

***“Go therefore and make disciples
of all nations... and remember, I
am with you always.”***

– Matthew 28:19-20

June 2025

**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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417-770-6731 (cell)

Liz Johnson,
Administrative Assistant
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Janet Thompson,
Music Director

Sarah Black,
Council Chair

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

Youth Group: On hiatus
Worshipping Winds Rehearsal:
Sundays, 9:30 a.m.

Choir Rehearsal: On hiatus

Love boldly, serve generously, and draw closer to Christ

As spring turns to summer, we enter a season of sending forth. We just celebrated the graduation of our seniors—young men and women we’ve watched grow, serve, worship, and learn among us. Now we send them forth with prayerful confidence into a world that needs their light, compassion, and courage.

At the same time, I too am being sent right here in the Lexington / Waverly communities. I am proud to serve here again in our thriving churches. On June 8th, at our Annual Conference, I will be ordained for the work of the Gospel. It is a deeply humbling milestone in my journey, and one I could not have reached without your steady support, prayers, and encouragement. Thank you for walking this road with me. My heart is full of gratitude.

Change is happening—because growth is happening. And that’s worth celebrating.

Each Sunday, we continue to witness new faces, deeper conversations, and wider arms of welcome. We’ve been growing numerically each Sunday and we also pray for spiritual growth—in ourselves and in those God brings through our doors. Let’s remain watchful for opportunities to love boldly, serve generously, and draw closer to Christ.



**Rev. Andrew
Sanders**

At the same time, I encourage you: take your rest. Make memories with your families this summer. Reconnect with each other, unplug when you can, and savor the stillness that summer offers. My family and I will be taking time away as well before the Annual Conference. I look forward to rejoining you the second week of June, renewed and ready to walk with you into this next season.



May we offer up prayers for Pastor Andrew’s ordination and his continued wisdom, strength and service to the Lord and to his flock here at Lexington and Waverly United Methodist churches.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Sundays: Worshiping Winds rehearsal
9:30 a.m.

Choir Rehearsal on Summer hiatus.

Sundays at 10 a.m.: Adult Sunday School.

Sundays at 10 a.m.: Children's Sunday School.

Mondays: Quilters at 1 p.m.

Wednesdays: Exercise Group: 9 a.m.

BABY GRACE: New Hours: Sundays 10-11 a.m.

Church office: Liz is on vacation from Wednesday, May 28 through Tuesday, June 3. Office will reopen Wednesday, June 4.

WOMEN'S GROUP: Friday, June 13, Noon for carry-in lunch.

Sunday, June 8: Pastor Andrew is being ordained during Annual Conference.

HARVESTERS DISTRIBUTION: June 9, 8 to 11 a.m.

CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING: To be announced.

COMMODITIES: THURSDAY, June 26, 8:30 to 11 a.m.

SUNDAY, 1—June 8: Pastor Andrew on vacation (ordination is June 8!)

Lexington Trade Days: June 28—see ad on back page of newsletter.

YOUTH GROUP: is on summer hiatus.

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL: Sundays at 10.

CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL: 10 a.m. with Donna & Scott Slusher.



A special thank you from Susan Small

"Many thanks to the LUMC family for the thoughts and prayers that were lifted for my grandson, Dylan Craft, 12. Dylan and the family were blessed with the results we were praying for. In doing the procedure, following the heart's electrical path, cells that were causing the problem of his erratic heartbeats were zapped, and within seconds, his heart resumed a normal heartbeat, that is believed not to be a lifetime problem, or an issue that will be a future problem.

God is Good! Susan Craft Small

Honoring our 2025 graduates



Nancy Oles, president of the LUMC Women's Group, thanked each of our 2025 graduates with a card and gift card on May 18th, which also happened to be Lexington High School's graduation day. From left: Chloe Heisler, Andrew Dye and Elisabeth Staus with Nancy Oles.



Above: Nancy Oles presents Andrew Dye as a graduate and offered our gratitude for his tuba playing with Worshiping Winds. Andrew is the son of Katie Dye and Sheriff Aaron Dye. Center: Nancy congratulates Chloe Heisler, granddaughter of Karen Yates, and right, she speaks with graduate Elisabeth Staus, granddaughter of Scott & Donna Slusher.



June 5	Blanche Willis
June 6	Jordyn Ortega
June 7	Terrie Dishman
June 12	Yolanda Guzman
June 12	Blake Johnson
June 14	Stephanie Davis
June 19	Gavin Goodloe
June 25	Rowdy Yates

LUMC folks visit Powell Gardens



A few ladies from LUMC got together for a day trip to Powell Gardens on May 8th. The day was beautiful and the ladies said they really enjoyed themselves.

Above left: Janet Cado, Sarah Black, Maxine Palmer & Debbie Hatfield. Above: Surrounding a lovely palette art is Maxine Palmer, Debbie Hatfield, Janet Cado and Sarah Black.

Left: Janet talks with Debbie while Maxine enjoys the view. It was a nearly perfect-weathered day for a trip to the beautiful botanical garden.



May we serve God with steady, faithful love

As I was reading my morning devotionals, I was inspired by a powerful verse and the author's reflection on Matthew 25:40. In it, Jesus says, *"Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me."*

This simple yet profound truth reminded me that Jesus isn't only served in sanctuaries and Sunday services. He is served in kitchens, break rooms, front porches, hospital corridors, and grocery store aisles. Every time we show kindness to someone in need—offering a smile, a meal, a listening ear—we are serving Christ Himself.

What if we truly embraced this mindset? What if we began to see ourselves—not just as individuals who go to church—but as the Church, scattered like seeds throughout our community, sent to bring light, hope, and healing?



Rev. Andrew Sanders

Imagine the difference we could make. A word of encouragement to a struggling neighbor. A visit to someone who feels forgotten. A helping hand to someone burdened. These aren't random acts—they're sacred. They are the touchpoints where heaven meets earth through us.

Serving Jesus isn't always about doing more; it's about being more present—being more aware of how God might use us in the ordinary. Each of us carries His love into our homes, workplaces, and neighborhoods. Through everyday compassion, we quietly but powerfully reflect Christ's heart.

Let's continue becoming the kind of church that transforms the community—not with fanfare or headlines, but with steady, faithful love. Because in every kind gesture, every helping hand, and every word of hope, Jesus is seen and glorified.

Help needed for historic June Hicklin Hearthstone tour



We are partnering with **Marcia Hicklin**, owner of historic property, **Hicklin Hearthstone**, on June 20th & 21st with a home tour. We're looking for volunteers to help with the tours through 2-hour shifts in various rooms.

June 20th is 1 to 5 p.m., June 21st is 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

All information is provided for this air conditioned environment. Proceeds will benefit church missions. A sign-up sheet is available on the table in the church hallway.

Please reach out to **Liz Johnson** for more information: **660-259-2483**.



We now have a way to digitally tithe to Lexington UMC via PayPal. You will need to have the PayPal app installed on your phone.

Then, scan the QR code on the bulletin (or at right) to tithe to Lexington United Methodist Church. You can even choose to have a regular tithe sent to the church via PayPal.



Children's Sunday School

We're happy to announce that **Scott & Donna Slusher** are our new Children's Sunday School teachers. Sunday School is 10 a.m. Sundays in the Christ Kids I room.

They have a fun new curriculum and are excited to be working with the children of the church.

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 Sunday School is 10 a.m.

Choir Rehearsal: On hiatus

Worshiping Winds Rehearsal: 9:30 a.m.

ONLINE: lexmoumc.org



Treasurer's Report

May: 2025

May Offering:	\$ 6,719.11
Reimbursements:	\$ 591.89
May Expenses:	-\$12,452.53
Total	-\$ 5,141.53
Year to Date (as of 4/30):	-\$ 5,620.45
Estimated May YTD:	-\$ 10,761.98
*Avg. Expenses 2025	\$ 13,641.00 (per month)

Figures calculated May 27th before end of month.
May's Treasurer's report not in yet.

Teri James: Treasurer

Liz Johnson: Finance Secretary

Sharol McMullin: Finance Chair

Sarah Black: 2025 Council Chair

Jim Martin: 2025 PPR Chair

Pastor: Rev. Andrew Sanders

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

LEXINGTON
TRADE DAYS
RESCHEDULED

MONTHLY EVENT
JUNE, SEPT., NOVEMBER

JUNE 28 | 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Goods, Food, Activities for All Ages

Lexington United Methodist Church | 1211 S. Bus. 13 Hwy. | Lexington, Mo.
660-259-2483 | lexmoumc.org | secretary@lexmoumc.org

Join us for our First annual Lexington Trade Days to take place in the parking lot of Lexington United Methodist Church on the fourth Saturday of the month, June, September & November from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. We'll feature lots of vendors and food trucks with a wide variety of wares to sell and delicious food and treats. Plus, activities for children. We have plenty of parking available, restrooms and fun for everyone!

Our Fourth Saturday Trade Days will run June, September & November with a fall theme in September and a Christmas theme in November.

SATURDAY
JUNE 28

First Trade Days
9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

SATURDAY
SEPT. 27

Summer Trade Days
9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

SATURDAY
NOV. 22

Back-to-School
9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

LEXINGTON UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
1211 S. Business 13 Hwy.
lexmoumc.org
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Ascension Sunday, June 1, 2025

Scripture Reading: Acts 1:1-11

At his ascension our Lord entered heaven, and he keeps the door open for humanity to enter. —Oswald Chambers

The Apostles' Creed, in summarizing the teachings of the apostles, identifies Christ's ascension as a key part of this little statement of faith: "I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who ... was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again from the dead; *he ascended into heaven*, and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty" (emphasis added). The expression is also repeated in the Nicene Creed and the Athanasian Creed, as well as others. For Christians, it would seem, the ascension of Christ is an important aspect of our faith. But why? And what does it mean for us today?

For the disciples, the moment was both awe-inspiring and bittersweet. The disciples watch as Jesus is "taken up," disappearing from sight, leaving them with a promise and a command. He assures them they will receive power through the Holy Spirit and charges them to be his witnesses "to the ends of the earth."

In other words, this is the "hand-off" moment that marks the end of Jesus' earthly ministry and the beginning of the disciples' mission. Until now, Jesus had done all the heavy lifting. Henceforth, it was up to the apostles, and now is up to us! Their mission, as is ours, would be to spread the message of hope, love and salvation to all people.

As we celebrate this event, we are reminded that *our faith is not passive*. Sometimes, we may feel inadequate, just as the disciples must have felt as they watched Jesus leave. Yet, he assures us that the Holy Spirit will empower us.

Ascension Sunday not only reminds us that we are empowered to do God's work in the world, but that we are called *to live with hope*. The angels told the disciples that Jesus would return (v. 11). So, we live in the hope of Christ's return. This hope, in turn, compels us to live faithfully, knowing that our daily lives reflect his kingdom here on earth, even as we await its fullness.

—Timothy Merrill

Prayer: Lord Jesus, you gave the disciples a task. You have given me a task. Give me also the power and love to bring it to completion. In your name. Amen.

HERD, HORDE AND HUDDLE

Collective nouns are words that are given to groups of animals. That's why we refer to kittens as a "litter of kittens." The words in the title above are collective nouns: a **herd** of goats, a **horde** of gnats and a **huddle** of penguins. **Match the GROUP NAMES in Chart B to the ANIMALS in Chart A.** (We did "Flamingoes" for you as an example.) Answers below.

CHART A : The Animals

Clams		Flamingoes	A	Raccoons		Turkeys	
Coyotes		Foxes		Prairie dogs		Vultures	
Crows		Geese		Porcupines		Zebras	
Dolphins		Grouse		Owls		Wolves	
Eagles		Hawks (flying)		Hyenas		Whales	

CHART B: The Collective Nouns

A. Stand	I. Bed	Q. Gaze
B. Pack	J. Prickle	R. Murder
C. Rafter	K. Pod	S. Covey
D. Convocation	L. Zeal	T. Gaggle
E. Coterie	M. Skulk	
F. Venue	N. Parliament	
G. Cackle	O. School	
H. Kettle	P. Band	



What do you call a
group of frogs?

(an army, colony or knot of frogs?)

ANSWERS: A=Flamingoes; B=Wolves; C=Turkeys; D=Eagles; E=Prairie dogs; F=Vultures; G=Hyenas; H=Hawks; I=Clams; J=Porcupines; K=Dolphins; L=Zebras; M=Foxes; N=Owls; O=Whales; P=Coyotes; Q=Raccoons; R=Crows; S=Grouse; T=Geese. FROGS: An army

Daily Bible Readings — Sunday: John 4-6; **Monday:** 1 Kings 17-19; **Tuesday:** 1 Kings 20-22; **Wednesday:** 2 Kings 1-3; **Thursday:** 2 Kings 4-6; **Friday:** 2 Kings 7-10; **Saturday:** Psalms 55-57

Pentecost Sunday, June 8, 2025

Scripture Reading: Acts 2:1-21

***Bethlehem was God with us, Calvary was God for us,
and Pentecost is God in us. —Robert Baer***



Today is Pentecost Sunday. Christians celebrate Pentecost as the moment the universal church came into being. But still, does Pentecost matter to us today?

Yes! Briefly, here's what happened on Pentecost. The disciples are in an upstairs room of a house or building in Jerusalem. Suddenly, the Holy Spirit is there, filling the astonished disciples with awe and wonder. Flames like fire appear above their heads, and they start speaking in many languages, proclaiming the wonders of God. People from every nation hear them and marvel, and Peter preaches to the crowd, declaring that God's Spirit has been poured out on all people as the prophet Joel foretold.

Today, Pentecost may feel like a distant story. But Pentecost isn't just an event in the past; it's a message of timeless relevance. How do we understand Pentecost today? Why is it meaningful, and what does it mean practically for our lives?

For starters, Pentecost *reminds us of God's presence*. Suddenly, the presence of God is not confined to a single human body known as Jesus, but is present in the lives of the disciples and all those who believe. Are you feeling that God is beyond our reach? Think again. God's Spirit is near, dwelling within us and ready to guide, comfort and empower us. When we feel overwhelmed by life's burdens or uncertain of the future, we can take comfort in the same Spirit that empowered the disciples.

But there's more! *Pentecost equips us for mission*. It was Pentecost that propelled the disciples into action. Immediately, they began to share the gospel with people from all over the world. The Holy Spirit breaks barriers, helping us to serve and love others in practical ways.

Finally, *Pentecost unites us as God's people*. Pentecost demonstrates how people from diverse backgrounds, languages and cultures can be brought together in one message and one Spirit. We are not so different, are we, from the people around us, whatever their race, politics or religion may be? We are all objects of God's love, and this is a unifying force, breaking down barriers and drawing people together in love.

—Timothy Merrill

Prayer: Lord God, fill us anew with your Spirit, to inspire and equip us to be the light of Christ in a world in need of his love. Amen.

Daily Bible Readings

Sunday: John 7-10

Monday: 2 Kings 11–14:20

Tuesday: Joel 1-3

Wednesday: 2 Kings 14:21-25; Jonah 1-4

Thursday: 2 Kings 14:26-29; Amos 1-3

Friday: Amos 4-6

Saturday: Psalms 58-60

Verse to Remember

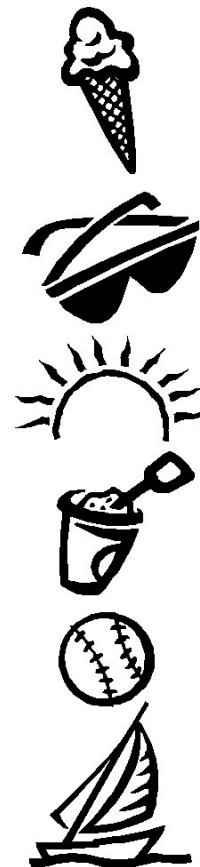
Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live." —John 11:25-26

BIBLE ALPHABET CHALLENGE

Can you come up with the name of a person, place or thing found in the Bible for each letter of the alphabet?

Answers below.

A Abraham	B
C	D
E	F
G	H
I	J
K	L
M	N
O	P
Q	R
S	T
U	V
W	X
Y	Z



ANSWERS:

There are many possible answers, but here is one list:
 A=Abraham
 B=Bethlehem
 C=Corinth
 D=Dorcas
 E=Esther
 F=Faith
 G=Goliath
 H=Hannah
 I=Isaac
 J=Jesse
 K=Kingdom
 L=Lazarus
 M=Mary
 N=Naomi
 O=Obadiah
 P=Peter
 Q=Quail
 R=Rainbow
 S=Sarah
 T=Timothy
 U=Uzziah
 V=Vashiti
 W=Wilderness
 X=Xerxes
 Y=Yoke
 Z=Zerubbabel

Trinity Sunday, June 15, 2025

Scripture Reading: Romans 5:1-5

*As a father has compassion for his children, so the LORD
has compassion for those who fear him. —Psalm 103:13*

Today is Father's Day, and so it is appropriate to reflect on "fathers" and particularly how good fathers mirror the providential care and love of our heavenly Father. Whether our earthly fathers were present and loving, absent or imperfect, our heavenly Father offers us a model of perfect compassion, care and guidance.

Consider the story (probably apocryphal) of a dad who was estranged from his son. The reasons are unknown. The son, a stubborn lad and a rebel by nature, hit the road, running away from his father as fast as he could. His dad hired private detectives to find him. The kid either eluded them or beat them up.

Dad searched for months to no avail. Finally, in a last desperate effort to find him, the father put an advert in the *Chicago Sun-Times* newspaper. They lived in the greater Chicago area. The message read: "Dear Paul, meet me on the steps of the Museum of Science and Industry at noon on Saturday. All is forgiven. I love you. Dad."

By 11:30 a.m. Saturday, 29 Pauls had shown up, looking for forgiveness and love from their dads!

The story in Luke 15 of the "prodigal son" and his father illustrates this very truth. Our heavenly Father is ready to forgive all, if we'll just make a trip to the steps of the museum as it were.

God is described throughout the Bible as a father who is present in every circumstance, guiding, comforting and providing. In Matthew 7:11, Jesus reminds us that just as earthly parents know how to give good gifts to our children, "how much more will your Father in heaven give good things to those who ask him!" Even in times when life feels difficult or lonely, God's fatherly care is never far away. God's strength becomes our strength.

We may feel limited in what we can do for others. However, our prayers, our smiles and our faith serve as powerful testaments to God's love. Today might be a good time to reflect on the ways you've experienced God's fatherly care in your life, and consider how you can share that comfort with those around you, even in small ways.

—Timothy Merrill

Prayer: Heavenly Father, we thank you for being a perfect and compassionate parent to us. On this Father's Day, we ask for your continued guidance and love in our lives. For those who may feel lonely or distant from their families, remind them of your constant presence. Bless all fathers and father figures today, and bless us as your beloved children. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

Daily Bible Readings

Sunday: John 11-13

Monday: Amos 7-9

Tuesday: 2 Kings 15-17

Wednesday: Hosea 1-4

Thursday: Hosea 5-7

Friday: Hosea 8-10

Saturday: Psalms 61-63

WORD SEARCH

Find the words listed to the right that are from the readings in the Old Testament book of Numbers. Remember that the words are hidden forward, backward, vertically and diagonally.

AARON
ATONEMENT
BALAAM
BARAK
CANAAN
CLOUD
DAN
DESERT
ELDERS
FIRE
ISRAEL
JOSHUA
JUDAH
KORAH
LEVITES
MANNA
MERIBAH
MIRIAM
MOAB
MOSES
PASSOVER
PRIESTS
QUAILS
REUBEN
SERPENT
SIMEON
SINAI



Library Books: Louisa was asked by her mother to go to the city library and check out some books. She was given two slips of paper. On one was a list of TWELVE authors and on the other was a list of SEVEN titles. Help Louisa check out the books by correctly matching the authors with the titles.

1. *The Pilgrim's Progress* by _____
2. *David Copperfield* by _____
3. *Jane Eyre* by _____
4. *Silas Marner* by _____
5. *War and Peace* by _____
6. *Far from the Madding Crowd* by _____
7. *Pride and Prejudice* by _____

Choose the correct authors from this list: William Thackeray, Henry James, Leo Tolstoy, John Updike, Charlotte Bronte, Stephen King, George Eliot, Jane Austen, Thomas Hardy, John Bunyan, William Shakespeare, Charles Dickens.

Answers: 1-Bunyan;
2-Dickens; 3-Bronte; 4-Eliot;
5-Tolstoy; 6-Hardy; 7-Austen.

Sunday, June 22, 2025

Scripture Reading: 1 Kings 19:1-4, (5-7), 8-15a

***Work is doing it. Discipline is doing it every day.
Diligence is doing it well every day. —Dave Ramsey***

Today's thought is taken from the parable of the lad with a dull ax. Once upon a time a long time ago, a young man approached a logging crew in the verdant and forested woodlands of British Columbia. He was looking for work. The foreman asked George — for that was his name — if he could fell a tree with an ax. He had never chopped down a tree before, but how hard could it be? With nary a syllable out of his mouth, he lumbered over to a nearby blue spruce and felled it like a pro. The foreman hired him on the spot.

On Monday, George outdid everyone else on the crew. But, each day after that, he got slower and slower until Friday, he could barely cut one tree down. He went through all the motions — swinging his ax, hitting the tree and repeating it, but it just didn't work very well.

Finally, George laid down his ax, sat on a tree stump, his lungs heaving with exhaustion, wondering what was causing his declining productivity and energy.

The foreman came over to see why George was lollygagging. “Ye look like yer been chewed up, spit out and stepped on, lad. What's itchin' at ya?” The young man described his problem. “Ah,” said the foreman. “I know what's wrong alright. Ye been so busy all week a-doing the things that a logger does fer sure, but ye ne'er 'membered to sharpen ye ax, didja now? Ye ax is dull, and ye may as well be warming up leftover snow as chopping wood with it.”

And this is how young George learned about the importance of sharpening his ax, as well as his other tools and skills. The foreman's words helped him to appreciate important fundamental principles and values.

And as a God-fearing lad, he also remembered from that day forward to renew his strength in the Lord. “Even youths will faint and be weary, and the young will fall exhausted; but those who wait for the LORD shall renew their strength, they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint” (Isaiah 40:30-31). George thought that verse was written just for him! Now he understood just as the logger needs to sharpen his ax, we, too, need to sharpen our spiritual lives through prayer, reading Scripture and faith in God.

—Timothy Merrill

Prayer: Almighty God, help me to always to do my best and be my best for your glory. Amen.

Daily Bible Readings**Sunday:** John 14-17**Monday:** Hosea 11-14**Tuesday:** 2 Kings 18-19**Wednesday:** Isaiah 1-3**Thursday:** Isaiah 4-6**Friday:** Isaiah 7-9**Saturday:** Psalms 64-66*Verse to Remember**Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life.
No one comes to the Father except through me."*

—John 14:6

SOUNDS THE SAME!

Homonyms are words with the same spelling but different pronunciations and meanings, such as a "minute" (60 seconds) and "minute" (very small). Each sentence below has two blanks that you are to fill with homonyms.

1. The strong _____ caused the flag to _____ around the flagpole.
2. The violinist replaced his violin and _____ before returning to the stage to take a _____.
3. The doctor _____ some gauze around her bleeding _____.
4. She got a _____ in her eye when she saw the _____ in her new dress.
5. A _____ broke out in the last _____ of the classroom.
6. You should not _____ someone in the _____ without water or food.
7. He _____ for days because he could not afford the scooter, a bright red _____.
8. Our Japanese host asked us not, for his _____, to drink all the _____
because he needed some for other guests.
9. The _____ violin player loved to fish, especially for _____.
10. In a herd of elk, _____ do not have antlers, while the dominant buck _____.

**Answers:**

1. wind
2. bow
3. wound
4. tear
5. row
6. desert
7. moped
8. sake
9. bass
10. does

Sunday, June 29, 2025

Scripture Reading: 2 Kings 2:1-2, 6-14

Be someone's sunshine on a cloudy day. –Anon.

I received an email from a former parishioner who told me that Hilda _____ had passed away. This was unwelcome news, because this godly woman, like the biblical Dorcas with her sewing, had helped and encouraged so many people. She would be missed, I thought.

But, whereas Dorcas used a needle and a thread, Hilda used a hoe and a hose. Gardening was her life — tending to flowers, herbs and vegetables as her way of connecting with nature and creating beauty. She blessed her neighbors with beautiful bouquets, not to speak of tomatoes, zucchini and squash.

As she grew older, however, and her mobility decreased, Hilda was unable to work in her beloved garden with her usual zeal — and then not at all. She thought it was over.

But the friends she had blessed had different ideas. They noticed how much she missed gardening. So, with help from her family and neighbors, they came up with a plan. If Hilda couldn't go to the garden, they'd bring the garden to her! And they did!

One Saturday morning, Hilda's family and friends gathered at her home and brought small pots, garden soil, flowers and herbs. With Hilda's guidance, they planted a variety of her favorite plants in a portable garden stand right on her porch, which she could easily access from her chair. They built boxes that allowed her to see blooming flowers from her window. When everything was in place, she could hardly believe it. She had a beautiful, fragrant garden once more within arm's reach.

With her family and neighbors stopping by to help her water and tend to it, Hilda found joy and a sense of purpose again. Even on days when she couldn't go out, she had her view of the flowers to remind her of how much love her family and friends had for her and how deeply connected she still was to the world outside.

Barbara De Angelis, TV personality and psychologist, has said that "Love and kindness are never wasted. They always make a difference. They bless the one who receives them, and they bless you, the giver!"

So true! Hilda's family and friends not only blessed Hilda, but in so doing brought blessing upon themselves. It is a recipe for joy!

—Timothy Merrill

Prayer: Almighty God, may I live worthy of my heavenly citizenship. Amen.

Daily Bible Readings

Sunday: John 18-21

Monday: Isaiah 10-12

Tuesday: Isaiah 13-15

Wednesday: Isaiah 16-18

Thursday: Isaiah 19-21

Friday: Isaiah 22-24

Saturday: Psalms 67-69

Verse to Remember

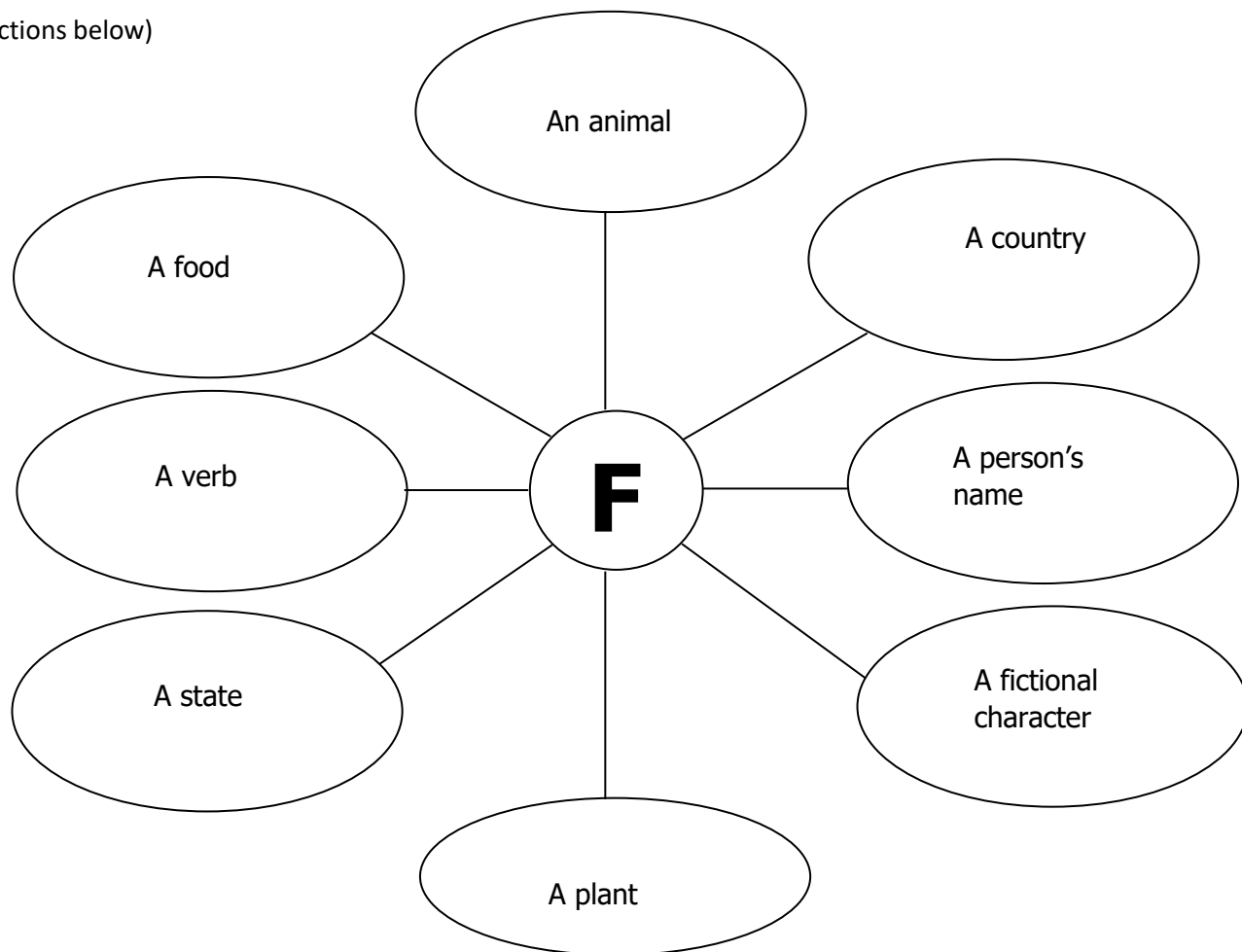
*These are written that you may believe that
Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that
by believing you may have life in his name.*

—John 20:31, NIV



MIND-MAP

(Directions below)



DIRECTIONS: Write eight words that start with F, which today stands for **FREEDOM**, in eight (8) categories: an animal, a country, a person's name, a fictional character, a plant, a state, a verb and a food. Write your answer(s) in the circles.