

THE ONE WHO CALLS YOU IS FAITHFUL.

1 THESSALONIANS 5:24

**OCTOBER
2023**

**Lexington United
Methodist Church**

*Where We Seek, Serve
and Share Christ*

www.lexmoumc.org



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**Glenda Brooks,
Custodian**

You are invited to help grow this church, your faith and the faith of others

Andrew Sanders | Pastor

1 Thessalonians 5:12-28, Message

¹²⁻¹³ And now, friends, we ask you to honor those leaders who work so hard for you, who have been given the responsibility of urging and guiding you along in your obedience. Overwhelm them with appreciation and love!

¹³⁻¹⁵ Get along among yourselves, each of you doing your part. Our counsel is that you warn the freeloaders to get a move on. Gently encourage the stragglers, and reach out for the exhausted, pulling them to their feet. Be patient with each person, attentive to individual needs. And be careful that when you get on each other's nerves you don't snap at each other. Look for the best in each other, and always do your best to bring it out.

¹⁶⁻¹⁸ Be cheerful no matter what; pray all the time; thank God no matter what happens. This is the way God wants you who belong to Christ Jesus to live.

¹⁹⁻²² Don't suppress the Spirit, and don't stifle those who have a word from the Master. On the other hand, don't be gullible. Check out everything, and keep only what's good. Throw out anything tainted with evil.

²³⁻²⁴ May God himself, the God who makes everything holy and whole, make you holy and whole, put you together—spirit, soul, and body—and keep you fit for the coming of our Master, Jesus Christ. The One who called you is completely dependable. If he said it, he'll do it!

²⁵⁻²⁷ Friends, keep up your prayers for us. Greet all the followers of Jesus there with a holy embrace. And make sure this letter

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Bible Study: "Five Practices for Fruitful Living" Begins with orientation, Tuesday, Oct. 10 at 6:30 p.m. Facilitators: Liz Fenner & Pastor Andrew. Study will be Tuesdays at 6:30 p.m. Books are available now in the church office.



- 10/02 Karen Yates
- 10/10 Jennifer Coen
- 10/11 Naomi Wilhite
- 10/16 Noah Delgato
- 10/18 Kelli Coggins
- 10/21 Susan Small
- 10/22 Suzanne Hoepfner
- 10/23 Ginger Casto

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

SUNDAY WORSHIP: 11 a.m.

- Choir Rehearsal is Sundays at 9:45 a.m.
- Church office closed Thursday, Oct. 6
- Small Group Study: Five Practices of Fruitful Living: Tuesday, Oct. 10, 6:30 p.m. (Tuesdays through Nov. 21st.)
- All Saints Sunday, Nov. 5, 11 a.m.
- Luncheon following Sunday, Nov. 5 service in the Family Life Center at 12:30 p.m., to include LUMC, Waverly, Grace and Concordia. Please bring desserts and crackers. Soup and beverage provided.

Mondays: Quilters at 1 p.m

Wednesdays:

- Exercise Group: 9 a.m.
- Youth Group: 7 p.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, October 9, 8 to 11 a.m.

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

COMMODITIES: Thursday, October 26, 8:30 to 11:30 a.m.

TRUNK OR TREAT: Sunday, October 29th at 5:30 p.m. In need of volunteers and participants. See more info on next page.

Pastor Andrew ... continued from pg. 1

gets read to all the brothers and sisters. Don't leave anyone out.

²⁸The amazing grace of Jesus Christ be with you!

Now that is an amazing greeting from Paul to the church of Thessalonians! The words of our scripture speak to us as if they are landing fresh upon our church in 2023. In the past month we have been exploring the idea of leaning into God's transformative grace. While exploring God's grace I had many wonderful ideas shared with me. Each idea is a piece of a larger vision.

I encourage you to keep the ideas coming. We will soon be working with a coach from the Conference that will guide us to come up with a vision for our church. I encourage you to write down any gaps you see in community, ministry ideas, God visions (something that would take a miracle to get done). Write your ideas down and if you feel led, place your name on it. Place your ideas in the offering plate each Sunday. These ideas will be helpful with the Visioning process.

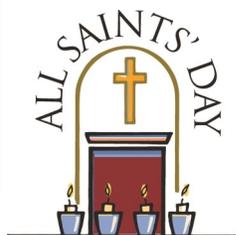
In the month of October, we are launching a new series, **Living Generously**. This series explores the idea of being generous in all ways. We will explore what giving our first and best to God, having a rounded approach to balancing our faith/work/play, keeping our faith during difficulties, and growing closer to Christ while caring for others.

Also, in the month of October we will be having a Bible study on the "**Five Prac-**

tices of Fruitful Living," which covers Radical Hospitality, Passionate Worship, Intentional Faith Development, Risk Taking Mission and Service, and Extravagant Generosity. This wonderful study has grown churches and conferences all around the world. Our former Bishop, Robert Schnase, authored this material to challenge Christ disciples to think outside the proverbial box of how to reach new persons. Participants can also anticipate personal growth.

In my four months here at Lexington I have been impressed by our leadership's desire to grow the church. One of the ways that you can support our leadership is by attending the events, studies, and worship services that the leadership team offers. The leadership team desires the success of each individual person within the church and community to grow as disciples of Jesus Christ. Each of us by attending church on Sunday mornings and attending events/learning times will grow. By attending we will grow by the knowledge offered, fellowship experienced, love shared and life being lived in the community of faith.

You are invited to participate in all that your leadership team is doing to grow your church, your faith, and the faith of those still searching. ¹²⁻¹³And now, friends, we ask you to honor those leaders who work so hard for you, who have been given the responsibility of urging and guiding you along in your obedience. Overwhelm them with appreciation (your presence) and love! ♦



We will have a time of remembrance on All Saints Sunday, November 5th at 11 a.m. for those we have lost this year, including Mary Alice McFadden and Beth Simmitt. We will have votive candles available for congregants to light as they remember a loved one who has passed on.

Church insurance to increase substantially

Liz Johnson | Editor

Mid-summer Lexington UMC received a letter from the church insurance agent, Derek Savage, that our insurance carrier, Grinnell, was canceling the church insurance policy effective October 1, 2023.

Savage informed us that Grinnell has cancelled 40% of its church policies due to large insurance payouts in the past few years. LUMC had once such payout when the roof was replaced two years ago with a more than \$500,000 payout by Grinnell.

We paid Grinnell \$12,272 per year for

insurance coverage that includes workman's compensation and all the pertinent coverages a building this size and organization such as LUMC would need.

In searching for a new company, Savage could only find one insurance company willing to cover our church, GuideOne, a fairly common church insurance company.

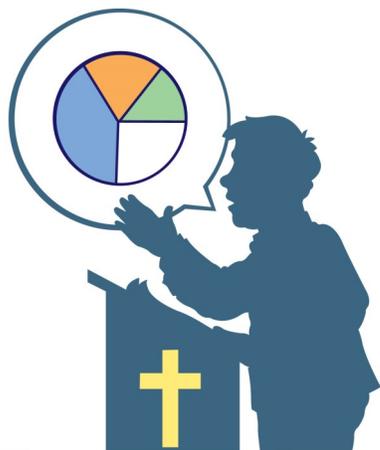
Therefore, our insurance is increasing by \$18,000 more a year than we paid with Grinnell to a total of \$30,139, or approximately an additional \$1,500/month more than we've been paying.

With no alternative coverage available at this time, Church Administrative Council has



accepted the bid for GuideOne's policy coverage effective October 1, 2023.

We anticipate a new monthly payment of approximately \$2,522 per month for church insurance.



Treasurer's Report SEPTEMBER 2023

September Offering:	\$ 5,946.46
Plus Reimbursements:	<u>+\$2,471.26</u>
Total	\$ 8,420.72
Less Budget:	<u>-\$12,152.00</u>
Total	(\$3,731.28)

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 |

SAVE THE DATE for our Nov. 5 luncheon

Plans are underway for a luncheon to follow our worship service on Sunday, November 5th – All Saints Sunday.

Pam Johnson, Teri James and Cheryl Cooley will once again be cooking up something delicious for a meal we hope to share with our sister churches, Waverly, Grace in Higginsville and Concordia. The meal will begin around 12:30 p.m. once the other churches and Pastor Julie have joined us.

At this time, the meal will be soup and beverages provided by Pam, Cheryl and Teri. We ask that those attending the luncheon bring a dessert and/or crackers.

Our sister churches have been invited to join us for the meal and fellowship.



October is Pastor Appreciation month. Please remember Pastor Andrew this month and thank him for his guidance, leadership and work for the Kingdom of God. We are so blessed to have you here!



TRUNK OR TREAT, 5:30 p.m., OCTOBER 29-SAVE THE DATE: We're planning this year's Trunk or Treat now! Spear-headed by Teri James, we are in need of volunteers to help with setting up the parking lot for this event and for donations of candy. We're in need of people to get into costume, decorate their vehicles and come join in the fun! Call Teri James at 660-232-3490 for more information. Candy donations can be dropped off at the church office.

WORSHIP: Sundays 11 a.m.
Sunday School: on hiatus at this time
ONLINE: lexmoumc.org

Pastor Andrew gives Freedom Walk Prayer



Pastor Andrew was invited to present the prayer for Lexington's Freedom Walk that took place on September 11th. According to those who attended despite the rain, Pastor not only gave a beautiful prayer and devotional, but he shared his whereabouts on Sept. 11, 2001, what he was doing and how it impacted his life. (Photo courtesy of Joe Parmon, Lexington News)

Pastor Andrew joins Lexington Rotary



Pastor Andrew is getting out and about in our community. On September 27th, he was inducted into the Lexington Rotary. (Photo courtesy of Steven Fuller)