

“And the master said to the servant, ‘Go out to the highways and hedges and compel people to come in, that my house may be filled.’”

(Luke 14:23 ESV)

March 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,
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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

OUR ROLES AS CARETAKERS IN THE COMMUNITY

As we enter the sacred season of Lent, it is a time for introspection, prayer, and renewal within our faith community. This is a time when we remember the sacrifice that Jesus made for us, and it is also an opportunity for us to extend that love and compassion to others in our lives.

Lent spans 40 days, commencing on Ash Wednesday and culminating on Easter Sunday. It encourages Christians to commemorate the reflection on Jesus's life, His journey to the cross, and the ultimate gift of salvation He offers through His resurrection. During this solemn period, believers commit to actions that may include prayer, fasting, and acts of service—reflecting the depth of Jesus's love and sacrifice. This journey is not meant to be undertaken alone; rather, it is a community endeavor where we uplift and inspire one another.

This year, as part of our Lenten observance, we will delve into a special series called **“Being a Mat Church.”** The concept of the “mat” takes inspiration

from various scriptures that highlight the significance of supporting and sheltering the marginalized and vulnerable members of society. A mat symbolizes not only protection from the harshness of the ground, but also a reminder of our shared humanity and the calling to care for one another. By embodying this mat-like spirit, we can extend love to those who are hurting, providing them a space of comfort and belonging within our church community.



Rev. Andrew Sanders

In the spirit of inviting others, our guiding verse from Luke 14:23 reminds us that we are called to go beyond our comfort zones: *“And the master said to the servant, ‘Go out to the highways and hedges and compel people to come in, that my house may be filled.’”* During this Lenten season, we encourage you to invite your friends, family, and neighbors to join us in worship and reflection. The church serves as a beacon of hope and love, and every new face in our midst enriches our community.

Join us for our Ash Wednesday

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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

Choir Rehearsal 10 a.m.

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, March. 14,
Noon for carry-in lunch.

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

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

March 3—May 3, 6 to 8:30 p.m.: River
City Players is rehearsing and performing
its spring 2025 play in the Buddy Black
Family Life Center.

YOUTH GROUP: Sundays at 6 p.m., [see
more below.](#)

Adult Sunday School: Sundays at 10 a.m.

Children's Sunday School: Sundays at 10.



March 8	Joshua Coen
March 14	Bailey Anderson
March 17	Leland Reynolds
March 18	Lillian Lyon
March 21	Michelle Simpson
March 22	Joel Baker
March 23	Larry Johnson

Confirmation Classes

Confirmation will be starting up March 16th and end April 6th. Each class will be from 5 to 7 p.m. This means that during Confirmation classes we will not have Youth at LUMC. Youth will start back up Sunday, April 12th.

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service, where we will kick off the Lenten season with prayer, reflection, and the imposition of ashes—a profound reminder of our mortality and dependence on God's grace. This service is an important moment for us to gather collectively and draw strength from each other as we embark on this journey. Together, we can fill God's house with love and reverence, where everyone is welcomed and valued.

As we move through the weeks ahead, let us be mindful of our pow-

er to nurture and support one another through acts of kindness and compassion. The Mat series invites us to reflect on our roles as caretakers within our community, understanding that through caring for others, we actually find our own spirits uplifted.

As we journey through this Lenten season, let's make the most of this opportunity to reflect, grow, and invite. May our hearts be open to those who are seeking, and may we all come together as one family in Christ, fulfilling the call to fill God's house with love and grace.

Peace & Tranquility after the storm



After a recent snowstorm, the sun barely shines through the clouds to illuminate the church and property in a blanket of peaceful white. Many thanks to Roger and his crew for all the plowing and shoveling they did this winter.

Church COUNCIL

Liz Johnson | Secretary

◆ **Present:** David Cooley, Cheryl Cooley, Liz Johnson, Sarah Black, Rev. Andrew Sanders, Nancy Oles, Thomas Rowland, Roger McFadden, Lauren Negrete. Guest: Kathryn Roberts.

◆ Sarah called the meeting to order.

◆ Pastor Andrew offered a prayer.

◆ Sharol introduced the subject of the finance team trying to find ways to have fundraisers to supplement the monthly income the church is needing to meet its debts and obligations. She introduced **Kathryn Roberts** (guest) to talk about her vision for a monthly event at the church.

◆ **Kathryn:** The event she has in mind is to be called **"Lexington Trade Days"** which is not a rummage or garage sale. There will be all varieties of new items such as plants, clothes, and eclectic items and more. Plus 4-6 food trucks. Kathryn already has ads for vendors out on specific social media sites. Rental spaces will be about \$35 ea. Food truck spots will either have a fee or free the first few months after which we will ask for a percentage of profits. We can also have special events such as: Octoberfest (in October) and/or a Christmas-themed event in November. These monthly events, set for the 4th Saturday of the month will be from 9 to 5. Kathryn will arrive at 6:30 a.m. to help vendors get set up. Spaces will be measured prior to all this to see how many vendors we can host and the church office will handle receipt of all monies/payments. All vendors will clean up before leaving for the day. The church will be open at the Hicklin Hall entrance for restroom use. Kathryn suggested a raffle drawing for the winner to receive a \$25 gift certificate to use at the next event. Food trucks would have approximately 15 to 18' spaces and be positioned across the front of the building – down the

driveway. An area will be roped off to allow parking for visitors. The church will have a booth space available for any of the church ministries to use.

◆ A possible Garage Sale Day was also proposed to coincide with the city's citywide garage sale in May.

◆ **Spiritual Development:** Pastor Andrew talked about Proverbs 4 and wisdom.

◆ **Leadership Development:** Council members present signed the 2025 Council Covenant that was sent out in the council packet on February 13.

◆ **New people:** Pastor Andrew is working with those who have expressed an interest in joining the church.

◆ **Minutes of January meeting:** Cheryl requested that I remove Teri James as motioning for the finance report to be approved in January because she is the church treasurer. Cheryl also asked that I change the word "meet" to "meat" in the January minutes in reference to leftover chili supper meat.

◆ Sarah moved to accept the January minutes with aforementioned changes, seconded by Cheryl and so passed.

◆ **January Finance Report:** We closed out February with \$27.93 in the checking account. Several invoices due in January were held until February. (\$1,198.90). We received a large donation in February from a member, however, the large electric bill of \$3,700 the church incurred will take up a large portion of that donation. Cheryl moved to accept the January finance report, seconded by Thomas and so passed.

◆ Sarah said she has asked Phillip Phillip to see if the Scouts would help partner with the church for selling fireworks. However, the Scouts haven't had a quorum to vote yet. This subject is tabled.

◆ Roger said he has talked to Chris Huffman about the parking lot and has been assured that Huffman will get it done as soon as the weather warms up. The church now has the bid funds of \$9,200 in the savings account due to a number of donations including funds from the memorial fund of Buddy Black.

◆ **Baby Grace:** Lauren said the new room is now functional and clothing has been hung on the new wall racks. She is in need of girls 3T to 5T clothing. They had six families this month. She and Thomas are applying for a grant that may include advertising for our Baby Grace. Liz Johnson will work with Lauren to put together a flyer of our events and Baby Grace information to hand out at Harvesters.

◆ **Housekeeping:** Sarah asked how do we become more efficient in promoting our building. Also, the high cost of the electric bill. Thomas mentioned the possibility of installing smart thermostats such as what he personally got through Evergy. We have 8 thermostats in the building and some are constantly running too high (or too low in the summer) and are old.

◆ A discussion ensued about the thermostats and for Liz J to get the word out for folks to help by making sure doors are shut, thermostats are turned to their "off-time" levels and lights are turned off.

◆ Sarah would like to have a housekeeping/clean-up time in the sprint: This subject is tabled to when we have warmer weather. It is to be a whole church clean-up.

◆ **Emergency services:** It was mentioned that during the snowy cold snap of the week of February 17th, a social media post had been circulating mentioning Lexington UMC as a place to go for emergency services. We are indeed the emergency spot in Lexington, however the question came up as to how and when this works.

◆ Randy Hansen is the city emergency person. He is the one to call in the case of power outages or flooding or tornadoes. The church is not a spot for homeless people to seek shelter.

◆ Liz J will ask Phillip to put on the church's website the protocol for referring people to the city site and Randy Hansen in the case of emergency outages.

Liz J has since spoken with Randy Hansen and learned he handles all of

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

First
Class
Stamp

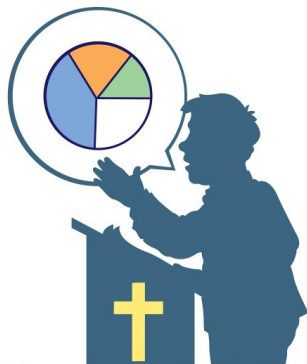
WORSHIP: Sundays 11 a.m.

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

Choir Rehearsal: 10 a.m.

Worshiping Winds Rehearsal: 9:30 a.m.

ONLINE: lexmoumc.org



Treasurer's Report

February 2025

February Offering:	\$15,229.00
Reimbursements:	None
Avg Expenses:	<u>-\$13,641.00</u>
Total	\$ 1,588.00
*Avg. Expenses 2025	\$ 13,641.00 (per month)

(February's offering includes a one-time large donation to the church).

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



lexmoumc.org
Worship is at 11 a.m.

Sundays
6 to 8 p.m.

You're
Invited!

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

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the emergency issues. He will open the church in the case of emergency services being needed for shelter. He will stay with the people here. He will adjust the thermostats. He said cots, blankets and pillows are stored in the Upper room.

◆Pastor Andrew announced that Lent begins Wednesday, March 5th with our Ash Wednesday service at 7 p.m. and the imposition of ashes. He is planning something different for a Maundy Thursday service on

Holy Week (5:30 p.m.) and may have the Youth Group assist. We will also have a Good Friday service at 5:30 p.m. that week.

◆Our next meeting in March will be Monday, March 17th at 6 p.m. The agenda will include a date for a town hall meeting and potluck meal on a Sunday following the 11 a.m. service., as well as some new ideas for fundraisers from the Finance Team. Council members are encouraged to attend the meeting.



The family of the late Buddy Ray Black and church leaders cut the ribbon to the newly renamed Buddy Black Family Life Center at Lexington United Methodist Church on Feb. 9th. From left: Matti Marchetti, Anthony Dabalos, Phillip Davis, Christy Dabalos, Sarah Black, Rev. Andrew Sanders, Rachael Marchetti, Aaron Dabalos, Tony Marchetti and Mia Marchetti. (Photo by Liz Johnson)

Faith doesn't just happen on Sundays ... it's a lifestyle

Liz Johnson | Editor

We strive our entire lives to be remembered after we're gone. There's nothing better than to be remembered for your service to the kingdom of God.

Buddy Ray Black achieved that goal.

Buddy, who passed away December 5, 2024 at the age of 79 would have celebrated his 80th birthday on February 9, 2025. Instead, Lexington United Methodist Church members chose to honor his faith, servant's heart, dedication to the church and legacy by renaming and re-dedicating the Family Life Center to the Buddy Black Family Life Center.

The celebration included a ribbon-cutting, lunch and a time for family and friends to remember and honor Buddy.

He had a 45-year career working for the

electric company, for which he started as a tree trimmer and worked his way up to Director of Operations for the Northern Region of Missouri. He was certainly qualified for the service he gave to Lexington UMC.

He and his family moved to Lexington and joined LUMC in 1988. Buddy dove right into church activities and thrived at LUMC.

"As he became familiar with the pastors and fellow congregants, he realized the importance of God in our lives," said his wife, Sarah. "He realized the importance of faith in our life and devotion to do what you can to make it [the church] grow."

Buddy was involved in the church mens club, and adult Sunday School where he assisted Sarah. He taught the youth high school class, too.

"The camaraderie he built with the kids was remarkable," Sarah said. "He took the kids for breakfast every Sunday. He taught them to drive in the church parking lot. He build a relationship of trust and faith with them"

Sarah added that those kids have told her the important part Buddy played in their lives.

"Faith didn't just happen on Sundays," she said. "It was a lifestyle."

Sarah stated that the current, newer United Methodist building exists because of Buddy.

He managed to get the congregation to approve building a new church, which she said was not an easy feat. After approval, he went to the bank and got the loan to start building. Then, a member's brother left a memorial of \$250K and

Continued on back

Buddy Black Continued

another left \$50K, which enabled the church to pay off the building loan, “in rapid time.”

“Buddy planned and oversaw – diligently – the building of the church,” Sarah said. He worked with the architect and, in the end, we had our current building.

Once it was built, the congregation, led by Buddy, painted and put the finishing touches on the interior and exterior of the building. Buddy, himself, worked on the electric, wiring, furnaces, plumbing and installing lights to get the facility up and running.

“He even refinished and put up the stained glass windows with [the late] Jim Cado,” Sarah added.

The windows in the hallway and the Christ window behind the altar all came from the old Methodist church building at South and 13th streets. The north and south windows were donated by the McFadden and Worthington families.

Buddy was chairman of the building committee as well as trustee chair. Once the church was built, he kept up the maintenance here, even to the point where he reached out last fall to be sure the architectural renderings were kept somewhere accessible as the church office was being reorganized, just in case they were ever needed.

“He was here all the time,” Sarah said. “Maintaining, repairing, doing touch up paint, whatever was needed to be



“Faith didn’t just happen on Sundays,” Sarah said. “It was a lifestyle.”



Top left: Sarah Black, widow of Buddy and chairman of the 2025 Administrative Council as well as the Church coordinator, addresses the crowd in thanks for the dedication of the family life center to the Buddy Black Family Life Center. Pastor Andrew is holding the new plaque. A luncheon followed the ribbon-cutting.

done.”

Buddy and Sarah grew up together in Orrick. He was captain of the football team and she was the head cheerleader. Married in 1965, they would have celebrated 60 years of wedded bliss this year.

The couple has two daughters, Christy Dabalos and Rachael Marchetti, their husbands, and three beloved grandchildren, Mattie and Mia Marchetti and Aaron Dabalos.

Above and left: The new outdoor sign for the Buddy Black Family Life Center and new indoor sign.

Truly, Buddy Black left his handprint upon Lexington United Methodist Church and will forever be remembered for his faith and quiet leadership.

“He was a good guy,” said Rev. Andrew Sanders, pastor of Lexington UMC. “Well done my good and faithful servant.” (Matthew 25:21)

Armor of God: Ephesians 6:10-18

“... Be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. Put on the full armor of God so that you can take your stand against the devil’s schemes.”

~ Ephesians 6:10-11



“Live such good lives ... that, though they accuse you of doing wrong, they may see your good deeds and glorify God ...”

~ 1 Peter 2:12