

Where We Seek,
Serve
and Share Christ

August 2026
lexmoumc.org
660-259-2483
Rev. Andrew
Sanders, Pastor

Back to School Prayers for our Students and Teachers

"I can do all things through Christ
who strengthens me."

Philippians 4:13

May God bless, guide, and protect
you this school year and always.



Preparing for the new season ahead

Hello Church,

It is hard to believe that summer is already beginning to wind down. Before long, school buses will once again be filling the streets, classrooms will be buzzing with excitement, and families will settle into the rhythms of a new school year. As a church, this season gives us another opportunity to come alongside our community and help children begin the school year with confidence.

One of the ways we do that is through our **Backpack Ministry**. We are currently collecting school supplies to help ensure local students have the essentials they need for a successful start to the school year. Donations of notebooks, pencils, crayons, folders, glue, backpacks, and other school supplies may be brought to the church throughout the coming weeks.

After worship on **Sunday, August 9**, we will gather together to pack the backpacks. This has become one of those wonderful moments where ministry is truly hands-on.



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Sanders

Whether you can stay for fifteen minutes or the entire afternoon, we would love your help. Every backpack packed is another reminder to a child that their church and community care about them.

The backpacks will then be distributed **Thursday, August 13, in College Park from 5 to 7 p.m.**, helping local students begin the school year equipped for success.

Then, on **Saturday, August 22**, we will host our **Fall Fashion Fling**, offering free clothing and community support for families as they prepare for the changing seasons. Ministries like these remind us that the church is called not only to worship together on Sundays but also to care for one another throughout the week.

Thank you for your continued generosity. Whether you donate supplies, volunteer your time, or simply pray for these ministries, you are helping LUMC continue to be a place where Christ's love is shared in practical and meaningful ways.

As we help our children and families prepare for a new season, Julie and I also had the opportunity to slow down for a few days and enjoy some of the last mo-

ments of summer. Sometimes, before stepping into a busy new season, we all need a chance to pause, breathe, and remember the One who walks with us through every season of life.

Julie and I recently spent three days camping with a couple of dear friends at the Lake of the Ozarks. It was a hot few days, so we spent much of our time kayaking. As we quietly drifted across the water, towering rock bluffs reached toward the sky while the woods echoed with the songs of birds and the movement of squirrels and countless other creatures. There was a peaceful rhythm to it all. The lake didn't seem to be in a hurry, and for a little while, neither were we.

There is something about creation that gently reminds us to slow down. Trees do not rush their growth. Birds build their nests one twig at a time. The water quietly flows where it has been created to flow. In the stillness, we are reminded that God is faithfully at work, caring for all that has been created.

The psalmist writes,

"O Lord, how manifold are your works!"

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VISIT US ONLINE AT: lexmoumc.org

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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

Choir Rehearsal: Begins Sunday, Aug. 30, 10 a.m.

Sundays at 10 a.m.: Adult Sunday School is on hiatus—if anyone is interested in leading this class, please reach out to Liz J in the church office: 660-259-2483 or secretary@lexmoumc.org.

Sundays at 10 a.m.: Children's Sunday School is on hiatus until mid-August.

Sundays at 10 a.m.: Young Couples Class, is on hiatus.

BABY GRACE: Call for diaper needs: Jen Coen—660-232-4190.

BABY GRACE HOURS: First Tuesday of the month: 6:30 to 7:30 p.m.; Fourth Saturday of the month: 9:30 to 10:30 a.m.

Mondays: Quilters at 1 p.m.

YOUTH GROUP: Sundays at 6 p.m.

PACKING BACKPACKS: Noon Sunday, August 9 in the Buddy Black FLC.

HARVESTERS DISTRIBUTION: Monday, August 10, 9 to 11 a.m.

BACKPACK DISTRIBUTION: Thursday, August 13 from 5 to 7 p.m. at College Park, Lex.

WOMEN OF THE CHURCH: Friday, Aug. 14, at 11:30 a.m. at the Margaret Gray Center.

FALL FASHION FLING SET-UP: Saturday, August 15, 9 a.m.

CHURCH COUNCIL TEAM MEETING: Monday, August 17, 6 p.m.

FALL FASHION FLING, Saturday, August 22, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

USDA FOODS: Monday, August 24, 9 to 11 a.m. (Commodities is now USDA Foods and now on the 4th Monday).

CALLING ALL ACOLYTES: We have a sign-up sheet in the hallway for Acolytes, age 6 and up. We will start bringing the light of Christ into the sanctuary on September 6. Cheryl Cooley will put Acolytes on a rotating schedule so parents can plan ahead. For more info, call Cheryl at 660-232-5719.



August 2	Cheryl Cooley
August 4	Kaye Worthington
August 20	Cooper Davis
August 31	Patty Skelton
August 31	Ava Herbst

If you aren't being wished a Happy Birthday, please let us know your birthdate! Contact Liz in the office: 660-259-2483.

PASTOR ... continued from pg. 1

In wisdom you have made them all; the earth is full of your creatures." (Psalm 104:24, NRSV)

Those words stayed with me as we paddled across the lake. Everywhere I looked, I saw evidence of God's care. Every bird, every tree, every gentle breeze seemed to declare that the Creator has not abandoned creation but continues to sustain it with love.

That thought has remained with me as Julie and I enter a new season of our own lives. We are excited to share with you that our daughter, **Drew, and her husband, Cole, are expecting their first child.** If all goes according to plan, we look forward to meeting our first grandchild next May.

As we anticipate this little bundle of joy, I find myself looking at God's creation with even greater awe and wonder. The same God who paints sunsets across the lake, feeds the birds of the air, and gives life to the forests is also the God who lovingly knits together each new life.

The psalmist reminds us,

"For it was you who formed my inward parts; you knit me together in my mother's womb. I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made." (Psalm 139:13–14a, NRSV)

As I watched birds caring for their young along the shoreline, I couldn't help but think about this new life that God is forming. What an incredible gift and responsibility it is to nurture, encourage, and love the next

generation.

Perhaps that is why the work of the church matters so much.

The children receiving backpacks this month, the families who will come to the Fall Fashion Fling, and the grandchild our family eagerly awaits are all precious in God's sight. Every child bears the image of God. Every child deserves to know they are loved, valued, and given every opportunity to flourish.

When we fill a backpack, we are doing more than providing school supplies. We are telling a child, "You matter." When we offer clothing to a family, we are doing more than meeting a practical need. We are reflecting the generous heart of God. Creation reveals the goodness of our Creator, and the church is invited to become part of that continuing work of care. Every backpack we pack, every school supply we donate, every smile we offer, and every prayer we lift becomes another way of sharing God's love with our neighbors.

As summer gives way to fall, I hope you will find time to enjoy the beauty around you. Watch a sunset. Listen to the birds. Sit beside the water if you have the opportunity. Let creation remind you that the same God who lovingly sustains the world also calls us to care for one another.

May God bless you and your family as we enter this new season together.

Grace and Peace,

Rev. Andrew Sanders

Pastor, Lexington United Methodist Church

Did you know?

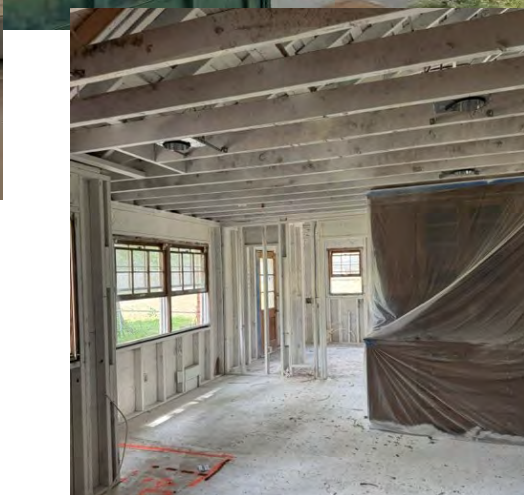
If you have kids, we have these clipboards with several coloring pages and a bag of crayons and markers to keep the kids busy during worship. They're stored under the greeter's podium and can be returned there after the worship service to be restocked.



The Clearview Parsonage Rebuild



The parsonage rebuild is coming along. The new roof is completed. Everything has been sprayed so no smoke smell will come through. The electricians began wiring the interior and will be followed by the plumber. "I think they are making great progress," said Steven Fuller, Council Chair.



First Aid Boxes Now in Place

We now have TWO First Aid kits located in LUMC.

At right is one, that sits atop the AED, emergency defibrillator, and is located at the beginning of the hallway off Hicklin Hall—heading toward the church's kitchen.

The other kit is located on the counter in the hallway outside church offices where the coffee pots and sink are located. All are fully stocked.

On July 16th, **Jennifer Coen, Jordyn Ortega & Liz Johnson** completed 2026 CPR & AED training.



August 2026

Lexington United Methodist Church

Where We Seek, Serve and Share Christ

www.lexmoumc.org

Office: 660-259-2483

Rev. Andrew Sanders, Pastor
sandman1016@yahoo.com
417-770-6731 (cell)

Liz Johnson,
Administrative Assistant
secretary@lexmoumc.org

Janet Thompson,
Music Director

Steven Fuller,
Council Chair

Sunday Worship: 11 a.m.
Children's Sunday School: Hiatus
Adult Sunday School: Hiatus
Young Couples Class: Hiatus
Youth Group: Sundays 6 p.m.
Worshipping Winds Rehearsal:
Sundays, 9:30 a.m.
Choir Rehearsal: Hiatus

Blessing Box Ministry

Our Blessing Box now has a lovely sign on it that also honors the late Tony James. **We are in regular need of nonperishable food and hygiene items to fill the box.**



Lexington United Methodist Church
1211 South Business Highway 13
Lexington, MO 64067

First
Class
Stamp

WORSHIP: Sundays 11 a.m.

Children's Sunday School: On hiatus

Young Couple's Class: On hiatus

Adult Sunday School: On hiatus

Choir Rehearsal: Begins 10 a.m. Aug. 30

Worshiping Winds Rehearsal: 9:30 a.m.

ONLINE: lexmoumc.org

July: 2026



TREASURER'S REPORT

July Offering: \$ 6,785.00

Avg. Expenses: ~~-\$ 13,641.00~~

Total (tithe) ~~- \$ 6,856.00~~

June 2026 net (6/30): ~~-\$ 87.38~~

****July full finance report is not available at press time.**

*Avg. Expenses 2025 \$ 13,641.00 (per month)

Building Rentals July: \$ 450.00

*Borrowed from Savings to cover four months of church insurance on April 1: \$4,000.00

****Repaid \$4,000 to Savings in June 2026.**

Teri James: Treasurer

Liz Johnson: Finance Secretary

Janae Fuller, Mary Kate Alkire: 2026 Finance Co-Chairs

Steven Fuller: 2026 Council Chair

Jim Martin: 2026 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



From left: Johnny Saysoff, of ChaosKC (Creating Hope through activity, Opportunity and Hope), presents a donation of Baby Wipes and Play Mats to Baby Grace Director Jennifeer Coen, with Christa Skivers. "We desperately needed wipes and they delivered!" said Coen.



MISSIONS AND OUTREACH

Harvesters

Monday, Aug. 10

USDA Foods

Monday, Aug. 24

FREE FALL Fashion Fling



**GIVE AWAY
CLOTHING,
FOOTWARE & JEWELRY!**

♥ *in all sizes,
gender*



ALL SIZES
XS TO 5XL+



ALL GENDERS
WELCOME



EVERYONE
WELCOME

TAKE WHAT YOU NEED. SHARE THE LOVE. ♥

..... ♥ **VENDORS** ♥

Happy Bottoms ♥ Head Start ♥ and Baby Grace



**SATURDAY,
AUGUST 22ND**



9-3



LEXINGTON UMC
1211 S. Bus. Hwy. 13



JOIN US THIS SUNDAY, AUGUST 9th AT NOON as we fill and assemble the backpacks for the August 13th distribution. We will be doing this in the Buddy Black Family Life Center.

BACK TO SCHOOL!

Hosted by The Lexington Community Fair Board

FREE School Supply Event

Let's start the year off **STRONG!**

at College Park

Thursday, August 13th

5-7 PM

16th St, Lexington, MO

FREE School Supplies

provided by Lexington Ministerial Alliance

FREE Food

Walking Tacos
provided by Lafayette Regional Health Center

Fun and Games

Everyone Welcome!

Come out, have fun, and get ready for a great school year!