



Lexington United Methodist Church

979-773-2728

[lexingtonunitedmethodistchurch@outlook.com](mailto:lexingtonunitedmethodistchurch@outlook.com)



Visit [www.lexingtonumc.org](http://www.lexingtonumc.org) for more information.

Dear LUMC Family,

As of writing this on Sunday, December 17th, 2023, at 10:33am, our contemporary service has just wrapped up. I am wrapped up in some blankets, stuck at home sick with Covid. If you were to ask me where I thought I would be at the start of Advent, this would not have been my expectation. I would rather have gone to see Eleanor sing songs in her school musical or given her Tony-worthy performance of Sheep 2 in the church play. I would rather have made it to see our youth perform "The Storm in the Barn," which won first place, by the way. I would rather be up early running through my sermon, helping Phil straighten chairs, catching up with folks, worshipping together. I'd rather be anywhere than stuck in our guest room.

When you read this, it will be in 2024. Happy New Year! Christmas is well in the rear-view mirror. And we're off to embrace all the new year has to offer us. In the church calendar, however, Christmas lasts 12 days. You know the song "The 12 days of Christmas?" That song is about the 12 days following Christmas, leading up to Epiphany, the day where the magi brought gifts to Jesus revealing to us that he is really God with us. The 12 days between Christmas and Epiphany are known as Christmastide. It continues the celebration of Christmas. Where we remember and marvel at the wonder of God with us.

Every year, in the Christmas story, one of the characters I come back to is King David. You may be asking, 'Chris, I know this Christmas story well, and I don't really remember where King David shows up. I remember Jesus, Mary, Joseph, some animals, an innkeeper, sheep #2, and other odd characters. But there's no David!' And if that's the case, you'd be half-right. David is mentioned three times in Luke chapter 1. Verse 27, 32, and 69. Verse 27 tells us that Joseph was a descendant of David, and verses 32 and 69 tell us how Jesus will be like a new King David for the people.

However, when the scriptures say that, the people hearing those words have a lot of expectations about what that king would look like. If you remember David's story, nobody expected David to look like a king. In fact, David's family had a nickname for him. The Ha Katan, or in Hebrew, 'the runt of the litter' or 'the little one.' His family never expected that the runt of the litter would become the great king! And Jesus comes along, the new David, and he's doing these great miracles. And so all the people expected him to be like David was. This great warrior would beat up all the other oppressive rulers and rule over all the other nations with force and might. So, the disciples need clarification when Jesus starts talking about giving up his life and turning the other cheek. Because their expectations of this new king weren't going to be one who was going to die on a cross, but be the one crucifying HIS enemies. And so the mention of David in the Christmas story reminds us that we have to adjust our expectations around Jesus.

Like Israel, we all have expectations. I'm actually really gifted when it comes to expectations. In fact, I have expectations of everybody, expectations of my family. Like Eleanor, how much should she sleep, and how quickly should she fall asleep? I have expectations of people in the world, the way people ought to drive, how people ought to act, and the decisions people ought to make. I even have expectations of you, as the congregation, of what you ought to care about and how many amens you should give in a sermon. In fact, it's not going too far to say I have expectations about how everything should work. Life would be a lot easier and make much more sense to me if the world worked the way I expected. But time and time again, I am reminded that the world doesn't work that way and that people don't work that way. And yet, every way, I get mad, frustrated, disappointed, or down on myself when people or things in the world don't go how I expect them to. That's my issue. Now, what about you? All of us have expectations. We have this narrative about the way the world ought to work. We have expectations about how those things should go when we see our husband, wife, partner, teacher, coach, pastor, or whatnot. And so we get mad and frustrated when the world doesn't work out of the narrative that we think is best.

We have expectations. And so often those expectations are just a way for us to control, they become selfish, about us, about what we desire. That's precisely what David reminds me of in this story. What are your expectations? How can we learn to let go of those expectations, to receive something even better. As we enter this new year, how do we let go of some of those expectations we have of God and of one another, and instead receive the God who was, and is, and is to come.

Blessings,  
Pastor Chris

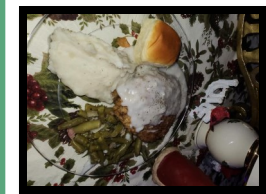
## Ministerial Alliance Christmas On the Square

Saturday, December 2nd Ministerial Alliance hosted A Night in Bethlehem again this year. LUMC was in charge of the stable! Chase and Dahlia Newton made the stable for the Boettcher family to play the roles of Mary, Joseph, Baby Jesus, and shepherd and donkey.



## LUMC Women's Christmas Party

Was on Saturday, December 9th in the FLC. This was our 3rd Annual Women's Christmas Party! We had lots of donated raffle items, a wonderful catered meal by Hildebrandts and Kendra Moore gave the amazing word! Thanks to all who attended and helped!



Kairos Torch is a positive, interactive, and thought-provoking program for young offenders 25 years of age and younger. By developing reasoning and holistic life skills, and engaging in the Torch mentoring program, participants are better able to see balance in their lives. Kairos Torch encourages these youth to realize their God-given potential through the creation of a safe environment allowing them to learn what life can be like in a loving, caring, and trusting community. While Kairos Torch may be the youngest and least well-known of the three programs of Kairos Prison Ministry International, like Kairos Inside and Kairos Outside we are advocates of Jesus Christ and the return of outcasts to society. Torch, like Kairos Inside and Kairos Outside is an international ministry program active in two foreign countries and 16 states here in the United States and with a total of 26 individual communities.

Torch is a faith-grounded, evidence-based behavior modification ministry program. It is designed for use in secured facilities allowing for presentation in the presence of minimal competing entities such as gang activities, video games and other such distractions for the youth to choose from while incarcerated. The Torch program encourages youthful offenders to realize their potential by creating a safe environment that allows them to learn what life in a loving caring and trusting community can be like. The operational foundation of this holistic program is weekly or bi-weekly one-on-one mentoring with formal and structured mentoring guides with 62 weekly sessions. There are guides for boys and for girls that, where applicable, address gender-specific concerns. The guides are flexible and can be adjusted to address specific needs of the individual child as determined with the assistance of the facility counselors.



## Children's Christmas Program

Our Children's Christmas Program was Sunday, December 17th. We had **15** of the cutest little stable animals you could find! They put on a wonderful performance; directed by Jennifer Marek. Thank you Jennifer! Afterwards, they all enjoyed refreshments and fellowship!



## Mobile Food Pantry

Mobile Food Pantry will be **Tuesday, January 2nd** at 11 a.m. in the Lexington City Park. The Free-Will Lunch will be at the Family Life Center on **January 2nd** as well. This Month's Menu: Stuffed cabbage casserole, black-eyed peas & lemon-cherry cake.



Again this year LUMC delivered Christmas presents for children here in the local area. **LUMC was able to help 9 families totaling 24 children!!** Please include the Angel Tree children in your prayers. Thank you for your generosity.



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.



## January

1—Christy Concan  
3—Milissa Davis  
3—Callie Gerdes  
4—Chester Smith  
9—Gabe Turner  
10—Dorothy Moore  
10—Tierra Turner  
10—Tanner Taizan  
11—Tina Woodward  
11—James Borgfeld  
11—Ella Boettcher  
12—Phillip Eberz  
14—Annie Borgfeld  
15—Elaine Gibbs  
16—Sherry Hearon  
19—John Gibbs  
19—Oscar Hillegeist  
21—Payson Eberz  
24—Evon Hutson  
24—Belinda Robertson  
28—Diana Waks  
28—Kyle Brewer  
28—Betty Sandifer  
28—Lexa Robertson  
30—Tracie Aduddell  
31—Derek Schumpert

## Memorials

\*as of November 30, 2023

*"...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

To make a memorial write "memorial" in the memo line of your check and place it in the offering plate or mail it to the church office.

Our children's church kids learned about Chrismons and decorated the church tree with the Chrismons.



**Poinsettias are ready!** If you purchased poinsettias you can pick them up after service or come by the church office during regular business hours. If you have not paid for yours please place in the offering plate. Thank you!

## Tithes & Offerings

Total Monthly Offerings for **November** were **\$18,912**. Thank you for continuing to send in your tithes and offerings!



Ways of sending in your monetary gifts:

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

**Get Connected at LUMC on Sunday Morning**  
**Sunday School 10:30-11:15 a.m.**

**Men's Gathering;** meet in the 2nd classroom with leader, John Gibbs

**Journey Class for Adults;** meet in the 1st Classroom with leader, Cinda Lewis

## Weekly Emails

If you'd like to be added to the weekly email please send your e-mail address to:  
[lexingtonunitedmethodistchurch@outlook.com](mailto:lexingtonunitedmethodistchurch@outlook.com)  
Or call the office at (979) 773-2728.



Youth will resume on **Wednesday, January 17th**. We will have a split Youth. 1 will be from 4 to 5 (geared toward Middle School but High School is certainly invited) and 6 to 7 (flipped - geared for HS but MS is invited). **M&M's** will resume on Wednesday, **January 24th**.

If you are interested in volunteering for either program, please let the office know.

## Joyful Flow

What is Joyful Flow?!

Joyful Flow is a class that helps build strength, balance, flexibility, community all while melting stress away and giving yourself something good for your overall well-being. Plus it does wonders for aches and pains.

This holiday season, melt the stress away with Joyful Flow!

**When:** Wednesdays at 9am

**Where:** Lexington United Methodist Church

**How Much:** Donation Based

**Leader:** Teal Day

**Communion—**Will be on **January 7th, 2024**. We will have communion in both services at 9:30 and 11:15 AM. We hope you can join us!



The Church Office will be closed on **January 1st and 2nd 2024**.

