



“Now there stood by the cross of Jesus His mother, and His mother’s sister, Mary the *wife* of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene.”

—John 19:25

**MAY 2023**

**Lexington United  
Methodist Church**

*Where We Seek, Serve  
and Share Christ*

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

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# THE OTHER MARY

**Rob Allen | Pastor**

**I** imagine some of you recall that during the Easter message there were two Mary’s referenced in Chapter 20 of the Gospel according to John. Mary Magdalene and, “the other Mary.” During the message, I identified the other Mary as likely being Mary, the mother of Jesus. I then went on to offer further discussion regarding this “other Mary.” Well, after completing some additional examination and research, I have discovered that I misidentified her. Biblical scholars identify the “other Mary” as Mary of Clopas.

So who was Mary of Clopas? Unfortunately, there is not much information about her in the Bible. Her name is only mentioned twice in the New Testament - both times in the book of John. One theory is that Mary of Clopas was actually the wife of Clopas. This theory is based on the fact that the name "Mary of Clopas" appears in the same verse as

"Mary, the wife of Clopas" in the Gospel of Matthew. Some scholars believe that these are two different ways of referring to the same person, and that Mary of Clopas was actually a prominent figure in the early Christian community. Scholars have made educated guesses about who she might have been.

This doesn’t offer a great deal of information regarding the “other Mary” as a person, but I do believe there is a significant message in referring to her within the witness of the resurrection of Jesus. At the time of the writing of the Gospel account, in Jewish culture, the testimony of women was not considered reliable. By including, the “other Mary,” Mary of Clopas, and the other women in the story, the Gospel of John is making a bold statement about the equality of men and women in the eyes of God.

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“God is within her, she will not fail. God will help her at break of day.” ~ Psalm 46:5

Pastor continued from page 1

I encourage you to read through and pray over John chapter 20, embracing the importance of not just the “other Mary,” but each of the women in the life of this story.

Beyond that, take a moment to reflect on the importance of the women in your life and within the life of the church. Maybe you can write a note to one of those women offering them thanks for all that they do and all that they are within your life.

I pray God’s peace go with each of you and wish all the moms, step-moms, grandmoms, aunts and all of you who serve as a mom in someone’s life a blessed Mother’s Day.

~ Pastor Rob



Many heartfelt thanks to the LUMC Women’s Group, as well as congregants for remembering me on Administrative Assistant’s Day. I look forward to using the gift card at a business here in Lexington!

And many thanks to the PPR team for the gorgeous vase of flowers in my favorite purple color! All so much appreciated. And to Pastor Rob for the fun book of inspirations.

~ God Bless, Liz Johnson

Many thanks to all who brought desserts for the Ham & Bean dinner on the 18th. And to all the volunteers who cooked, prepped the food and worked that day, too. Thank you to the Lexington Middle School student volunteers who worked tirelessly to serve food desserts, beverages and clean up! And thank you to all who came out to enjoy the hearty meal. We raised enough money to present \$300 to the Margaret Gray Center. See photos on the opposite page!



SAVE THE DATE!

Farewell  
to our  
Pastor

SUNDAY  
JUNE 4

Please join us Sunday, June 4th for Pastor Rob’s last Sunday here at Lexington United Methodist. Worship begins at 10:45 a.m. and will be followed by a **CARRY-IN dinner** as we spend some time in fellowship with Pastor Rob and his wife, Jenny. The church will provide beverages for the meal.

We pray for Pastor Rob and Jenny as they begin this next journey in their ministry. God bless.

“And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ.”

~ Ephesians 4:11-12



HE IS RISEN!

LUMC Easter Sunrise Service

Lexington UMC held an Easter Sunrise Service on Resurrection Sunday at 6:45 a.m. Below is Pastor Rob Allen, who concelebrated the service with Rev. John Swisher of the Presbyterian Church, center, and Melissa Beal who sang and passed out bulletins to those attending.



# WHAT'S HAPPENING AT LEXINGTON UMC

## Lexington UMC hosts Ham and Bean Dinner



Above: Sarah Black helps LMS volunteers Larissa Adkins and Hannah Waltz dish up the yummy ham and beans to folks who came to the April 18<sup>th</sup> event. Right: LMS volunteers, Kylie Thompson and Emerson Worthington worked the dessert and beverage table.



The Lexington Middle School Honor Society students, under the guidance of Mrs. Jamie Lynn, assisted at our Ham and Bean Dinner in order to gain their community commitment hours on April 18. Sixteen students came throughout the dinner to do assigned tasks. The LUMC dinner leaders appreciated their help throughout the day and Mrs. Lynn for organizing and transporting the students!

Above right: Kylie Thompson and Emerson Worthington, LMS student volunteers, assemble silverware packets. Right: Ever the teacher, Sarah Black chats with the student volunteers during a lull.



Happy faces! Sarah Black, left, and Liz Fenner, right, presented a check to the Margaret Gray Center for \$300 to Candy McGill, Margaret Gray director. The funds were proceeds from the Ham & Bean Dinner on April 18. We have received a lovely thank-you note from the Margaret Gray Center. It's hanging on the bulletin board.



Margaret Gray Center Donation

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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

**GRADUATION SUNDAY: Sunday, May 7: 10:45 a.m.**

**MOTHER'S DAY: Sunday, May 14**

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

**Wednesdays:**

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

**Praise/Worship Team: 6 p.m.**

**Youth Group: 6:30 p.m.**

**BABY GRACE: First & Third Saturdays, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. (Lauren Negrete, volunteer)**

**MEN'S GROUP: First Saturday, 8 a.m. at McDonald's in downtown Lexington.**

**HARVESTERS DISTRIBUTION: Monday, May 8, 8 to 11 a.m.**

**WOMEN'S GROUP: Carry-in Lunch, Noon, May 12, in the Choir Room.**

**COMMODITIES: Thursday, May 25, 8:30 to 11:30 a.m.**

**Monday, May 29 (Memorial Day), Church office is closed.**

**Sunday, June 4: Pastor Rob's last service at Lexington UMC. Carry-In Dinner following the worship service.**



*Happy Birthday to...*

- 05/12 Madelyn Stephenson
- 05/15 Jacqueline Holshouser
- 05/15 Teri James
- 05/16 Sharol McMullin
- 05/16 Dakota Yates
- 05/17 Clayton Yates
- 05/20 James Laddusaw
- 05/25 E.J. Guevel
- 05/31 Terry Holshouser

Lexington United Methodist Church  
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First  
Class  
Stamp

**WORSHIP: Sundays 10:45 a.m.**

**Sunday School: 9:30 a.m.**

**ONLINE: [lexmoumc.org](http://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 few months.

**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](http://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!

**PLUS:** The church raised enough money from the April 18th Ham & Bean Dinner to present a check for \$300 to the Margaret Gray Center (see page 3 for a photo), with remaining proceeds to go toward LUMC missions. Thank you to all who volunteered to help with the meal and all who came out for delicious food and fellowship.



**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!



The Ministerial Alliance is in need of a  
**COORDINATOR for its ANGEL TREE  
Christmas Ministry program.**

For more information, contact  
your pastor by May 15, 2023.

God Bless