

Lexington United Methodist Church | November 2026 | lexmoumc.org | 660.259.2483 | Rev. Andrew Sanders, Pastor

Gratitude opens our hearts to generosity

As the air grows cooler, the leaves begin to fall, and Thanksgiving draws near, I find myself reflecting on the many blessings in our lives. There is something about this season that invites us to slow down, look around, and appreciate the people God has placed along our journey.


Rev. Andrew Sanders

November begins with All Saints Day on November 1, a special time when we remember those who have gone before us in faith. We celebrate the lives of people who taught us, encouraged us, loved us, and helped shape who we are today. Their influence continues through the faith and love they shared, reminding us that we, too, have opportunities to make a lasting difference in the lives of others.

I see that same spirit of love and service throughout our congregation. From those organizing this year's Trunk or Treat and preparing fellowship meals to our dedicated teachers who nurture faith in children, youth, and adults, each of you helps make our church a welcoming place where relationships grow and discipleship flourishes.

Our commitment to serving others extends well beyond Sunday mornings. Through Baby Grace, our Blessing Box, Harvesters, USDA commodity distributions, and partnerships with the Lexington Ministerial Alliance, we continue finding meaningful ways to care for our neighbors. These ministries are more than programs. They represent people sharing God's love through practical acts of kindness and compassion.

On a personal note, I want to express how deeply touched Julie and I have been by the birthday wishes and expressions of love during Pastor Appreciation Month. Your cards, thoughtful words, and encouragement have meant so much to us. Ministry is something we share together, and I feel truly blessed to serve alongside such a caring church family. Thank you for the love you have shown us!

This year, some of my family will be traveling during Thanksgiving, so we celebrated a little early with a Friendsgiving gathering last month. It reminded me that Thanksgiving isn't necessarily about a particular date on the calendar. It's about the people gathered around us, the relationships we cherish, and the opportunity to share life together. Sometimes the greatest blessings aren't found in what is on the table, but in those gathered around it.

As we anticipate Thanksgiving, I also recognize that we are living in an interesting time in our country. While many of us look forward to gathering with family and friends, some of our neighbors are struggling just to put food on the table, much less prepare a Thanksgiving feast. And before we know it, Christmas will be

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Sundays: Worshiping Winds rehearsal 9:30 a.m.
Choir Rehearsal: Sundays, 10 a.m.
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, Ages 5—11.

Sundays at 10 a.m.: Young Couples Class with Sarah Black, facilitator.

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.

YOUTH GROUP: Sundays at 6 p.m.

Grab 'N Go Breakfast, Tuesday, Nov. 3rd beginning at 6:30 a.m.—free will offering.

HARVESTERS DISTRIBUTION: Monday, Nov. 9, 9 to 11 a.m.

WOMEN OF THE CHURCH: Friday, Nov. 13, at 11:30 a.m. at the Margaret Gray Center.

SUNDAY, Nov. 15, 9 to 10 a.m.: Halloween Waffles & Worship—themed meal in the Buddy Black Family Life Center. Please bring a breakfast dish to share followed by worship at 11 a.m.

CHURCH COUNCIL TEAM MEETING: Monday, Nov. 16, 6 p.m.

USDA FOODS: Monday, Nov. 23, 9 to 11 a.m.

Church office is closed on Thanksgiving, Nov.26.



SUNDAY SCHOOL

10 a.m. SUNDAYS

CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL with Donna Slusher, Katie Dye, Christ Kids 1 Room

Young Disciples Class with facilitator Sarah Black, Faithful Room (Chapel)



November 15	**Jase Coen**
November 28	**David Cooley**
November 28	**Gracelyn Coen**

***If your birthday is not being recognized, please reach out to Liz J in the church office.**

Where We Seek, Serve and Share Christ

November 26
lexmoumc.org
660-259-2483
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upon us, bringing additional challenges for families already trying to make ends meet.

I don't share this to dampen the joy of the season. Quite the opposite. I share it because **gratitude has a beautiful way of opening our hearts to generosity.**

Imagine what could happen if we entered this season not only counting our blessings but looking for opportunities to become a blessing to someone else. Perhaps it's sharing a meal, inviting someone to join our Thanksgiving gathering, adding groceries to the Blessing Box, or simply taking time to listen to someone who needs a friend. Sometimes the smallest gestures remind people that they are seen, valued, and loved.

In 1 Thessalonians 5:18, Paul encourages us to "give thanks in all circumstances." Gratitude isn't about pretending life is perfect. It's about recognizing God's presence and goodness even when life is difficult, and allowing that gratitude to shape how we treat one another.

The wonderful thing is that we don't have to imagine a church living this way. We are already seeing it happen! My hope is that we continue deepening these relationships, strengthening the ministries we have, and remaining attentive to the needs of our community.

Perhaps that is the beautiful connection between All Saints Day and Thanksgiving. We remember with gratitude those who shared God's love with us, and now we have the opportunity to carry that love forward. One day, someone may look back with thanksgiving for the kindness and compassion they experienced because of something we did today.

May our tables be filled with gratitude, our hearts with compassion, and our lives with opportunities to share God's abundant love.

Happy Thanksgiving, church family!

With gratitude and blessings, **Pastor Andrew**



A few of our ghoulish crew who handed out treats to the Trunk or Treaters on Oct. 25th. Standing from left: Arlington Moore, Everly Huffman, Pastor Andrew, Sharol McMullin, Kay & Powers Alder and Patty Van Wey. In front are Shawn Hodgeman and Jacob Lamb. We had 200 come for Trunk or Treat! Many thanks to all who provided treats and all who came to decorate and give out treats!

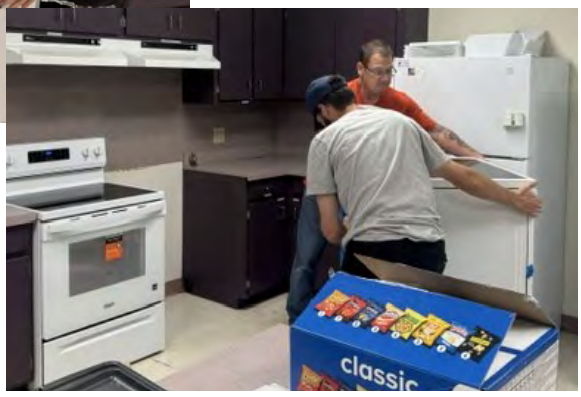




A few of our Activities Team working in the kitchen for the Halloween & Harvest meal that took place on Sunday, October 18th following worship. From left, Kathryn Roberts' daughter Michaela, Kathryn, Jacob Lamb, Jennifer Coen and her daughter Gracelyn.



New appliances added to church kitchen



We recently replaced the old dishwashers and stoves in the church kitchen with new appliances. Pictured are Josh Coen and Sullivan O'Brien who helped move the appliances into place this week, assisted by Steven Fuller and David Hassenback who helped with the plumbing work.

November 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: 10 a.m.
Adult Sunday School: Hiatus
Young Couples Class: 10 a.m.
Youth Group: Sundays 6 p.m.
Worshiping Winds Rehearsal: Sundays, 9:30 a.m.
Choir Rehearsal: 10 a.m.

Blessing Box Ministry

Our Blessing Box now has a lovely sign on it that also honors the late Tony James. **We are in regular need of unexpired, nonperishable food and hygiene items to fill the box.**



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. Sundays
Children's Sunday School: 10 a.m.
Young Couple's Class: 10 a.m., Sundays
Adult Sunday School: On hiatus
Choir Rehearsal: 10 a.m. Sundays
Worshiping Winds Rehearsal: 9:30 a.m.
ONLINE: lexmoumc.org

October:: 2026

TREASURER'S REPORT

Oct. Offering: $ 12,122.00
Oct. Expenses: -$ 13,741.28
Total (tithe) - $ 1,619.28
Sept. 2026 YTD: - $ 9,811.99
**Finance Report for October not available yet.
*Avg. Expenses 2025 $ 13,641.00 (per month)
Building Rentals Sept: $ 250.00

*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

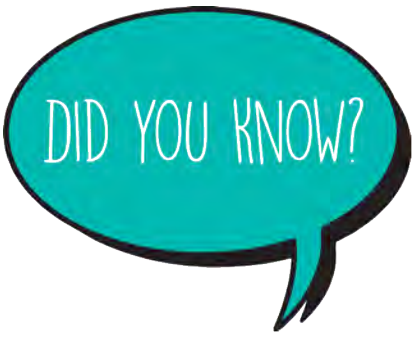
"Whoever has a bountiful eye will be blessed, for he shares his bread with the poor." ~ Proverbs 22:9

RENTING OUR FACILITY? A FEW REMINDERS

One of the lovely perks of being a member of Lexington UMC, is that members can use parts of our facility for no cost.

We do ask, however, for all renters to follow our policies and procedures:

1. Please return all tables, chairs and anything else that is used, back to where you found them.
2. Empty all trash into our rubbish container outside the back of the church. Replace trash can liners.
3. Clean all areas used and empty the dishwasher if used.
4. Be sure to lock up securely before you leave and turn off all lights and return thermostats to their schedules.



1. Did you know that you can find out what is going on at LUMC by checking our online calendar on the church website? **lexmoumc.org**
2. Did you know that our Sunday servers are scheduled ahead? Please save your scheduled serving time on your home calendar PLUS a reminder is emailed every Thursday for those serving the following Sunday.
3. Did you know that if you stop using a landline, we would love for you to let us know in the church office so we have the correct contact info.