

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Women of the Church	2
Blue UMC	3
Youth & Children Ministries	4 & 5
Financial Report	10
Calendar of Events	11

Scripture for Christmas:

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,

"Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace among those whom he favors!"

Luke 2:8-14

A WORD FROM THE PASTOR

Well, we finally made it! It is December!! Somehow we made it through the last eleven months, and 2020 is knocking at the door. And so we begin to find our schedules filled with programs, activities, family obligation, and more as we celebrate the Season. But more often than not all the "celebrating" is more burdensome than joyful. It is really unfortunate because this should be a season of JOY! To reclaim the joy of the Holiday Season, we are going to focus on joy in worship during Advent.

As I mentioned in worship, "Joy to the World," a beloved Christmas classic, turns 300 this year. Composer Isaac Watt's interpretation of Psalm 98 invites us to sing a "new song"—and it is a powerful cosmic performance of all creation being renewed and freed. Rather than "joy" being yet another word for "happiness," we will discover that the depths of joy can be found especially in the midst of suffering, the work of justice, and the presence of compassion—all part of the coming of Jesus to this world and a message the world still so desperately needs.

So before your calendar gets overbooked, stop and remember. Jesus' birth makes all the difference for us. It is the reason we have this Season. It is the reason for life. It is the reason for joy. So let's find joy together this Advent.

Make a joyful noise to the Beloved
all the earth;
break forth into grateful song
and sing praises!
Yes, sing songs of praise extolling
Love's way;
lift up your hearts with
gratitude and joy!"
- Psalm 98 (translation, Nan C. Merrill)



LEXINGTON & BLUE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH'S WOMEN'S MINISTRY

"Two are better than one, because they have a good return for their labor: If either of them falls down, one can help the other up." Ecclesiastes 4:9-10

I would like to take the opportunity to personally thank all of the wonderful ladies who volunteered their time on so many mornings to come out and help bake casseroles. This year, we baked over **130** casseroles! Thank you, **Nancy Organ**, for being so organized and getting everything we need in order to make the casseroles. We would have been a mess without you! And thank you to all of you for the laughs and conversations we all got to participate in during those mornings. I sincerely appreciate each and every one of you!
~Lora Barlow

CHRISTMAS PARTY

Join us
Friday, December 13th
1 p.m.
at the home of Lee Marks
for the
Christmas Party
We will collect gifts for a child in need. For more information, please talk with Lora Barlow.
Bring a friend ~ the more the merrier!



Thank you to everyone who participated in this year's Bazaar! We had another successful fundraiser and we could not have done it without your support!

Free Will Lunch Update

Home deliveries

10/29/201	8	individuals	chicken fajitas
11/6/2019	8	individuals	sliced turkey, pumpkin bread
11/13/201	8	individuals	sliced pork, sweet potatoes
11/21/201	8	individuals	sausage, broccoli-cheese-rice

Hot Lunch served on Thursday, Nov. 7

turkey or ham sweet potatoes, corn caserole pumpkin spice bread apple-pear crisp
96 served, \$99 donations

BLUE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Christmas Program Practice

December 4, 11, and 18
at 6:30 p.m.

Nursing Home Caroling and Eating Out Friday, December 6th

We will begin at Oakland Manor at 5:30 p.m.
Dinner will follow at Los Patrones. Please join us if you can.

Community Sing

December 13th at 6 p.m.
Meet at the church

Christmas Program, Gift Exchange, Santa & Food Wednesday, December 18th

7 p.m.

Everyone is invited to come out and see this year's pageant.



Blue UMC Worship Attendance

November	3	45
	10	44
	17	36
	24	39

December Birthdays

- 6-Peggy Casey
- 8-Kristina Turner
- 10-Michael Castillo
- 12-Donna Morgan
- 16-Pug Phillips
- 17-Kasen Torn
- 20-Kim Hutson
- 26-Darvin Hutson



UPCOMING BLUE EVENTS

Sunday Mornings

- 9 a.m. Worship
- 10:15 a.m. Sunday School

Wednesday Mornings

- 11 a.m. Prayer Group

Blue UMC St. Stephen's Fund \$1,345.33

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.



Calendar of Events

Sunday

Sunday School
9:45-10:45 AM
(6-12th grade)
With Mr. Stephen

Wednesday

All Youth
3:30 to 5 PM

Summer Dates

Camp: 6/28-7/3
Big House: July 22-26

Counselors Needed

Before we know how many kids we can take, we will need to have confirmed counselors. Counselors need to be at least 18 and have graduated from high school. If you or someone you know is interested, please let Pastor Raegan or Stephanie Kellenberger know. Counselors need to be able to commit to the entire week and be enthusiastic about camp and the kids. It is a great experience and counselors come back with some amazing stories of seeing God in the camp and campers.

YOUTH PROGRAMS

"Don't let anyone think less of you because you are young. Be an example to all believers in what you say, in the way you live, in your love, your faith, and your purity." 1 Timothy 4:12

12 Not So Wise Men

Christmas Play

Wednesday, December 11th

6 p.m. in the Family Life Center

A Free Will Dinner will be provided
courtesy of the Cub Scouts Pack #142
Everyone is invited to come enjoy dinner
and a play.



Dinner at Savannah Apartments



Middle and High School youth will be cooking and serving food to the residents of Savannah Apartments on Wednesday, December 18th. We will cook at the church and then take the food over to serve at 6 p.m. We would love adult helpers in the kitchen as well as at the apartments. If you are interested in helping out, please let Stephanie know (lumcyouth@outlook.com). For a list of food needed, please see the weekly email or church bulletin.

Volunteer Opportunities

The Youth Council decided on two opportunities they would like to participate in here in Lexington. They will be making and serving dinner to the **Savannah Apartments on Wednesday, December 18th**. Food will be served at 6 p.m. We will need donations and adult helpers for this event. Please watch the bulletins and emails for more information.

The youth will also be helping with the January Mobile Food Pantry at the Park on **Thursday, January 2nd**. Please be there by 10:30 a.m. with proper attire (including closed toe shoes) to help out. Food is distributed between 11 a.m. and noon.

METHODIST CHILDREN PROGRAMS

Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these." Matthew 19:14



M&M Christmas Caroling

M&M Choir will be traveling to Giddings nursing homes on Wednesday December 4. We will be leaving at 4:00 from the church. We have about 27 members in our choir this year. After visiting both nursing homes, we will be eating dinner at McDonald's in Giddings, We are planning to leave McDonalds by 6:30.



Sunday School October Attendance Awards

Case Boettcher and Aiden Garza

December Acolyte:
James Seaton



We're always in God's school--sharing, listening, learning the joys of being in the light of God as His family...Children, please come and share learning and exploring how special it is to be God's kids through our "Deep Blue" series of Sunday school lessons. We'll draw nearer to God through the love of His Son Jesus Christ in our large group intro of prayer, Bible story and lesson, and music; and then, divide into two age groups to enjoy snack, Bible verse study, activity and craft time. We begin at 9:45am, and conclude at 10:45am. We teachers-Jan Alexander, Jan Lynn, Jennifer Marek, and Trudy Doerfler look forward to seeing you all there!



Midweek Methodists

M&M's is our community-wide after school program for children in Kindergarten through 5th grade. It runs from 3:30-5:00 p.m. on Wednesdays during the school year. Each week children are picked up by bus at Lexington Elementary School and dropped off at the church where they enjoy a snack, music, bible story, crafts, and outdoor recreation. We sincerely believe that your child will be blessed as they study God's word each week with their friends! Registration began forms are available in the church office and online. We hope your children can join us this year!

Calendar

M&M's Begins Spring Semester - January 22
Spring Break - March 11
Last M&M's for Year - April 29

Christmas Pageant
Sunday, December 15
6 p.m. in the Sanctuary

Everyone is invited to come watch the kids perform!



Elusive Joy: A Service for Those Who Mourn
Thursday, December 19th
7 p.m. in the Sanctuary

Christmas can be a hard time for some of us. This service is to help those who are mourning



With Gratitude



Just a few photos of the dedication helpers at this year's Enchilada Lunch.

I want to thank all of you who brought chili, soup, beans, cornbread, chips and dessert to this year's Fall Fundraiser. Thanks to all my helpers. I really appreciate it,
Priscilla Brister



On behalf of the Lexington Ministerial Alliance, thank you to the **Family Ministries** team and volunteers for helping with the Ministerial Alliance's Thanksgiving Celebration. We thank you for your continued support.
Continued Blessings,
Pastor Raegan Seaton

The Lexington United Methodist Women's Ministry would like to thank all of you who purchased casseroles and other items from the Bazaar. We would also like to thank all of you who donated items for the canned goods and bake sale. Because of you, we were able to raise much-needed funds for local programs including Backpack Buddies, sending kids to summer camp, 5th Quarter, VBS, and M&Ms.

Thank you to the **Family Ministries** team and their wonderful volunteers for providing another successful Enchilada Lunch! We appreciate you and everything you do for the church and the community.

Thank you to all the M&Ms volunteers! We had another successful fall and we couldn't have done it without your dedication.

Why I volunteer...by Wanda Townsend

When I retired from working , one of the things I envisioned doing was volunteering at my church in the daytime – not just going to church meetings after work. At this time (2004), we moved to Lexington and joined LUMC and began meeting the wonderful members. Two lovely ladies who worked in the M&M's program asked me if I would like to help out and since my grandchildren were going, I decided I would too. At the time, M&M's had a small number of children attending. Many of these children were not members of our congregation and some did not attend church anywhere. The M&M'a Program introduces children to Jesus and the teachings of the Bible. They have food to eat upon arrival, a bible lesson in the Sanctuary, a craft time, and a time to play. I'm not a teacher but I can help out with gathering, preparing and serving food. We now have 100+ children attending M&M's each week! What if these children who do not know our Lord did not have this great opportunity to hear and learn about our Savior?? Thankfully, we have volunteers who work in our M&M's Program. It is my hope and prayer that these children attending M&M's will continue to have a relationship with Jesus and walk with God as they become adults and pass it on to their own children.



Scout Update

Cub Scouts Pack 142 held their 5th Annual Veterans Day dinner on November 10th. It was a wonderful time with food, fun and entertainment. It was the Legions 100th year and Cub Scouts planted a tree to commemorate the celebration. Cub Scout 5th graders were asked to present the Flags on Veterans Day at the school program. The Scouts did an amazing job!!

Troop 142 attended the 2019 Fall Camporee November 8th – 10th. The Troop won 3rd Place Overall. There were 11 events and Troop took 1st place in two different events and then 2nd place in two more different events! WAY TO GO TROOP!

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- 2-Dempsey Stover
- 2-William Langehennig
- 3-Chrislynn Retzlaff
- 5-Cherry Stover
- 6-Lois Boyd
- 6-Heather Ahrendt
- 10-Sherry Owens
- 12-B.J. Brister
- 12-Rebecca French
- 15-Trudy Doerfler
- 17-Pat Ahrendt
- 18-Judy Curnutte
- 21-Raimond French
- 26-Monica Eberz
- 28-Kate Kellenberger
- 29-Jacob Otte



Coffee House

10:45 a.m.

LUMC Fellowship Hall enjoy complimentary coffee & pastries



Directories are now available online or in the church office.



Flower Calendar: A flower calendar in the narthex of the sanctuary. Please make sure your entries have been made by the preceding Monday. If you have questions, please call Jan Lynn 979-540-8922 or Judy Curnutte 361-739-5610

Kairos, #7 went well, 41 participants graduated. December 7th is our first training meeting for Luther #8. Luther #8 will be held in April...dates to be firmed up soon. See John Gibbs, Barry Lynn or Elaine Gibbs if you are interested in volunteering for the inside or for the outside team.



SPRC (Staff/Parish Relations Committee): During our 4th Quarter of 2019 SPRC meeting, we accomplished the Annual Pastoral Assessment. We had joint meeting with Pastor Raegan as we and she discussed the ratings and comments. The Pastor was much harder on herself than we were. The SPRC all agreed that we are blessed to have such a wonderful, caring pastor. We pledged to assist, advise and support Pastor Raegan in 2020. We also forwarded recommended staff salaries for 2020, basically recommending a 2% cost of living adjustment for the Pastor and office staff. We also adjusted the Pastor's salary beginning July 1st to reflect the salary for a single-charge pastor. Our request to become a single-charge church has been forwarded to the District Superintendent, Rev. Wanda Bess. This will be part of the Bishop's Cabinet review for the summer appointments. We won't know for sure until April or May. But the Finance Committee was in agreement that our proposed 2020 budget will support this, as well as in future years. Please feel free to discuss any details or concerns you may have with me. May God continue to bless the Lexington UMC,



VCI (Vibrant Church Initiative): We have begun getting our teams ready to tackle the five prescriptions from the Vibrant Church Initiative (VCI) Consultation report. On November 9th, the first Visioning workshop was held and was a very good start. On November 17th, the head of the Conference VCI team (and our coach) led the church in Sunday service as we celebrate and consecrated our VCI plan. I will be the VCI teams coordinator, watching timing, mileposts and keeping everyone up to date on what's happening.

Here are our Team Leaders:

Vision: Chuck Moore

Finance: Andy Woodward

Communications: Kathryn Ladd

Hospitality: Milissa Davis

Leadership: Donna Harbers

We are very grateful for their willingness to leader. The teams will be filled out soon and I will let you know who's working on which team.

I do know from the Pastor that Andy's team is scheduling a meeting soon with a Conference expert on financial software, statement of accounts and reports. The goal is to be on the new software by January 1st.

We will really be kicking it into gear after the first of the year. Keep those comments and questions coming!

John Gibbs, VCI Team Coordinator

*As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace.
1 Peter 4:10*

Lexington Backpack Buddies



Soup & Bread Lunch
 Monday, February 10th
 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.
 Place: TBD

Would you like to help? Please contact **Sarah Hallum** if you can help with the soup. If you would like to donate to the auction, please let **Stephanie Kellenberger** know.

Lexington Backpack Buddies is a collaborative church and community partnership that seeks to increase student academic achievement by ensuring that all children have enough to eat over the weekend, when free and reduced breakfasts and lunches are not available. Currently, we feed nearly 50 kids each week during the school year. Our budget for the 2019/20 school year is roughly \$13,000. This will provide 50 kids three dinners, two breakfasts, two lunches, and snacks each weekend during the school year. Please "like" our Facebook page: Backpack Buddies Lexington.

Community Christmas Event Save the Date

Saturday, December 7th
5:00 p.m.
Downtown at the Log Cabins

Please join us for the Community Christmas Event. There will be a tree lighting, nativity story, various local choirs singing, and a visit by Santa Claus.



LEXINGTON OFFERING/WORSHIP ATTENDANCE REPORT

Date:		Offering	Worship Attendance 10am/11am
November	3	\$3,747	41/58
	10	\$3,338	52/77
	17	\$2,340	35/73
	24	\$5,315.37	43/66

Volunteer Opportunities

Lexington UMC sponsors a monthly free-will lunch on the first Thursday of each month from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the Family Life Center at LUMC. Everyone is invited! Please come if you can: help prepare/serve/cleanup; come and eat lunch and donate a few dollars to help fund future lunches; eat lunch for free including those that are clients of the monthly Food Pantry, those living at the Savanna Park apartments, and any other people in need of a hot lunch or with any food insecurities. For more information, please contact Lee Marks or the church office.

Join us the 1st Thursday of the month at the Park as we help distribute food to those in our community who are in need. We meet at 10:30 and start serving at 11 a.m. Typically, we are finished by 11:15 p.m. No experience necessary!

Get Connected at LUMC on Sunday Morning

Sunday School 9:45-10:45 a.m.

Journey Class for Adults

Meet in the Family Life Center with leader, Cinda Lewis

Beyond the Sermon Study

In the Family Life Center at 11 a.m. led by Nancy Thomas

Men's Gathering

Meet in the Family Life Center with leader, John Gibbs

"All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness" 2 Timothy 3:16

St. Stephen's Fund

\$6,844.61

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. To contribute by check, please write "St. Stephen's Fund" in the memo.

OUR E-MAIL ADDRESSES: lexingtonunitedmethodistchurch@outlook.com or lumcyouth@outlook.com



Newsletter deadline for

January's edition is

December 11

Articles and photos are always needed. Please submit yours to Stephanie in the church office.

Stephanie Kellenberger

Editor of *The Voice*

DECEMBER 2019						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1						
	2	3	4	5	6	7
	6:30 p.m. Bible Study	10 a.m. Lex Prayer Group 10 a.m. Sit & Be Fit 6:30 p.m. Yoga 7 p.m. Boy Scouts	11 a.m. Blue Prayer Group 3:30 p.m. M&M's Choir 3:30 p.m. Youth 5:30 p.m. High School Youth	10 a.m. Sit & Be Fit 11 a.m. Mobile Food Pantry 11:30 a.m. Free Will Lunch 6:30 p.m. Lion's Club	5:30 p.m. BUMC Nursing Home Caroling	5 p.m. Tree Lighting
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
		10 a.m. Lex Prayer Group 10 a.m. Sit & Be Fit 6:30 p.m. Yoga 7 p.m. Boy Scouts	11 a.m. Blue Prayer Group 6 p.m. Youth Christmas Play 6:30 p.m. BUMC Christmas Program Practice	10 a.m. Sit & Be Fit	1 p.m. WM Christmas Party (Home of Lee Marks) 6 p.m. BUMC Community Sing	
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
		10 a.m. Sit & Be Fit 5 p.m. FH & Sanc. Reserved (MFH) 6:30 p.m. Yoga 7 p.m. Boy Scouts	11 a.m. Blue Prayer Group 6 p.m. Youth Dinner at Sav. Apts. 7 p.m. BUMC Christmas Program	10 a.m. Sit & Be Fit No Lion's Club 7 p.m. Elusive Joy: A Service for those who Mourn		
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
		10 a.m. Lex Prayer Group 3 p.m. Children's Service 5:30 p.m. LUMC 7:30 PM BUMC	Christmas Eve	Christmas Day		
29	30	31	1	2	3	4
		New Year's Eve 10 a.m. Lex Prayer Group				

Lexington & Blue
United Methodist
Churches

P.O. Box 116
Lexington, Texas 78947

Address service requested

The Voice

Lexington UMC

508 North Rockdale

Blue UMC

4184 West Highway 696

Church Office: 979-773-2728

Church E-mail:
lexingtonunitedmethodistchurch@outlook.com

Website: lexingtonumc.org

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Lexington, TX
78947
Permit No. 6

Christmas Eve Services

Come and worship Christ the newborn King at Lexington and Blue this Christmas Eve. During these services we will hear the good news of Christ's coming into the world through scripture, sing many of our favorite Christmas carols, celebrate Holy Communion, and end by candlelight with the singing of Silent Night. We will also be collecting a special offering for the Methodist Children's Home. Bring your whole family as we celebrate the greatest gift ever given.

3:00 PM - Children's Service at Lexington UMC

service designed with young families in mind

5:30 PM - Lexington United Methodist Church

7:30 PM - Blue United Methodist Church



And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger. Luke 2:12

