



Lexington United Methodist Church

979-773-2728

lexingtonunitedmethodistchurch@outlook.com

Visit www.lexingtonumc.org for more information.



Dear LUMC Family,

One of the things we talked about at the start of 2025, as a church, was the markers of spiritual vitality. Our conference did some research based off of Harvard's study on the markers of human flourishing to ask, what are the markers of congregational flourishing? They landed on Clarity, Joy, Kinship, Witness, and Abundance.

One of those markers, in particular, is an interesting one to measure: kinship. Things like Abundance, Clarity, and Witness can be measured with some obvious external measures, but how do you measure the kinship among the congregation? Number of people who show up early and stay late to church, how close people sit next to each other on a Sunday, how many people at church actually like each other? Those could all work, but one that I think really captures the spiritual vitality of a church is "Buzz." Have you ever walked into a place that is just buzzing? There is just an energy that can capture you.

I've already shared a lot about getting to go to Homeboy Industries in California, but I want to share one more story. If you don't know, Homeboy was a ministry that was started in the late 80s to help folks get out of the gang life that was plaguing that part of California at the time. Over the years, they've helped reduce the number of gang-related deaths from over 1,000 per year to somewhere around 200. The work they have done is incredible. One of the key things they do every day, right around 9:00 a.m., is called Morning Meeting, where they walk through all the things that are available for the day for the clients who come through. That does not sound very exciting, right? Wrong.

The place was buzzing. It was packed full—almost 200 people crammed into a tiny lobby space. As they went through the agenda, it was almost like a call-and-response liturgy. They shouted out people hitting major milestones, from getting off parole to finishing their master's degree. At one point, a guy interrupted to share a story about his friend who had fought and won his first boxing match, and how appreciative he was for him. The two met in prison. He shared how he was the only one pushing him to make smarter choices in his life. He shared how, "he not only stopped me from taking my life, but helped give me life to the fullest." Everyone cheered. The place was abuzz.

As I stood there, I remember thinking, it's not all that different from what takes place here during the week. Okay, maybe the people and the problems are a bit different, but the same spiritual buzzing takes place. If you want to experience it, come join us for M&Ms and Youth one Wednesday.

That spiritual buzzing doesn't come from anything other than our mindset. When we volunteer for M&Ms or Youth, it can be easy to get frustrated with the messes and the noise. And believe me, it gets loud and messy. But what a blessing that is for our church. Thank God that we get the opportunity to clean up those messes with those kids.

It's not about numbers either. I remember one Sunday around the holidays where attendance at both services was pretty low. Lots of folks out of town and traveling. You'd think when that happens it would feel uncomfortable, silent, awkward. Nope, not here. It was buzzing. People were visiting before the service like old friends who hadn't seen each other in decades. You couldn't pry people away from each other during the meet and greet.

That spirit of kinship was present. When it comes down to it, it's about the mindsets we have. For the first few weeks of the year, I want us to think about those mindsets. Because there are a few things that can take us from seeing those things as blessings to seeing them as burdens. They are the things that, if we're not careful, can sneak up and take over our thinking. Don't fall prey to these wrong mindsets, and instead discover with us how we can live the words of Paul in Colossians 3:2 and "set our minds on the things that are above." Blessings, Pastor Chris

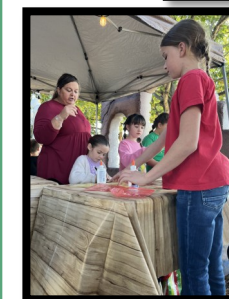
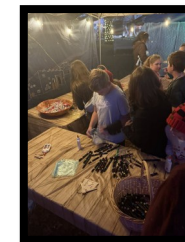
Again this year LUMC delivered Christmas presents for children here in the local area. **LUMC was able to help 9 families totaling 23 children!!** Please include the Angel Tree children in your prayers. Thank you for your generosity. Thank you Terri Nolker for heading this year's Angel Tree Program!!



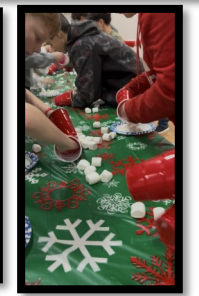
Saturday, December 6th Ministerial Alliance hosted A Night in Bethlehem again this year.

LUMC was in charge of the Carpentry Shop where children stopped by and Colored a wooden nativity scene with paint markers. They then glued the wood pieces down and took them home as ornaments.

Thank you Suzanne, Peggy and George Wacha, Jan Lynn, Lauren and Carter Robertson, and Haddie, Sophia and Holly Newton for volunteering to help !!



On Wednesday, December 17th LUMC held a Youth Group Christmas Party. We had 45 youth attend. They played games and watched the movie "The Best Christmas Pageant Ever".



A Gift was given to Lexington UMC

In Honor of Cherry Stover

by... George and Peggy Wacha

In Memory of Lois Boyd

by... Willis and Jeannine Brewer

"...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.





Youth will start back on Wednesday, January 14th!

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



Counselors Needed

Mid-Winter camp at Lakeview will be **February 13-15, 2026**. This is just for Middle and High Schoolers. We have a large youth group and lots of kids wanting to go! However, before we sign up kids we need volunteers willing to go as counselors. We are currently looking for 3 female and 1 male adult willing to go. If you would like more information please let Holly Newton in the church office know.

M&Ms will resume on **January 21st**. We are always looking for people who are willing to volunteer to invest in the spiritual lives of our kids. On **January 14th at 4:00pm**, we will meet for Volunteer Training for all our M&M volunteers to help prepare for the new year. Hope to see you there. If you have any questions, reach out to Pastor Chris.



The **LUMC Women's Group** had a Christmas Party and Ornament Exchange, on Sunday, December 7th at Tina Woodward's Home. Everyone enjoyed snacks, finger foods and fellowship. As well as lots of laughter exchanging (Stealing) ornaments!!



Total Monthly Offerings for **November were \$23,225.**

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



The **Central Texas Food Bank** is bringing free, healthy food to Lexington! Every month held at the **Lexington City Park at 10 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 6th**.

Our Prayer Group meets **every Tuesday** morning at **10 AM** in the middle class room to pray for those on our prayer list. Everyone is invited to join!



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.

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.

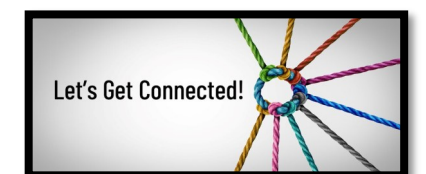


Poinsettias are ready! If you purchased poinsettias you can pick them up after service or come by the church office during regular business hours. If you have not paid for yours please place in the offering plate. Thank you!

Thank you **Rebecca French** for hosting a beautiful and relaxing volunteer appreciation meal!



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



Sunday Morning @ LUMC

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



2025 Dedications “In Memory of”

- | | |
|---|---|
| ✝ In memory of Dewell & Clara Lee Brewer | <i>by Jan Alexander</i> |
| ✝ In memory of Clara Lee Brewer | <i>by Bobby & Mitzi Brewer</i> |
| ✝ In memory of Dewell Brewer | <i>by Bobby & Mitzi Brewer</i> |
| ✝ In memory of My Wonderful, Bill Curnutte | <i>by Judy Curnutte</i> |
| ✝ In memory of My Sweet Mother, Yvonne Mason | <i>by Judy Curnutte</i> |
| ✝ In memory of Lorene Hall | <i>by Matt and Judy Everett</i> |
| ✝ In memory of Alan Spence | <i>by Staci Franke & Family</i> |
| ✝ In memory of Joe French | <i>by Rebecca French & Children</i> |
| ✝ In memory of Jerry Otte | <i>by Rebecca French & Family</i> |
| ✝ In memory of Timothy Otte | <i>by Rebecca French & Family</i> |
| ✝ In memory of Reba Mae Otte | <i>by Rebecca French & Grandchildren</i> |
| ✝ In memory of Patsy Barker, George Wright & John L. Gibbs | <i>by John and Elaine Gibbs</i> |
| ✝ In memory of Eloise and Curtis Corbin | <i>by John and Elaine Gibbs</i> |
| ✝ In memory of Mr. & Mrs. E.L. Jackson; Mr. & Mrs. Buddy Courtney | <i>by Doby & Cindy Jackson</i> |
| ✝ In memory of Robert & Mildred Janda | <i>by Daryl & Rhonda Janda</i> |
| ✝ In memory of Steve Janda & Mike Janda | <i>by Daryl & Rhonda Janda</i> |
| ✝ In memory of Jesse & Jean Hart | <i>by Claire Hart-Palumbo</i> |
| ✝ In memory of Archie & Dottie Sorenson | <i>by Claire Hart-Palumbo</i> |
| ✝ In memory of Bill Stover; Edna & Cecil Reynolds | <i>by Cherry Stover</i> |
| ✝ In memory of Annette Banks Backus | <i>by The Swisher Family</i> |
| ✝ In memory of Bill Banks | <i>by The Swisher Family</i> |
| ✝ In memory of Ike Swisher | <i>by The Swisher Family</i> |
| ✝ In memory of Janet Sue Swisher | <i>by The Swisher Family</i> |
| ✝ In memory of Muriel & Billie Tillery | <i>by Bob & Charlotte Tillery</i> |
| ✝ In memory of Glen & Lois Bennett | <i>by Bob & Charlotte Tillery</i> |
| ✝ In memory of Fred P. Woodward | <i>by Andy & Tina Woodward & Family</i> |
| ✝ In memory of Our Grandparents | <i>by Andy & Tina Woodward & Family</i> |
| ✝ In memory of Anna Hodgkins | <i>by Jan Woodward</i> |



2025 Dedications “In Honor of”

- | | |
|--|----------------------------|
| ✝ In honor of Judy Curnutte | <i>by Everett Curnutte</i> |
| ✝ In honor of My Children, Grandchildren & Great Granddaughter | <i>by Judy Curnutte</i> |