

THE VOICE



Lexington United Methodist Church

January 2021

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Visit www.lexingtonumc.org for more information.

Happy New Year!

I guess that's what we are still supposed to say. This is the time in our culture when people make New Year's resolutions and set goals and make plans for the year. For the church though, we started the New Year beginning of Advent. The goals we set for the new year are set around who we want to be. They are ambitions of things that we want to accomplish. They are changes that we want to make. But the reality is, most people don't accomplish their New Year's resolutions. In fact, most fizzle out by the end of the month. And so then we start the vicious cycle again when the New Year rolls around.

But what if it didn't have to be like that. What if instead of starting with our ambition we start with our attitude. And that attitude should be the attitude of Christ. Here these words from Philippians 2:5-11:

You must have the same attitude that Christ Jesus had. Though he was God, he did not think of equality with God as something to cling to. Instead, he gave up his divine privileges; he took the humble position of a slave and was born as a human being. When he appeared in human form, he humbled himself in obedience to God and died a criminal's death on a cross. Therefore, God elevated him to the place of highest honor and gave him the name above all other names, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue declare that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

We really don't think of this passage as a Christmas passage but it is the reality of the incarnation. Christ emptied himself so that he could come to earth to save us. He let go of all ambition and privilege for our sake. He became a baby in diapers, totally dependent on the people around him. For us, to be like Christ is not a resolution but instead a reorientation. Resolution asks us to work and try harder, to do more. But that keeps us stuck in our old ways. When we reorient ourselves and work on our attitude. Attitude changes our way of thinking and settles us into our new nature which God has given us by the power of the Holy Spirit.

So instead of just making some goals, take inventory and see where Christ is through the examen (an exercise popularized by the Jesuits) to look back at all you have done and seen the past year.

RECALL the year in detail

REJOICE wherever you see blessings

REPENT and confess whatever sinful patterns and attitudes you see

REBOOT and take the time to prayerfully consider how you can be more like Jesus in the new year.

Later this month (January 10th) we will celebrate the start of the year with the Wesleyan Covenant Service. In the service we will offer up the Wesleyan Covenant prayer. I invite you to begin to pray it today as your reorientation to a life in Christ.

Wesley Covenant Renewal prayer:

I am no longer my own, but yours. Put me to what you will, place me with whom you will. Put me to doing, put me to suffering. Let me be put to work for you or set aside for you, praised for you or criticized for you. Let me be full, let me be empty. Let me have all things, let me have nothing. I freely and fully surrender all things to your hope and service. And now, O glorious and blessed God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, you are mine, and I am yours. So be it. And the covenant which I have made on earth, let it be confirmed in heaven. Amen.

Blessings,

Pastor Raegan



Prison Ministry

On December 12th, 38 volunteers came to the Navasota First United Methodist Church to package 2025 dozen (yes, dozen!) cookies. Most were veteran Kairos volunteers but there were also many local Navasota volunteers there as well. All 24,300 cookies were packaged and packed for delivery....well, there were some broken cookies that were eaten. On Sunday the 13th, the cookies were taken to the Luther Prison Unit and were distributed by the staff and trusted inmates. The Assistant Warden was very thankful. She told us that since the quarantine in March that the inmates have been in their cells except to take showers. No education, no recreation, no dining hall, no church. Many organizations are helping with donations such as hygiene products. We need to keep them in our prayers.

John Gibbs



Sunday Services

Out of abundance of caution with Covid-19 concerns, we will be moving worship to online only for January 3rd. This also means that we will have no Sunday School classes meeting in person.

Tithes & Offerings

Thank you for continuing to give your tithes and offerings!

December total offerings were **\$19,533.69.**

Ways to give:

1. **At Church:** during service, at the church office or in the drop box on the office door.
2. **Online:** www.lexingtonumc.org on the "donate" page.
3. **Mail or Bill Pay** (through your bank): PO Box 116 Lexington, TX 78947



Poinsettias are ready! If you purchased poinsettias you can pick them up in the office Monday-Thursday 8:30-12.

Mobile Food Pantry

January's Mobile Food Pantry will be Friday, January 8th at 11 a.m. Distribution will be similar to the recent ones where clients will remain their cars and pick up food in a drive thru line. The Free-Will Lunch will be at the Family Life Center on January 8th as well. This month's menu is: Chili, Beans & Rice, Cornbread and Brownies. Served as carryout only.



Director of Family Discipleship Ministries Job Opening

We are seeking a called individual who would like to work with children, youth and families in the areas of Christian education, discipleship, mission, and outreach. This position is part time with varying hours. If you are interested please contact the office or John Gibbs, SPRC Chair at (512) 751-3923 or jgibbs78947@zochnet.com



Church Directory

Make sure to stay in touch with fellow church members. On your phone, go to your app store and search "Instant Church Directory". Put in the email you have given the church to access the directory. Need help or prefer a hard copy? Call or email the church.

Register Attendance Online

Please go to our website www.lexingtonumc.org and under worship select Register Your Attendance to let us know that you were in worship!

For I know the
Plans
I have for you,
declares the *Lord*
Plans to *Prosper* you
and not to harm you
Plans to give you
Hope and a *Future*
-Jeremiah 29:11

Memorials

*"...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*

January Birthdays

3—Callie Gerdes
3—Milissa Davis
4—Chester Smith
5—Bill Curnutte
9—Gabe Turner
10—Tierra Turner
10—Dorothy Moore
10—Tanner Taizan
11—Ella Boettcher
11—Tina Woodward
11—James Borgfeld
12—Phillip Eberz
14—Annie Borgfeld

15—Elaine Gibbs
18—Wanda Townsend
19—John Gibbs
19—Oscar Hillegeist
21—Payson Eberz
24—Jim Davis
24—Evon Hutson
24—Belinda Robertson
28—Betty Sandifer
28—Lexa Robertson
29—Fred Ahrendt
30—Tracie Aduddell
31—Derek Schumpert

