

Lexington & Blue
United Methodist
Churches

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The Voice

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The Voice

Lexington & Blue United Methodist Churches

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A WORD FROM THE PASTOR

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Scripture for work in the mission field

Matthew 28:19-20

Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.

Acts 13:47

For this is what the Lord has commanded us: "I have made you a light for the Gentiles, that you may bring salvation to the ends of the earth."

Psalms 96:3

Declare his glory among the nations, his marvelous deeds among all peoples.

Matthew 24:14

And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come.

When I was a teacher, I had a student named Demonte. Life had not been kind to him. Like all my students, he lived in a rough part of our nation's capital. His father was probably a drug dealer, but we generally used the euphemism, "street pharmacist." Demonte witnessed his uncle and father get into some kind of violent altercation from his bedroom window that included someone being shot. Despite being the shortest kid in the class, Demonte oozed attitude.

I spent a lot of time with him. Demonte was in my class during the day and my afterschool theatre program in the evening. I usually drove him home after that. For the nine months that he was in my class, I spent more of my waking hours with Demonte than with Sidney. We got to know each other pretty well.

One day, as I was driving him home, Demonte got really serious and dropped his "take on the world" attitude for a moment. He asked me, "Mr. Comstock, do you live in a quiet place?" Not sure what he meant, I said that I did. Sidney and I lived in an apartment in the suburbs at that time. It was cramped but quiet. The next thing he said is what has stuck with me. In that same uncharacteristically serious tone, Demonte told me, "I want to live in a quiet place."

I've never known how to respond to that. Demonte had been through so much, and in that statement, he showed just how aware that he was of his own plight. All he wanted was peace and quiet in a life that provided little of each. I knew that I could only do so much. I worked hard to make my classroom and theatre program safe spaces for my students. I wanted them to be creative and be their authentically awkward middle school selves, while the world outside my classroom press far too many adult problems into their preteen hands. It wasn't much, but it felt like all I could do.

At Annual Conference this year, Mary, Adrian, Andy, and I got to hear from our new Bishop, Scott Jones, in his first episcopal address to the Texas Annual Conference. This is our version of the State of the Union, where we get to hear the Bishop's priorities. To me, this was the most important part of this year's Annual Conference because it was the first time that we would hear from Bishop Jones in this capacity.

One of his key points is that he wants the churches of the Texas Annual Conference to be known for "loving all the children." He recognizes that there are children and schools in every community and sees reaching them as a cornerstone of church outreach. People of all ages can participate in this. Children need extra siblings, parents, aunts, uncles, and grandparents. Our churches are uniquely intergenerational, and loving all the children is the task of every generation.

I opened with my story of Demonte to drive home the real need that many children have for love. While Demonte grew up 2,000 miles from here, there are many children in our own community who experience tremendous brokenness. Part of loving all the children is providing that quiet place, that experience of peace and love, for as many children as we can.

Our congregations are off to a good start at this. With VBS, M&Ms, 5th Quarter, Backpack Buddies, sending community kids to camp, and Blue's new outreach and Children's Sunday School Class, we spend a lot of our time, energy, and finances caring for all the children in our community.

The challenge for us is twofold. One is to remember, in the midst of our business and doing, why we do what we do. Every child deserves a quiet place in God's Kingdom. The other is to grow the programs that we have, invite and welcome in new volunteers, so that we can create that quiet place for even more children.

Vaya con Dios,
Pastor Trey

Congratulations Pastor Trey Comstock





And the king will answer them, "Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me." Matthew 25:40

UPCOMING UMW EVENTS

Come and join us for fun & fellowship!
July
11 Program

OUR LOGO

The cross and flame are ancient symbols of the church and appear on The United Methodist Church emblem. The cross reminds us to follow in the steps of Jesus in our lives. The flame originates from Pentecost and resonates- even today - in Paul's words to Timothy:

"I remind you to stir into flame the gift of God which is within you." - 2 Timothy 1:6

As United Methodist Women, we give our gift of God with others through mission.

Our emblems reminds us of our **PURPOSE** of growing in our understanding of and willingness to participate in the global ministries of the church. The overall fluid and free flowing shape of the emblem suggests change and mobility. Our foremothers were advocates for change; change and growth continue to be at the heart of United Methodist Women's sisterhood and mission.

BLUE & LEXINGTON UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

A Call to Community

United Methodist Women is the largest denominational faith organization for women with approximately 800,000 members whose mission is fostering spiritual growth, developing leaders and advocating for justice.

Members raise up to \$20 million each year for programs and projects related to women, children and youth in the United States and in more than 100 countries around the world.

United Methodist Women and The United Methodist Church's principles and values include:

- Promoting the empowerment of women, children and youth.
- Promoting anti-racism and multiculturalism.
- Promoting inclusion and equity.
- Promoting fair labor practices.
- Promoting economic and environmental stewardship and sustainability.

THE VISION OF UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

Turning faith, hope and love into action on behalf of women, children and youth around the world.

LIVING THE VISION

We provide opportunities and resources to grow spiritually, become more deeply rooted in Christ and put faith into action.

We are organized for growth, with flexible structures leading to effective witness and action.

We equip women and girls around the world to be leaders in communities, agencies, workplaces, governments and churches.

We work for justice through compassionate service and advocacy to change unfair policies and systems.

We provide educational experiences that lead to personal change in order to transform the world.

JULY 2017						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
25	26	27	28	29	30	1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

June 2017	July 2017	August 2017																		
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
							1	2	3	4	5		1	2	3	4	5			
4	5	6	7	8	9	10	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
11	12	13	14	15	16	17	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
18	19	20	21	22	23	24	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
25	26	27	28	29	30		27	28	29	30	31		27	28	29	30	31			

Calendars by Vertex42.com
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Printable Calendars

2017 Templates 2018 Templates

LEXINGTON ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL TREASURER'S REPORT

<i>All Funds Balance as of June 18, 2017</i>		Date:	Offering	Worship Attendance	Sunday School Attendance (All Classes)		
General Fund	\$8,514.60	May	28	\$2,424.00	83	27	
Early Chapel CD	\$19,072.40		June	4	\$5,677.00	129	25
RTSB CD #1	\$16,332.75			11	\$3,723.00	89	27
RTSB CD #4	\$10,496.00			18	\$2,220.76	83	25
DESIGNATED FUNDS in GENERAL:		Annual Church Budget for 2017		\$199,699.00			
Pledge Fund Acct. Balance	\$4,139.25	Offerings thru June 18, 2017		\$79,474.31			
Early Chapel Cemetery Fund	-\$388.43	Minimum amount needed to stay within budget:					
Journey Sunday School	\$65.30	\$16,640/month & \$ 3,840/week					
Memorial Fund	\$2,842.42	2017 District Apportionment - \$2,018.04					
Methodist Men	\$0	2017 Conference Apportionments - \$14,251.00					
Fish Fry	\$0						

Honor the Lord with your wealth and with the first fruits of all your produce; then your barns will be filled with plenty, and your vats will be bursting with wine. Proverbs 3:9-10

St. Stephen's Fund
\$2,395.43

On Communion Sunday's (the first Sunday of the month), we take a special offering at the rail for the **St. Stephen's Fund**. This money is used to help those in need in our community. With this fund, we help people in emergency situations and those that may need some help with their utilities. To contribute by check, please write "St. Stephen's Fund" in the memo.

OUR E-MAIL ADDRESS: lexingtonunitedmethodistchurch@outlook.com

	Newsletter deadline for August's edition is July 19 Articles and photos are always needed. Please submit yours to Stephanie in the church office.
	Stephanie Kellenberger Editor of <i>The Voice</i>

BLUE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Photos from Blue's Easter Egg Hunt
Thank you Mary Stifflemire for sharing!



Blue UMC Worship Attendance		
May	28	14
June	4	
	11	37
	18	44

July Birthdays

- 8-Guy Hutson
- 9-Les Morgan
- 9-Keith Drosche
- 15-David Cornelius
- 17-Ruth Hardin
- 22-Kayla Turner
- 29-Cody Morgan



UPCOMING BLUE EVENTS

- Sunday Mornings**
- 9 a.m. Worship
- 10:15 a.m. Sunday School
- Wednesday Mornings**
- 11 a.m. Prayer Group

JULY

- 3 BVFD
- 10 Texas Stars
- 25 TEEA



Father's Day Photos

Thank you Neta Callahan for sharing!

Save the Date
Church Campout

July 7 to 9, 2017 At Lockhart

This is the 28th year to have our annual Church Campout. Everyone is invited to come and enjoy the fun and fellowship. We will have Washers and Horseshoe Tournaments, crafts, and best homemade ice cream contest! Please contact Carolyn Hutson for more information. See you there!

Blue UMC St. Stephen's Fund
\$895.54



YOUTH PROGRAMS

"Don't let anyone think less of you because you are young. Be an example to all believers in what you say, in the way you live, in your love, your faith, and your purity." 1 Timothy 4:12

Summer Calendar of Events

Sunday

Sunday School
9:45-10:45A
(6-12th grade)
With Mr. Stephen

Wednesday

All Youth
3:30 to 5P

July

5 Swim Party
12 VBS Prep & Dairy Queen
Queen
17-21 VBS
20-23 Big House
26 Enchanted Rock

Summer Dates to Remember

7/17-21 VBS
7/20-23 BIG HOUSE



Thank you again for your prayers and donations . Because of you, we are able to continue to send church and community kids to camp this summer. We couldn't do it without YOU!

Youth Programs this Summer

The youth will be going to Enchanted Rock on Wednesday, July 26th. We will leave the church at 8 a.m. returning late afternoon. Breakfast and lunch will be provided. If you would like to help offset the cost of the trip, please note "Summer Youth" on y our gift.



Wednesday, July 5th
3:30 to 5 p.m.

At the Kellenberger's House

Pick up at the church at 3:30 and returned at 5

Please make sure that we have a transportation waiver in the office for this year.

Wednesday, July 12th
3:30 to 5 p.m.

We will be helping the VBS crew set up for next week and then we're off to Dairy Queen for some yummy treats!

Please make sure that we have a transportation waiver in the office for this year.



We are forming a Lexington UMC Youth Council. Youth Council is a small group of students who represent the larger youth group of Lexington United Methodist Church. They are the body that gives input as to what events and/or programs our youth group creates or participates in. They give input on the structure of our Student Ministry, they help determine meeting times & locations, as well as participate in behind-the-scenes ministry stuff like branding and marketing our student ministry.

Being a member of the Youth Council requires a commitment to quarterly meetings but it also teaches students important leadership skills (*great thing to put on résumés or college applications*). More importantly, it gives students a chance to be creative and really think through what it means to reach their friends with the gospel of Jesus Christ!

If you are interested in being a part of Youth Council, please contact Stephanie in the church office at 979-773-2728 or lumcyouth@outlook.com.

Summer Happenings

Wednesday Youth



UM ARMY: High School Mission Trip

(Before and after their trip)



Congratulations to our Confirmands!



"Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit." Matthew 28:19

SUMMER FISH FRY

July 9 @ 11 a.m.

\$9.00 per plate

Includes Drink, Fish, FF,
Hushpuppies, Beans & Cole slaw.

Can you help?

Thursday 7/6 @ 8 a.m.—prep in FLC

Saturday 7/8 @ 8 a.m. - prep in FLC

Sunday 7/9 @ 11 a.m. begin Fish Fry

Drive thru available

We will need servers, fish fryers and will need a clean
up crew when it's all sold out!If you can help in any way, please
contact Jan Lynn, 979.540.8922

My Experience with the Kairos Program

By Barry Lynn

John Gibbs and David Warden had been trying to get me into the program for years and I finally agreed. I was very nervous at first, but have gotten over that. I filled out an application, ran a background check and then trained at a prison. It was a 4-hour training on things to do and not to do in prison. There are a bunch of rules you must follow. You aren't supposed to wear logoed shirts while in prison. I didn't know that.

I met a lot of interesting people in the organization while learning about Kairos. The Kairos training is one Saturday every month for the five months leading up to the Kairos weekend. It was at Navasota UMC. The program is a lot like Walk to Emmaus and is very structured...down to the minute. There is even a timekeeper to make sure that you stay on time with your talks. There is a scripture reader and everything is written out for you.

The week before the actual weekend, I worked on my talk on "the walls" so I studied that really good as well as the scripture to read which was easy. I was afraid I'd have to talk a lot, but really, you just guide the participants. Once they get started talking, all you have to do is listen. Sometimes they'd ask questions and I answer what I could, but I'm no Bible scholar.

John and Elaine Gibbs traveled up a day before us. Pastor and I drove up Thursday morning with the **150 dozen cookies** all y'all made from Lexington and Blue UMC (thank you!). At Navasota UMC we packaged another couple thousand dozen store bought cookies! Thatsa lotsa cookies!!! Thursday evening we went to meet the participants. Walking into the prison for the first time...well, it didn't bother me. I wasn't nervous, but apprehensive because I didn't know what the program was going to be like. I had already been in a prison for the training, so that didn't really bother me (I knew God was with me).

Friday morning, we got up and got to the prison *real* early. It takes a while to check in. You can only take in your drivers license and a key if you drove a car (just a single key). You have to take off your belt and shoes and get patted down. They let us put all that back on after that. Then you go through a double lock gate - ten at a time. After that, we signed in and went through more gates, leaving your driver's license with the guard. After the fourth gate, we were in the corridor of the prison. We were in the gymnasium for the entire weekend (leaving at night). It was sectioned off into three "rooms" - cafeteria, chapel and a room for table talks and singing. There was a lot of singing. Our small groups were about nine to a table (six participants & three sponsors). The sponsors were clergy, lay person and new volunteer (that was me!). There was time to contemplate "talks" both privately and in our groups. We had chapel time and prayer before and after every meal—we all ate together in our table groups.

We met all day Friday and Saturday...about 12 hours a day. But, the went by quick. We ate well and there were piles of cookies on the tables all day long. We had salad, pizza, and barbecue. Many participants had not eaten those foods in years.

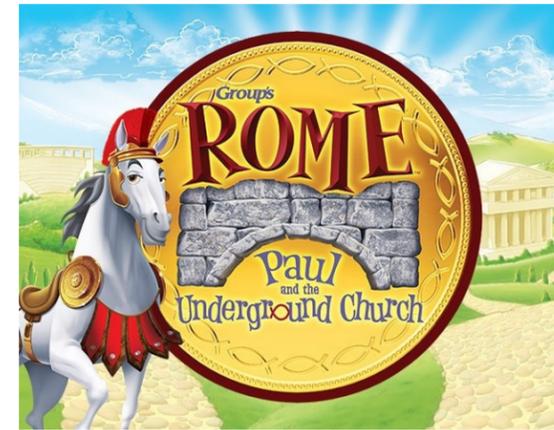
On Sunday the participants got to say what the weekend meant to them. It was really special to hear those guys talk about how much love they felt by those that were there...including those who worked on the outside. They were in awe that so many people cared and felt love for them...**it changed them**. The prayer chains, place mats, and cookies meant a lot to them. They were able to take their place mats back to their cells. It meant a lot to them that even children were praying for them because **most of them have kids**.

After the weekend, man, my feet didn't touch the ground for at least a week. I was so filled with the Holy Spirit I was on a cloud. It was such a boost in my faith...like a Walk to Emmaus.

Now, I go to the prison for "prayer and share" the third Saturday of every month. Someone is there every Saturday, but I signed up for that particular Saturday. We follow up with the participants and we write back and forth to each other. There was a great response from everyone. Even the man of Muslim faith...**we hugged like brothers**. He was surprised at the love his Christian brothers gave to him.

I am preparing for **Kairos 3 in the Luther Unit this fall**. We will need place mats, cookies, prayer chains, letters, posters, and money again. Prayerfully consider joining our group—we always need volunteers (inside and out). Women can volunteer for the outside Kairos. For more information, please come talk to me...or John Gibbs.

METHODIST CHILDREN PROGRAMS



Vacation Bible School will be a Rome experience unlike anything we have ever done before. We will be immersed in Bible-times culture, the reality of God's love gains new meaning and relevance to everyday lives. Plus, we'll have an amazing time trying out new Bible-times crafts, games, songs, and more! VBS is the week of **July 17-21, Monday-Friday**, beginning with supper at 6 p.m. for ages 5-10.

You can register early on our website! www.lexingtonumc.org

Jan Alexander (979-773-4277) or Milissa Davis (512-470-1657)



Children's Church is taking a break this summer. It will start back at the end of August. If you would like to help out next school year, please let Milissa Davis know.

Sunday School

Sunday School teachers include Jan Alexander, Jan Lynn, Jennifer Marek, & Trudy Doerfler.

The children's Sunday school curriculum comes from the series, Deep Blue. Children will hear the Bible story, apply the Bible message and then live out the message in their lives.

Each session is divided into three sections. The 1st section is a large group where the children will meet together. Children will be introduced to a Bible story and Bible verse. Then the children will be divided into two age groups. One group will explore the lesson deeper and do a craft activity and the other age group will have a snack, play games related to the Bible story and practice Bible verses. Then the two groups switch.



Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these." Matthew 19:14

The Acolyte for July is
Charlotte Woodward



School Supply Drive

We will be collecting school supplies for the Lexington ISD beginning the last week of July. Please bring in the supplies during service or during business hours. If you would like to make a donation to the drive, please write "school supplies" in the memo of your check on Sunday morning.

Thank you!

Our very generous members of BUMC & LUMC helped to provide much needed supplies to the kids of LISD last year.



With Gratitude

Chester and Norma Thomas extend our deepest gratitude for the support of our church family. Your prayers and concern during Chester's ongoing recovery from prostate cancer are paramount to successful treatment that is now medically complete. The Doctor's prognosis is >95% favorable for total remission. Our family has experienced extreme trauma in the past, but we have discovered there are many people who fit the following category_

"They Burdens are Greater Than Mine"

Unmitigated Fact_ "Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus" _He never lets you down.

We just want to send a genuine, heart-felt thank you to everyone who worked to make the event possible and so delightfully special. A special thanks to those who made the table settings. They were beautiful and so well laid out. It was especially comforting that the place settings of eating utensils were placed on the tables properly preventing the need to juggle plates, utensils and drinks. Someone obviously still knows how to present these items properly.

Everyone was so impressed at how beautiful everything was setup and convenient; and, a number of attendees from out of town made the comment of how beautifully it was arranged.

Ladies, thank you so much for the delicious food and its preparation. Oh, and any guys that helped too.

Anticipating the Grand Presentation of the FLC to the community and making it a very special community affair. If the presentation is anything like Margo's memorial luncheon, it will be impressive!

Again, thank you so much,

Terrie and Chester Smith

Get Connected at LUMC on Sunday Morning

Sunday School 9:45-10:45 a.m.

Journey Class for Adults

Meet in the Family Life Center with leader, Cinda Lewis

Men's Gathering

Meet in the Family Life Center with leader, John Gibbs

Coffee House

10:45 a.m.

LUMC Fellowship Hall enjoy complimentary coffee & pastries



A Gift was given to Lexington UMC

Memorial Fund

In Memory of ...Ruby Smith

by... Children's Sunday School

In Memory of ...Ruby Smith

by... Debbie Nuckols

In Memory of ...J.D. Turner

by... Debbie Nuckols

In Memory of ...Rev. Lee Lamb

by... Sharon & R.E. Gibson

In Memory of ...Kenneth Mostyn

by... Debra Nuckols

In Memory of ...Donald Brown

by... Debra Nuckols

Building Fund

In Memory of ...Betty Drosche

by... Willis & Jeannine Brewer

In Memory of ...Eloise Brademan

by... Judy & Bob Belyeu

In Memory of ...Rev. Lee Lamb

by... Willis & Jeannine Brewer

In Memory of ...Rev. Lee Lamb

by... Wayne Retzlaff

In Memory of ...Betty Drosche

by... Richard & Wanda Townsend

In Memory of ...Betty Drosche

by... Wayne Retzlaff

In Memory of ...Rev. Lee Lamb

by... Jan Woodward

Memorials reflect all gifts received and recorded as of June 18th. To make a memorial place "memorial" in the subject line of your check & place it in the offering plate or mail it to the church office.

"...I thank God for you—the God I serve with a clear conscience, just as my ancestor did. Night and day I constantly remember you in my prayers."

2 Timothy 1:3



JULY BIRTHDAYS



3-Josh Williams

8-Robert Brister

8-Adam Retzlaff

12-Joan Jackson

13-Eric Hutson

15-Jonathan Otte

16-Joe Jackson

16-Tyler Robertson

17-Suzy Borgfeld

18-Emily Taylor

18-Von Langehennig

19-Donn Miller

20-Robert Ahrendt

20-Willis Brewer

20-Regina Owens

21-Wyatt Retzlaff

24-Darrell Marek

25-Susanna Braziel

27-Kevin Ahrendt

Lexington Backpack Buddies Update

We had a wonderful year of Backpack Buddies. Thank you for your support the program!

What we did this year:

- ◆ Served 60 students in the elementary and middle school (roughly 10% of our students)
- ◆ Raised \$6,517
- ◆ Had over 50 adults and children volunteer for "Power Hours". Since we've started, 120 individuals have helped at least once with Power Hours!
- ◆ Had 5 ladies dedicate their Friday afternoons to distributing food to our elementary school kids.
- ◆ Had numerous community members volunteer and support our Soup & Bread lunch in January

This summer we are:

- ◆ Able to provide food for any child on the program that comes / contacts the church for assistance.
- ◆ Beginning to shop for the upcoming school year, looking for any deals we may get during the summer.
- ◆ Pre-planning our next fundraisers
- ◆ Continuing to spread the word to the community about the program
- ◆ Applying for grants to help fund the program



Thank you for your continued support of this much-needed program!