Now, in this season of growth—both in the world around us and within the life of the church—we are reminded that God is still planting seeds. Seeds of new relationships. Seeds of spiritual growth. Seeds of hope. We are called to water and tend those seeds not only inside our sanctuary but far beyond its walls.

Serve one another in

July 2025

Lexington United Methodist Church

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

www.lexmoumc.org

Office: 660-259-2483

Rev. Andrew Sanders. Pastor sandman1016@vahoo.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: On hiatus **Worshiping Winds Rehearsal:** Sundays, 9:30 a.m.

Choir Rehearsal: On hiatus

the freedoms we enjoy in this country— understand that true freedom is not only freedoms that were hard-won through sacriabout what we have, but what we give. It's

fice, vision, and courage. The 4th of July reminds us of the price paid by those who came before us so that we might live with liberty and opportunity. We honor that legacy not only with fireworks and festivities, but with a deeper commitment to protect and extend freedom for all.

Here at Lexington United Methodist Church, called to water and tend those seeds not deeper freedom offered to us through Jesus walls. Christ. It is the freedom to love without fear, to welcome without condition, and to serve without limits. As Paul reminds us in Galatians 5:13 (NRSV), "For you were called to freedom, brothers and sisters; only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for selfindulgence, but through love become slaves to one another."

We believe the church is a place where all God's children-regardless of race, background, orientation, or status-can find be-

s we gather this month to cele- longing, purpose and grace. That's why brate Independence Day, our LUMC is committed to being an inclusive, hearts are filled with gratitude for welcoming church. We are a people who

> about creating space for others to grow, to heal, and to thrive.

Now, in this season of growth—both in the world around us and within the life of the church—we are reminded that God is still planting seeds. Seeds of new relationships. Seeds of spiritual growth. Seeds of hope. We are

we celebrate another kind of freedom—a only inside our sanctuary but far beyond its

Let us be a people who use our freedom not for comfort, but for compassion. Let us be a church that goes, not just one that gathers. A church that speaks up, not just sings out. A church that reaches out to the least, the last, and the lost-offering the same love and liberation we have received.

As we celebrate the 4th of July, may we also celebrate the freedom of Christ—a freedom that knows no borders, no exclusions, and no end.



Rev. Andrew

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Sundays: Worshiping Winds rehearsal 9:30 a.m. Choir Rehearsal on hiatus.

Sundays at 10 a.m.: Adult Sunday School with Liz Johnson, facilitator.

Sundays at 10 a.m.: Children's Sunday School with Scott & Donna Slusher.

BABY GRACE: Sundays 10-11 a.m.

Mondays: Quilters at 1 p.m.

Wednesdays: Exercise Group: 9 a.m.

CHURCH OFFICE: Closed Monday, July 7.

CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING: Monday,

July 7, 6 p.m.

FINANCE TEAM MEETING: Tuesday, July

8, 6 p.m.

WOMEN'S GROUP: Friday, July 11, Noon

for carry-in lunch.

HARVESTERS DISTRIBUTION: July 14, 8 to

COMMODITIES: THURSDAY, July 24, 8:30

to 11 a.m.

YOUTH GROUP: is on summer hiatus.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL: Sunday, July 20—Thursday, July 24, 6 to 8:30 p.m., Assembly of God Church, 2090 Berkley St., Lexington. Tuesday, July 22, 6:30-8:30 is the pool party at Lexington Community Pool. See flyer on the back page of this newsletter for more information.

Ever wonder what is on the church calendar? Visit: lexmoumc.org and click on "calendar," for an updated list of things going on at the church—including funerals.



July 3	Emalie Negrete
July 11	Larry Brooks
July 14	Maxine Palmer
July 16	Jessi Harlan
July 19	Kathy Uptegrove
July 21	Kendall Dobson
July 28	Lea Ann O'Brien
July 30	Janae Fuller
July 30	Jackson Goodloe
July 31	Kathy Smith

Pastor Andrew ordained





Pastor Andrew was ordained as a full elder of the church at Annual Conference on Sunday, June 8. He is pictured, left, with his dad. Richard. and below with daughters Drew and Destiny.





Andrew, kneeling, with his first bishop, retired Bishop Schnase, Bishop Farr, Assistant to the Bishop, Rev. Melissa Dodd and (back to) his superintendent Rev. Mi Hyeon Lee. At right is a member of the Annual Conference staff.

Did You Know?

With the cost of electricity so high, the church electric bill soars through the winter and summer months. We ask all members to look out for the sustainability of the church by (the last person out of the sanctuary) making sure sanctuary doors are closed before leaving on Sunday, the outside doors are locked and all lights turned off throughout the building. Heat & air conditioning should be reset back to its schedule as well.



tive

Mav was canceled

due to extreme weather conditions. Due to vacations in June, we didn't schedule a meeting.

Our Administra- Our July meeting will be Mon-Council day, July 7 at 6 p.m. We urge all meeting council members to attend.

> The **Finance Team is also** meeting on Tuesday, July 8 at 6 p.m.

Hicklin Hearthstone Tour



At left are just a few of the wonderful volunteers we had on Friday's home tour. Seated on Hicklin Hearthstone's porch are, from left: Janet Cado, Liz Johnson, Linda Brookshier (from the Jesse James Farm). Donna Slusher & Marcia Hicklin.





This is just some of the crew that worked the Saturday tour day, gathered on the front portico of the historic home. Kneeling is Pastor Andrew and hostess Marcia Hicklin. From left are Brad Barrett, Melissa Beal, Betsy Barrett, Sharol McMullin and Liz Johnson. Back row is Eric Ebeling. Additional volunteers not pictured include: Chelsea Huffman, Everly Huffman, Ava Herbst, Kurt Kellermeyer, Chandra Carey, Nancy Oles, Teri James, Richard Musgrave, Mary Kate Alkire and Cary Beal.



Baby Grace is now open Sundays 10 to 11 a.m. or by appointment. Call Lauren: 660-251-8109.

To our great delight, our son, Cody and his partner of many years, Marissa, tied the knot at LUMC on May 31st with Pastor Andrew officiating. We are grateful for the use of the sanctuary and Buddy Black Family Life Center for the reception. At far left is flower girl, Vera Johnson. ~ Liz & Michael Johnson



Hicklin Hearthstone Historic Home tour a huge success



ur first ever historic home tour at Hicklin Hearthstone took place Friday & Saturday, June 20th & 21st with 141 guests during the two-day tour.

We had plenty of volunteers to guide folks through the home that was built in the 1830s by one of Lexington's early settlers, James Hicklin. Still owned by the Hicklin family, our hostess, Marcia Hicklin, worked tirelessly to make sure guides had plenty of history to talk about, and that the guests had an easy transition from room to room.

Many thanks to all who contributed to the bake sale, which was also successful and to all our volunteers.

We took in \$466.35 with the bake sale and \$1,169.50 in tours. Marcia graciously turned over all monies to the church to benefit our missions.

Photos at left.



We now have a way to digitally tithe to Lexington **UMC** via PayPal. You will need to PayPal have the ray of the installed on your phone. have the PayPal app

Then, scan the QR code on the bulletin (or at right) to tithe to Lexington United Methodist Church. You can even choose to have a

regular tithe sent to the church via PayPal. We are working on getting the ability to donate through our website.



- 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 Sunday School is 10 a.m.

Choir Rehearsal: On hiatus

Worshiping Winds Rehearsal: 9:30 a.m.

ONLINE: lexmoumc.org



 June Offering:
 \$ 10,718.47

 Reimbursements:
 \$ 2,448.54

 June Expenses:
 -\$ 12891.59

 Total
 \$ 275.42

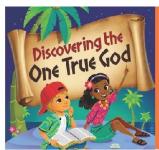
 Year to Date (as of 6/30): -\$ 12,898.62

*Avg. Expenses 2025 \$ 13,641.00 (per month) Figures calculated via June treasurer's report. Not all reimbursements from yoked churches are received or updated yet.

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



Sunday,
July 20th Thursday,
July 24th

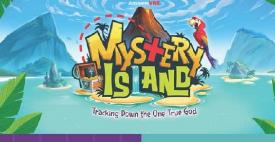
Community, VACATION Bible



DINNER: 6:00 -6:30 VBS: 6:30-8:00 THURSDAY PROGRAM 8:00



Lexington First Assembly of God 2090 Berkley St. Lexington, MO.





Tuesday,
July 22nd
Pool Party
6:30-8:30
Lexington
Community Pool

Dinner will be provided each evening from 6:00 -6:30!

Mission Recipient — Lexington Schools Lunch Program



Sunday, July 6, 2025

Scripture Reading: Galatians 6:(1-6), 7-16

Sow a thought, and you reap an act.
Sow an act, and you reap a habit.
Sow a habit, and you reap a character.
Sow a character, and you reap a destiny.
—Charles Reade





If y wife and I lived in China for 13 years, and we were fascinated by the forests of bamboo trees we encountered in our travels. They reminded us of the aspen groves of Colorado, even though an aspen is much different. Fun facts: The bamboo tree is not actually a tree; it's a tall grass. And the bamboo "tree" releases 35 percent more oxygen than any tree out there. You can feel the effects when you stand next to a clump of bamboo.

In today's reading, the apostle Paul uses the agricultural metaphor of sowing and reaping to highlight the profound truth that our choices today shape our outcomes tomorrow. The principle is simple: what you plant, you harvest.

The bamboo tree is a remarkable example of this, especially since so much patience is required! For years after planting the seed, nothing visible happens. But in the fifth year, it shoots up over 80 feet in just weeks. What was happening during those quiet years? Its roots were spreading deep and wide to support its rapid growth.

Our spiritual lives often mirror this pattern. Acts of kindness, prayer and faithfulness may seem unnoticed at first, but they are setting the foundation for a significant harvest. We reap what we sow.

Paul's encouragement to "not grow weary in doing good" is timely for those moments when spiritual fatigue sets in. The slow process of spiritual growth can feel frustrating. But remember, even a tiny mustard seed of faith grows into a tree (Matthew 13:31-32).

Paul's admonition to "do good to all people" reminds us that our faith *isn't just personal*—

it's communal. Small acts of generosity can have a ripple effect. Mother Teresa once said, "Not all of us can do great things. But we can do small things with great love."

What seeds are you planting today? Are they seeds of selfishness or of service? Reflect on your daily actions and consider how they align with God's will. Trust in God's promise that perseverance in doing good will yield a harvest of eternal blessings.

Prayer: Heavenly Father, thank you for the reminder that our choices matter. Help us sow seeds of love, kindness and faithfulness. Strengthen us when we grow weary. May we always look for opportunities to do good and reflect your grace to those around us. Amen.



Week of July 6, 2025



Daily Bible Readings

Sunday: Acts 1-2 Monday: Isaiah 25-27 Tuesday: Isaiah 28-30 Wednesday: Isaiah 31-33 Thursday: Isaiah 34-36 Friday: Isaiah 37-39

Saturday: Psalms 70-72

Verse to Remember

In you, O Lord, I take refuge; let me never be put to shame. —Psalm 71:1

July 2025						
S	М	Т	W	Т	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

"I before E except after C"

This is a spelling rule we learned when we were children. Yet, there are many exceptions to this rule. Unscramble the words below to reveal words that are exceptions to the "I before E except after C" rule.

1. In the following words, the I is before the E even though it follows a C. Unscramble the words to reveal the exceptions to the rule.

nseecci _____ ffeitiecn _____ octsyle _____

rictnea ionccecens fniedtice _____ cfiuitsefn _____

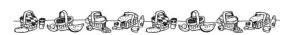
2. In these examples, the I is NOT before the E, but there's no C involved whatsoever! Unscramble the words to reveal these exceptions to the rule.

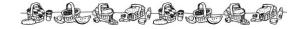
ehibnorg _____ wighe ____ iydte _____ tetsiha ____ gieeb ___ roifeng ____ tighwe ____ szrieeu ____ fecenfai ____

rehite _____ geithh ____ ienr

Six activities seniors can do to improve memory

- 1. Get better organized.
- 2. Make a special effort to pay attention, concentrate.
- 3. Eat well. Make certain you have a balanced diet.
- 4. Exercise the body.
- 5. Exercise the memory.
- 6. Get plenty of sleep.
- —Adapted from "Six things seniors can do to improve memory," by William Klemm, Ph.D., a senior professor of neuroscience at Texas A&M University. (*Psychology Today*, November 26, 2010).







Scripture Reading: Luke 10:25-37

The first question the priest and Levite asked was, "If I stop to help this man, what will happen to me?" But the good Samaritan reversed the question: "If I do not stop to help this man, what will happen to him?" —Martin Luther King Jr.



Thomas Merton (1915–1968) was an American Trappist monk, writer, theologian, mystic, poet, social activist and scholar of comparative religion. And a prolific writer. He has an interesting take on the Good Samaritan. Here's what he writes: "Let us remember that while to us all Samaritans are Good Samaritans, it was not so to those who first heard the parable. In their eyes all Samaritans were, by the very fact, bad. Indeed, that was why a Samaritan had to be the subject of the parable: since it was necessary for the hearers to realize that at least one Samaritan could be a good one."

The parable of the Good Samaritan can be found in today's reading. There are many lessons that can be drawn from Jesus' parable, but Merton points us to one that is often overlooked. The kindness, generosity and compassion found in this story came from a person who was commonly thought to be devoid of these positive qualities.

The Good Samaritan was not one of "us." He was one of "them"! Shocking!

This leads us all to reflect on who might be one of "them" from our point of view. Someone beyond our religious, political, ethnic and cultural experience (think music, tattoos, piercings, for example)?

Get this point? One of the lessons of this parable is about our prejudices we don't even realize we have. The Good Samaritan is a story about how one of "them" helped one of "us."

Ask yourself about persons, ethnicities, political perspectives with which and with whom you have trouble. We all have these negativities.

But the fabulous nature of the gospel is that the people who inhabit our negativities are, according to Jesus, our neighbors! And Jesus is on record as saying we should love our neighbors as ourselves!

It's a tall order, isn't it? I know it is for me. But God is faithful and will give me and all of us the courage to realign and redefine who is our neighbor. And when that happens, we have a huge opportunity to put a little love on them, and make their day! Thanks be to God!

-Timothy Merrill

Prayer: O God, thank you for the Good Samaritans of the world! Amen.

Week of July 13, 2025





Verse to Remember

When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and when you pass through the rivers, they will not sweep over you. When you walk through the fire, you will not be burned ... for I am the LORD, your God. —Isaiah 43:2-3a

CAN YOU SORT IN CHRONOLOGICAL ORDER?

- 1. The American Civil War begins.
- 2. The Berlin Wall comes down.
- 3. Archduke Ferdinand is assassinated.
- 4. Don Larsen pitches a perfect game in the World Series for the Yankees.
- 5. Alexander Graham Bell makes the first phone call.
- 6. Queen Victoria begins her reign.
- 7. John Glenn orbits the Earth three times.
- 8. Charlotte Brontë publishes Jane Eyre under the name Currer Bell.
- 9. The Hindenburg blimp catches fire and crashes.
- 10. Quarterback Joe Namath predicts a victory in Super Bowl III.
- 11. U.S. President Nixon resigns.
- 12. Charles Lindbergh flies solo across the Atlantic.
- 13. Princess Diana dies in car crash.
- 14. Napoleon is exiled on Elba.
- 15. Composer Beethoven dies at the age of 56.

[Use this white space for figuring]

Directions:

Write the number of the events here in chronological order. The first one is provided for you.

14. 1814

ANSWERS: 14. 1814; 15. March 26, 1827; 6. June 20, 1837; 8. October 19, 1847; 1. April 12, 1861; 5. March 10, 1876; 3. June 28, 1914; 12. May 21, 1927; 9. May 6, 1937; 4. October 8, 1956; 7. February 20, 1962; 10. January 9. 1969;



Sunday, July 20, 2025

Scripture Reading: Luke 10:38-42

Every child should be taught that useful work is worship and that intelligent labor is the highest form of prayer. -Robert G. Ingersoll



The story of Mary and Martha is a familiar one, and for good reason — it holds timeless lessons about priorities, distractions and the importance of worship. As Jesus visits their home, Martha busies herself with preparations, while Mary sits and listens to Jesus. When Martha complains that Mary isn't helping, Jesus responds with a gentle reminder. So, what can we learn from this?

The lesson concerns the *danger of distraction*. Martha was doing good and necessary work. Absolutely no question. She was serving Jesus and the disciples, making sure they were fed and comfortable. But she lost her focus. She forgot the "why" of her service.

How often do we let the busyness of life crowd out time with God? Our to-do lists grow longer, our schedules fill up, and even our service can distract us from what matters most: being in God's presence. Imagine a host so focused on preparing a meal that they miss enjoying their guests. Jesus essentially tells Martha, "I didn't come for the food — I came for you."

There's another lesson: the *importance of worship*. Mary chose to sit at Jesus' feet and listen. What can be more important than to worship and study the teachings of Jesus?

This doesn't mean that work is unimportant. But it's a reminder that worship fuels our work. When we spend time with God first, our hearts are aligned with God's will, and our work becomes more meaningful.

But there's a final and deeper lesson: the *value of peace*. Martha was anxious and overwhelmed. Jesus says, "You are worried and upset about many things." When we focus solely on our tasks or worries, we place the burden of success entirely on ourselves. Sitting with Jesus reminds us that Someone Else is in control.

Martha and Mary each have something to teach us. From Martha, we learn the importance of serving; from Mary, we learn the necessity of worship. The challenge is to balance work and worship, thus ensuring that our service flows from a heart rooted in worship.

Why not start your day by dedicating your time and tasks to God. Ask God to help you prioritize and trust him with the results. Even five minutes of prayer can shift your perspective.

Timothy Merrill

Prayer: Lord, help us cultivate a Mary heart in a Martha world. Give us an undivided heart that we may live in awe of your name. You are the one thing worth being concerned about that will never be taken from us. Amen. —Taken from the website of the De La Salle Medical and Health Sciences Institute.

Week of July 20, 2025



Daily Bible Readings

Sunday: Acts 6-9 Monday: Isaiah 55-57 Tuesday: Isaiah 58-60 Wednesday: Isaiah 61-63 Thursday: Isaiah 64-66 Friday: Micah 1-4 Saturday: Psalms 76-78

Verse to Remember

"Ho, everyone who thirsts, come to the waters; ... come, buy and eat!" —Isaiah 55:1

SPELLING ALERT: Vowels Missing from Bible Verse! Please look at the Scripture verses below and replace the missing vowels to reveal the verses.

F_r by gr_c_ y_ _ h_v_ b__n s_v_d thr_ _gh f_ _th, _nd th_s _s n_t y_ _r _wn d_ _ng; _t _s th_ g_ft _f G_d — n_t th_ r_s_lt _f w_rks, s_ th_t n_ _n_ m_y b_ _st. —_ph_s_ _ns 2:8-9

FAMOUS FEMALES: Which of these women were born in the U.S. and which were born in the U.K.?

Missing Vowels: Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. — Colossians 3:12; For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God — not the result of works, so that no one may boast. —Ephesians 2:8-9. Famous Females:

1. UK, 2. US, 3. US, 4. UK, 5. UK, 6. US, 7. UK, 8. UK, 9. US, 10. UK, 11. US, 12. UK, 14. US, 12. UK, 14. US, 15. UK, 16. US.

NAME	U.S.	NAME	U.S.
	or		or
	U.K.?		U.K.?
1. Agatha Christie		2. Geraldine Ferraro	
3. Chris Evert		4. J.K. Rowling	
5. Theresa May		6. Harriet Tubman	
7. Julie Andrews		8. Elizabeth Taylor	
9. Joan Didion		10.Jane Austen	
11.Sally Ride		12.Beatrix Potter	
13.Kate Winslet		14.Rosa Parks	
15.Diana Spencer		16. Wallis Simpson	



Sunday, July 27, 2025

Scripture Reading: Luke 11:1-13

Dear Lord, so far I've done all right. I haven't gossiped, haven't lost my temper, haven't been greedy, grumpy, nasty, selfish, or overindulgent. I'm really glad about that.

But in a few minutes, God, I'm going to get out of bed.

And from then on, I'm going to need a lot more help.—Anon.





In today's Bible reading, Jesus teaches his disciples how to pray and encourages them to approach God with persistence and trust. The chapter opens with a simple yet profound request: "Lord, teach us to pray." Although prayer is essentially just having a conversation with God, Jesus offers a model of simplicity and depth — a prayer that focuses on reverence for God, submission to the will of God and reliance on divine and daily provision. The prayer urges us to forgive as we have been forgiven.

This teaching is then followed by a parable about a man who persistently knocks on his friend's door at midnight seeking bread. The friend eventually rises to help, not because of friendship, but because of the man's shameless persistence.

But oddly, this parable is not about encouraging us to be persistent in prayer to the point of being annoying — like the man in this story, or the persistent widow in another parable (see Luke 18:1-8).

Instead, Jesus seems to be explaining that God is not deaf. We don't need to yell at God, or beg or plea or wake him up in the middle of the night. Instead, we need simply to ask. "Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you." Wow! This takes away all the pressure. We need only to ask, seek and knock!

For support, Jesus probably points to a nearby parent, and then he says, "Which of you fathers, if your son asks for a fish, will give him a snake instead?" The answer is obvious. Even flawed human parents desire the best for their children, so how much more will our perfect heavenly Father give good gifts to those who ask of him?

Prayer, however, is not just about asking for things; it's about deepening our relationship with God. It's a conversation that aligns our hearts with his will, teaches us trust, and reassures us of his love.

Prayer: Heavenly Father, help me to approach you with the boldness of a child and the faith of an adult, knowing that you always hear and answer with perfect wisdom. Amen.

Week of July 27, 2025





Daily Bible Readings

Sunday: Acts 10-12 Monday: Micah 5-7 Tuesday: Nahum 1-3 Wednesday: 2 Kings 20-21 Thursday: Zephaniah 1-3 Friday: Habakkuk 1-3 Saturday: Psalms 79-81

Verse to Remember

Look at the proud!
Their spirit is not right in them,
but the righteous live by their faith.
—Habakkuk 2:4

WAR and HATE

The words *hate* and *war* have been removed from the following list of words. The letters of each word, when inserted in the same order, *but not always consecutively*, will give you a new word. Study the examples provided and then write the word in the space provided.

1. sm	s <u>war</u> m	11. anniil	ANSWERS:
2. sn	<u>ha</u> st <u>e</u> n	12. ind	 wearer, chapter, homeward,
3. eer		13. aspyxi	6. phosphate, 7. coward,
4. cpr		14. reabilit	 enchanted, warden,
5. homed		15. wver	10. warrior, 11. annihilate,
6. posph		16. cs	 inward, asphyxiate,
7. cod		17. ern	 rehabilitate, whatever,
8. encnd		18. exusd	16. chaste, 17. hearten,
9. den		19. se	18 exhausted, 19. swear,
10. rior		20. sete	20. sweater.

BIBLE BOOKS: The answer to each clue is a book of the Bible. (You might find this easier if you have a table of contents for the Bible in front of you.)

- 1. The play "Romeo and Juliet" has five of these.
- 2. Professions of Judith Sheindlin, Neil Gorsuch and Joe Brown
- 3. Residents of Italy's capital
- 4. Before the Euro, Germans had the Deutsche ...
- 5. He had a "cool hand."
- 6. His 714 home run record was broken by Hank Aaron.
- 7. The most famous bullfrog ever.

Answers to
Bible Books:
1. Acts
2. Judges
3. Romans
4. Mark
5. Luke