

THE VOICE



Lexington United Methodist Church

October 2020

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www.LexingtonUMC.org

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Church is back in person! Visit www.lexingtonumc.org for more information.

Dear Church Family,

Greetings in the name of Jesus Christ!

As our election approaches and anxieties and tension increase, I've been spending more time in prayer asking for God's guidance. As your pastor, I will never tell you how to vote. But instead would ask that you consider these three things John Wesley, the founder of Methodism, wrote in his journal about an upcoming election:

October 6, 1774

I met those of our society who had votes in the ensuing election and advised them

- 1. To vote, without fee or reward, for the person they judged most worthy*
- 2. To speak no evil of the person they voted against, and*
- 3. To take care their spirits were not sharpened against those that voted on the other side.*

These words seem even more important in this time. It is easy to be frustrated with people who don't agree with us. It is easy to dismiss others and their thinking because we don't agree with them. It is easy for our spirits to be sharpened against each other. But as Christians we are called to more. It is pretty clear again and again in the Bible that we are called to love and not to evil, hate, or even extreme dislike. This is not one of those things that the Bible gives you room to argue about. It is consistent across the Old and New Testament, even Jesus is very specific about our call to love. When he is asked what the greatest commandment is in all of the law, he responds:

"You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind." This is the greatest and first commandment. And a second is like it: "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.' ~Matthew 22:37-40

To love one another is to love God. We cannot love God if we hate our neighbor. Let us instead be people that share God's love, even in our differences. No wiggle room here. Our love of God is directly tied to our love of neighbor and remember neighbor means EVERYONE. So, let us not turn to anger against each other. Instead, let's turn to prayer.

I hope you will join me in our October prayer challenge as we pray for this nation, the election, and our leaders. God tells us that He hears our prayers, and while we might not always get the answers we want, prayer changes us and brings us closer to God. Are we open to our hearts being changed?

Blessings,

Pastor Raegan



LUMC Administrative Council Update

The LUMC Administrative Council held a meeting on Wednesday, September 16th in the Family Life Center and also via zoom for those who did not want to attend the in person meeting. All church members who attended in person were wearing their face mask as requested and socially distanced themselves from each other.

Bill Curnutte, Trustees chair, gave a short report from the Trustees. A couple of projects that have been postponed due to COVID 19, are starting up again.

John Gibbs, VCI Team Lead, gave a report from the VCI teams that all groups are moving forward with all recommendations. Mr. Gibbs is also the SPRC chair. He reported that the SPRC has a new name The CCA (Congregation & Clergy Assessment) would be meeting Tuesday, September 22nd.

Andy Woodward, Finance Chair reported we are in good shape financially as a church.

The only action item on the agenda was to review the survey results from the Worship Times Survey members have had the opportunity to complete for our church. After some discussion, a motion was made and seconded to have Contemporary Services start at 9:30 am and Traditional Services to start at 11:15am. The motion passed. The new worship times will go into effect on Sunday, October 4th.

Several other items of interest were brought before the group, but no action was taken as they were not listed on the agenda beforehand.

- 1) Overview of guidelines the Sunday School classes are putting in place for the safety of our children.
- 2) Report from a subcommittee of the Trustees concerning safe food handling practices, kitchen storage of food and need for individuals who are cooking in the kitchen to have a current food handlers certificate to ensure safe practices are in place while preparing food.

All members of the church are welcome to attend LUMC Admin Council meetings. Next meeting has not been scheduled as of this date. Thanks, Rebecca French, LUMC Admin Chair

Pray for Our Nation

As the election approaches let us spend the month of October in prayer for our country, it's leaders and the election. We have a calendar of prayer points for each day available at all services, in the office and on our Facebook page.

All Saints

On November 1st we will be celebrating All Saints; where we will remember those in our church who have joined the church triumphant in the last year. If you have a family member you'd like to remember please contact the church office.

Enchilada Lunch

We will need help Saturday, October 31st prepping for the lunch as well as help on November 1st serving. All plates will be To-go only. If you are interested in donating cakes, please let Norma Thomas know.



**WE'RE
HIRING!**

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 jjgibbs78947@zochnet.com

Tithes & Offerings

Thank you for continuing to give your tithes and offerings! **September** total Offering were **\$16,678.56**.

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

Memorials

Memorial Fund

In Memory of ... Carlton Gibson

by... Jason & Julie Smith

"...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

Mobile Food Pantry

October's Mobile Food Pantry will be Friday, October 9th 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 October 9th as well.



October Birthdays

- | | |
|------------------------|-------------------|
| 1-Ron Brewer | 16-Don Ahrendt |
| 2-Patsy Durkin | 16-Adam Everett |
| 5-Kelsi Wofford | 18-Barry Lynn |
| 6-Jan Alexander | 20-Allison Crow |
| 7-Alexus Taizan | 22-Jacob Townsend |
| 10-Kristin Swisher | 24-Rusty Hutson |
| 11-Susan Henderson | 26-Janice Hutson |
| 12-Marc Owens | 27-Wendy Stover |
| 12-Andy Woodward | 27-Holly Bryan |
| 12-James Brewer | 28-Bob Rao |
| 13-Riddik Retzlaff | 30-Alaya McKinley |
| 14-Mary Ann Hillegeist | |

