

“Do all the good you can, by all the means you can, in all the ways you can, in all the places you can, at all the times you can, to all the people you can, as long as ever you can.” ~ John Wesley

“For this is how God loved the world: He gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life.” ~ John 3:16 (NLT)

JUNE 2023

**Lexington United
Methodist Church**

**Where We Seek, Serve
and Share Christ**

www.lexmoumc.org

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AN HONOR TO SERVE

Rob Allen | Pastor

Dear Church Family,

Iwould like to take a few moments to share a few thoughts before my departure as your pastor. First, it has been an absolute honor to serve with you over the last year. We, (Jenny and I) are grateful for the love and grace offered to us in the ways you brought us into your family. As we make the transition, I would like to spend some time reflecting with you on how our relationship will change beginning July 1.

Many of you know that an essential character of our denomination is the itinerant ministry. While changes in clergy leadership are inevitable, we are fortunate to be in a system in which pastoral succession occurs efficiently, without extensive interim periods or gaps in pastoral coverage. At the same time, this efficiency can cause some natural tensions. What that means is, that as quickly as you say goodbye to me, you will be greeting your next pastor. Rev. Andrew Sanders will offer

the message on Sunday July 9. Pastor Andrew and his family will be moving into the parsonage during the week of July 3.

I believe there are many benefits to such a rapid pastoral transition, but it does become incumbent on the congregation and the outgoing pastor to make appropriate space and time for grieving and discovering what their forthcoming relationship will be like. So, I offer to you some guidelines to navigating this awkward space. Many of these ideas were discussed with all the pastors making a move at the Right Start workshop offered by our conference in April. I realize that many of you in this congregation have gone through pastoral transitions in the past, but the process of writing this statement and sharing it with you is a beneficial exercise for us all.

What will it mean for me to no longer be your pastor? Simply put, it means that I will be released from the responsibility

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of preaching, leading, and providing pastoral care for this particular congregation. It will no longer be appropriate for me to do weddings and funerals at Lexington UMC, and I will not be involved with the future direction of this church. In other words, when pastoral matters arise among you, there is no expectation that I will be involved in it. And when major decisions are to be made regarding the church’s future, I will in no way be a part of these discussions.

Does that mean that any communications with me are inappropriate? Though I will no longer be your pastor, we will continue to be brothers and sisters in Christ. As part of Christ’s body, we will still be responsible for rejoicing in each other’s triumphs and bearing each other’s burdens. I welcome updates on how you and your family are doing, just as I know you would welcome such news from me. But here are some guidelines for discerning what news to share with me.

- Make sure that Pastor Andrew already knows the news you would share with me.
- Make sure that the news is of a public nature and already available for general knowledge.
- Make sure that the news is not of a confidential nature, such that it would best be kept in the context of a pastor-parishioner relationship.

If those three criteria are met, then I am open to sharing with you the critical life-stage moments that make life so rich and compelling. Simply remember that there should be no expectation that I will respond to you as anything more than a fellow sibling in Christ.

Do I want to hear “how things are going at the church?” This community has been a part of my vocational discernment and call to ministry. Therefore, Lexington UMC will always have a special place in my heart. I will be praying for God’s spirit to lead you into what I know will be a bright and faithful future. But again, I would ask you to use the following criteria in discerning what kinds of church news to share with me:

- Have you, for whatever reason, refrained from sharing this news, or your opinions regarding the news, with Pastor Andrew?
- Are you seeking my opinion or feedback regarding this news?
- Are you sharing this news with me simply to draw a contrast between how things were done under my leadership?

If the answer to any of those questions is yes, then it is truly wisest to refrain from sharing with me any news about what is happening at the church.

How does Facebook figure into our new relationship? There are many schools of thought on how Facebook plays a role in pastoral ministry. I am Facebook friends with many of you, and have enjoyed interacting with you through it. We often use it to share with others a glimpse into our personal and family lives, and I have used it to celebrate the ministries of Lexington UMC. We must remember that the persona we project via Facebook is often a one-dimensional, largely optimistic rendering of how things are actually going. Therefore, to say you have a Facebook “friend” is quite different from the kinds of intimate, deep “friendships” you might have with a person face to face. Because our “virtual” relationships will never be a suitable substitute for genuine personal interactions, and must never rise to the level of relationships you develop with your pastor and others in the church, I see no need to “unfriend” any of you who are currently “friends” with me on Facebook.

You will begin to notice that after my departure, many of my posts will primarily be about the establishment of my new life with the faith community of Archie UMC, and ministry throughout the conference. And again, because of the nature of Facebook, most of those “updates” will be largely positive. Please know that those posts will never be meant to denigrate the fruitful, sacred time we have shared together.

What will be my relationship with the new pastor? All clergy in the United Methodist Church enter into a covenant communion, in which we support each other as colleagues in Christ. Pastor Andrew and I will likely be in conversation together periodically over the months to come, but they will mostly be prompted by him to contact me, rather than my intrusion into his work. The bottom line is that I will do everything I can to ensure his successful start as your new pastor, and I will be available to him for whatever he needs. Pastor Andrew is an immensely talented pastor. His appointment here is a blessing to you. Your future is bright.

As I arrived as your pastor it was clear that you have a real interest in making a difference in the community and the ways in which we do ministry. As you continue to adapt and evaluate, I encourage you to support Pastor Andrew as he offers his leadership and vision for the direction of the Lexington UMC. My prayer for you is that you would offer Pastor Andrew grace to be your next spiritual leader.

I am absolutely convinced that God’s Holy Spirit will continue to work among you, and that the future of Lexington UMC and our broader community is a bright one indeed. I have been so honored to be your pastor. Thank you for allowing me into the sacred and holy spaces of the intentional community of Christ that is Lexington UMC.

In Christ
Pastor Rob and Jenny

A WESLEYAN APPROACH TO GIVING



Often, we take for granted the blessings in our life and the abundance that we enjoy. In his life John Wesley, the founder of the reformation movement we now know as Methodism, often shared his ideas and understandings regarding generosity and giving. Here are

a couple of thoughts based on those Wesleyan theological principles.

Probably one of the best known teachings or quotes attributed to John Wesley is, "Earn all you can and save all you can so that you can give all you can." I've done some research and I find that this quote is attributed to a number of different people, including John Wesley but even if Wesley didn't coin the phrase, the truth is, the truth of this statement is reflected in his theological understandings.

Now, I suspect some of you will suggest that this is counter to the teachings we find in scripture which offers that, "*money is the root of all evil.*" However, this scripture passage is often misquoted. We find that 1 Timothy 6:10 states, "*the love of money is the root of all kinds of evil. And some people craving money, have wandered from the true faith, piercing themselves with many sorrows.*"

While I've never had a conversation with John Wesley – wouldn't that be a trick – I believe that he would want us to work hard, to earn a living sufficient to not only support ourselves and our families but also be able to save for the unforeseen and the future. Thus, in that balance, the goal earning and saving would be that we would have more resources available to give generously to contribute to those in need and support the ministries of the church

As Wesleyan Methodist Christ followers, we are called to live differently in the ways that we work, save and give. In doing so, we live as a people who understand that all of our blessings of time talent and treasure are gifts from God which we are asked to watch over.

Prayer

Good and generous God, we give thanks for all that we have and ask that you give us the courage to live, love and give in ways that are reflective of your image. This we pray in the name of Jesus, Amen.

MEMBERS IN CARE CENTERS

Dawn Meierer
Life Care Center
300 Life Care Ln
Carrollton, MO 64633

EJ Guevel
TMC-LTC c/o EJ Guevel
3 South, Room 327, Bed 2
7900 Lee's Summit Rd
Kansas City, MO 64139

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

SUNDAY WORSHIP: 10:45 a.m.

Choir Rehearsal, Sundays 9:30 a.m.

FATHER'S DAY: Sunday, June 18

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, June 12, 8 to 11 a.m.

WOMEN'S GROUP: Carry-in Lunch, Noon, June 9, in the Choir Room.

COMMODITIES: Thursday, June 22, 8:30 to 11:30 a.m.

JULY:

Tuesday, July 4: Church office closed for Fourth of July holiday.

Sunday, July 9, 10:45 a.m.: Rev. Andrew Sanders first Sunday at LUMC.

Monday, July 10, 6 p.m.: Church Council meeting.



06/06 Jordyn Ortega

06/07 Terrie Dishman

**06/12 Blake Johnson,
Brandon Reynolds,
Yolanda Guzman**

06/14 Stephanie Davis

06/18 David Oles

06/19 Gavin Goodloe

**06/25 Rowdy Yates,
Robert Yates**

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 few months.

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!

PLUS: My Brother's Keeper (our quilting ladies), presented 12 sleeping bags for the homeless at City Union Mission on May 23rd. Many thanks to quilting member Marcia Hicklin for getting the sleeping bags donated and shooting a photo of the donation. See photo at right. And so many thanks to the ladies who have kept this ministry alive since it was founded by the late Beth Simnitt in the 1980s. So many homeless have been blessed through this ministry.



Dan Irwin, of City Union Mission in Kansas City has a big smile on his face upon receiving the 12 sleeping bags, pictured, quilted by My Brother's Keeper, the quilting group here at LUMC. Twelve homeless folks will be the recipients of these sleeping bags.



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!



Right: We celebrated our graduating seniors on May 7 during the service. Left is Youth leader Thomas Rowland and Nancy Oles who, representing the Women of the Church, presented envelopes to the graduates. At right is Pastor Rob speaking a blessing over the graduates and their parents. **Below:** Our Youth Group hosted an End of Year Banquet for all of the YG members on May 24th.



On Sunday, June 4th, Pastor Rob preached his last message here at LUMC. I, for one, have truly enjoyed working for and with him this past year, as well as his wonderful messages.

Farewell to our Pastor

Following the service we hosted a Carry-In meal for Pastor Rob and Jenny, which included some fellowship time with them. Please

join me in prayer as they begin this next journey in their ministry at Archie UMC.

Pastor Rob will be attending the Missouri Conference this weekend, and on vacation for the remainder of June as they prepare to move.



Pastor Rob and his wife Jenny are all smiles as they enjoy a meal and fellowship on his last Sunday here at LUMC.

Folks enjoy a carry-in meal following the June 4th worship service as we celebrated Pastor Rob's ministry here.





MEMORIAL DAY

Left, Pastor Rob Allen and wife, Jenny, joined our Scout Troop in distributing American flags at Lexington Memory Gardens Cemetery on Memorial Day.

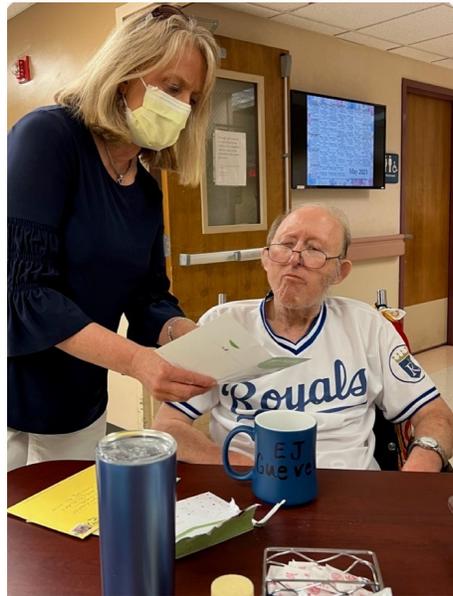
Memorial Day is a time for honoring those who have served and fought for our freedoms and who gave their lives in service to the country.



Many thanks from Administrative Assistant Liz Johnson to all who assisted me when I fell in the Family Life Center Sunday, June 4th after our meal.

I occasionally deal with Meniere's Disease which causes vertigo episodes that come without warning. I have never had an episode when I was standing, but this time I did and it caused me to fall.

I very much appreciate the assistance of Steven Fuller, Pastor Rob and Jenny, and the others who helped me get to my feet, some of whom I don't even know. And to all who assisted me and checked on me after I returned home. Everyone was so helpful, and I am grateful and blessed to be a part of the church family here at LUMC.



Recently we received this photo of EJ Guevel, who is in a nursing home in Lee's Summit (see page 3 of newsletter for his address), conveying his gratitude for the continued mail from folks here at LUMC, including recent birthday wishes. He even had 70 birthday greetings on his Facebook page.

May our ministry to others continue as we remember those who are homebound.

VBS: Vacation Bible School 2023



Parents and kids, Vacation Bible School time is quickly approaching, so save the date! **Sunday, July 16 through Thursday, July 20, 2023, hosted by the Assembly of God Church, 2090 Berkley Street, Lexington.**

Lexington UMC will be responsible for providing the Sunday night meal from approximately 6 to 6:30 p.m. Pastor Sanders will open with prayer.

On Tuesday night there will be a Pool Party from 6 to 8 p.m. at the Lexington public pool, 750 Poolview Drive, Lexington.

There will also be an offering taken each evening. It is, as of this printing, undecided as to what charity will benefit from the offering.

Please reach out to our VBS representative, Tina McFadden for more information: 660-232-0044.