



APRIL 2024

**Lexington United
Methodist Church**

*Where We Seek, Serve
and Share Christ*

www.lexmoumc.org

Office: 660-259-2483



Rev. Andrew Sanders, Pastor
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Liz Johnson,
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Janet Thompson,
Music Director

Glenda Brooks,
Custodian

Sunday worship: 11 a.m.
Sunday School: 10 a.m.
Adult Sunday School: 10 a.m.

If I asked you to say the first word that popped into your mind when we said Lexington United Methodist Church, what would that word be? The word that comes to mind for me is **STRONG!** If strong is not a word that was brought to the forefront of your mind, then you may not have attended your church for a little while.

Since July 2023 things have been shaping up, culminating thus far, having over 90 souls in worship who attended our Easter service. During Easter celebrations we had our 1st annual egg hunt, and Fellowship breakfast.

Even though we know that numbers don't tell the full story we keep track of them for the purpose of staying on task. Our average worship attendance to date is over 50 disciples. Our attendance has grown more than 100% in the last year without signs of slowing down.

The work of ministry doesn't happen by accident. Your board at LUMC has been working diligently and tirelessly to move with the spirit of Christ. It is through prayers & presence that this work is being accomplished. Your leadership at LUMC is laying excellent groundwork to accomplish God's plans for LUMC. If you desire to find your place as a disciple at LUMC we



**Rev. Andrew
Sanders**

encourage you to reach out to your leadership team, let them know where you are excited to serve.

Some of our kiddos may have noticed that we have worship items for them. Our greeters now

have activities for the little ones that include fun coloring pages, puzzles... etc. Our Sunday school classes for kids and adults @ 10 a.m. each Sunday, have been going strong now for a few months.

When talking of expansion and growth we can't leave out our "Baby Grace" program. We are in the process of moving the Baby Grace program to a bigger room. The much-needed space will allow for the comfort all participants with room for the program to grow.

On April 21st @ 12 p.m. you're invited to our Fellowship Potluck meal and town hall meeting. In our town hall meeting we will be discussing our vision for the future, ministries, apportionments, attendance, finances, and programs. Please make plans to be a part of this uplifting time of fellowship and open communication.

Our mission in the United Methodist

Continued on Page 2

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

SUNDAY WORSHIP: 11 a.m.

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

-Sunday School Adult Class: Sundays at 10 a.m. in the former Youth Room. The class will be choosing a new Small Group study April 7.

-Children's Sunday School Class: Sundays at 10 a.m. in the Christ Kids I room with Bailee Smith.

Mondays: Quilters at 1 p.m

Wednesdays: Exercise Group: 9 a.m.

BABY GRACE: First & Third Saturdays, 10 to Noon. (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, April 12, Noon for carry-in lunch.

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

CHURCH OFFICE OPENING LATE: Thursday, April 18—office opening around 11 a.m.

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

Church COUNCIL

The 2024 Church Council leaders met on Monday, March 18th.

Pastor Andrew opened the meeting with a prayer. His prayer was based on Luke 9:59-60: *"To another he said, 'Follow me.' But he said, 'Lord, first let me go and bury my father.' And Jesus said to him, 'Let the dead bury their own dead, but as for you, go and proclaim the kingdom of God.'"*

Treasurer Teri James spoke about the finance report and said finances were "rough" at the end of February. She reported that the church needs a minimum of \$11,881 a month to pay regular bills and \$13,740 a month in order to also pay apportionments. Custodian Glenda Brooks lowered her monthly fee by \$290 per month.

A Town Hall meeting for the congregation is set for Sunday, April 21, along with a potluck lunch.

Grandparents, aunts and uncles are encouraged, along with parents, to bring their young ones to our Sunday

School class at 10 a.m. with Bailee Smith. Folks can stay for the 10 a.m. adult Sunday School class with Sarah Black and head into worship at 11 a.m.

Committees are beginning to set 1 and 5-year goals for the church. Included are:

5-year goals:

-**To be a central location** for those who need assistance.

-**For apportionments** to be paid in full.

-**Increase attendance** by 100%.

-Classes for all ages & organized missions.

-**Pay back the savings** account the money borrowed in August 2023.

1-year goals:

-**Pastor Andrew** will have "Coffee with the Pastor," as a part of discipleship pathways.

-**Education:** increase Sunday School attendance, including teachers.

-**Growth:** Increase attendance to worship.

-**Bring back "Children's Moment."**

-Leadership development.

-Media training.

Please keep our church leaders in your prayers as we navigate this new year in our mission, "To make new disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world."

Pastor Andrew ... continued from pg. 1

Church is to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. We accomplish the mission of God through discipleship. **We invite you to a study with Pastor Andrew.** Our discipleship material will follow *"A Disciple's Path"* starting April 24th & ending June 5th. Join us for 60-min. classes that will teach us about being Discipled in the Wesleyan tradition of the United Methodist Church, authored by James Harnish. This 6-week study will guide the participants to deepen their relationship with Christ and the church.

The Lord has made us strong in faith, love, hope and joy as a church and individuals. Come and see what the Lord has done in your church, join us each Sunday in person for worship at 11 a.m. or online - lexmoumc.org

Lenten journey shared by four United Methodist Churches

Many thanks to those who attended the Lenten services, and it is with much gratitude that we express hearty thanks for your generosity. "We'll use it (donation) as universal funds to help the ladies, especially with clothing," said HOH shelter

coordinator Katie Courtney. "We are grateful to be able to contribute in any way possible," said Pastor Julie, "to make a difference in the lives of others. (A full article is in the March 20, 2024 Lexington News.)



Representatives from the county UMC churches and House of Hope gathered at its facility recently, as a check was presented to the shelter for \$1,900. The funds were gifted during the four Sunday evening Lenten services. From left, Katie Courtney (HOH), Marily Gibbs-Smith (Grace), Janae Fuller, Sarah Black, Lori Gray (Grace), Rev. Julie Sanders, Rev. Andrew Sanders, Gingy Lebold (Waverly) & Kayleen Williams (HOH).

Easter fun for the kids, adults



Photos by Liz
Johnson

We had our first annual Easter Egg Hunt on Sunday, March 31st. The kids were delighted to find the brightly colored eggs filled with yummy chocolate goodies. Many thanks to the Scouts who stuffed all the eggs, to those who donated candy, to Blake Johnson & David Cooley for hiding the eggs and to Sarah Black who coordinated it all. We look forward to more egg hunts in years to come!



Easter Pancake Breakfast

Cheryl Cooley, left, scoops up some delicious pancakes for our Easter morning Pancake & Sausage breakfast before our 11 a.m. service. At right, Pam Johnson prepares orange juice to service with the sausage and pancakes. Folks donated the funds for the sausage while Lafayette County Memorial Hospital donated the



04/07 Janet Thompson

04/13 Rebecca Anderson

Let Liz know in the office if we don't have your birthday!

NEW MEMBER CLASSES

Beginning Wednesday, April 24th at 6 p.m., Pastor Andrew will have NEW MEMBER CLASSES, for those wishing to become members, for those who are new members and for those who want a member refresher course. The classes will run through June 5th.

HELP FOR OUR QUILTERS

Our devoted quilters, many of whom have been quilting sleeping bags for the homeless since 1989, have requested helping hands! Volunteers are needed. You don't have to be able to sew to help these ladies. Please reach out to Liz in the church office if interested, or: Janet Cado, Nancy Oles, Susan Small, Mable Hawkins or Sharol McMullin. Quilters meet at 1 p.m. Mondays.

What is the time between Easter and Pentecost?

For Christians, Easter is not just one day - it's a season of 50 days, a week of weeks, derived in its length from the fifty days between Passover and Pentecost (which means fiftieth) in Judaism. Easter season begins at sunset on the eve of Easter and ends with [Pentecost](#), the day we celebrate the gift of the Holy Spirit and the birth of the Church (see Acts 2).

Easter season is more than an extended celebration of the resurrection of Jesus. In the early church, Lent was a season when persons who wished to become Christians were learning how to live the way of Jesus and preparing for baptism on Easter Sunday. Christians have referred to this time of formation as "catechesis" or "echoing the way of

Jesus." The original purpose of the Easter season was to continue the formation of new Christians in the faith. Christians have historically referred to this formation process as "mystagogy" or "leading people into the mysteries."

Today, this extended season gives us time to rejoice and experience what we mean when we say Christ is risen and that we, as the church, are the body of the Risen Lord. It's a season for focusing on the core doctrines and mysteries of the faith and for preparing for the ministries the Spirit has empowered us to undertake in Jesus' name.

This year, Pentecost Sunday is May 19, 2024. The season after Pentecost begins with Trinity Sunday and concludes with

Christ the King/Reign of Christ Sunday. The purpose of this season is to support our common work of using the gifts we have been given in the name of Jesus and the power of the Holy Spirit.

The Season after Pentecost, also called Ordinary Time, begins the day after Pentecost and ends the day before the First Sunday of Advent. It may include twenty-three to twenty-eight Sundays, depending on the date of Easter, but the first Sunday is always Trinity Sunday, and the last Sunday is always the Sunday of the Reign of Christ or Christ the King. The season also includes All Saints and Thanksgiving.

~ United Methodist Communications

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. Adult & Children's

ONLINE: lexmoumc.org



Treasurer's Report MARCH 2024

March Offering:	\$14,191.21
Plus Reimbursements:	<u>+\$4284.63</u>
Total	\$18,4478.84
Less Expenses: *	<u>-\$13,793.84</u> (Incl. Insur.)
Total	\$4,685.00

*Expenses include \$505 Lenten donation to House of Hope.

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

Baby Grace News

Baby Grace volunteer Lauren Negrete reports that we recently received diapers sized 4, 5 and 6, plus some new pack and plays and car seats from the Community Health Council of Wyandotte County. We're so grateful and blessed!

Baby Grace still needs: **wipes, bottles, clothing and formula.**

Lauren says they've served about 15 families this month. She hopes they will be moving into the Scout Room in May.



From Karen Yates:
"I would like to Thank everyone who prayed and helped my family due to Robert Yates' accident. He is recovering successfully and doing well."

—Lovingly, Karen Yates



**SUNDAY
SCHOOL
10 a.m.
SUNDAYS**

**CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL with
Bailee Smith, Christ Kids 1 Room**

**ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL with
facilitator Sarah Black, Former
Youth Room**



TITHE & CHECK-IN ONLINE!

You can scan this QR code with your phone camera and be redirected to our website where you tithe an offering and/or check-in for the service attendance.