

# The Promise of EASTER

PALM SUNDAY, 11 a.m., MAUNDY THURSDAY, 5 p.m., GOOD FRIDAY, 5 p.m., EASTER, 11 a.m. at LEXINGTON UMC

**MARCH 2024**

**Lexington United  
Methodist Church**

*Where We Seek, Serve  
and Share Christ*

[www.lexmoumc.org](http://www.lexmoumc.org)

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**T**he Lord has Risen...He has risen indeed! What a wonderful time of year! We feel a little sun peeking out from the clouds. With the warmer temperatures the birds start to sing, and we anticipate what the Lord has in store for us. I give thanks to God for you and your willingness to call LUMC home!

As we begin the month of March, I am starting to see signs of Easter appearing on the store shelves. I am reminded of when Destiny, our 23-year-old, and Drew, our 18-year-old, were just little girls. When our daughters were younger, Julie and I began to explore what it means to be active disciples of Jesus Christ. As we grew in Spirit, Easter took on new meaning. Our focus changed from the Easter bunny to our resurrected savior.

That was a time in my life filled with wrestling between wonderful secular (non-Christian) family traditions that overlapped and tangled with our growing relationship with God. After all, where does hunting Easter eggs fit with the account of the resurrection?

I would like to share with you parts of the Easter story that helped me to understand this time of year with grace, peace of mind and surety of the soul. *John 20:1-4,8,10,20* "Early on the



Rev. Andrew  
Sanders

*first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene went to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the entrance. So she came running to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one Jesus loved, and said, 'They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we don't know where they have put him!'*

*So Peter and the other disciple started for the tomb. Both were running, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. Finally the other disciple, who had reached the tomb first, also went inside. He saw and believed. Then the disciples went back to where they were staying."*

The disciples ran, searched and eventually found with joyous hearts the Lord, our Savior!! When I remember my daughters searching for Easter eggs, I watched them and other children in fields or buildings running, laughing, and searching for that prize they would find in their eggs.

In my wrestling with secular traditions and my faith. I began imagining the

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## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### **SUNDAY WORSHIP: 11 a.m.**

-Choir Rehearsal is Sundays at 9:45 a.m.

-Sunday School Adult Class: Sundays at 10 a.m. in the former Youth Room.

-Children's Sunday School Class: Sundays at 10 a.m. in the Christ Kids I room with Bailee Smith.

**Mondays: Quilters at 1 p.m**

**Wednesdays: Exercise Group: 9 a.m.**

**BABY GRACE: First & Third Saturdays, 10 to Noon. (Lauren Negrete, volunteer)**

**MEN'S GROUP: This group will be starting back up soon. Ideas? Talk to Phillip Davis.**

**HARVESTERS DISTRIBUTION: Second Monday of the month 8 to 11 a.m.**

**WOMEN'S GROUP: Friday, March 8, Noon for carry-in lunch.**

**CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING: Monday, March 18, 6 p.m., Choir Room.**

**COMMODITIES: Thursday, March 28, 8:30 to 11:30 a.m.**

**Sunday, March 31, 11 a.m.: Holy Week begins.**

**REMEMBER TO TURN OFF LIGHTS AND SHUT DOORS TIGHTLY PLEASE:** Those who are here in the church entering through the digital access door, please be sure to pull the door closed tightly when entering or leaving. Please be sure to turn off all lights when leaving the building.

Pastor Andrew ... continued from pg. 1

excitement and childlike wonder the disciples had when they discovered the resurrected Lord for themselves. As my faith grew, I imagined the egg would be empty like the tomb until Easter morning, then it was filled with a surprise. The surprise in the tomb for the disciples was the Burial cloths.

We may be surprised by what is in the egg, but it was the surprise of Jesus being alive again, that we Celebrate!! Happy Easter!!

# Church COUNCIL

The 2024 Church Council leaders met on Monday, February 19th.

Pastor Andrew opened the meeting with a prayer. He focused on the area of spiritual development, encouraging council members and congregants to introduce themselves to visitors and welcoming new people.

We have had folks returning to church after a time of absence.

Due to absences at the Charge Conference and a mis-vote, council will vote again Wednesday, February 28th at 5 p.m. on a Zoom call from our district office. This vote is to approve the 2023 Charge Conference packet for LUMC.

Lauren Negrete had forwarded a document and information from the Baby Grace Foundation indicating that the foundation is folding. Due to family illnesses, Lauren was unable to attend the meeting, so Phillip Davis spoke about what the foundation folding means for our Baby Grace ministry.

It actually changes nothing. We never received funds from the foundation and are free to continue using the Baby Grace name for our ministry. By April, Baby Grace will be moving into the former Scout room which will provide air conditioning and heat and a larger space for storage.

The Scouts will be utilizing the former Baby Grace room to store some of their items.

Pastor Andrew announced that the Ministerial Alliance will sponsor the Maundy Thursday (March 28) and Good Friday (March 29) services. Those services will be here at LUMC, beginning at 5 p.m.

The Ministerial Alliance will also have a Sunrise Easter service, though the time/place is yet to be determined.

River City Players will begin using the Family Life Center Tuesday, March 5 at 6:30 p.m. For an entire calendar of their rental of the FLC, visit our website at [lexmoumc.org](http://lexmoumc.org) and click on "calendar."

The city election committee will be setting up for the April 2nd election on Monday, April 1.

Please keep our church leaders in your prayers as we navigate this new year in our mission, "To make new disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world."



## SUNDAY SCHOOL 10 a.m. SUNDAYS

CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL with Bailee Smith, Christ Kids 1 Room

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL with facilitator Sarah Black, Former Youth Room

facebook

Follow us on Facebook for updated news and events. Visit our Baby Grace Lexington page for Baby Grace news.



**Holy Week begins March 24th with Palm Sunday (11 a.m.).** We have a lot going on during Holy Week and on Easter Sunday. See the calendar below.

- 03/08 Joshua Coen
  - 03/16 Phillip Davis
  - 03/17 Leland Reynolds
  - 03/18 Lillian Lyon
  - 03/21 Michelle Simpson
  - 03/22 Joel Baker
  - 03/23 Larry Johnson
  - 03/28 Elizabeth Baker
  - 03/30 Sophia Stephenson
- Let Liz know in the office if we don't have your birthday!

- ◆ Sunday, March 3, 5 p.m.: Lenten Service at Waverly, followed by a meal.
- ◆ Sunday, March 10, 5 p.m.: Lenten Service at Concordia UMC, followed by a meal.
- ◆ Sunday, March 24, 11 a.m.: Palm Sunday. Holy Week begins.
- ◆ Thursday, March 28, 5 p.m.: Maundy Thursday Service at LUMC.
- ◆ Friday, March 29, 5 p.m.: Good Friday Service at LUMC.
- ◆ Sunday, March 31, 9 a.m.: Easter Egg Hunt.
- ◆ Sunday, March 31, 9:45 a.m.: Pancake breakfast.
- ◆ Sunday, March 31, 11 a.m.: Celebrating the resurrection of our savior Jesus Christ. **HE IS RISEN!**

### Shoes for Orphan Souls Collection

A collection tub is by the table outside the sanctuary for your GIFT OF NEW SHOES.

We are collecting NEW Shoes for Orphan Souls, which helps put children on a path to better health, education, hope and opportunity. This is through our Rotary and [buckner.org/shoes](http://buckner.org/shoes). Your gift of shoes will change lives!

The shoe drive ends **April 10th**. Thank you to all who have already donated!

**LENTEN SERVICE SETS FOLKS ON JOURNEY OF REFLECTION, EXAMINATION**

We joined with Waverly, Grace and Concordia UMCs for four consecutive Lenten services Sundays at 5 p.m. with Pastor Julie preaching at Andrew's churches and he preaching at hers, followed by a meal.



Above: Karen Yates and Pam Johnson worked the dessert/beverage table. Right, Cheryl Cooley helps serve the main meal of a yummy potato bar.

### Margaret Gray Center Tenderloin Luncheon

**Sunday, March 10, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.**

**Margaret Gray Center, 811C S. Hwy. 13**  
Menu: breaded tenderloin, mashed potatoes & gravy, corn or green beans, homemade desserts.

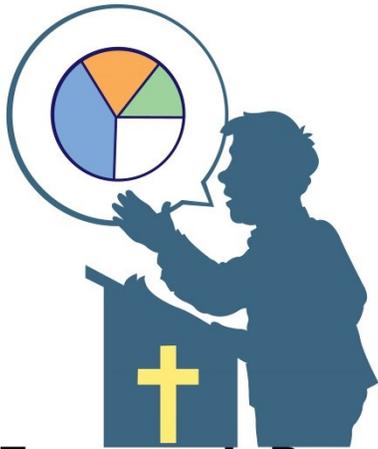
**Adults: \$12 Children under 6: \$5**

Supporting older adults in Lexington



**CHECK-IN ONLINE!**  
You can scan this QR code with your phone camera and be redirected to our website where you can make a donation or check-in for the service attendance.

**WORSHIP:** Sundays 11 a.m.  
**Sunday School:** 10 a.m. Adult & Children's  
**ONLINE:** lexmoumc.org



## Treasurer's Report JANUARY 2024

January Offering:	\$9,135.78
Plus Reimbursements:	+\$2,093.27
Plus Lenten Offering:	+ 505.00
Total	\$11,734.05
Less Expenses:	-\$13,284.52 (Incl. Insur.)
Total	-\$1,550.47

**Teri James: Treasurer**

**Liz Johnson:** Finance Secretary

**Sharol McMullin:** Finance Chair

**Phillip Davis:** Council Chair

**Pastor:** Rev. Andrew Sanders

*"Whoever has a bountiful eye will be blessed, for he shares his bread with the poor." ~ Proverbs 22:9 |*



### Diapers, Volunteers Needed!

Baby Grace is in need of diapers size 5 & 6, as well as volunteers to help with distribution and other duties in this active ministry. Lauren Negrete is on maternity leave and needs help. This is a growing ministry that has served more than 100 children in the last year and 30-40 families per month.

Please call the church office to volunteer: 660-259-2483. Donations can be made Monday-Thursday, 9-2 at the church office. Baby Grace will soon be moving to the Scout Room!

