

Whatever you do, work at it with
ALL YOUR HEART,
as working for the Lord.

— Colossians 3:23, NIV —

March 2023

**Lexington United
Methodist Church**

*Where We Seek, Serve
and Share Christ*

www.lexmoumc.org

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No Runs, No Drips, No Errors

“Work willingly at whatever you do, as though you were working for the Lord rather than for people.”

Colossians 3:23 New Living Translation

Rob Allen | Pastor

I recall during a meeting, a friend and former pastoral mentor shared this scripture with me and asked me what I believed it meant in my life. I laughed nervously, and then offered something like, I don't know or, maybe I'm not sure.

A look of joy came across his face and he shared that often people read this scripture and misguidedly believe that in some way they are being asked to work into perfection. No mistakes, no missteps, no misunderstanding or as the Rust-Oleum commercials would say “No runs. No drips. No errors.” But that's not how he saw it at all.

He continued to say, it's this verse that drives me to be excellent, not perfect but with excellence. It's this verse that has me dedicate a day to crafting my sermon, realizing that I'm not going to have every “i” dotted or “t” crossed but that the message offered is as good as I can do.

It drives me when I sweep the floor, working to do it to the very best of my ability, knowing that I am not going to get every speck of dirt and likely a few dust bunnies may continue to run free under the bed.

In that conversation, I came to understand that striving to do something with excellence wasn't about being perfect, but it was about the effort which we put forth. It is not about perfection but about being spirit filled and spirit led.

I wish I could go back to that conversation because I might respond to him with, I hear that we are to be enthusiastic in what we do, as though Jesus was standing right here.

That in everything we do, act as if it is done for worship to God, and even when we try our hardest we may not always get the results we want or expect, but we can find comfort in the fact that God sees what we're doing. And, in that, we understand that God will embrace our faithful effort.

So, in all you do, be Spirit filled and Spirit led, finding your reward not in unattainable perfection, but in a heart that has given your best and your all.

Blessings,
Pastor Rob



EARTHQUAKE RELIEF THROUGH UMCOR

Long-time UMCOR partner International Blue Crescent serves food to earthquake victims at the Kilis Community Center in Turkey. The community center is serving as a major hub for coordination and relief efforts, including cross-border response into Syria. UMCOR has provided an initial solidarity grant to IBC to provide basic supplies to earthquake victims. (Photo courtesy of International Blue Crescent/UMCOR)

On Monday, Feb. 6, a 7.8 magnitude earthquake struck southern Turkey early in the morning hours. It was the most powerful earthquake recorded since 1939. Following the earthquake, at least 78 aftershocks were reported, followed by another earthquake of 7.5 magnitude. As of February 28th, more than 41,000 people have died as a result of the earthquakes.

The earthquake also heavily impacted northwest Syria where 4.1 million people depend on humanitarian assistance, the majority of which are women and children. Syrian communities are also facing an ongoing outbreak of cholera and winter weather events, such as heavy rain and snow. Due to the extreme weather conditions, the humanitarian re-

sponse is over-stretched.

UMCOR is the international mission, humanitarian relief and development organization of the United Methodist Church. It works with partners and churches in more than 115 countries to equip and transform people and places for God's mission including throughout the United States.

UMCOR and its partners are responding to the earthquake disaster daily. The organization has released initial solidarity grants to longstanding partner, International Blue Crescent and Forum for Development Culture and Dialogue (with Syria) to help provide tents, heaters, blankets, warm clothes, ready to eat meals and first aid kits to those who have

been displaced. IBC has offices in Turkey and multiple project sites.

How to give? Anyone wishing to offering monetary assistance to UMCOR in its earthquake relief for the citizens of Turkey and Syria, simply write out a check payable to: **Advance GFCA and write "UMCOR earthquake relief" in the message line. Lexington UMC will forward the check on to UMCOR.**

If you prefer to give by phone, a credit card can be used by calling UMCOR at: 888-252-6174.

For more information on UMCOR and its missions or to volunteer to work with UMCOR, visit: www.umcmisson.org

Let's show our support for Nancy Oles at the **St. Patty's Day Parade**

Our own **Nancy Oles** will be this year's St. Patrick's Day Parade Grand Marshal!

Set for **Saturday, March 11 at 2 p.m.**, in downtown Lexington.

"Nancy has been an active member of Lexington United Methodist Church, where she takes part in a project to make sleeping bags for the homeless; the GFWC Women's Club, the Lexington Betterment Association and the Sounds of the Heart." (Lexington News).

Nancy also delivers meals for the Meals on Wheels Program and was, at one time, a

member of the Chorus of Friends and a square dancer.

Here, she is a family face to everyone at LUMC. Nancy serves on the Ad Council, sings in the choir, works with the quilters on the sleeping bags, and can be counted on to volunteer and help with just about any mission or project at the church.

Many thanks to Nancy, also, for gifting the church with a subscription to the Lexington News!

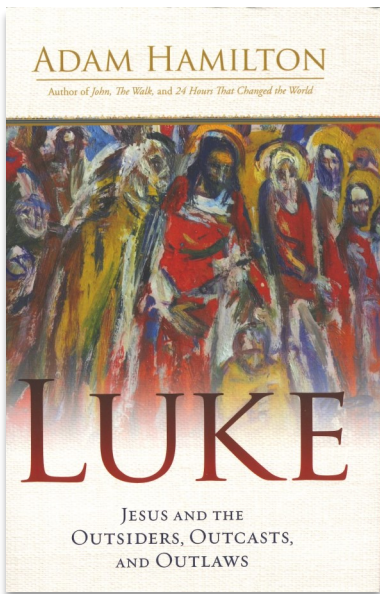
Recently, members **Mable Hawkins** and **Janae Fuller** have been featured in the

newspaper. Additionally, the paper ran a copy of the article I wrote about our quilting ladies and their selfless dedication to making the sleeping bags for the homeless. We've already received donations from folks who read the news article.

Liz Fenner was also featured in the fall Senior Living special section of the Lexington News.

Let's get out and support Nancy on March 11th!

- Liz Johnson



Join us for our Lenten Small Group with facilitator Pam Johnson.

The study is at **9:30 a.m. Sundays in the Faithful Room.**

This study, by Adam Hamilton, is based on the Gospel of Luke and is titled, ***“Jesus and the Outsiders, Outcasts and Outlaws.”***

The cost for a book is \$8. If you pay by check, please make the check payable to Lexington UMC.

The book is also available for digital download through Amazon Kindle for \$9.20.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

SUNDAY WORSHIP: 10:45 a.m.
Choir Rehearsal, Sundays 9:30 a.m.

Sunday, March 5, 10:45 a.m.: Girl Scout Sunday.

Sunday, March 5, 2 p.m.: Scout Court of Honor, followed by reception in the Family Life Center.

Mondays, 1 p.m.: Quilters meet.

Wednesdays: 9 a.m.—Exercise class
6 to 7:30 p.m.: Children’s Ministry
6:30 to 8:30 p.m.: Youth Group

First & Third Saturdays, (Mar. 4 & 18)
9 a.m. to 1 p.m., Baby Grace distributes in FLC

Saturday, March 4, 8 a.m.: Men’s Group meets at McDonald’s in Lexington

Friday, March 10, Noon: Women’s Group meets for a carry-in lunch in the choir room.

Monday, March 13, 8 to 11 a.m.: Harvesters distribution

Thursday, March 23, 8:30 to 11:30 a.m.: Commodities distribute in LUMC parking lot

SAVE THE DATE!



HAM AND BEAN DINNER

We’ll be all done with our taxes by mid-April! So let’s celebrate with a delicious Ham and Bean dinner and all the fixin’s. **APRIL 18, 2023.** Time to be determined.

Can you volunteer? Contact Liz in the church office: 660-259-2483.
Email: secretary@lexmoumc.org



SUNDAY SCHOOL 9:30 A.M. SUNDAYS

We’re talking about “Equipped for Life” by Rosekidz! Join us at 9:30 and bring a friend!

- 03/08 Joshua Coen
- 03/16 Phillip Davis
- 03/17 Leland Reynolds
- 03/21 Michelle Simpson
- 03/22 Joel Baker
- 03/23 Larry Johnson
- 03/28 Elizabeth Baker
- 03/30 Sophia Stephenson

Lexington United Methodist Church
1211 South Business Highway 13
Lexington, MO 64067

First
Class
Stamp

WORSHIP: Sundays 10:45 a.m.

Sunday School: 9:30 a.m.

ONLINE: lexmoumc.org

Mission Minute

Our Youth Group, under the leadership of Thomas Rowland and assisted by Lauren Negrete and Jordyn Ortega, have a busy time planned for the next six months.

March 19: SILENT AUCTION FUNDRAISER, Following the morning worship service. Lunch at Noon, Bidding at 12:30 p.m. Winners announced at 1:30 p.m.—the youth are ready to work! They're assembling some goody baskets and prizes to auction off, and some of the youth have volunteered to help raise money as part of the auction. Need those gutters cleaned out? Hire a youth!

April 1: KANSAS CITY DAY OUT—The youth are welcoming spring by an excursion into Kansas City. Dinner at Dave & Busters and some fun and games at Skyzone.

May 24: SENIOR BANQUET—Lots of youth are graduating this year. The Youth Group are hosting a special banquet for them.

June 10: START OF SUMMER LOCK-IN.

July 2-9: Puerto Rico Service/Mission trip—Youth will be working with SBP USA on home rebuilding and hurricane relief in San Juan. (sbpusa.org) Three leaders will accompany the youth. Help support this mission trip if you can. Prayers for all of those participating in our third mission trip!



Baby Grace Under New Leadership, Hours

Our Baby Grace program is undergoing some changes and growth with new leader Lauren Negrete.

HOURS ARE NOW: First & Third Saturdays of the month from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

We encourage everyone to spread the word for those in need of diapers and wipes. Plus, we currently have clothing and some other items in the Baby Grace room.

More information is forthcoming from Lauren as we hope to provide assistance and guidance for those in need.





Below: On Feb. 26, we were blessed to have some praise music as our special music: Aaron Knipmeyer, Vicki Knipmeyer, Mark Simmons & Bill Fricke performed three rousing numbers to a very appreciative congregation. The group has promised to return.



Above: Sarah & Buddy Black are all smiles during our Tailgate party preceding the Super Bowl on Feb. 12th. Right: Most everyone was in Chiefs red and seemed to enjoy the fellowship, team spirit and food! Plus, our Chiefs won!



Special Praise Music

Songs: "Just a Closer Walk with Thee," "We Fall Down," & "Blessed Be Your Name."



TRANSFIGURATION SUNDAY

Rev. David Gilmore, Northwest District Superintendent of the Missouri Conference was our guest preacher on Feb. 19th. He presented a fantastic message based on Matthew 17:1-9 on the Transfiguration of Jesus Christ. He reminded us to "Listen to Him." Transfiguration Sunday celebrates the revelation of God in Jesus Christ and Christ's manifestation as the fulfillment of the law and prophets.



Mission Opportunities

VOLUNTEERS FOR THESE ARE ALWAYS NEEDED!

HARVESTERS DISTRIBUTION: Second Monday of the month from 8 to 11 a.m., in the LUMC parking lot.

COMMODITIES DISTRIBUTION: Fourth Thursday of the month from 8:30 to 11:30 a.m., in the LUMC parking lot.

FOOD PANTRY: At the Presbyterian Church in Lexington, Fridays from 9 to 11 a.m.

BABY GRACE: First & Third Saturdays of the month, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.



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