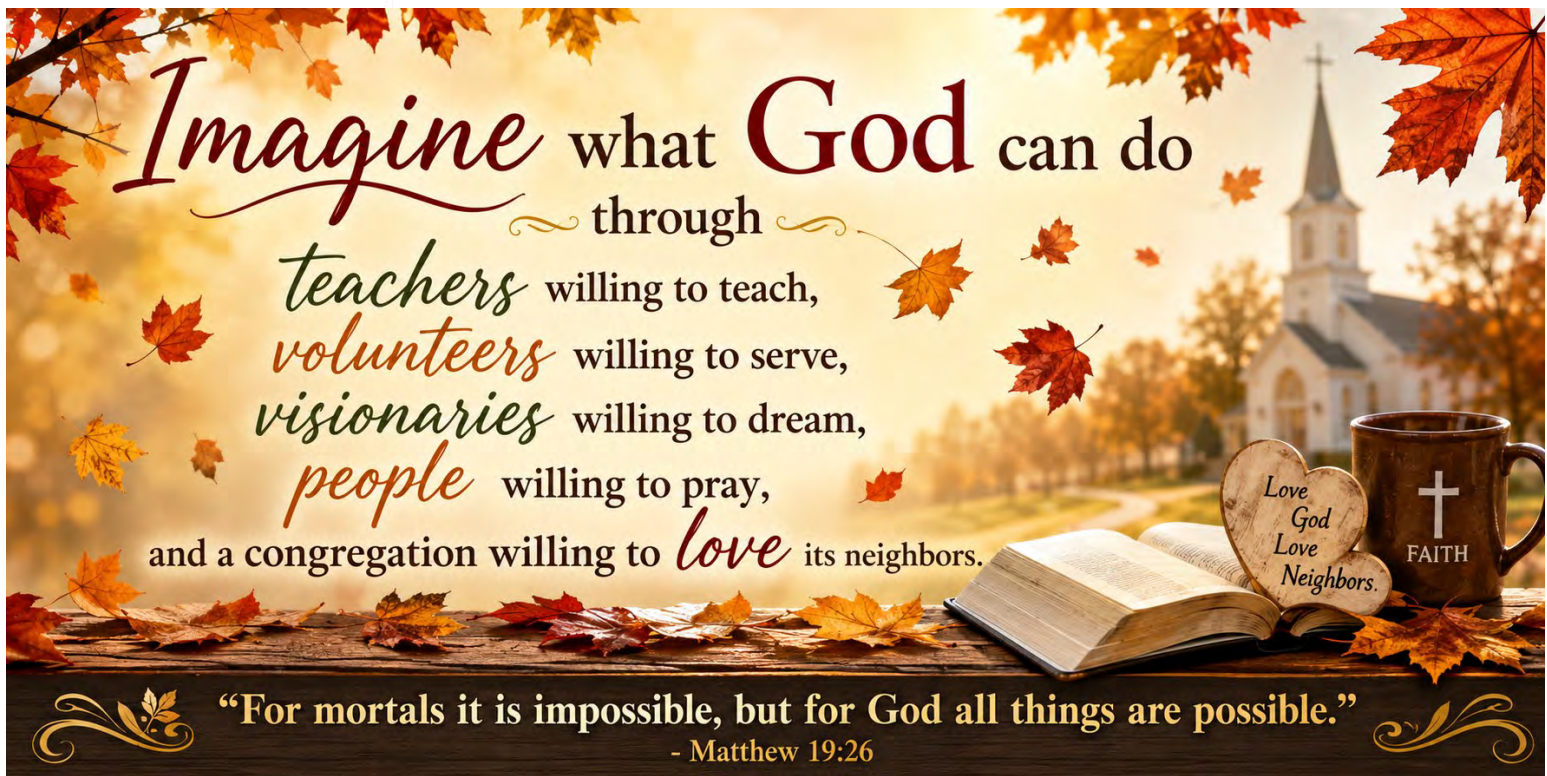




Lexington United Methodist Church | September 2026 | lexmoumc.org | 660.259.2483 | Rev. Andrew Sanders, Pastor

A new season of ministry at LUMC

Friends,

This past month has been full of ministry, generosity, and opportunities to share the love of Christ with our community.

We began with our **Backpack and School Supply Distribution**. I want to offer a special thank you to **Teri James** for her dedication in making sure this ministry continues to be available to the children and families of our community. There were many other volunteers who helped prepare, organize, distribute supplies, welcome families, and do the countless little things that make a ministry like this possible. Rather than risk leaving someone out, let me simply say: **thank you to everyone who gave your time, resources, and love.**

Almost as soon as the backpacks and school supplies were distributed, we were preparing for the **Fall Fashion Fling**. Thank you to **Kathryn Roberts** for the vision that brought this minis-



Rev. Andrew Sanders

try to life. So many families came through our doors, clothes were shared, conversations happened, and connections were made.

And once again, throughout the day there were people serving, helping, carrying, organizing, talking with families, and offering kind and warm smiles through the love of Christ.

Through these ministries, we have helped prepare children for school, but we have also had an opportunity to offer something even greater - the grace of Christ through the love we share.

But ministry isn't only about reaching beyond our walls. **Fellowship with one another matters too.** We need opportunities to sit around tables, laugh together, tell stories, eat good food, and simply enjoy being the family of Christ.

That is why I am excited about our **1970s-themed potluck dinner on Sunday, September 13, in the Buddy Black Fellowship Hall following worship!**

Bring your favorite 1970s-inspired dish.

And if you're feeling especially brave, you can even break out some 1970s clothing. Bell-bottoms, leisure suits, tie-dye, big collars.

Thank you to **Shawn Hodgeman and Jacob Lamb** for spearheading this gathering and reminding us that fellowship is a vital part of the life of the church. Jesus spent a remarkable amount of time around tables. There is something sacred about people slowing down long enough to share a meal and share life with one another.

September also brings us back into some of our regular rhythms.

Beginning **Sunday, September 13, Sunday School returns at 10 a.m., followed by worship at 11 a.m.** I hope you will make Sunday School and worship part of your family's rhythm this fall. After summer vacations, trips, ballgames, camping, family gatherings, and everything else that fills our calendars, fall gives us an opportunity to settle back into patterns that help keep us rooted in Christ.

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VISIT US ONLINE AT: lexmoumc.org

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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

Choir Rehearsal: Sundays, 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 resumes September 13. Ages 5—11.

Sundays at 10 a.m.: Young Couples Class resumes September 13.

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.

HARVESTERS DISTRIBUTION: Monday, Sept. 14, 9 to 11 a.m.

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

CHURCH COUNCIL TEAM MEETING: Monday, Sept. 21, 6 p.m.

USDA FOODS: Monday, Sept. 28, 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 13. Cheryl Cooley will put Acolytes on a rotating schedule so parents can plan ahead. For more info, call Cheryl at 660-232-5719.



SUNDAY SCHOOL

10 a.m. SUNDAYS
Starting 9/13

CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL with Donna Slusher, Katie Dye, Christ Kids 1 Room

Young Disciples Class with facilitator Sarah Black, Faithful Room (Chapel)



Sept. 5	Bria Dobson
Sept. 9	Liz Johnson
Sept. 11	Thomas Rowland
Sept. 11	Donna Slusher
Sept. 14	Chelsea Huffman
Sept. 14	Samantha Yates
Sept. 25	Ron McMullin
Sept. 28	Bill Fricke

*Where We Seek,
Serve
and Share Christ*

Sept 2026
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Friends, I believe this is going to be a great season in the life of Lexington United Methodist Church. Not because I can predict what will happen. I can't. But thankfully, I don't have to see the entire road ahead to trust the One who walks it with us.

Jesus reminds us in Matthew 19:26:

"For mortals it is impossible, but for God all things are possible."

Imagine what God can do through a church that believes that.

Imagine what God can do through teachers willing to teach, volunteers willing to serve, visionaries

willing to dream, people willing to pray, and a congregation willing to love its neighbors.

Thank you to every teacher. Thank you to every person who has had a vision for a ministry and had the courage to bring it to life. Thank you to everyone who volunteers, gives, prays, carries boxes, prepares food, teaches children, welcomes strangers, cleans up afterward, or simply asks, **"Where can I help?"**

Many hands really do make light work but even more importantly, many hearts centered upon Christ can make an incredible difference.

So as the leaves begin to fall and another season begins, let's keep growing together. Let's return to worship. Let's gather around the table. Let's serve our neighbors. Let's welcome new faces. Let's keep making room for the Holy Spirit to surprise us.

We may not know everything this next season holds.

But we know who walks into it with us.

And with Christ leading us, I cannot wait to see what God does next.

Grace and Peace, **Pastor Andrew**

Kids are back-2-school with supplies



Church treasurer Teri James always spearheads the Back-2-School event each year. She holds up a couple of backpacks that were packed with care by church volunteers prior to the distribution at College Park on August 13. 195 backpacks were given out.

Church COUNCIL

Liz Johnson | Secretary

Steven Fuller, Chair: Opened with a prayer.

Leadership: Steven said a few couples with children have been attending church recently. In a discussion about people returning to church and joining, Sharol asked what we are doing about our folks who simply stopped coming – especially after Covid? Liz J cited Bill Mofield and Susan Rodman who have stopped watching online, among others.

Attendance: Sarah said that we do all these events and ministries and why aren't new folks attending? She added that we need to figure out why. Attendance is down. Jennifer is trying to get Baby Grace folks to be comfortable enough here at church to attend services.

Game night: Sharol suggested we have a game night, such as Bingo or Craft Night as another event we could offer to get folks into the church.

Flyers/Rack Cards: Liz J offered to design a card that offers bullet-points on what the church offers as a give-away to visitors and at events.

Fireworks: Steven said we need to write thank-you notes regarding the July 4th fireworks sale. Jennifer Coen volunteered to help and suggested they ask Chelsea Huffman as well.

July Minutes: Sharol motioned, seconded by Cheryl to accept the July minutes. So passed.

Fall Fashion Fling: We are still getting some donations. The fashion fling is already set-up for this Saturday. Sharol mentioned that Kathryn, Shawn and Jacob stayed extra and made sure everything was out and set-up on Sunday. A prayer bowl for the fling was suggested. Liz J has already printed prayer request cards and will have a large prayer bowl ready for the church's table. Liz J will remind Kathryn, Jacob and Shawn about cleaning up the Buddy Black Family Life Center after the fling due to a property rental for Sunday afternoon. Jennifer mentioned that she will be on hand Saturday for a Baby Grace table and for Head Start who will be available as a vendor. The other vendors have backed out due to other commitments.

Finance: Janae reported about the water/sewer/trash bill for the Hillside rental was discussed (\$286.44 for July plus a \$15 late fee) with the August bill equaled \$438.88 and had to be paid on Thursday, August 13.

The amounts were discussed and determined to be normal amounts for the size of the house.

Additional Finance: Janae said the Finance Team have discussed the possibility of increasing the rental cost of the church for Walker-Nadler-Fuller funeral home. Steven, a former funeral home owner, said that with the high cost of air conditioning, use of a/c, carpet wear & tear and lights, the rental cost (currently \$250/event) should increase. Sarah suggested we go up to \$1,000 – a jump of \$750. Cheryl suggested we increase in increments, such as going up to \$500 first and then to \$750 after the first of the year and follow that sometime down the road to \$1,000. Steven will reach out to other funeral homes to get an idea of pricing and then Finance will discuss and decide what to charge the funeral home. Finance will also write the letter and include a contract for the funeral home.

Parsonage Rebuild: Roger reported that the insulation and sheetrock will begin in about 2 weeks. Sarah asked about window treatments, such as putting up blinds provided by the church and leaving the window treatments to the pastor? Or should the church provide them. Cheryl suggested we just put up blinds and let the pastor and his family do their own drapes. Steven said he shopped with Janet Cado and Sarah Black for parsonage items: flooring, granite countertops, tile, cabinets, hardware, appliances, carpet for the stairs, etc. Everything necessary has now been purchased.

Church Carpet: A bid for carpet cleaning has been requested by Roger. Adrian, a cleaner for our custodian, cleans carpets with a family member. They measured the church on August 13 to present a bid, which also would provide a 20% discount for a nonprofit.

Charge Conference: Liz J set a deadline of September 14th for all paperwork to be into the church office – District deadline is September 15th. It was announced that Pam Johnson, who is on the nominations committee is unable to attend meetings due to an ill grandchild. Nominations will need to meet soon. Liz J will get with PPR and Finance and send out all paperwork for Pastoral Support. Janae, Finance co-chair, will also meet with Liz J on Wednesday.

Election Breakfast: Steven asked Cheryl to help organize it. Steven reached out to someone at Lafayette Regional Health Center to obtain cinnamon rolls that are pre-frozen and just have to be baked, and small juices. We will need coffee cups and lids. Menu is burritos, breakfast casserole and the cinnamon rolls.

Trunk or Treat: Teri James, who has

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September 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: 10 a.m.
Adult Sunday School: Hiatus
Young Couples Class: 10 a.m.
Youth Group: Sundays 6 p.m.
Worshiping Winds Rehearsal:
Sundays, 9:30 a.m.
Choir Rehearsal: 10 a.m.

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 unexpired, nonperishable food and hygiene items to fill the box.**



WORSHIP: Sundays 11 a.m.
Sunday School Classes—10 a.m.
Children's Sunday School: Begins 9/13
Young Couple's Class: Begins 9/13
Adult Sunday School: On hiatus
Choir Rehearsal: Begins 10 a.m. Aug. 30
Worshiping Winds Rehearsal: 9:30 a.m.
ONLINE: lexmoumc.org

August: 2026



TREASURER'S REPORT

August Offering: \$ 10,180.00

Aug. Expenses: ~~-\$ 12,101.64~~

Total (tithe) ~~- \$ 5,325.00~~

Aug. 2026 YTD: - \$ 9,811.99

****Figures are per the August Finance Report**

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

Building Rentals August: \$ 1,175.00

*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

COUNCIL ... continued from pg. 3

spearheaded this in the past, is unable to handle it this year. The question was, Can we do it this year? Cheryl made a motion to drop out of Trunk or Treat this year which was seconded by Jim Martin and Sarah Black.

1970s Potluck Meal, September 13 following worship: This is spearheaded by Jacob Lamb and Shawn Hodgeman. Cheryl suggested Jacob and Shawn make sure they supply a main course (meat item such as fried chicken, ham or even lasagna) as folks bringing dishes

to the potluck rarely bring a main entrée. Liz J will talk with Shawn and Jacob. It was also suggested to open the meal to Waverly's congregation too.

Blessing Box: Cheryl said she is concerned about expired food items being in the Blessing Box and the church being liable for those items. Liz J will talk to Shawn and Jacob about this and make sure they're aware to check for that. Liz J will also ask district admin Kyle about this happening with other churches.

The next council meeting will be Sept. 21 at 6 p.m.

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.



MISSIONS AND OUTREACH

Harvesters

Monday, Sept. 14

USDA Foods

Monday, Sept. 28

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

It was a large undertaking that took months in the planning, but our Fall Fashion Fling, a brainchild of member **Kathryn Roberts**, was a huge success.

Having collected clothing donations for months, Kathryn was organized from the get-go. All donations were laundered, sorted by gender and size and set up in the Buddy Black Family Life Center for the fling set for Saturday, August 22nd.

Kathryn had a number of helpers in setting up the free event, but was extra

thankful for **Shawn Hodgeman** and **Jacob Lamb** who stayed late and came in extra to help fine-tune the event before the 22nd ever arrived.

"We had 192 people," Kathryn said. "Fifty-seven families, 93 adults and 97 kids," adding just how happy she was that things went off without a hitch.

They had lots of shoes, jewelry, coats and other clothing items in addition to tops and bottoms. According to Kathryn, folks who came for the event were happy with the selection.

Guests were greeted at the door by

Katie Dye who managed the church's table and provided a large trash bag for clothing items. Guests were asked to fill out a contact form which we hope to utilize for our next event. We also handed out flyers with our church ministries and upcoming events on it.

Missouri Valley folks were here manning a table along with Head Start. **Jennifer Coen** represented Baby Grace.

We are so grateful for all who helped set this event up and who worked it: **Patti Van Wey, Karen Yates, Powers Alder, Jen Coen, Janae Fuller, Steven Fuller,**



Shawn Hodgeman, Jacob Lamb, Sharol McMullin, Katie Dye, Kathryn Roberts and Pastor Andrew – who was on hand to talk to our visitors about our church.

We have received calls the week following the event from folks asking when we will have another one.

“Come and see what God has done: he is awesome in his deeds toward the children of man. He turned the sea into dry land; they passed through the river on foot. There did we rejoice in him.” – Psalm 66:5-6 ESV



Katie Dye and Jennifer Coen greet guests at our first Annual Fall Fashion Fling on Saturday, August 22nd. Guests filled out attendance forms and were handed bags to shop stuffed with our missions and ministries flyers.



Volunteers, such as Sharol McMullin, far right, Jacob Lamb, next to tie-dye person, and Shawn Hodgeman, back, helped guests with clothing choices.



Representatives from Missouri Valley Community Action Agency and Head Start were on hand for the Fashion Fling to talk to guests about their needs.

Organizer Kathryn Roberts has packed up the leftover items and labeled boxes for the next Fashion Fling.



All clothing was washed beforehand, sorted into gender and sizes and set up, labeled on tables. There was something for everyone including jewelry, shoes, coats and more. Karen Yates at first table, kept the clothing folded and neatly on display.



“Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God’s grace in its various forms.”

~ 1 Peter 4:10 NIV

