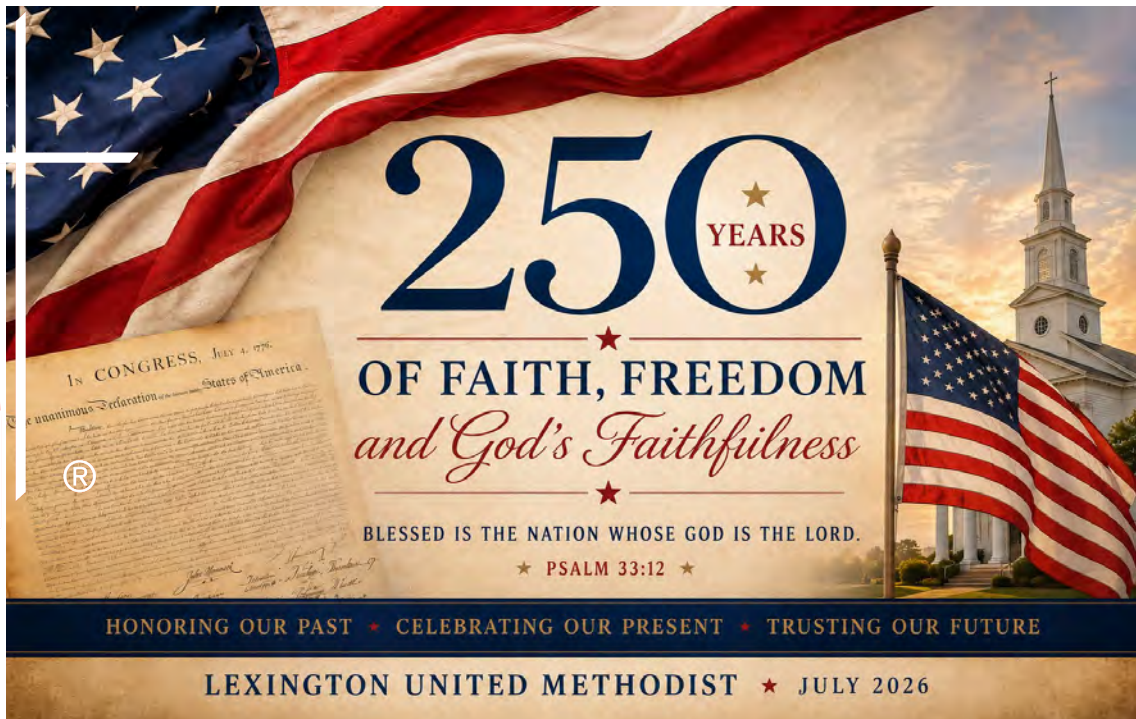


Where We Seek,
Serve
and Share Christ

lexmoumc.org
660-259-2483
Rev. Andrew
Sanders, Pastor



God's gift of freedom

This month our nation celebrates a remarkable milestone, 250 years since the signing of the Declaration of Independence. That is something worth celebrating. For two and a half centuries, generations have worked, sacrificed, dreamed, and served to build a nation founded on the conviction that all people are created equal and are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights.

Freedom is one of God's greatest gifts. Throughout Scripture we see God leading people from slavery into freedom, from exile into hope, from fear into abundant life. In Christ, we discover the deepest freedom of all, not merely freedom from something, but freedom for something. We are set free to love God, love our neighbors, and serve the world.

As Americans, we cherish our individual liberties. They are precious and worthy of protection. Yet freedom has always carried responsibility. Individual liberty flourishes best when it is balanced with our collective responsibility to care for one another. The Apostle Paul reminds us, **"For you were called to freedom ... only do not use your freedom as an**



Rev. Andrew
Sanders

opportunity for self-indulgence, but through love become servants to one another," (Galatians 5:13).

As followers of Christ, the Fruit of the Spirit should be visible in our lives. Love. Joy. Peace. Patience. Kindness. Generosity. Faithfulness. Gentleness. Self-control. Imagine what our communities would look like if those gifts

shaped not only how we worship on Sunday but also how we speak to one another, how we disagree, how we post online, how we treat our neighbors, and how we participate in our communities.

Part of faithful citizenship is participating in our democracy. Voting matters. Serving matters. Being informed matters. As Christians, we should never leave our faith at the church doors when we engage in civic life. Our faith should inform our politics; our politics should never become the guide for our faith. Christ is our Lord before any party, platform, or candidate. Our ultimate allegiance belongs to the Kingdom of God.

Looking back over these 250 years, we have much to celebrate. We celebrate courage, innovation, generosity, and the countless people who have worked toward "a more perfect union." We also acknowledge that

our history includes moments of injustice, division and brokenness. We honor the past most faithfully when we celebrate what is good while learning from what has been painful. History is not something to hide from or rewrite; it is something to learn from so that we may love more deeply, seek justice more faithfully, and build a better future together.

As we gather for fireworks, family meals, and community celebrations, may we also remember the One from whom all true freedom comes. Our hope has never rested in governments alone, nor in political victories, nor in earthly power. Our hope rests in Jesus Christ, who frees us from sin, calls us into grace, and invites us to become instruments of peace in the world.

As we celebrate 250 years of our nation's democracy this year, I also have a personal reason to celebrate. I am grateful to have been reappointed to serve Lexington United Methodist Church and Waverly United Methodist Church for another year. It is a privilege that I do not take for granted.

Pastor continued on page 4

VISIT US ONLINE AT: lexmoumc.org

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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

Choir Rehearsal: On hiatus.

Sundays at 10 a.m.: Adult Sunday School is on hiatus—if anyone is interested in leading this class, please reach out to Liz J in the church office: 660-259-2483 or secretary@lexmoumc.org.

Sundays at 10 a.m.: Children's Sunday School is on hiatus until mid-August.

Sundays at 10 a.m.: Young Couples Class, is on hiatus.

BABY GRACE: Call for diaper needs: Jen Coen—660-232-4190.

BABY GRACE HOURS: First Tuesday of the month: 6:30 to 7:30 p.m.; Fourth Saturday of the month: 9:30 to 10:30 a.m.

Mondays: Quilters at 1 p.m.

HARVESTERS DISTRIBUTION: Monday, July 13, 9 to 11 a.m.

YOUTH GROUP: Sundays at 6 p.m.

WOMEN OF THE CHURCH MEET: Friday, July 10, at Noon for carry-in meal.

CHURCH COUNCIL TEAM MEETING: Monday, July 20, 6 p.m.

USDA FOODS: Monday, July 27, 9 to 11 a.m. (Commodities is now USDA Foods and now on the 4th Monday).

****Please check our website:** lexmoumc.org and click on "calendar" to see a full schedule of events.

*****Remember we rent out parts of the church such as the Buddy Black Family Life Center, Hicklin Hall, the Kitchen and more! Call Liz in the office: 660-259-2483.**



July 3	Emalie Negrete
July 11	Larry Brooks
July 12	Lance Dobson
July 14	Maxine Palmer
July 16	Jessi Harlan
July 21	Kendall Dobson
July 28	Lea Ann O'Brien
July 30	Janae Fuller
July 30	Jackson Goodloe
July 31	Kathy Smith



Liz Johnson | Secretary

The Monday, June 15 Council Meeting was called to order by **Phillip Davis**, who was chairing in June for **Steven Fuller**. Phillip opened with a prayer.

Pastor Andrew talked about the Conference's new diagnostic tool to provide pastors and leaders with clarity about their church's current "season" and practical steps toward revitalization.

Pastor also mentioned that the entire **Coen family** has now joined the church as well as **Patti Van Wey**.

The May minutes and Financial report were accepted and carried.

Treasurer Teri James said that we were able to reimburse the church savings account of the \$4,000 we had borrowed in April, thanks to several large donations we've received.

Pastor reported that the Conference talked about church apportionments at the Annual Conference. In the past, we've paid half of our apportionments at year's end. However, the Conference could use apportionments paid earlier than December to help Conference missions, support and ministries. The fireworks sale proceeds are expected to go toward apportionments.

Pastor Andrew said he plans a late

July/early August Town Hall for all members to discuss where we are as a church.

The painting of the **Blessing Box** needs to be "flushed out" according to Pastor Andrew and then add the new sign to it. The yard sign is already out on the front lawn.

Roger reported on the rebuilding of the **Clearview parsonage**. It has already been cleaned out a bit inside and hopefully, the rebuild will be moving forward soon.

Jennifer Coen reported on the fireworks sale set for July 1-4. Hours of operation are July 1 & 2: 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. and July 3 and 4: 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. We do not have to charge sales tax on the fireworks since we are a non-profit organization. Military, veterans and first responders will receive a 10% discount on fireworks purchases.

Cheryl Cooley reported that we've not had any new applications turned in for the nursery attendant positions. Policy is that nursery workers must be 18 years of age or older. Currently, Jennifer Coen is helping out.

Sound Booth: We are in need of help in the Sound Booth as several of the volunteers are needing time off. Jennifer said her husband, **Josh**, is interested in working in the Sound Booth. He has already begun training.

Phillip reported that he needs to update the office computer and his in the Sound Booth. He estimates this will cost about \$900-\$1000.

Teri James said we will pack the backpack items on **Sunday, August 9th at Noon and distribute on August 13.**

HELP FOR THE HUNGRY



MISSIONS AND OUTREACH

Harvesters

Monday, July 13

USDA Foods

Monday, July 27



Fall

Fashion Fling

August 22, 2026 | 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Buddy Black Family Life Center
 Lexington UMC, 1211 S. Bus. Hwy. 13

NEWBORN TO ADULTS

ALL SIZES | GENTLY USED

Spearheaded by Kathryn Roberts

Donated items to be brought to Kathryn's home:
 1214 Franklin Ave., Lexington prior to August 15.
 Set-up day at the church is August 15.

•Shirts	•Socks	(new)	•Coats	•Belts
•Pants	•Under-	•Shoes/	•Hats	•Purses
•Dresses	wear	Boots	•Gloves	•Jewelry

NEEDED ASAP: Laundry soap | Dryer Sheets | White Vinegar
 13 Gallon Trash Bags | Quart & Gallon Ziploc Bags

Also at the fair: Resource Fair | HCC
 Head Start | Victory Recovery House

July 2026

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

Steven Fuller,
 Council Chair

Sunday Worship: 11 a.m.
 Children's Sunday School: Hiatus
 Adult Sunday School: Hiatus
 Young Couples Class: Hiatus
 Youth Group: Sundays 6 p.m.
 Worshipping Winds Rehearsal:
 Sundays, 9:30 a.m.
 Choir Rehearsal: Hiatus



Our Youth at this year's VBS which took place at the Presbyterian Disciples Church in Lexington the week of June 22nd through 26th. From left: Cooper, Addie, Rylee, Sutton, Arlington, Everly and Ava. Our churchwomen provided the meal Tuesday, June 23rd. Many thanks to all the volunteers to make this a week of fun and fellowship! (Photo courtesy of Jennifer Coen)

WORSHIP: Sundays 11 a.m.

Children's Sunday School: On hiatus

Young Couple's Class: On hiatus

Adult Sunday School: On hiatus

Choir Rehearsal: On hiatus

Worshiping Winds Rehearsal: 9:30 a.m.

ONLINE: lexmoumc.org

June: 2026



TREASURER'S REPORT

June Offering: \$ 14,363.00

Avg. Expenses: ~~-\$ 13,641.00~~

Total (tithe) \$ 722.00

May 2026 net (5/31): ~~-\$ 2,896.44~~

****June full finance report is not available at press time.**

*Avg. Expenses 2025 \$ 13,641.00 (per month)

Building Rentals June: \$ 150.00

*Borrowed from Savings to cover four months of church insurance on April 1: \$4,000.00

**Repaid \$4,000 to Savings in June 2026.

Teri James: Treasurer

Liz Johnson: Finance Secretary

Janae Fuller, Mary Kate Alkire: 2026 Finance Co-Chairs

Steven Fuller: 2026 Council Chair

Jim Martin: 2026 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

PASTOR ... continued from pg. 1

Over the past three years, we have shared moments of joy, sorrow, growth, and new beginnings. Together we have welcomed new members, expanded ministries, cared for our neighbors, celebrated baptisms, mourned losses, and witnessed God's faithfulness through every season. None of these accomplishments belong to one person. They are the result of congregations willing to seek God's leading and faithfully answer the call to serve.

As I look ahead to this coming year, I am filled with hope and anticipation for what God has in store for us. I believe there

are still new opportunities to grow, to reach our communities, and to deepen our discipleship together. Thank you for allowing me the privilege of walking alongside you in ministry.

May God continue to bless our nation, guide our leaders, and strengthen the Church to be a people who reflect Christ in both our faith and our citizenship. May we celebrate freedom by continuing to Seek Christ, Serve Others, and Share God's Love, trusting that when we live out our faith in this way, we become a witness to the freedom that Christ offers to all.

~ Pastor Andrew



Fireworks on sale now in the Family Life Center



Far left: Jase Coen shows off a favorite fireworks purchase. Left: Pastor Andrew holds onto a case of fireworks picked up before the sale.