

Pentecost Sunday

THE GIFT OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

Sunday, May 19, 2024

MAY 2024

**Lexington United
Methodist Church**

*Where We Seek, Serve
and Share Christ*

www.lexmoumc.org

Office: 660-259-2483



Rev. Andrew Sanders, Pastor
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417-770-6731 (cell)

Liz Johnson,
Administrative Assistant
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Janet Thompson,
Music Director

Glenda Brooks,
Custodian

Sunday worship: 11 a.m.
Sunday School: 10 a.m.
Adult Sunday School: 10 a.m.

We are called by God to respond to the world around us ... even for a moment

I can't help but to think of God's glory as the sun is peaking between the rain clouds casting rays of light across the beautiful landscape here in Missouri. I love the warmth of the sun breaking free of the cool seasons. The seasonal changes remind me of the natural progression of time in our personal lives.

Knowing that there are different seasons helps to remind me that Christ in the form of the Holy Spirit guides us through our life, strengthening us with each step. In **Psalm 91:15, God says, "When they call on me, I will answer; I will be with them in trouble. I will rescue and honor them" (NLT)**

This week I was weeding out one of the flower beds in the front yard after a heavy rain. As I worked around the big oak tree in the front yard, I saw a little squirrel that had fallen from its nest. I thought the little creature had no life but then it waved its paw at me.

Before we go on ... unfortunately, the squirrel lost its life. I suspect the exposure to the elements was too much. This reflection is not a rescue



Rev. Andrew
Sanders

story it is about coming alongside all of creation to be the presence of God.

When I found the little squirrel cold and wet, I stopped working and scooped up this little creature. I brought it

inside, gently dried it off and I placed it in front of a heater. In the last few hours of its life, I believe that it felt safe and secure. When the squirrel took its last breath I feel secure that the Lord rescued and honored even the littlest of creatures as it moved from this side of life to the next.

This may sound like a sad story, but I believe that it can serve as a stark reminder that we must consider the care that we give to others. Each person will experience seasons of plenty and seasons of strife. As we experience these seasons, we may be placed in others' lives to give them care and compassion for a moment of time. Just like the littlest of creatures can

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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.

-Membership Class, Wednesdays at 6 p.m., in Pastor's office—through June 5.

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, May 10, Noon for carry-in lunch.

CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING: Monday, May 20, 6 p.m., Choir Room.

COMMODITIES: Thursday, May 23, 8:30 to 11:30 a.m.

CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED: Memorial Day, Monday, May 27th.

Pastor Andrew ... continued from pg. 1

remind us of the care that we are called to, as a witness of Gods mercy and love to all of creation.

A little squirrel entered my life for a moment. For a few hours my clock stopped, and my attention was given to creation. I prayed, cared for the squirrel, and sat in silence with the Lord admiring the work of God in the little squirrel that I held in my hands.

I believe in those few hours that I spent with that squirrel I was given a metaphor that even when a situation may feel hopeless, we may be there to provide comfort for another during their next steps in their journey.



The 2024 Church Council leaders met on Monday, April 15.

Steven Fuller opened the meeting with prayer.

A Town Hall meeting for the congregation was set for Sunday, April 21, along with a potluck lunch. (See newsletter insert for a summary of the Town Hall meeting.)

The pressing issue for this meeting was a discussion and vote (upon recommendation of our Finance Team) to begin paying 10% of what is in the "black" at the end of the month toward apportionments and \$50-\$100 toward repayment of the \$10K that was borrowed from the church's Edward Jones account last summer—also contingent if the church funds are in the black.

Treasurer Teri James will be the one making the determination to make these payments and whether to pay \$50 or \$100 to Edward Jones. Of course, anyone is welcome to make a donation toward the repayment of the Edward Jones loan as a "designated giving" in the message line.

A vote was taken on the pressing issues and passed. The finance report was also approved.

As part of our Pathways to Discipleship, Pastor Andrew and the Leadership & Development Team are working on spiritual development and determining what our vision is. He reminded us that the church is a "body"-a-"team." The church is created to be a team.

**Multiplying. Kingdom Giving.
Permission. Discipleship.
Gift Activating.**

We are also working on Encouragement/Welcome bags that will contain either a coffee mug or tumbler, Fruits of the Spirit magnets, prayer cross, Welcome card, prayer cards, information about our ministries, HomeTouch weekly devotionals and more. These will soon be ready.

Children's Moment and having an acolyte bring the light of Christ into the sanctuary (and exiting, too) has begun. We are in dire need of volunteers for Children's Moment and acolytes so we can get these ministries on a regular schedule.

Please reach out to Liz in the church office (660-259-2483 or secretary@lexmoumc.org) or to Pastor Andrew or Sarah Black (660-232-2457).

We are still looking for volunteers to help head up Youth Group so we can get it started again. Please reach out to Pastor Andrew if interested in this ministry, or to Sarah Black.

Vacation Bible School will be here at LUMC Sunday July 14 through Thursday, July 18, 6 to 8 p.m. Volunteers Lauren Negrete, Bailee Smith and Jordyn Ortega will head it up. We are looking for additional volunteers to assist. Please reach out to Liz in the church office, Sarah Black or Pastor Andrew if interested and able to help.

The old wooden playground at the back of the church parking lot has been removed due to its condition. Many thanks to its original donor(s) and gratefulness for the years of use and fun for kids it brought.

...

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."



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

River City Players rehearse, perform in FLC this year



River City Players, under the direction (originally) of Melanie Allen, rented our Family Life Center through March & April to rehearse its play, "Showdown at the Rainbow Ranch." Dinner theater performances were April 26 & 27 and May 3 & 4. Earlier in April Sheila Lee (far right) took over direction of the play. Actors seen here are rehearsing on their set—located on the FLC stage. Director Sheila Lee, who took over midway through the rehearsals, reported that everything went smoothly with the use of the Family Life Center. They had good crowds and delicious food brought in for the dinner theater performances.

Anyone interested in renting the LUMC facility, please reach out to Liz Johnson in the church office: 660-259-2483 or secretary@lexmoumc.org. Not only do we offer the Family Life Center, our kitchen, and Hicklin Hall, but also our Choir Room (perfect for small gatherings) and the sanctuary if needed. We have a large parking lot and restroom facilities as well.

Whitsunday/Pentecost: Come Holy Spirit!

Whitsun (also Whitsunday or Whit Sunday) is the name used in Britain, and other countries among Anglicans and Methodists, for the Christian holy day of Pentecost. It falls on the seventh Sunday after Easter and commemorates the descent of the Holy Spirit upon Christ's disciples (as described in Acts 2).

I remember my Dad, an Episcopal priest, always called Pentecost – Whitsunday. He often preached on its meaning as Whitsunday, versus Pentecost.

According to Dr. Hal Knight, Emeritus professor at the St. Paul School of Theology, Charles Wesley published his Whitsunday hymns in 1746.

Whitsunday is also known as "White Sunday." This may refer to white vestments worn on that day, though today, red is the color displayed. While most Methodist ministers don't wear vestments, you'll see that our paraments are red.

Knight also mentions that "white" and "wit" are "often linked in early English and may refer to the Holy Spirit giving us wisdom."

In Hymn IV, Charles Wesley wrote:

*Sinners, lift up your hearts,
THE PROMISE to receive!
Jesus himself imparts,
He comes in man to live,
The Holy Ghost to man is given;
Rejoice in God sent down from heaven.
Jesus is glorified,
And he gives the Comforter,
His Spirit to reside.*

*In all his members here:
The Holy Ghost to man is given;
Rejoice in God sent down from heaven.*
We celebrate Pentecost (or Whitsunday) on Sunday, May 19th this year.

"The story in [Acts 2](#) describes a powerful wind and tongues of fire as the Holy Spirit was poured out on people from all over the world who came to Jerusalem to celebrate a Jewish feast. At the first Pentecost over



05/12 Madelyn Stephenson

05/14 Bailee Smith

05/15 Teri James

05/16 Sharol McMullin,
Dakota Yates

05/17 Clayton Yates

05/20 James Laddusaw

Let Liz know in the office if we don't have your birthday!

MUSIC MINISTRY

CALLING ALL MUSICIANS AND SINGERS!

We are looking for those who have the gift of music to join us in worship this summer.

If you can play an instrument and/or sing, please reach out to our Music Director Jan Thompson at 660-238-4111 or let Liz Johnson know in the church office: 660-259-2483.

3000 people were baptized, creating the first church. This is why Pentecost is known as the birthday of the Christian church.

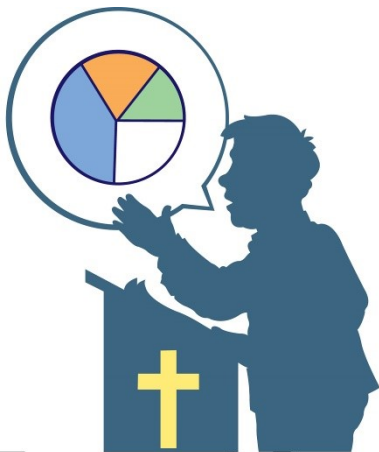
"When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability." ~ Acts 2:1-4 NRSV

~ Liz Johnson

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

First
Class
Stamp

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



Treasurer's Report APRIL 2024

April Offering:	\$19,284.66
Plus Reimbursements:	+\$1,916.67
Total	\$21,201.33
Less Expenses: *	-\$13,440.48 (Incl. Insur.)
Total	\$7,760.85

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



TITHE & CHECK-IN ONLINE!
You can scan this QR code with your phone camera and be redirected to our website where you tithe an offering and/or check-in for the service attendance.



**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



Baby Grace News

Baby Grace volunteer Lauren Negrete reports that Baby Grace still needs: **wipes, bottles, clothing and formula.**

Lauren says they've served about 15 families this month. She hopes they will be moving into the Scout Room sometime this month, once the room is ready for Baby Grace.

Our Noisy offering each month will benefit the Baby Grace program. Bring your coins to fill the buckets on the first Sunday of the month.

HELP FOR OUR QUILTERS

Our devoted quilters, many of whom have been quilting sleeping bags for the homeless since 1989, have requested helping hands! Volunteers are needed. You don't have to be able to sew to help these ladies. Please reach out to Liz in the church office if interested, or: Janet Cado, Nancy Oles, Susan Small, Mable Hawkins or Sharol McMullin. Quilters meet at 1 p.m. Mondays.



LUMC April Town Hall Meeting

looking for a new church.

Children's Moment is back! And we are in need of volunteers to help with this ministry for the kids. Children's Moment is now after the opening prayers in the order of service. Pastor Andrew will send out the scripture and a synopsis to use the following Sunday in which the volunteer will base his/her Children's Moment upon.

Mug Ministry is coming soon. We will be assembling Welcome/Encouragement bags for visitors, new members and the homebound. Instead of mugs, we may



Pastor Andrew talked about some of the goals being set for the growth of LUMC.

have Tumblers with the Cross & Flame on it, LUMC (and) You Belong Here. Also included will be a pocket prayer cross, Fruit of the Spirit magnet, prayer cards with scripture on them, our new HomeTouch weekly devotional, and an informational rack card about LUMC and our ministries.

Upcoming classes that are being considered: World Religion Class. Church Structure & History.

Shoes for Orphan Souls: We recently partnered with the local Rotary Club and collected 42 pairs of new shoes for the Shoes for Orphan Souls ministry. Lexing-

ton's collection totaled 368 pairs of new shoes for this ministry. These shoes are distributed in more than 80 countries to needy children.

Acolytes/Light Bearers/Servers: We are in need of people to serve in this capacity. At this time, we need light bearers ... who will carry the Light of Christ into the sanctuary and light the two altar candles at the beginning of the service, and, re-light the torch from an altar candle at the end of the service and then extinguish the two altar candles. The acolyte will then carry the lit torch (Light of Christ) out of the sanctuary.

Other areas in which you can serve are as follows:

Communion Steward: Prepare and Set up for Communion Sunday. Assist Pastor Andrew in serving communion to the communicants.

Ushers: Collect the offering. Assist anyone in finding a place to sit. Meet & Greet visitors.

Greeters: Greet folks as they enter the church for worship, providing them with a bulletin. Encourage visitors to sign the guest book. Introduce yourself and the visitors to someone who can make them feel welcome.

Baby Grace volunteers are needed to help Baby Grace move to the Scout Room, sort clothing and help organize everything. Distribution is first and third Saturdays, 10 to Noon. Lauren Negrete is the volunteer in charge of this ministry.

Noisy Offering has been reinstated. It will be the first Sunday of the month and benefit the Baby Grace ministry.

Multi-Media volunteers are needed to

A Town Hall meeting took place in the Family Life Center of LUMC following the Sunday morning worship service and included a Potluck meal.

Council Chair Phillip Davis presented at the meeting with a Power Point presentation.

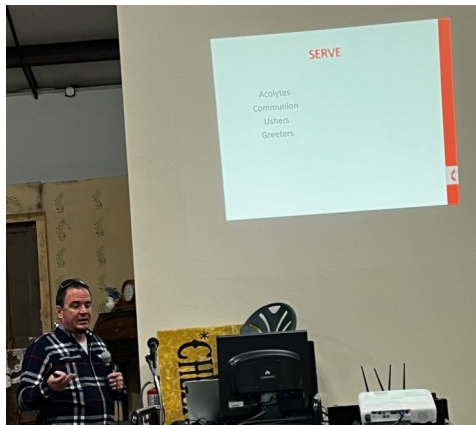
Connect. Serve. Grow.

Phillip reported the following:

****We have numerous ministries available in which folks can utilize their gifts. We have clipboards with sign-up sheets on the table in the hallway outside the sanctuary. Some clipboards have multiple sheets on them! A list of all the ministries available at this time are listed on a sign just above the clipboards.**

We need VBS volunteers to help our coordinators (Lauren Negrete, Jordyn Ortega and Bailee Smith) prepare for and during VBS week, which is Sunday, July 14 through Thursday, July 18 from 6 to 8 p.m. Please reach out to Liz Johnson in the office, Sarah Black or Pastor Andrew to volunteer.

We are looking for more **Hospitality hosts for Sunday mornings.** This is to serve coffee and donuts or whatever snack/treat you wish to bring to folks before the worship service. It's also a great way to meet and greet new folks who are coming for the first time and



Council Chairman for 2024, Phillip Davis, created a Power Point presentation and led the Town Hall meeting on April 21, explaining the goals and strategies for LUMC growth, ministries and community outreach for the next five years.

Special Music: We are looking to expand our Sunday morning worship music. If you have a talent for playing and instrument and/or singing, please sign up on one of the sign-up sheets on the table in the hallway outside the sanctuary. You can also talk to our Music Director Janet Thompson!

GROW

Ways in which LUMC can grow:

- **Community Outreach**
 - **Bible Study**
 - **Children's Moment**
 - **Apportionments ... Giving**
 - **Education:** Children & Adult Classes
- A goal is to increase attendance by 30% in three years and 100% in five years. We have already doubled the attendance we had from a year ago.**

FINANCE

We will pay 10% of any excess funds we have at the end of the month toward our yearly apportionments. Phillip also explained what many of the apportionments are used for which includes funding grants we might be able to receive as well as a new pastor's moving expenses and even a pastor's seminary education.

Liz Fenner added that we need to tell our story to the community – currently, Liz Johnson is sending articles and photos to the Lexington News about what we're doing here at the church. Telling our story keeps it in the minds of the community what LUMC is all about.


train in the Media booth for sound, screening and streaming in order to have people to fill in when our Media guys are needing a Sunday off. Reach out to Phillip Davis to inquire about training.

Adult & Children's Sunday School: Sarah Black is facilitating an Adult class and Bailee Smith is teaching a children's class at 10 a.m. on Sundays. We are always in need of teachers for additional age classes (especially Youth Group). Please reach out to Pastor Andrew, Sarah Black or Liz Johnson in the church office if interested.

Bible Quiz

According to Peter, at what time of day did the Holy Spirit come upon the disciples on Pentecost?

- A. 9 a.m.
- B. Noon
- C. 3:30 p.m.
- D. 9 p.m.



Answer: A (See Acts 2:15.)