

THE VOICE



Lexington United Methodist Church

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Visit www.lexingtonumc.org for more information.

Dear Church,

I hope this newsletter finds you well and enjoying all things pumpkin. It isn't too early to eat the Halloween candy, is it? We have already had quite a busy September with youth, M&M's, and the life of the church. We have celebrated both life and death, remembering in all things God is victorious.

I find myself needing to be reminded of that fact right now. I need to be reminding of God's victory over the Egyptians, the victory in Jericho and the rest of the Promise Land, victory in exile, rebuilding the temple, and ultimately Jesus' victory over death.

In all these things, I remember that God is the one who makes the victories happen. I remember the words that Jesus says to His disciples in John 16 before his death "I have said this to you, so that in me you may have peace. In the world you face persecution. But take courage; I have conquered the world!"

There are always going to be challenges ahead of us. There is always going to be a trial, a difficulty, a temptation, a bad day, or an epic battle between good and evil. We will bump against each other's sin. We will hurt people and people will hurt us. But God reminds us again and again that the victory is already won. God has been victorious before so why would this time be any different? Why can't there be victory in our own life's and in our church?

There is a wonderful contemporary Christian song I have been listening to a lot lately called See a Victory by Elevation Worship. The words go like this:

The weapon may be formed, but it won't prosper
When the darkness falls, it won't prevail
'Cause the God I serve knows only how to triumph
My God will never fail
Oh, my God will never fail

I'm gonna see a victory
I'm gonna see a victory
For the battle belongs to You, Lord
I'm gonna see a victory
I'm gonna see a victory

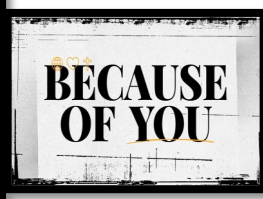
It goes on to say, "You take what the enemy meant for evil and turn it to good." This of course comes from the story of Joseph in Genesis. If God can bring victory from Joseph's story then God can do the same for us. So let's hold tight to God's promises and live into the victory that God has in store for us.

Blessings,
Pastor Raegan

Youth Group hit the ground running at the beginning of September, with more and more students attending regularly as the weeks go on! The past few weeks we've been having as many as THIRTY Middle School students and 10 High Schoolers each week. We have already finished one whole lesson series called Anxiety for Nothing where the students spent four weeks hearing the word of God and hopefully have come to understand four truths about Anxiety: God is always close & listens to us; Anxiety is a signal to pray—not a problem but a signal; Perspective matter—we need to have a perspective of Praise; and that Anxiety shouldn't be complicated. Don't let it control you.

This past week we talked about it can be "Because of You" that someone's life can be changed. A simple act of service, encouragement or generosity can impact a life significant—alter someone's course through the love that has been shown us by Jesus Christ. Starting in October we will be beginning a study discussing four common ways we struggle with our belief in God entitled, "I want to believe, but...". Trust me, our time is not all lessons. We play some awesome games and have an incredible time together. Check out some of the images of the games we've played this past month! If you have a middle school or high schooler that is interested in attending I want to encourage you to bring them and let them have some fun and learn about God together!

Last but not least, We are in a great need of regular Volunteers for Middle School Youth Group & M&M's! If you want a great way to serve in Church, we would love to have you in this growing ministry!



Halloween is right around the corner and we want to bless our community! Are you creative and able to turn your wheels into something magical or scary? Do you have a knack for cooking chili? Maybe that old family recipe you've stored away till it got colder? Well bring your creativity and dust off that book because this year we are planning on doing a **trunk-or-treat** with a **chili cook-off!** Prizes will be handed out for best decorated car and best delicious chili! We need volunteer's to decorate their cars and enter in their Chili's! Also, we will need a ton of candy so if you can't donate your time, why not donate a ton of candy for any trick-or-treaters that stop by! You don't have to participate in everything. Even if you just want to drop off a chili and leave or decorate a car and go trick or treating, that would be awesome! If you would like to volunteer or need more information contact our family director Ryan or get ahold of anyone from the office so we can make this happen!



Women's Ministries

On September 18th Women's Ministries snacked on this beautiful Charcuterie made by our very own Gail Gerdes. We enjoyed good conversations and laughs! **Save the Date for October 16th for The Tour of Painted Churches!**



Lexington Backpack Buddies is selling casseroles this fall. Forms are available at Lexington United Methodist church or online at lexingtonumc.org. Orders will be taken through October 15th and forms can be dropped off at the church office. Pick up is available Monday, November 15th through Thursday, November 18th 9 a.m. to noon as well as 5 p.m. to 6 p.m. that Wednesday. All options are available in 8x8 for \$10 each and are as follows: Sausage, Egg & Cheese Casserole; Chicken Spaghetti; Baked Ziti with Meat Sauce and Chicken, Broccoli and Rice. If you have questions, please contact Stephanie Kellenberger at 512-924-8768. Please "like" our Facebook page: Backpack Buddies Lexington

Children's Christmas program will be December 19th at 6 PM in the Family Life Center. Any children that want to be in the program need to let Jennifer Marek know. Practices will be held at 11:15AM on Sunday's starting Sunday, October 10th. If you have questions or concerns please contact Jennifer Marek at 979-716-0468.



Mobile Food Pantry

Mobile Food Pantry will be **Friday, October 1st** 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 1st** as well. This month's **menu** is: Chicken Spaghetti, Tossed Salad, Fruit Cup & Pumpkin Cake. Served as carryout only.



October Birthdays

- | | |
|------------------------|-------------------|
| 1—Ron Brewer | 16—Adam Everett |
| 2—Patsy Durkin | 18—Barry Lynn |
| 6—Jan Alexander | 19—Justin Bryan |
| 6—Nancy Ross | 20—Allison Crow |
| 7—Alexus Taizan | 22—Jacob Townsend |
| 10—Kristen Swisher | 24—Rusty Hutson |
| 12—Marc Owens | 26—Janice Hutson |
| 12—Andy Woodward | 27—Wendy Stover |
| 12—James Brewer | 27—Holly Bryan |
| 13—Riddik Retzlaff | 28—Bob Rao |
| 14—Mary Ann Hillegeist | 30—Alaya McKinley |

Memorials

In Memory of Cecil "Chee" Reynolds

- by... Anna Hodgkins
- by... Pricilla Brister
- by... Matt & Judy Everett
- by... Lora Barlow
- by... Jan Woodward

In Memory of Sherry Owens

- by... Jan Woodward

Tithes & Offerings

Thank you for continuing to give your tithes and offerings! **As of September 26th** total monthly offerings were **\$23,344** and total yearly offerings were **\$188,536**.

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