

“That is, that we
may be mutually
encouraged by
each other’s faith,
both yours and
mine.”

~ Romans 1:12



Feb. 2025

**Lexington United
Methodist Church**

*Where We Seek, Serve and
Share Christ*

www.lexmoumc.org

Office: 660-259-2483

Rev. Andrew Sanders, Pastor
sandman1016@yahoo.com
417-770-6731 (cell)

Liz Johnson,
Administrative Assistant
secretary@lexmoumc.org

Janet Thompson,
Music Director

Sarah Black,
Council Chair

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

Youth Group, Sundays 6 p.m.
Worshiping Winds Rehearsal:
Sundays, 9:30 a.m.

Choir Rehearsal: on hiatus

Let us be encouraged by each other’s faith

What a fantastic beginning to the new year for LUMC! In the book of Hebrews, the author writes: *“And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the day drawing near.”* (Hebrews 10:24-25)

Youth Group: In the spirit of fellowshiping with other believers, we have seen some miraculous things taking place. For instance, our youth group expansion has been going “Well,” (pun intended). A little over a month ago we started the junior high group with two youth. Each Sunday we have had additions through youth inviting other youth. This last Sunday we had seven youths! Talk about enthusiasm for fellowship and sharing faith. That is 250% growth in a very short time!! Imagine if all of us in the church became as invitational as our youth. If you know any middle schoolers who would enjoy youth, send them our way.

Youth Fun: Speaking of youth and fellowship, we have decided that the 1st Sunday night each month is laser tag/pizza night. We had our first laser tag

night this last Sunday. All nine of us had a blast; yes, youth leaders joined in the fun!

How can you support “The Well” Youth Group?

Volunteer: As the youth grows, we will be in need of additional youth leaders. Those whose youthful hearts desire to educate our next generation of disciples are invited to join us each Sunday evening at 6 p.m. Through prayer, teaching, and play, our youths hearts, minds, and souls grow to love God and each other. Thank you to those who have been supporting through candy donations and food. The youth enjoy their treats!!

FYI: We will not be having youth next Sunday due to the Super Bowl. Go Chiefs!!

Confirmation: I am also excited to announce that we are collaborating with Waverly UMC to hold a Confirmation class. We have seven youths from LUMC already signed up to attend and two youths from Waverly. It is amazing what we can do when we come together in the spirit of God. If you are interested in



Rev. Andrew
Sanders

Pastor continued on page 2

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Sundays: *Worshiping Winds* rehearsal
9:30 a.m.

Choir Rehearsal is on hiatus until Lent.

Mondays: Quilters at 1 p.m

Wednesdays: Exercise Group: 9 a.m.

BABY GRACE: First & Third Saturdays,
10 to Noon. Now in its new location next
to the Nursery room.

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

WOMEN'S GROUP: Friday, Feb. 14, Noon
for carry-in lunch.

FELLOWSHIP TRIP: Thursday, Feb. 13,
departing LUMC at 9 a.m. for the Truman
Library & Museum, followed by lunch in
Independence Square.

CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING: Monday,
Feb. 17, 6 p.m., Choir Room.

Church office closed Thursday, Feb. 13—
but will be open 9-2 Friday, Feb. 14.

COMMODITIES: Thursday, Feb. 27, 8:30
to 11 a.m.

March 3—May 3: *River City Players* is
rehearsing and performing its spring
2025 play in the Buddy Black Family Life
Center.

Pastor ... continued from pg. 1

your child joining the Confirmation class, please contact the church office. Any youth who is at the age of recognition is invited to join us in learning about the Holy Trinity, our denomination, sacraments, and who they are as God's children.

Sunday morning volunteers: Since we are talking of additions to worship and fellowship, I hope that you have had a chance to witness the growth of our church instrument ensemble. We have had recent additions to the band as people continue to offer their talents and gifts to glorify God. If you are interested in offering your gifts and talents in service to God, we have many opportunities to serve during worship and other areas of the church. A full list of opportunities to serve can be found in the church entryway. If you are interested in praying an opening prayer or offertory prayer during service, joining the band, or helping with our children's ministry to teach children's moments, please contact the church office or Pastor Andrew. Our volunteers are on a rotating

schedule.

Fellowship: You are invited to join us for our first scheduled fellowship trip of the year. We are traveling to the **Truman Library on February 13th.** The entrance fee to the library is \$10-\$12. We will meet in the church parking lot at **9 a.m.** Lunch will follow the tour in Independence Square.

Worship: Don't forget to join us on the first Sunday of each month for Communion. We also offer Sunday school each Sunday at 10 a.m. for Adults and Children. A staffed nursery is provided every Sunday during the worship service.

Thank you: To all those who offer your gifts, time, and talent in the service of Christ's kingdom, you are much appreciated. All of us working, worshipping, tithing, and fellowshiping together combined with the Holy Spirit are the components needed to ensure the success of your church as we continue to make new disciples for the transformation of the world. Thank you for continuing on this journey of transformation and growth together.

Baby Grace room is taking shape



FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

2/1	Tucker Herbst
2/7	Debbie Hatfield
2/13	Lyndsay Reynolds
2/17	Susan Worthington
2/24	Mylan Huffman

Kite Festival here at LUMC

A Kite Festival is in the planning stages for Sunday, April 27 here at LUMC. It will be a time of fun for all ages ... kites, ice cream and cake and more!



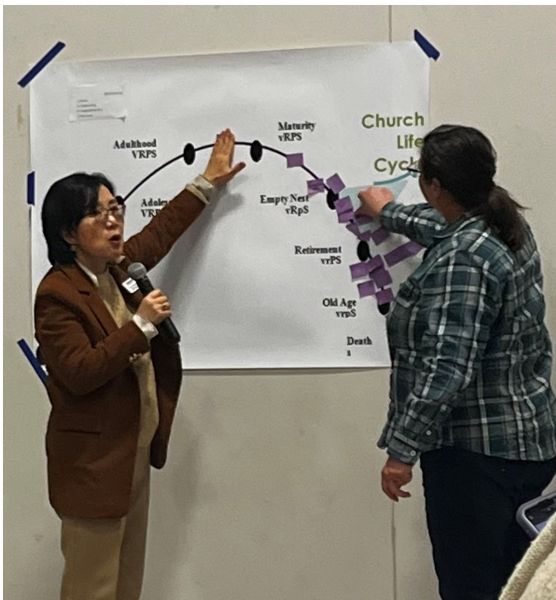
Baby Grace had an organization day on January 18th that brought some order to the new room. Now, as you can see at left, clothing is hung on rods and easier for clients to go through. Many thanks to Roger for getting the rods put up, and all the folks that assisted in this endeavor! To make an item donation to Baby Grace, please reach out to Lauren Negrete or Liz Johnson.

Scout day at Lexington UMC



Scout troops 318 and 611 and packs 440 and 318 joined us for worship on February 2nd, which was Scout Day. Scouts helped us as ushers, greeters and in serving communion (**Cooper Davis**). They presented the colors, recited the Pledge of Allegiance and the Scout oath. Center photo is Scout **Landon** from troop 318 who greeted congregants. Above right, the Scouts retired the colors at the end of the service.

Below: Donna Slusher presented Children's Moment on Feb. 2nd relating to the story of Jonah and the Whale.



Above: Our District Superintendent, **Dr. Mi Hyeon Lee**, left, talks about a chart on the church life cycle during the Charge Conference that took place January 21st at Marshall UMC. Pastor Andrew, David & Cheryl Cooley and Liz Johnson attended the Charge Conference.



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

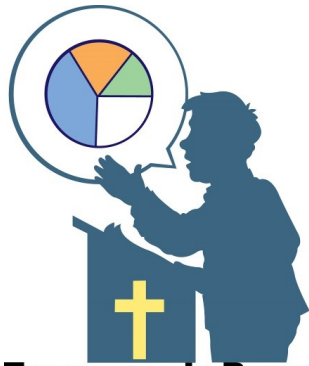
First
Class
Stamp

WORSHIP: Sundays 11 a.m.

Sunday School: 10 a.m. Adult &
Children's Classes.

Choir Rehearsal: On hiatus until Lent.
Worshipping Winds Rehearsal: 9:30 a.m.

ONLINE: lexmoumc.org



Treasurer's Report

January 2024

January Offering:	\$ 8,077.50
Reimbursements:	\$ 4,389.13
Avg Expenses:	-\$13,641.00
Total	-\$ 1,174.37
*Avg. Expenses 2025	\$ 13,641.00 (per month)

Teri James: Treasurer

Liz Johnson: Finance Secretary

Sharol McMullin: Finance Chair

Sarah Black: 2025 Council Chair

Jim Martin: 2025 PPR Chair

Pastor: Rev. Andrew Sanders

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

Note: We reached the funds needed for our parking lot! Thank you to everyone who contributed!



Sundays *You're Invited!*
6 to 8 p.m.

In The Well

**Lexington United
Methodist Church**

*Where we Seek, Serve and
Share Christ*

**1211 S. Business Hwy. 13,
Lexington**

660-259-2483

Rev. Andrew Sanders, Pastor
lexmoumc.org

Worship is at 11 a.m.

Time to update your contact information

As we begin a new year here at Lexington UMC, I am asking for updates to your contact information.

If you are not receiving our weekly emails, then I don't have your correct email address.

If you have moved within the last 1-2 years, please let us know your new and correct mailing address.

If you have changed your phone number or gotten rid of a landline, please let us know your correct phone/cellphone number. Please contact Liz Johnson to update: secretary@lexmoumc.org or 660-259-2483.

Conference rolls out new learning system

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CONFERENCE OF THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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ACCESS LAY LEARNING
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SELF-PACED ONLINE COURSES

The Missouri Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church is rolling out “Absorb,” a new learning management system featuring asynchronous online learning opportunities.

Absorb is an on-demand learning platform that offers online courses on your timeline, at a pace that works for you. The goal of this learning platform is to support educational opportunities for those seeking lay certification as well as to equip local church leaders on a variety of topics to support their work.

Absorb, in the context of the UMC refers to an online learning platform, specifically a Learning Management System, used by the Missouri Annual Conference of the UMC to provide on-demand courses for lay certification and equipping local church leaders with various topics, allowing individuals to learn at their own pace on their timeline; essentially, it's a digital platform for continuing education within the church structure.

Key points about Absorb UMC:

Purpose: To offer online courses for lay certification and leadership development within the Missouri Annual Conference of the UMC.

Features: Asynchronous learning, meaning individuals can access courses whenever convenient.

Access: Individuals can sign up for an Absorb account to access the learning platform.

Classes currently being offered in-person or online are:

Class Meeting Lay Education Course: Begins February 15, Springfield, MO. John Wesley was committed to small group meetings. He believed they were vital to our spiritual commitment, grown and accountability.

Ministry of All Believers, online and in-person. February 15, Springfield, MO. As a lay member of the UMC, you are called to be a disciple of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, living out the disciplines of Jesus and growing the Body of Christ through listening, learning and loving. We are called to live out the mission of “making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.” This course uses and explores the book, “Lay Servants as Christian Transformational Leaders.”

Christian Leadership and Casting a Visioning beginning March 1, Columbia. We are all called to live out the mission of “making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.” This course uses and explores the book *Lay Servants as Christian Transformational Leaders* and is designed to follow the Ministry of All Believers course. Participants will learn how to create a vision to promote their mission of making disciples and develop SMART goals to advance their church vision. In addition to developing an understanding of the ministry of Christian leaders, participants will also learn how to use data. The data will include People Plot and [MissionInsite](#), which will assess the congregation's current reality and identify the local mission field.

Course Date: 1 to 5 p.m., Saturday, Feb. 22
Course Location: [Kirksville United Methodist Church](#), 300 E Washington St, Kirksville, MO 63501
Cost: \$10

Polity – Online beginning March 10 on Zoom. Have you ever wondered how this movement of Methodist started, how and why we do what we do and how we do it, at the local, district and Conference level? This class unpacks the history of Methodism, along with why we believe what we believe, and the

Church COUNCIL

Liz Johnson | Secretary

Present: Liz Johnson, Sarah Black, Rev. Andrew Sanders, David Cooley, Cheryl Cooley, Teri James, Sharol McMullin, Thomas Rowland.

- ◆ Chairman Sarah Black called the meeting to order.
- ◆ Pastor Andrew opened with prayer.
- ◆ Pastor Andrew spoke about spiritual development.
- ◆ Sarah asked where will we be this time next year. We have to follow Jesus' teaching.
- ◆ Pastor Andrew said there was nothing new in leadership development. He stated that he will have a nomination's team meeting soon to address leadership development.
- ◆ Pastor Andrew said to make sure each department/team is thinking "outside the box" as we go through the year – to be creative as we move forward.
- ◆ Pastor Andrew announced several families have expressed a desire to become members of LUMC.
- ◆ Pastor Andrew also said that Andrew Dye, a student from LHS is interested in joining Whispering Winds. He plays the tuba and has been attending with his parents and participating in Whispering Winds.

- ◆ Sharol motioned, seconded by Cheryl to accept the December 2024 minutes – so passed.
- ◆ **Finance:** Teri pointed out that the church was down by \$15K as she completed the 2024 financial report. Cheryl motioned, seconded by Teri to accept the 2024 final and December 2024 financial reports – so passed.
- ◆ Pastor Andrew said he is planning a Youth Night with laser tag and pizza for Sunday night, February 2nd. We now have nine youth attending our Youth Group.
- ◆ Cheryl announced that the February 9th rededication and renaming of the FLC to the Buddy Black Family Life Center meal will have the meat provided as well as bread. We will be in need of side dishes and desserts for the meal. Sarah said more people from outside the church are planning to attend.
- ◆ Sarah said the UMC churchwomen are looking for a project to do this year.
- ◆ Sharol said the Finance team will meet February 3rd to come up with some fundraising ideas for 2025.
- ◆ Liz reminded folks that the Charge Conference is January 21 at 6 p.m. in Marshall.
- ◆ Liz reported that the \$6,350 Buddy Black memorial funds were deposited into the church savings account with \$900 of it to go toward the remaining needed parking lot repaving funds and \$4300 of it to replace the amount of funds borrowed in November.
- ◆ Sarah said she would like to have a

church clean up day in the Spring – possibly March or April – inside and out. She emphasized this to be an "all church clean up day."

- ◆ Liz presented a letter from Fire Chief Jim Martin, also our PPR chair requesting funds to go toward safety materials to hand out to youth in the community. After several questions, this was tabled until the February meeting and have Jim provide more information regarding the materials.
- ◆ Buddy Black rededication of the FLC will be a ribbon-cutting. Liz showed the new outdoor sign to the council and showed a photo of the prospective wooden plaque that has been ordered.
- ◆ Sarah reported that she would like to see the church having day trips this year to assorted areas in the metro. Patty Skelton will think of places to go and they will set up a once a month place to go ... for church members to travel, have lunch and socialize together – to promote community within our own church.
- ◆ A once a month carry-in potluck was suggested for a church activity, too.
- ◆ We will have the leadership covenant for 2025 at the February meeting for members to sign. The covenant will include expectations of leadership for the year.
- ◆ The next meeting will be February 17 at 6 p.m.
- ◆ After prayer, Sarah called the meeting closed.

Absorb continued from page 1

"how's and why's" of why we are organized the way we are. This is a great class for all laity to understand who the people called Methodists really are. The four-week class will be taught by Rev. Steve Jones.

This course is included in the [lay education certification pathway](#). This lay education class is open to all but is required for laity seeking to obtain Certified Lay Minister status.

Course Dates: Monday evenings, March

10, 17, 24 and 31

Course Time: 7 to 8:30 p.m.

Course Location: Zoom

Cost: Free

Prerequisites: None

Preparing for the Course

Before class begins, purchase the required reading text [Life Together in the United Methodist Connection](#) by Beth Galbreath

Please read the first chapter before the first class session.



Share your event photos
with us: Send to Liz at
secretary@lexmoumc.org

Sunday, February 9, 2025

Scripture Reading: Luke 5:1-11

A work of art was once a work in progress. –Adele Leon

The Galleria dell'Accademia di Firenze is the famous museum in Florence, Italy, where one can see Michelangelo's magnificent *David*. But the gallery is also home to four statues almost equal in fame — the Four Prisoners, also known as the Four Slaves. They were to be a part of the tomb of Pope Julius II, but they were unfinished. They seem to be half-born from the marble with which the sculptor was working. Scholars have given names: "The Awakening Slave," "The Young Slave," "The Bearded Slave," and "The Atlas (or Bound Slave)." According to the gallery website, "they are some of the finest examples of Michelangelo's habitual working practice, referred to as *non-finito* (or incomplete), magnificent illustrations of the difficulty of the artist in carving out the figure from the block of marble and emblematic of the struggle of man to free the spirit from matter."

It wasn't Michelangelo, but a renowned sculptor was once asked about his method for creating beautiful and lifelike statues. He replied, "When I look at a block of marble, I see the finished piece of art within it. All I have to do is chip away the excess stone to reveal the masterpiece inside."

The sculptor was then asked how he could envision such beauty in a rough block of marble. He answered, "I see the potential within the stone, not its current state. I know that with time, effort and patience, I can bring that potential to life."

In a way, we, too, are *non-finito* works of art in the hands of the Artist. In the hands of God, we are unfinished and incomplete, but growing toward splendor. God sees the potential within each of us. Jeremiah 18:1-6 tells the story of the potter and the clay, reminding us of God's sovereign ability to shape and transform us.

Though we may feel like unformed blocks of marble, God is at work, chipping away our rough edges, molding us, and shaping us into divine masterpieces. Our role is to remain pliable and open to God's transformative work, trusting that God knows what is best for us.

—Timothy Merrill

Prayer: Creative God, you know what you want to make of me. Help me to be amenable to your touch, your paintbrush, your chisel, your design. May I be a work of art that brings glory to your name. Amen.



Daily Bible Readings

- Sunday:** Exodus 1-4
- Monday:** Exodus 5-7
- Tuesday:** Exodus 8-10
- Wednesday:** Exodus 11-13
- Thursday:** Exodus 14-17
- Friday:** Exodus 18-20
- Saturday:** Psalms 13-15

VERSE TO REMEMBER

The fool says in his heart, "There is no God."

—Psalm 14:1 (NIV)

MYSTERY PERSON!

Directions: The purpose of this exercise is to discover the identity of a well-known biblical person. To do so, you must assign a number value to each letter of the alphabet, assuming that **M equals 1**. A word and number chart for you to fill in has been provided for your convenience. Complete each of the clues and then write your answer in the space below.

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z
1																									

First Clue: 22-19 26-23-10-19-18 23-2 7-13-6-23-15 15-2-18 17-23-26-23-17-23-15

20-3-6 20-3-9-6-8-19-19-2 13-19-15-6-7.

Second Clue: 8-23-8-9-7 15-2-18 16-15-6-2-15-16-15-7 11-19-6-19 22-23-7

20-6-23-19-2-18-7.

Third Clue: 22-19 11-6-3-8-19 8-22-19 16-3-3-25 3-20 21-15-26-15-8-23-15-2-7.

WHO IS THIS PERSON?

Answer (spelled backward): luap.