



**JANUARY**

**2024**

**Lexington United  
Methodist Church**

*Where We Seek, Serve  
and Share Christ*

[www.lexmoumc.org](http://www.lexmoumc.org)



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**G**reetings in the grace and love of Jesus Christ...

*"And he came and preached peace to you who were far off and peace to those who were near. For through him we both have access in one Spirit to the Father. So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone, in whom the whole structure, being joined together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord. In him you also are being built together into a dwelling place for God by the Spirit."* Ephesians 2:17-22

What a hopeful and uplifting message of inclusion and grace. Your leadership at Lexington United Methodist church is excited for the possibilities for the upcoming year. In Ephesians chapter two the apostle Paul lets the people know that through Christ all of humanity is invited into a relationship with God. We are no longer strangers and aliens; we are adopted heirs.

We are excited for the New Year and all the possible success that is just around the corner. Your leadership team has re-worked our administrative board to



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focus more on the mission of Christ, "To Make New Disciples for the transformation of the world." At Lexington UMC we understand Jesus' invitation to mean being intentional with spiritual growth of individuals and the church

body.

Our prayer for each person whom graces the church with their presence is to find a place of belonging. Strangers welcomed with open arms, souls warmed, fellow citizens of the Lord celebrating and worshipping with the saints and spiritual growth.

Our Advent season was a testament of the Lord's abundance. We have enjoyed the overflowing presence of the Spirit. On Christmas Eve we had over eighty persons in attendance. We celebrate having over 50 persons worshipping with us on a given Sunday morning, and we thank God for you.

The excitement of the last few months gives us a glimpse of what the future can hold! Together we have much to accomplish.

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**SUNDAY WORSHIP: 11 a.m.**

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

**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: This group will be starting back up soon. Ideas? Talk to Phillip Davis.**

**HARVESTERS DISTRIBUTION: Second Monday of the month 8 to 11 a.m.**

**WOMEN'S GROUP: Friday, January 12, Noon for carry-in lunch.**

**CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED: For MLK holiday.**

**CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING: Monday, January 15, 6 p.m., Choir Room.**

**Tuesday, January 16, 9 a.m.: Survey of LUMC by GuideOne insurance.**

**COMMODITIES: Thursday, January 25, 8:30 to 11:30 a.m.**

**SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 10:30 a.m.: Charge Conference at First Sedalia Celebration Center: 1701 W. 32nd St., Sedalia, MO. All are welcome to attend, including our church leaders.**

**Pastor Andrew ... continued from pg. 1**

Come and be a part of the transformation as the Spirit of the Lord continues to build this church for the present time and the future. Let us trust God to continue building the kingdom through the call which strengthens us.

*Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us. ~ Ephesians 3:20.*

### Volunteers Needed!

Baby Grace is in need of volunteers to help with distribution and other duties in this active ministry. Lauren Negrete will be on maternity leave shortly and needs help. This is a growing ministry that has served more than 100 children in the last year and 30-40 families per month. Please call the church office to volunteer: 660-259-2483.

# Church COUNCIL

The 2023 church Administrative Council members met one last time on Wednesday, December 27<sup>th</sup> to finish out the year and discuss paying 2023 Apportionments to the Missouri Conference of the UMC.

The remaining balance we owed to Apportionments for 2023 was \$13,733. The council voted to pay one-half of this amount: \$6,866 by the deadline of January 9, 2024 to be counted for 2023. The council voted to take \$3,000 from the church savings to cover a portion of the payment. The apportionment payment was made on Tuesday, January 2, 2024. With each category of general church support and conference support receiving one-half of the balance owed.

The council also voted to take the 2024 Apportionment figure of \$14,233, divide it by 12 months and pay the monthly amount each month: \$1,186, as long as there is enough funds to cover this.

For information on what our Apportionment payments cover, please refer to the September 2023 newsletter article.

At the beginning of the meeting, Pastor Andrew led members through a mock agenda of what is expected of council leaders in 2024 as we follow the United Methodist Church's guidance for the Simplified Structure Council in which we adopted a few years ago.

Beginning in January, council chairs will provide Liz Johnson with their respective team reports a week prior to the next meeting. Liz will then forward those reports, along with the

next meeting agenda, previous meeting's minutes, council covenant and treasurer's report to date. Members will then be able to read ahead and be prepared for the meeting.

We will be focusing on spiritual development, leadership development, review of new people, pressing issues, as well as a review of the meeting's packet. We will be summarizing anything in need of communication to the congregation including pressing issues as well as goals.

We are currently in search of someone to take over the Youth Group. Thomas Rowland, Lauren Negrete and Jordyn Ortega have resigned. Youth will, from here on out, be called: Next Gen (Generation).

The Baby Grace room has no air conditioning or heat and gets very hot or cold throughout the year with no ventilation. Volunteer Lauren Negrete has requested to be moved as the use of fans and space heaters is not safe enough for a room with children. It was decided for the trustees to look into possibly putting a heating and cooling system in the current room. Lauren also noted that she has plans to grow Baby Grace in the new year. Steven Fuller has also signed up the church with Brothers Market's round-up program to benefit Baby Grace. In 2023, Baby Grace served approximately 30-40 families and more than 100 children.

Phillip Davis is the new Council Chair for 2024. For any concerns, please feel free to contact him. A 2024 leadership list is on the bulletin board in the vestibule outside the sanctuary. Our 2024 leaders will be honored Sunday, January 14 during the service.

**Our mission is to:** Make new disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

**Our vision is:** To seek, serve and share Christ.

# Children's Pageant teach us the Symbols of Christmas

At left is narrator Pam Johnson. Performing are from left: Sutton Eaton, Cooper Davis, Briggen Johnson and Bailee Johnson



Bailee Smith took on the joyful task of presenting a Christmas Pageant last month that focused on the symbols of Christmas. With the descriptions of the symbols read by narrator Pam Johnson, the kids: Sutton Eaton, Cooper Davis and Briggen Smith decorated the tree next to the alter with the various symbols. The kids also led the congregation in song and happy performances. The pageant was followed by a reception in their honor in Hicklin Hall, hosted by the Women of the Church.



Above left: Sutton Eaton, Bailee Smith and Cooper Davis read to the congregation about the various symbols of Christmas. Above right, the kids give a happy performance while singing carols to the congregants. Many thanks to The Lexington News for running a lovely photo of the kids performing ran on the front page of the January 3rd edition.

## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR HOSPITALITY

At right is a delicious and adorable pastry baked by Donna Slusher who hosted the hospitality time before our December 17th worship service. Thank you Donna!

We are always looking for volunteers to make coffee and bring a tasty treat for folks to enjoy before the 11 a.m. Sunday service. Please reach out to Sarah Black if you're interested: 660-232-2457 or Liz in the church office: 660-259-2483.



- 01/10 Stacy Davidson
- 01/11 Mary Kate Alkire
- 01/16 Shirley Link
- 01/18 Nancy Oles  
Liz Fenner
- 01/22 Steven Fuller

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

**If you are on Facebook, please be sure and like the church Facebook page LEXMOUMC. Plus, you will receive a Birthday Greeting on your birthday on our page!**

## 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](mailto: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.

## ALZHEIMER'S ASSOCIATION FACTS & SNACKS

**TUESDAY, JAN. 23, 2 P.M.**

Michelle Garrard with the Alzheimer's Association will provide an update on the latest information about Alzheimer's and the association at John Knox Village East, 1201 W. 19th St., Higginsville.

RSVP to Kurt at: 660-584-4416



**CHECK-IN ONLINE!**  
You can scan this QR code with your phone camera and be redirected to our website where you can make a donation or check-in for the service attendance.

WORSHIP: Sundays 11 a.m.

Sunday School: on hiatus at this time

ONLINE: [lexmoumc.org](http://lexmoumc.org)



## Treasurer's Report DECEMBER 2023

December Offering:	\$25,019.92
Plus Reimbursements:	<u>+\$2,430.10</u>
Total	\$27,450.02
Less Expenses:	<u>-\$13,912.00</u> (Incl. Insur.)
Total	\$13,538.02

**Note:** March to Manger was \$16,930 (included with December offering figures above)

**Teri James:** Treasurer

**Liz Johnson:** Finance Secretary

**Sharol McMullin:** Finance Chair

**Phillip Davis:** 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 |*



# LIZ FENNER

Liz Fenner turns 90 on January 18. Congratulations Liz! Her family is planning a celebration on Saturday, Jan. 20th. She would like to invite the entire congregation at LUMC to come and celebrate her birthday with her from 1 to 4 p.m. at Lexington Moose Lodge.

"I would be delighted to have all my church family join in the celebration. No gifts, just all your smiling faces," said Liz F.

### QUILTERS 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.

### 2023 IN FIGURES:

Our Quilter ministers have been hard at work since the ministry was founded by Beth Simnitt in 1989. In 2023, the Quilters have reported:

- 245 total workers in 2023
- 105 sleeping bags completed
- \$20 the estimated value of the sleeping bags (made from recycled materials & including various items)