 9 am Sunday School<br><b>10 am One Service</b><br><b>11 am Charge Conference</b><br>12 pm Fusion 56<br>4:30 pm Bells<br>6 pm Youth                    | <b>26</b> | <b>27</b> 10 am Women's Bible Study<br>6:30 pm Pastor Dave's Bible Study                            | <b>28</b> 1 pm H & S<br>3:45 pm WW<br>5:00 pm Grief Share<br>6:30 pm Choir                                          | <b>29</b> 6:30 pm Women's Bible Study                             | <b>30</b>                 | <b>31</b>  |

LIFE @

October 2026

First United Methodist church





Over the past few years, I've taken on a personal project of "Me-search" which is doing research/homework on a topic I find enjoyable. My theme is how do people age well and find meaning in their later years. I ran across the term "elderhood", to describe this season of life which starts in a person's mid 60's. Obviously, there is a big difference between someone who is 65 and someone who is 95, so within the season, gaps happen.

If this season doesn't apply to you yet, it may to your parents or others. Here are a few of my learnings to share with you: Elderhood is a time when mortality becomes much more evident. The fact that you won't always be here is dawning due to retirement, aging, health, death of relatives/old friends, and general slowing down. Jim Collins' book, *What to Make of Life*, stated that "Life is not done until it's done and you never know what's coming next (p. 303)." He used examples like Ben Franklin and noted that over forty percent of Franklin's notable life achievements happened after the age of sixty. I think of elders from the Bible like Abraham and Sarah, Simeon, Elizabeth, and Zechariah to name a few that were used by God to do amazing things. Don't quit until God is done with you!

Elderhood is also a time to let go of some things that have held you back in previous years. New identities emerge when life circumstances happen. What does life look like now if my spouse dies? What about when the grandkids start to arrive and now, I have a new name of "Mimi" or "Papa?" These days may be filled with sweetness and sorrow at the same time. Remember God is always with us through every season of life. The plans we made together might not work out the way we planned.

Finally, Ecclesiastes 7:10 says, Don't say "why were the old days better than these" for it is not wise to ask such questions. If the old days gave you plenty of blessing to be thankful for, then be grateful for what you had. But it is foolish to think that you can hold on to those days. Count your mistakes and misjudgments as learning and move forward. Holding on to grudges or ill will only harm your present joy. You can't straighten a crooked road – only God can bring healing, wholeness, and removal of obstacles. Make the most of now, look forward to the future, let go of the past. Elderhood is another season of life to draw close to the Lord!

Have you ever considered giving as a way of showing gratitude? Sort of paying it forward because you're thankful for all that God has given you. Each year, our church family asks you to consider what you will give back to God in the coming year and to fill out a pledge card. This act of faith helps the church leadership plan effectively and responsibly for the future. When you give, you are funding the continued operations of our beautiful church. You are paying our staff members. You are supporting 15 mission partners that are making a difference in the world, both locally and globally. Part of your giving goes to the Great Plains Conference.

Please carefully consider what God would have you pledge to give this year. You can not out give God. Luke 6:38, says, "Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap, for the measure you give will be the measure you get back." Please return your pledge card by November 9.

October is Pastor Appreciation month. Some people joke that pastors have the easiest jobs because they only work on Sundays, but the reality is pastors do much of their ministry behind the scenes. Pastors are called when someone is in the hospital, when a marriage is crumbling, or when a child is in trouble. Often times, the only time a church member talks to the pastor is to criticize something. Here are some statistics from the Soul Shepherding organization.

- 75% of pastors report being "extremely stressed" or "highly stressed"
- 90% work between 55 to 75 hours per week
- 90% feel fatigued and worn out every week
- 65% feel their family is in a glass house

If you feel Pastor Dave is doing a great job, take a moment to write him an encouraging note. Dave's birthday also happens to be this month on October 27. Tell him how much you appreciate his service to our church family.



|     |                    |      |                 |      |                   |
|-----|--------------------|------|-----------------|------|-------------------|
| 1st | Cash Melloh        | 12th | Cory Martin     | 22nd | Helen Parks       |
|     | Kathryn West       |      | Linda Hermann   | 23rd | Lucy Heim         |
| 2nd | Jim Glick          |      | Andi Pawlowski  | 24th | Roma Keller       |
|     | Rick Roush         | 13th | June Bond       | 25th | Robyn Graves      |
| 4th | Scott Hastings     |      | Kristen Dilka   |      | Kathy McKinley    |
|     | Margaret McLaurin  | 14th | Kathy Huskey    | 26th | Wayne Parks       |
| 7th | Lou Ann Roggentien |      | Margaret Songer | 26th | Cape Rust         |
| 8th | Alicia Moody       | 16th | Valancy Varnal  | 27th | Blaine Weeks      |
| 9th | Jacob Brandt       |      | Steve Johnson   |      | Dave York         |
|     |                    | 17th | Morgan Johnson  | 28th | Frank Geib        |
|     |                    |      | Heidi Kunkel    |      | Harold Poe        |
|     |                    | 18th | Chet Cole       | 29th | Haylie Dilka      |
|     |                    |      | Mike Mix        |      | Jeff Perry        |
|     |                    | 19th | Roy Davis       | 30th | Navya Hopkins     |
|     |                    | 20th | Mallie Rust     |      | Maia Songer       |
|     |                    | 21st | Sherry Lauber   | 31st | Kristina Edington |



|      |                            |          |
|------|----------------------------|----------|
| 1st  | Jeff & Tammy John          | 32 years |
| 7th  | Rick & Shari Hansen        | 43 years |
| 9th  | Tim & Bobbi Burkett        | 33 years |
| 11th | Steve & Carla Wiegers      | 29 years |
| 12th | Klaus & Shannon Sanford    | 24 years |
|      | Grant & Amy Zschoche       | 30 years |
| 13th | Matt & Laura Johnson       | 11 years |
| 25th | David & Sheryl Reddell     | 46 years |
| 30th | Forrest & Janette Holdeman | 33 years |



**TUESDAY, OCT. 20, 11:30 AM**  
**Ichiban Japanese Restaurant**  
**871 W Eisenhower Rd**

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](mailto:swood@fumclvks.org).



# The Caring Congregation



I, for one, am glad the summer is over. For me it was a season filled with sadness, uncertainty, and grief. In June, I learned that my younger sister Lisa had medullary thyroid cancer and that my precious sister-in-law Marilyn had leukemia. In July, two much loved friends decided to end their 35 year marriage. In August, my older brother Carl lost part of his foot to gangrene and I had major surgery. And in September, two good friends, Helen and Mary, died. And, as I'm writing this article, we are preparing to drive to Tennessee to attend yet another funeral, Don's cousin, Terry. When it rains, it pours.

Each of these events brought with it a certain amount of sadness and grief. I've learned that grief and sadness assume many forms, each of which need to be processed. If not, it bottles up inside of you and comes out in totally unexpected ways. You end up totally losing it for some trivial reason, or even have physical illness as a result of not properly grieving. I have a friend who experienced trauma and grief when she was eight. She's never processed it and she has been unable to move forward; she is still emotionally eight years old.

I've learned a few things along the way, mostly through facilitating Grief Share for seven years. One is, if you have a friend who is grieving, NEVER use an "at least" statement to them. Nobody wants to hear "at least you're still young and can have another child", or "at least you got to be together 50 years." Yuck.

Another thought: God doesn't expect me to be happy all the time. There's a myth that if you're a Christian you should be smiling, cheerful, and carefree. Sometimes grieving is appropriate because the world is full of pain. Just watch the news if you don't believe me. The beatitudes tell us that we are blessed when we mourn. God can use our pain to bring us closer to Him. He can walk us through it as the lessons we learn help us to grow and enable us to help others.

Third, God gives us a church family for support. He never meant for us to grieve on our own or to carry a load by ourself. We are meant to grieve in community with one another. The church is the family of God where we are commanded to bear one another's burdens.

I'm so thankful to have been blessed by this wonderful church family. I know that as long as I am here on this earth I will continue to experience pain, grief, sadness and heartbreak. This isn't Heaven. But hooray! I don't grieve as one who has no hope. I know that the temporary sorrow I am experiencing now will be replaced by unspeakable joy someday. Meanwhile, you remind me daily that you are here for me as I hope I'm here for you.

Blessings, *Marsha Gaffin*

Dear FUMC Family,  
Thank you for your faithful support of the Widows of Wingtips. Every other month you ensure surviving spouses feel seen, heard and loved by providing a safe meeting space and supporting the effort with your time and talents. Your hosting of August's dinner was a precious gift. The delicious food, decadent dessert and delightful butterfly pin blessed everyone in attendance. Your consistent love and service to everyone in the community beautifully models the heart of Christ and is the hallmark of your ministry.  
With heartfelt gratitude, *Elaine Belardo*

Dear FUMC,  
*Thank you for the blankets. We're so grateful for your time and thoughtfulness. Our clients really appreciate them. With Grace. Sparrow Women's Clinic*



Maryann McAfee celebrated her 90th birthday with her Bible Study sisters.

Our church family partners with many local charities to help our neighbors with various needs. In October, we'll have a potluck every Wednesday night to meet with some of our partners and tell them thank you for the work they are doing and get to know them better. Join us at 5:30 pm on Wednesdays as we thank these people for helping the least of these in our community. Please bring a main course and either side dish or dessert to share.

**October 7** - Chris Leach - Pathway to Home

**October 14** - Chuck Mahon - Anthony Elementary School

**October 15** - Scott Kessler - Leavenworth Middle School

**October 22** - Jermaine Wilson - Prison Ministry Fellowship



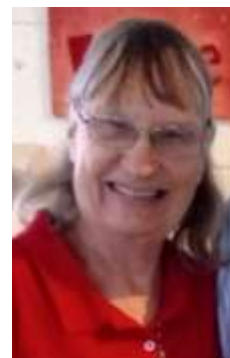
We will be providing candy for our Trunk or Treat on October 31, but we will also be contributing to Anthony Elementary's Trunk or Treat and The Richard Allen Cultural Center event. If you are able to donate a bag of candy, please bring it to the church office by the October 25. Thank you.

Nelson Mandela said, "Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world." But teachers in our community are facing more and more challenges in the classroom. So again this year, we will show teachers we care about them and the work they are doing. On October 21, we'll be taking lunch to Anthony Elementary. We need volunteers to make soup, sandwiches, and desserts. Please sign up in the foyer or call the office if you are willing to donate.

Would you like to do even more? You can volunteer to be a tutor one hour a week. You would help students with math or reading on a one on one basis. Pastor Dave has been a tutor at Anthony Elementary for a year. He said, "This is one way I can give back to the community. I can really make a difference. I was assigned to a teacher and the kids are really easy to work with. You can get a lot accomplished in an hour. A classroom teacher can't do everything by themselves." Contact the office if you're willing to volunteer.



## October Is Breast Cancer Awareness Month



October is breast cancer awareness month. Schedule a mammogram - it could save your life. A regular mammogram, 23 years ago, discovered a cancerous lump in my breast. Since it was found early, stage one, no chemotherapy was needed. This even led to further events for me when nine months later, stage four ovarian cancer was discovered. Surgery and chemotherapy followed. A genetic test indicated I am positive for the BRCA1 mutation. People who inherit harmful variants in one of these genes have increased risks of several cancers—most notably breast and ovarian cancer. Speak to your health care provider to determine when you should begin regular mammograms. Early diagnosis is important. It could be life saving! YOU are important, and this is too. *Cheryl Rader*



Greetings and love to everyone that reads this incredible newsletter. The Lord is at work in FUMC of Leavenworth, Kansas. Financially we are holding steady, thank you everyone. The repairs to all the HVAC units are complete! The trustee committee now is moving their attention to their 2026-2027 project list that includes, but is not limited, to sealing all the new concrete and finishing the upgraded fire detection system.

We are continuing the fellowship and hospitality focus throughout the month with a potluck dinner the first four Wednesday evenings in October, starting at 5:30 pm in Fellowship Hall. Joining us are local guest speakers from our outreach partners: **Pathways to Home** – Chris Leach, **Anthony Elementary School** – Principle Chuck Mahon, **Warren Middle School** – Principle Scott Kessler, **Prison Fellowship Ministries** – Jermaine Wilson.

This is a great opportunity for each of us to invite a friend and show them true hospitality, opening our doors into our lives and into our walk with our collective Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

“Hog Wild for Missions”, is back again this year on October 10, from 4pm-7pm in the green space. We once again are partnering with St Paul Lutheran Church and Pathways to Home to raise awareness and funds for these vital missionary partners. You can pre-order meat for your own fellowship events and please join us under the tent for a delicious, donation based barbeque meal. The dollars we raise, the hours you serve, the love you show helps build His Kingdom locally and around the world. These are my prayers. Find out more about this event on the back of your bulletins or call the office.

The annual Church Charge Conference will happen on Sunday, October 25 in Fellowship Hall following our one service at 10am. For this year's conference there will be lunch served, followed by the church wide business meeting and all are invited. “Decisions are made by people that show up.”

The love this congregation brings on a daily basis is steaming ahead this fall. Feeding the hungry (Samaritan's Buffet, Leavenworth Mission Volunteers, Backpack Buddies), 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 (Itchn' to Stitch, Grief Share, Youth, 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 ministries or you have an idea or other area where you believe we need to serve, please contact me at [egarven@fumclvks.org](mailto:egarven@fumclvks.org). in Christ, Ed

## What is a Charge Conference? Why Should I Attend?



The Charge Conference is the annual business meeting of our church family. I know, your first thought is “Ugh! I hate boring meetings!” Me, too! So, why should we go? Well, first of all, there will be good food! This year, we will serve lunch after our one worship service at 10 am. Everything will be provided. Just come and enjoy. The meeting starts at 11 am.

Most importantly, this is our opportunity as church members to understand important decisions being made by church leaders. You may not even know who those church leaders are, but you will meet them at the Charge Conference. If you financially support this church, this is your chance to see how your money is being spent. It will also give you a vision for the future of our church. Attending the Charge Conference is a way to show you care about the church and our mission. It's a way to be informed and hopefully inspired. This is your church and you have a voice. Use it! Decisions are made by people that show up, so show up!



## Scouts Camping

Big thanks to everyone who came out camping this weekend! The Scouts hosted a number of our Cub Scout teammates and did an amazing job mentoring and assisting them. Great job Scouts! The Scouts started Saturday with a 5-mile hike and closed the evening with a campfire and gorging themselves on s'mores and Dutch oven dump cake. All in all, it was a great trip, until they found out the campground staff had locked them into their campsite. However the Scouts were resilient and with the help of the Jefferson County Sheriff's Department they were able to make their escape.



Young Adults continue to meet the first and third Wednesdays of the month. In September, we met up at Tampicos for dinner, followed by First City Soda for dessert, The Hoffmans were very kind to host us for a pool party before shutting their pool down for the season, and last week, we were at Sarah's house for games and conversation. It was a great time and we learned a new game that was a lot of fun.

If you are 18 (post-high school) to 35 and would like to join us, we'd love to have you! Please contact Kristen, [khowell@fumclvks.org](mailto:khowell@fumclvks.org) for information on our meeting schedule and locations.



The eleven people on the cover of the magazine traveled to Camp Horizon near Arkansas City at the end of September to prepare the camp for next year's church campers. They spent a week cleaning, painting, repairing and landscaping the campus. Their hard work saves the camp thousands of dollars and keeps the facilities in top shape for campers. They also enjoy their free time together. This is the sixteenth year that volunteers have gone to Camp Horizon. If you are interested in helping next year, contact Cheryl or Gary Rader at [gcrader66@gmail.com](mailto:gcrader66@gmail.com).





**Kids First Worship** is for kids ages 3 years through 6th grade and meets during the 11am service each Sunday on 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, our focus will be on Joshua. Who was he? When did he live? Why is it important to know his story?

October 4 – Joshua with Moses  
October 11 – Joshua and the 12 Spies  
October 18 – Joshua Serves the Lord  
October 25 – Joshua and the Battle of Jericho



**Sunday School** meets at 9:45 am in room 202 of the Ed Building. With the Bible as our foundation, we use science, art, and activities to learn God's story and what it means for us. Our lessons will be a deeper dive into the story of Joshua.

**Wonderful Wednesday** is a fantastic way to remind kids 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 for this year is "The Garden". In October, we'll be planting and cultivating! We'll also explore the concept of "doing our part" and letting God do what only he can do. To register, go to [FUMCLVKS.ORG/WW](http://FUMCLVKS.ORG/WW).



**Fusion 56**, our 5th & 6th grader group, meets on the 2nd and 4th Sunday of the month from 12:00 – 1:30 pm. On 5th Sundays, we will have a Fun Day. This year we're using "What's in the Bible?" ~ a 13-volume video series from Phil Vischer, the creator of Veggie Tales. Released between 2010 and 2014, the series uses puppet characters, music, and animation to teach how all the books of the Bible fit together into a single story of redemption. Friends are welcome! If you have a 5th or 6th grade student, contact Nancy at [nshade@fumclvk.org](mailto:nshade@fumclvk.org)  
**October Meeting dates: October 11 and 25.**

**Mother's Morning Out** is an outreach for young families in our community. We need volunteers to keep this ministry going. The next Mother's Morning Out is Oct. 14, from 8:30 am to 11:30 am. Our theme for October is "Pumpkins." We have three age groups; babies, toddlers and pre-K. Please register at [FUMCLVKS.ORG/MMO](http://FUMCLVKS.ORG/MMO)



For info on  
Children's Ministry  
contact Nancy Shade  
[nshade@fumclvs.org](mailto:nshade@fumclvs.org)

**What:** Trunk or Treat with a Twist!

**Time:** October 31, 5 - 7 pm

**Treasure:** Donate needed candy or other treats.

**Talent:** Decorate a Trunk!

We are partnering with the Presbyterian church again this year. There will be a costume contest and other surprises.



## STUDENT UPDATE

The Youth Group is hopping – we are growing in leaps and bounds, we have all sorts of activities coming up, and we are learning about Jesus as we go. This past month, we have gotten back into the swing of our school year schedule with a regular lesson each week. I am loosely basing the lessons off of C.S. Lewis' book, *Mere Christianity*. Our focus for a lot of last year was Christian belief basics, as we had 11 students get

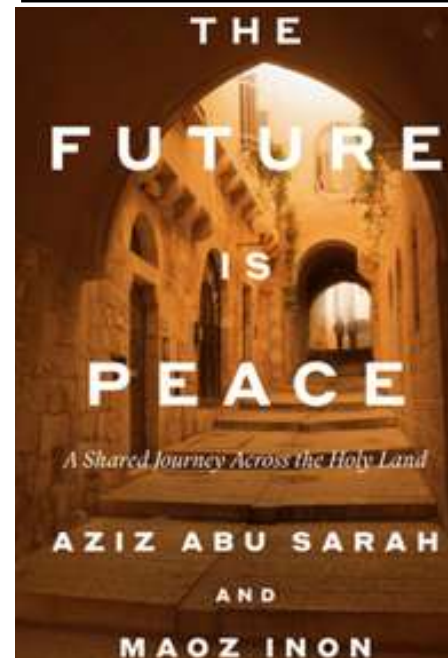
confirmed and more go through confirmation. This year we will focus a lot on practical application; we have the basic knowledge, but how does this change the way we live from day to day?

In the upcoming weeks, we have much going on in the youth department. October 4, we will be taking a field trip to Lee's Summit for the Missouri Town Fall Festival. On October 10, we will be helping to serve at Hog Wild for Missions on the church lawn. If you have not already, please register your students for these events with the links provided in the youth email or contact Kristen or Steven for more information.

October 25, we will **not** have youth group for what I am calling "Professional Development." This is code for Kristen getting to go do all the Abraham Lincoln things in Springfield, Illinois, and I AM SO EXCITED!!!

December 28 - January 1, the youth will be going to St. Louis for our winter service and fun trip. We will have an Airbnb that allows us all to stay together which should be a lot of fun. We are also planning to go to The City Museum and the Arch, as well as a few other activities. We will do service projects in the morning, followed by playing around the city and spending time together in the afternoon and evening.

All seventh through twelfth grade students are welcome to join us. For more information, contact Kristen at [khowell@fumclvks.org](mailto:khowell@fumclvks.org).



**NOV. 3**  
**1 PM**

In October, the book club will be reading *The Future is Peace*. Palestinian Aziz Abu Sarah and Israeli Maoz Inon forged a bond of brotherhood when the world expected them to be enemies. Both have lost family to the conflict. Both have known the bitterness of righteous anger. Yet, they chose a different path. Sarah and Inon take readers on a transformative weeklong journey across a sacred and blood-stained land. Facing competing narratives, they explore how compassion and unity can pull humanity back from the precipice of blind hatred. Throughout their travels, they have been constantly asked: In the face of so much loss, how can we ever find hope? Their answer is always the same. One cannot find hope. We must create it.

This book is a rebuttal to a broken world and a bold challenge to the belief that more violence can ever bring security. Told with unflinching honesty, their story is proof that peace is not a naive dream, but a courageous choice-- for reconciliation to heal the wounds of revenge, for partnerships to change a destiny of war, and for empathy to save us from drowning in sorrow.

Pairing unapologetic candor and inspirational prose, Sarah and Inon are sending an urgent message that the people have the power to make change. Peace is inevitable. For Palestinians, for Israelis, and for the world that awaits their example, it is not just possible-- it is the future. We'll discuss the book on November 3 at 1 pm in Wesley Hall. Everyone is welcome to join us. If you need a ride, contact Sandy at 913-547-6916.



## Good News in Leavenworth

Leavenworth Attainable Housing has changed its name to Pathways to Home. I asked Sister Amy Willcott, the director of the program about the reason for the change. She said, "Some people were confused because of the name. They thought we were maybe a real estate or rental agency. But we are more than just an affordable, attainable house. We are a program that creates a circle of support so that people can create a home. There is more than one way for people to reach home."

Pathways to Home (LAH) was started in 2021 when the Community of Hope Shelter was given a house. Sister Vickie Perkins had a vision of a way to provide more than emergency shelter for people struggling with homelessness.

ness. She wanted to create a program that helped people address the issues that led to their homelessness, not just provide them homes. She knew lasting change required more than just an address. She developed a four part program that each recipient must abide by to participate in the program.

**Financial Accountability and Budgeting:** Each recipient must have a consistent income source. If a potential recipient doesn't have an income, they will work with them to find employment. Residents meet with their housing support specialist to create and maintain a budget.

**Physical and Mental Health:** Some homeless people struggle with physical or mental health but don't always know what resources are available in our area. Pathways to Home can help with applying for medical insurance and help them find the treatment they need. They help participants find a pathway to health, as well as home.

**Community:** Learning to live in harmony with others is an important part of the program. Participants meet regularly and are encouraged to engage in community activities such as the Community Block Party on October 10. Pathways to Home does not require any religious activities to participate.

**Home:** Pathways to Home has 19 available homes. Participants must pay one third of their income in rent. Their utilities are covered. Participants must meet regularly with Chris Leach, the Housing Support Specialist, to learn how to clean and make house repairs as needed. Pathways to Home has resources to help residents get all the furniture and household items they need through a program called Flourish. Residents can come from living on the street with nothing to a real home with everything they need.

With 19 houses, Pathways to Home serves 24 adults and 22 children from ages 6 months to 80. This number fluctuates as people move out and more people move in. Some people stay a short time, some need help for a longer time. The program has 6 participants who are 65 or older. Three of those senior citizens came to the program through Community of Hope. Two of those senior citizens receive \$1,000 a month in Social Security. Where else can they find a place to live on such a small budget? They will probably live in Pathways to Home until they go to a nursing home.

Pathways to Home is a huge financial undertaking that is offering real solutions for people experiencing housing instability and it can only accomplish its goals with the help of churches, nonprofit organizations, volunteers, local leaders, and community members. The Community Block Party on October 10 here at FUMC is one opportunity to support Pathways to Home. I asked Sister Amy what her goals for Block Party were. She said, "I think of it as a friend raiser rather than a fund raiser. We all need community, so let's meet each other, share a meal together, enjoy each other's company, and learn about people in need in our community." Her goal is to educate our community about the resources they provide and give people an opportunity to help one another.



**Sister Amy Willcott**  
Pathways to Home Director



**Chris Leach**  
Property Manager

## Itchin' to Stitch

Itchin' to Stitch will meet on Thurs. Oct. 8 at the Plain Jane Studio from 10 - 3 pm. Bring Your Own Lunch or support your local restaurant! We'll be working on everything we donate! We will ALSO meet on Thurs. Oct. 29, 1:30-3 pm at the Church. We'll finish up donations and stitch on the labels for the Veterans' Quilts.

Mark your calendars for our Annual Donation to Children's Mercy on Thurs. Nov. 12. We will leave Teresa's house at 9 am. Also in November will be the presentation of our Veterans' quilts, on Sunday, Nov. 15. For more info, contact Teresa Hicks at [hickst@kc.rr.com](mailto:hickst@kc.rr.com).



## September Blood Drive Update

The Community Blood Center set a goal of 30 units for the Sept. 2026 drive here at FUMCLV. Only seventeen people registered online to donate. One of those registered made a Double Red (2RBC) Donation. By the end of the five-hour drive, 23 people had donated 25 units. The reduced number of donations may have been caused by the "Blood Emergency" that had been declared in July and August and many people may have donated earlier.

Church members who volunteered an hour of their time to greet and served refreshments were Jan Glick, Linda Herrman, Mary Lou Anderson, Sheila Bailey, Claudia McAllaster, Marguerite Hilscher, and Cathy Landis.

Sloppy Joes were served to all who donated and were provided by the Koinonia Sunday School Class. We had about three pounds of sloppy joes that were bagged up and donated to Samaritan's Buffet, along with four packages of buns for backup meals. Sis's Sweets also provided certificates for two cookies for all who donated blood. As always, a huge thank you to Grant Zschoche, Ed Garven, and Sandy Wood who assisted behind the scenes with the setup and teardown and publicizing the event in the community.

Chris Major, the Donor Recruitment Representative for the Community Blood Center, came to visit our Blood Drive. He has asked that, once again, I pass along their gratitude to the volunteers who supported the blood drive and 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 will be on Tuesday, Dec. 1, 2026, from 10:00 am – 3:00 pm. There are already 7 people who signed up to donate. The New Life Seekers will be providing the sloppy joes for donors. If you would like to volunteer to be a greeter and to serve refreshments for an hour, please contact Cathy Landis at [dlandis@hughes.net](mailto:dlandis@hughes.net). Unfortunately, Chris Major has resigned. His replacement will be Amber McWilliams, their Associate Director of Donor Recruitment. She leads their team and can connect on any issue big or small we may have. Her phone is 417-234-6928 and email is [amcwilliams@cbcks.org](mailto:amcwilliams@cbcks.org). *Cathy Landis*



# Welcome to the family



Connie Penick moved to Leavenworth to be closer to her daughters after more than seventy years in western Kansas — she wanted to experience life on this side of the state. Her daughter Cyndi and son-in-law Jim live in Edwardsville, and Kendra Kingsbury moved in with her mom in June 2026. Leavenworth is new territory for both of them! They were longtime members of First United Methodist Church in Dodge City, so FUMC felt like a natural fit here — and honestly, the choir director made the decision easy.

Connie is retired after more than fifty years in the entertainment business. Connie spent years portraying Miss Kitty and considered it an honor to serve as an ambassador for Dodge City, meeting people from all over the world. She loves to entertain, and the role gave her a chance to share the music and history of the 1800s, bringing both the fact and folklore of Dodge City to life. Some of her fondest memories are meeting people like Amanda Blake, Ken Curtis, Ronnie Milsap, and Roy Clark. She has many stories, but a favorite is riding side-saddle in a red velvet dress on a black horse in the Dodge City Days Parade — and once even getting to sit atop a Budweiser Clydesdale!

Kendra grew up right alongside it all, with both parents deeply involved in entertaining. As she puts it: “There was never a dull moment, and you never said you were bored.” Her mom was Miss Kitty and her dad was the Marshal — Boot Hill was her summer playground, and she was raised by gunfighters. She learned early on how to blend in, adapt, and keep up, or get left behind. Her sister was a can-can dancer in the variety show, but Kendra tended to operate in the shadows. You know the old saying, “seen but not heard.”

Kendra works for Fastenal in Inventory Control. Kendra is also a proud mom of two: Kiely, 27, who lives in Colorado and works as an Instructional Designer, and Kagan, 20, who is serving in the United States Marine Corps, currently stationed in Okinawa, Japan.

They have two cats, Baron and Bitzy, who are both thoroughly enjoying the retirement life right alongside Connie. Connie enjoys watercolor and coloring at First City Creatives, along with sewing, crocheting, and movies. She’s loving retirement. Kendra’s hobbies include music, photography, working outdoors, projects for her mom, and (as she puts it) trying to figure out her life!

They’re a community-minded family who believes life truly is a stage — full of comedy and tragedy — and that performing and entertaining bring people together.

They love being part of the oldest Methodist church in Kansas. They enjoy Pastor York and the whole staff, but especially love singing in the choir and the wonderful sense of welcome and belonging they’ve found here. “We truly feel blessed to be part of this new church family.” Connie said.



## Pathways to Home continued

Obviously, Pathways to Home is also hoping to raise some money as well. They have the ongoing expenses of upkeep and utilities for 19 homes. But they are also hoping to expand the program and add more homes so they can help more people. In the past they have taken abandoned homes that were eye sores in the neighborhood and rehabbed them into a place of hope for a family. But rehabbing can take up to \$150,000 depending on the size of the home and the necessary repairs.

One way they can lower the cost of rehabbing is by having professionals like plumbers, electricians, and HVACs volunteer their services. They also need people who are willing to paint, clean, and do landscaping. These aren’t weekly volunteer jobs, but when they have a new residence or someone moves out, they really appreciate volunteer help. To learn more, volunteer, or support the mission, visit them on Facebook @ Depaul USA-Pathways to Home.

“When people have a stable place to live, they can focus on employment, education, health, and family,” said Sister Amy Willcott. “By working together as a community alliance, we can create pathways that lead not only to housing, but to hope, dignity, and opportunity.”



## Join us for an Outdoor Block Party & Fundraiser

**Saturday, October 10, 2026**  
**4:00 - 7:00 p.m.**  
**Rain or shine!**  
**First United Methodist Church**  
**422 Chestnut Street**  
**GAMES, FUN & MUSIC**  
Your free-will donation helps cover the cost of a BBQ dinner and music.

**BBQ Pre-Order Open 9/1-10/7**  
Pick up at the Block Party!  
BBQ Meal Platters & Gathering Bundles



Supporting **Depaul USA**  
**Pathways to Home**  
(formerly, Leavenworth  
Attainable Housing)



Can't attend and want to donate? Scan Here!



## Anthony Elementary Family Fun Night

Eight volunteers served dinner for hungry parents and kids at the Anthony Elementary Family Fun night on Sept. 17. Our church family has “adopted” Anthony Elementary school and we have several outreaches throughout the year. Our next opportunity to serve will be Oct. 21. We will be providing lunch for Anthony teachers as they do Parent Teacher Conferences. There is a sign up in the foyer for soup, sandwiches and desserts. Later this fall we will have an angel tree to provide gifts for children in need. Right before Christmas break, we have a special cookies and milk day for the students. This is just one way we try to love our neighbors as ourselves.



# FUMC FAMILY

Sunday School is flourishing at FUMC. We have four adult Sunday School classes and classes for kids and youth. Caveat: These Sunday School photos were taken on a day when many of the members had already left for Camp Horizon or were traveling or sick, so they are not complete classes. The youth Sunday School and the Cornerstone class are not pictured. Below is the Family Matters and children's classes



Above is the New Life Seekers class. They're currently studying the Ten Commandments. Below is the Koinonia class. They are doing a chapter by chapter study of the book of Psalms. All of these classes would welcome visitors at 9:45 am on Sunday.



We have four Bible Studies during the week. The top photo is Carol's Thursday night class and right below that is her Tuesday morning class. They are both studying the book of Esther. In the upper right corner is the Heart and Soul Bible Study that meets on Wednesdays at 1 pm. They are studying theology with *A Jesus Shaped Life*. Below them is Pastor Dave's Bible Study. They are studying the book of First Peter. Below on the left, the kids at Wonderful Wednesday learned about Monarch butterflies with Marti Crow. Below on the right, Fusion 56 enjoyed lunch before starting their Bible Study.

