

Grow in the grace and knowledge

of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

To him be glory both now and forever!

Amen. ~ 2 Peter 3:18 ~



“You are saved by God's grace because of your faith; this salvation is God's gift. It's not something you possessed. It's not something you did that you can be proud of.”

~ Ephesians 2:8-9 CEB

**SEPTEMBER
2023**

**Lexington United
Methodist Church**

*Where We Seek, Serve
and Share Christ*

www.lexmoumc.org



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Have you ever wondered what grace is? Well, grace is how God relates to us. It's not based on what we do but based on God's love and desire to be in relationship with us. The Bible teaches us that everything we have from God is given because of God's great love for us. It is out of this love that God has provided His grace to prepare us, redeem us, and continually shape us into the people we were created to be. Remember we were created in the image of God and it is by God's grace throughout our lives that return us to what God created us to be. The grace given to us throughout our lives is understood in the Methodist church to involve three stages of Grace that each person goes through in their lifetimes. The stages of grace are, prevenient, justifying and sanctifying.



**Rev. Andrew
Sanders**

Prevenient grace is the grace of God that is extended to us even before we know him, the grace that is given to us from birth. It is the grace of God acting in our lives long before we know it.

The Bible puts it this way, *“God shows his love for us, because while we were still sinners Christ died for us.”* – Romans 5:8 We might experience this grace of God calling us closer to Jesus through a relationship with another person that demonstrates faithful characteristics, or the support of a friend or family member, or a sermon that sounds like God is speaking directly to us. This purpose of God's prevenient grace is to prepare our hearts and minds to hear and receive the good news about Jesus so that we can respond in faith. It is this action of the Spirit that leads us to a place of conviction. So, God's prevenient grace

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“For sin shall no longer be your master, because you are not under the law, but under grace.” ~ Romans 6:14



09/02 Anthony James
09/03 David Cook
09/09 Liz Johnson
09/11 Thomas Rowland
09/14 Samantha Yates
09/17 Rose Seitz
09/19 Connie Meierer
09/23 Austin Stephenson
09/25 Ron McMullin
09/28 Bill Fricke
09/29 Lane Trout
09/30 Tradjun Moss

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

SUNDAY WORSHIP: 11 a.m.

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

-Church office closed Labor Day (9/4)

-SEPTEMBER 6, 5 to 8 p.m., Scout Troop
318 TACO DINNER in Family Life Center.

-September 11, 11:55 a.m., FREEDOM
WALK begins at Bank Midwest and
concludes at the War Memorial.

-Monday, September 18, 6 p.m.: Church
Council meeting.

Mondays: Quilters at 1 p.m

Wednesdays:

Exercise Group: 9 a.m.

Youth Group: 7 p.m.

BABY GRACE: First & Third Saturdays,
9 a.m. to 1 p.m. (Lauren Negrete,
volunteer)

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

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

WOMEN'S GROUP: Carry-in Lunch, Noon,
September 8, in the Choir Room.

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

Pastor Andrew ... continued from pg. 1

begins from the moment we are formed in the womb. Jeremiah says, *“You knew me as you formed me in my mother’s womb.”* This is the grace that calls out to us, convicting us and leading us to repentance. Some people never respond to God’s prevenient grace but those that do respond and recognize their need to turn toward God and want to start their Christian walk, are justified by faith.

Justifying grace is the interaction of us and God, when we recognize the Lord’s sovereignty. This is the time of repentance for our rebellion against God and our acceptance of grace through the relationship with Jesus Christ. Our sins are forgiven, and we are given a fresh start- a reboot sort of speak. At this point, we are like baby Christians that needs God’s grace to begin the process of living our lives with thought of God and neighbor as our focus.

Sanctifying grace is moving on towards perfection. After accepting Christ as one’s savior we then strive to become more Christ like. At this point in one’s journey each of us are in the midst of

God’s sanctifying grace which shapes humanity more and more into the likeness of Christ. As the Spirit fills our lives with love of God and love of neighbor, we begin to live differently. This sanctifying grace empowers us to make room for the Spirit to work on our hearts and lives by putting ourselves in spaces—physically, mentally and spiritually—that open us up to allow God to fill us. Of course, we can reject this grace but those of us that don’t will continue to grow in love of God and neighbor.

Through sanctifying grace, God works in us to restore the brokenness and sin that is within us. Maybe you are wondering why? Well, because God’s grace is greater than our sin. Not only in the hereafter, but also in the here and now. Our salvation is a journey of becoming what God created each of us to be. It is through God’s grace that we are restored into His image. It may sound like we are talking about three different graces, but we are not. These are all the same grace just different stages. Grace is given to us to prepare us, redeem us, and continually shape us into the people we were created to be. Through the Grace of Christ we will continue to build His church. ♦



Dear Church Family,

To each of you who reached out during my mother’s recent illness and death- thank you. It is all very much appreciated and such a support during a difficult time.

Sincerely,

Connectional Giving to communities, the world around us

Apportionments ... what are they?

Liz Johnson | Editor

We hear about United Methodist Church Apportionments off and on throughout the year, but most of us don't know what they are, who they benefit and what they're used for.

While we tithe each year to Lexington United Methodist Church, the offering gifts which contribute to utilities, staff salaries, insurance and all expenses, we, as a United Methodist Church, are expected to pay apportionments as well.

So what are apportionments?

"Apportionment giving is based upon the desire to meet the needs of God's family, not just in our neighborhoods, but around the world. Apportionments are also based on our need to give in order to be spiritually healthy, complete children of God." (Missouri Conference of the UMC)

Apportionment funds are sent in order that Christ may be known in transformative ways. These funds provide an assortment of avenues in which we can be stronger churches, as well as annual conferences, that have a strong connection around the world. We seek to be in mission and ministry together.

"The funds demonstrate our connectedness to one another, to God and to the Body of Christ." (MO Conference of UMC)

These funds are utilized to fund global missions, assist in providing the necessary funds to respond to moments of crisis locally, in the US and around the world. The funds also aid in developing



the leaders we need today and in the future.

Our church is not here just to care for its own members, but also to reach out beyond our four walls and beyond our community in order to engage with the world – minister to the world and to be in mission to the world.

Benevolence around the world

"Using apportionments to support the annual conference and denominational benevolence is a distinctive feature of United Methodism. Apportionment giving financially underwrites United Methodist ministry and mission beyond the local church." (MO Conference of UMC)

The United Methodist Church has more than 12 million members working in 136 countries. The global reach is made possible through the following 7 funds: *World Service Fund, Episcopal Fund, Ministerial Education Fund, Black College funds, General Administration Fund, Africa University Fund and Interdenominational Cooperation Fund.*

There is also Missouri Conference support given in apportionment payments: *Congregational Excellence, Leadership Excellence, Board of Ordained Ministry, Next Generation (youth), Mission, Service & Justice Ministries, Connectional Ministries, Conference Administration, Clergy Support Fund and District*

Superintendents Fund.

Lexington UMC, along with numerous other United Methodist churches, helped "start and sustain Africa University, the brightest light for the future of education on the continent of Africa. With more than 5,000 graduates who have come from more than 22 countries!"

Our own congregation, along with others, make "Imagine No Malaria possible, where we United Methodists are on our way to raising \$75 million and setting our sights on ending this disease that just seven years ago was killing one child every 30 seconds."

How are a church's apportionments configured?

Each church's apportionment budget for the year is calculated based on a formula determined by the Missouri Annual Conference and utilizes figures sent in by each church on the year-ending paperwork.

Jesus worked as a servant, a giver, every day of His life. We, as Christians, are called to mirror our Lord and Savior.

A unique and defining attribute of the United Methodist Church is that we are "Connectional."

All of us giving together, known as "Connectional Giving," helps to fuel our ministry – giving in order to be spiritually healthy and complete children of God.

The manner in which global giving, apportionments, are structured enables us to bless many people in sustainable and strategic ways. ♦

PRAYER REQUESTS: If you submitted a prayer request, please look on the middle back panel of the Sunday bulletin. Let Liz Johnson know in the church office if anyone should be removed from or to the prayer list. Please take the bulletin home on Sunday so you can pray the names on the prayer list.

WORSHIP: Sundays 11 a.m.

Sunday School: on hiatus at this time

ONLINE: lexmoumc.org

Food Pantry Collection



The Higginsville (Grace) Men's Group has issued us a challenge to see who can provide the most bags of needed food for our local food pantry. This will continue to be a monthly contest for the first Sunday of the month. A contained (pictured above) is available outside the sanctuary for your donations of non-perishable food items. Many thanks to those who contributed in August. As you can see, we received multiple donations, which were picked up by Leta Grom, who currently runs the Lexington Food Pantry at the Presbyterian Church. It's open from 9 to 11 a.m. on Fridays. Leta has said that food donations are down, so these items were much needed. Items that are always needed are: *canned meats such as tuna, chicken, ham, etc., mashed potatoes, powdered milk, canned vegetables, canned fruit, ketchup, mustard, mayo, cake/cookie mixes, breakfast cereal or oatmeal, kid's snacks, soup, spaghetti, pasta sauce, peanut butter, jelly, saltines, macaroni & cheese, applesauce, beans, rice, meal extenders, etc.*



Treasurer's Report AUGUST 2023

August Offering:	\$11,733.89
Plus Reimbursements:	<u>+\$2,289.48</u>
Total	\$14,023.37
Less Budget:	<u>-\$12,152.00</u>
Total	\$1,871.37

Lea Ann O'Brien: LUMC Treasurer

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

Baptism



We had a double baptism on Sunday, August 27th. Far right: Pastor Andrew baptizes Briggen Johnson, 3, while his parents, Bailee Smith and Blake Johnson watch. Bailee was also baptized on Sunday. Briggen is the grandson of Pam & Larry Johnson.

Right: Pastor Andrew prepares the baptismal font to begin the baptism process, with Bailee Smith, Blake Johnson and Briggen Johnson.

The first Sunday of the month we take a noisy offering (coin, but bills are welcome!) to benefit our Baby Grace ministry. Below, parents help the kids take the buckets around to congregants, while Pastor Andrew encourages them.

NOISY OFFERING SUNDAY



The West Central Missouri DAR had its annual business meeting in the LUMC Family Life Center on Friday, August 25th. It was an all-day meeting that required a lot of cleaning and set up—with many thanks to our custodian Glenda Brooks—who brought in several football players to get the tables set up and moved some things off the stage and to the back of the hall for the DAR ladies to come and finish decorating. The effort was a coordination between the church office and DAR representative(s). About 100 DAR women were here and the representative told Liz Johnson that everything went extremely well. They even set up their registration table in Hicklin Hall and utilized the church kitchen for a catered meal by Nadlers. Many thanks to David Cooley who set up the audio/visual for the DAR. This is just an example of what our Family Life Center (and other areas of the church) can provide the community!



Back-To-School



Many thanks to the volunteers who worked in distributing the Back-to-School supplies that took place during the Community Fair (Tuesday, August 15). Teri James spear-headed the event and collection here at LUMC (see photo at left). Above are some of our volunteers, front row from left: Tony James, Teri James and Janet Cado; back row, Janae Fuller, Cheryl Cooley, Pastor Andrew and Beverly Roggencamp (treasurer of the Ministerial Alliance and representative of Christ Church Episcopal).

