

What *Child* Is this?



CANDLELIGHT CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP: 5:30 p.m., December 24, at Lexington UMC

**DECEMBER
2023**

**Lexington United
Methodist Church**

*Where We Seek, Serve
and Share Christ*

www.lexmoumc.org



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As I ponder the new year, I think of all the celebrations that I have been a part of to usher in past new years. Many of the celebrations of the past were spent with cherished persons who joyously reigned in the New Year.

Celebrations are important to partake in, and no I don't mean to indulge too much so that one cannot remember celebrations. Instead, I am talking about sharing treasured, precious moments with those that you love. This New Year may be a time to reflect on our interactions of others so that we can refresh and renew relationships. We can choose to mend bridges, love more, laugh more ... etc. There is so much that can be done in 2024.

The Lord speaks often of the plans that He has for creation; humanity counters that plan with its own version. Instead of walking away from such hard headedness God understands that we (humanity) can be stiff necked people (Acts 7:51) who offer resistance.

In the New Testament Jesus is telling of a parable when he uses the example of not putting new wine in old wine skin. As I sat thinking of the past festivi-

ties of New Years this verse was placed upon my heart.

Matthew 9:14-17: *¹⁴Then the disciples of John came to him, saying, "Why do we and the Pharisees fast, but your disciples do not fast?" ¹⁵And Jesus said to them, "Can the wedding guests mourn as long as the bridegroom is with them? The days will come when the bridegroom is taken away from them, and then they will fast. ¹⁶No one puts a piece of unshrunk cloth on an old garment, for the patch tears away from the garment, and a worse tear is made. ¹⁷Neither is new wine put into old wineskins. If it is, the skins burst and the wine is spilled and the skins are destroyed. But new wine is put into fresh wineskins, and so both are preserved."*

A New Year offers a new start. If you look over your past year or years with the eyes of the Lord you can begin to see where God is creating a new thing within you. God is constantly shaping our hearts by the personal choices that we make. When we choose worldly things, we turn away from our heavenly Father becoming more like the world. Likewise, when we choose to align ourselves with God's Spirit we become more like Christ.

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Ministerial Alliance releases assistance report

Did you know that Lexington United Methodist is a member of the Lexington Ministerial Alliance?

Pastor Andrew attends the monthly meetings and participates in community gatherings as have pastors before him.

As a church, we participate in most of the assistance MA provides. We issue gas vouchers from the church office and assist in processing requests for assistance from those in need. The Angel Tree program, managed for years by former secretary Patty Sollars, is now run by three volunteers from other MA churches, who still use LUMC for storage, assembly of gifts and distribution – set this year for December 22nd.

On November 19, we hosted a Ministerial Alliance Thanksgiving service here at LUMC which was well attended. Our Women of the Church also hosted refreshments and fellowship following the service. Many of those in the Ministerial Alliance also participated in the service, in which Pastor Andrew gave the message. \$886 was given as a free will offering that went entirely to the MA.

The following is a report from Ministerial Alliance treasurer, Beverly Roggencamp, indicating financial figures in which the MA has used to help members of the Lexington community. Note: financial figures have been rounded up.

- Community Assistance: Missouri Valley/Utility assistance - \$6,000. Forty families.
- Back to School Supplies: \$1,500. 250 students.
- Lexington High School Scholarship: \$1,000. One 2023 recipient.

- Gasoline Vouchers through BP station: \$750. 70 recipients with a few duplicates. This program began mid-year 2022. Each voucher is \$25.
- Angel Tree Christmas Gifts: 2022 expenses were \$2,500 for children 0-18 years; must be enrolled in the Lexington School District. Number of recipients varies.
- Funds provided for rent, hotel accommodations or transportation: “We have also provided assistance to several families/individuals,” Roggencamp said.

The Ministerial Alliance depends on donations primarily from individuals, but in 2022, they participated in the Bell Ringing for the Salvation Army. This year they are doing the “Round Up” program with Brothers Market.

To make a monetary donation to the Ministerial Alliance, please make check payable to Lexington Ministerial Alliance and mail to:

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

SUNDAY WORSHIP: 11 a.m.

-Choir Rehearsal is Sundays at 9:45 a.m.

-Children’s Pageant Rehearsals at 10 a.m., Sundays with Bailee Smith.

-Children’s Pageant, Sunday, Dec. 17, 5 p.m. in the Family Life Center.

Refreshments following hosted by the Women of the Church.

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE, 5:30 p.m., here at Lexington UMC.

Mondays: Quilters at 1 p.m

Wednesdays: Exercise Group: 9 a.m.

BABY GRACE: First & Third Saturdays, 9 to 11 a.m. (Lauren Negrete, volunteer)

MEN’S GROUP: First Saturday, 8 a.m. at McDonald’s in downtown Lexington.

HARVESTERS DISTRIBUTION: Monday, December 11, 8 to 11 a.m.

WOMEN’S GROUP: Christmas luncheon, Friday, December 8, Noon, at Las Carretas Mexican Restaurant in Lexington.

ANGEL TREE DISTRIBUTION: Friday, December 22, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING: Wednesday, December 27, 6 p.m., Choir Room.

COMMODITIES: Thursday, December 28, 8:30 to 11:30 a.m.

Pastor Andrew ... continued from pg. 1

Amid the conversation recorded in Matthew we hear questions concerning Jesus’ Disciples, the world had judgements against them. The world will always offer things that they determine to be religious, it is the Lord however that leads us to His will. We begin to be filled with the “new wine” of the Holy Spirit when we begin to make choices that align with the Spirit.

The “new wine” refers to the new state of mind, heart, and soul that you have within you because of the encounter you have personally had with the Lord. The Lord God is a constant in all of humanities lives. The relationship that we have with God can be likened to a new wine skin. New wine, as it ferments, it expands. A new wineskin can accommodate this internal pressure allowing the skin outside and the wine inside to work together.

When we allow God to actively change us from the inside out, we are asking for God to fill us with His “new wine” – His Spirit. If we are not ready to accept this grace, one can feel the old wineskin of their lives threatening to bust open. Many of us have been a witness to persons who have seemed so alive for Christ one moment only to be drained of the willingness to participate in the call of God in their lives the next. This can be the busting of old wineskins spilling the new wine out.

If we find ourselves with “new wine” on the floor because we have not allowed God to place a new “wine skin” in our lives, then don’t lose hope. God does not ever abandon humanity. As years come and go, our Lord continues to refresh and renew. Allow your God of abundant Mercy to fill your lives with the hope that overcomes all this world.

Fall luncheon attended by all four UMC churches



Cheryl Cooley, Pam Johnson & Teri James hosted a delicious luncheon after the Nov. 5th worship service that included members of Waverly, Grace Higginsville & Concordia UMC's as well as Lexington. (Photos courtesy of David Cooley)

- 12/02 Janet Cado
- 12/05 Mable Hawkins
- 12/08 Rick Vernon
- 12/15 Sarah Black
- 12/18 Lauren Stephenson
- 12/20 Roger McFadden
- 12/27 Annie Yates
- 12/29 Russell Baker
- 12/30 Powers Alder
- 12/31 Patty Sollars
Pam Johnson

Do we have your birthday? If not let Liz know in the church office!

Update email, phone, mailing address

If you have moved recently, eliminated your landline, changed your phone number and/or have a new email address, please let Liz Johnson know in the church office: **660-259-2483**, or email at secretary@lexmoumc.org.

Feel free to fill out the attendance summary in the tear-out section of the Sunday bulletin and place it in the offering plate.



ADVENT is a time of preparation

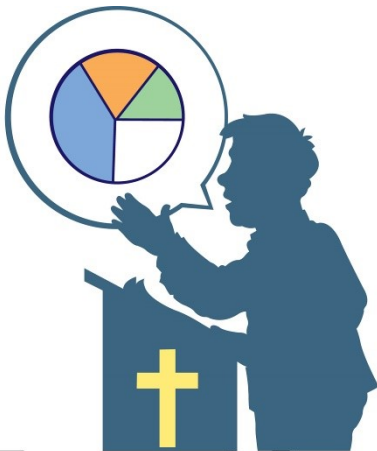
Pictured are the ladies who brought nativity pieces up to the display in front of the altar on the first Sunday in Advent, Dec. 3rd.

From left are: Janet Cado, Nancy Oles, Blanche Willis, Maxine Palmer, Rose Seitz and Liz Fenner. Behind: Mable Hawkins, who was also the Advent reader. (Photo courtesy of Sarah Black)

WORSHIP: Sundays 11 a.m.

Sunday School: on hiatus at this time

ONLINE: lexmoumc.org



Treasurer's Report NOVEMBER 2023

| | |
|----------------------|------------------------------------|
| November Offering: | \$12,300.75 |
| Plus Reimbursements: | <u>+\$2,388.29</u> |
| Total | \$14,689.04 |
| Less Expenses: | <u>-\$12,605.18</u> (Incl. Insur.) |
| Total | \$2,083.86 |

Lea Ann O'Brien: LUMC Treasurer

Teri James will take over as Treasurer Jan. 1, 2024

Liz Johnson: Finance Secretary

Liz Fenner: Finance Chair

Steven Fuller: Council Chair

Pastor: Rev. Andrew Sanders

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

QUILTER MINISTRY NEEDS

Our Quilters group who quilt sleeping bags for the homeless, are in need of supplies that go with the sleeping bags: **Travel size bottles: shampoo, conditioner, body lotion, toothpaste, and toothbrushes.**

Please donate to the church office or directly to the Quilters group, who meets here at 1 p.m. every Monday.



Children's PROGRAM

Sunday, December 17, 5 p.m.
Family Life Center

Please join us Sunday, December 17 at 5 p.m. in the Family Life Center for our Children's Christmas Pageant. Presented by Bailee Smith, it promises to bring the magic of Christmas to us all. Refreshments to follow hosted by the Women of the Church.



Coffee hour and fellowship is every Sunday before worship in our Hospitality Room near the sanctuary.

Angel Tree

There are still a few Angel Tree gift tags on our little tree on the table outside the sanctuary waiting to be adopted. For those able to adopt a child for gift-giving, please return unwrapped gifts in a gift bag with the tag attached here to the church by December 15th.