



Lexington United Methodist Church

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Visit www.lexingtonumc.org for more information.

Dear LUMC Family,

So much of life in the last couple of years has been dominated by one idea: surviving. Diana and I were utterly lost as new parents in the first couple weeks of Eleanor's life. I'm trying to figure out which one is up. I was talking with a friend, and he remarked how those first couple of months are just about one thing: surviving. He was right; we all go through times when survival is necessary. When we have a new baby, when we're in the thick of grief when we're working through change. Sometimes, we have to survive.

Here's the problem. Sometimes, we can spend so long in survival that we forget what life looks like. God didn't create us to have a life of survival; we were called to live a life of abundance (John 10:10). We were called to Thrive.

Every year, I think of a word, idea, or phrase that captures where I hope we can journey together over the coming year. And the word, I kept coming back to this for this year is Thrive. How do we move to feel like we are thriving in our spiritual and communal lives as a church? How do we overcome the challenges we faced in 2024 as an even stronger, more vibrant, and healthy congregation?

A lot of research has been done into what Thriving congregations look like. And they have boiled it down to five key markers: Clarity, Abundance, Kinship, Witness, and Joy. And over the year, we will find ways of growing in these areas in our faith life and as a church. On the other end, some of these areas might be places where we're already strong, and all we have to do is look around and appreciate what God is doing.

I hope we can look at those places in our lives that feel like surviving and discover how God can turn that into thriving. God doesn't promise to take away our lives' hard stuff or challenges. Sometimes, our temptation is to think that our life will be good when we get through this. Once I get that promotion, make this much money, or have this going for me, I'll be able to Thrive. The gospel promises we can find abundant, thriving life here and now! We don't have to wait; it's already here for us.

Come and see!

Blessings,
Pastor Chris



Children's Christmas Program

Our Children's Christmas Program was Sunday, December 22. We had **15** of our church kiddos participate! **Thank you** Matt Everett for playing the piano for our program music! They put on a wonderful performance; directed by Rhonda Janda. **Thank you** Rhonda! Afterwards, they all enjoyed refreshments and fellowship! **Thank you** to The Laukhuf's and Wacha's for giving each of the kids a stocking of goodies!

Last November, our Ad Board voted to approve a new leadership structure, **The One Board Model**. We will have one board who will, in conjunction with the Church, work on the church's trustee, finance, and SPRC matters. We're excited as this will help us work a bit more nimbly and communicate better with the church about what is happening. Stay tuned for more information.



January

- 1—Christy Concan
- 3—Milissa Davis
- 3—Callie Gerdes
- 4—Chester Smith
- 6—Bob Tillery
- 9—Gabe Turner
- 10—Dorothy Moore
- 10—Tierra Turner
- 10—Tanner Taizan
- 11—Tina Woodward
- 11—James Borgfeld
- 12—Phillip Eberz
- 14—Annie Borgfeld
- 15—Elaine Gibbs
- 19—John Gibbs
- 20—Ora Beth Yost
- 21—Payson Eberz
- 24—Evon Hutson
- 24—Belinda Robertson
- 28—Diana Waks
- 28—Kyle Brewer
- 28—Lexa Robertson
- 31—Derek Schumpert

Ministerial Alliance Christmas On the Square

Saturday, December 7th Ministerial Alliance hosted A Night in Bethlehem again this year.



Thank you Stephen Meuth for signing LUMC up to help with the photo booth. Not only did Stephen set up a beautiful Nativity Backdrop for people to take pictures in front of; Stephen also set-up and took on the role of The Grinch!





Youth will resume on Wednesday, January 15th.

Middle School Youth starts at 4pm until 5:30pm. High School Youth starts at 6pm and ends at 7pm.

M&M's will resume on Wednesday, January 22nd.

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



LUMC applied for a grant for \$62,000 from the Moody Methodist Permanent Endowment Fund for a new playground foundation and equipment. We're very grateful to help give our kids a new way to meet their play needs! The playground was installed in December and is ready for M&Ms next year!



Total Monthly Offerings for November were \$19,226.

Thank you for continuing to send in your tithes!

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 on the "donate" page.
3. **Mail or Bill Pay** (through your bank): Po Box 116 Lexington, TX 78947
4. QR Code



Thank you Charlotte Tillery and Rhonda Janda for changing the flower pots for both fall and Christmas in front of the Family Life Center!



A Gift was given to Lexington UMC

In Memory of Oscar Hillegeist

by... Priscilla Brister

In Memory of Oscar Hillegeist

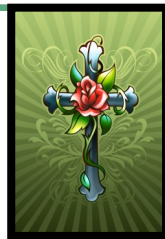
by... Judy Dobson

“...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.



The LUMC Youth Groups held a work day at the Gibb's home on December 20th. We had 13 kids attend. They disassemble a play scape (removed screws, bolts and attachments), trimmed bushes and cleaned windows inside and outside, clean tracks and screens.

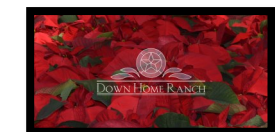


The Church Office will be closed January 1st for New Year's Day



The Central Texas Food Bank is bringing free, healthy food to Lexington! Every month held at the Lexington City Park at 11 a.m.. If you know of anyone who would benefit from this program please let them know. This month's mobile food pantry is Tuesday, January 7th.

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!



Again this year LUMC delivered Christmas presents for children here in the local area. LUMC was able to help 12 families totaling 25 children!! Please include the Angel Tree children in your prayers. Thank you for your generosity. Thank you Teri Nolker for heading this year's Angel Tree Program!!

Weekly Emails

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

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