

THE VOICE



Lexington United Methodist Church

979-773-2728

www.LexingtonUMC.org

lexingtonunitedmethodistchurch@outlook.com

December 2021



Visit www.lexingtonumc.org for more information.

Hi Church Family,

It is the most wonderful time of the year, or so the song says! But so often it is the busiest and most stressful time of the year. Part of that stress can come with spending time with family. We LOVE our families! We really do. However, no one has a perfect family. Trust me. In all my years of ministry, I have yet to meet someone that doesn't have some family issues. And the Holidays can make these issues bigger. So let's talk about some tips to make the Holidays go a little smoother.

Prioritize quality time with family. Yes, gifts are so fun this time of the year but what really matters is the connections we make with our family. With my extended family, we always try to have fun activities so that we don't just end up just sitting around looking at each other. Family walks, exciting games of Mexican train, Christmas movies, cookie decorating all make our holidays more joyful and give us some wonderful memories to cherish. Look for the moments of joy. Look for the smiles and the warmth.

Set clear boundaries with family. Having to work on Christmas Eve means that my family is not going to get up and drive anywhere on Christmas Day. We are too exhausted. This is a boundary we have put in place with our families, and they respect it. There is still plenty of time to spend time together, and we are all a lot nicer when we aren't tired.

Have realistic expectations of what the Holidays will look like. Friends, we do not live in a Hallmark movie. The chances of snowy, peaceful Christmases where people fall madly in love with attractive wealthy people are not going to happen. I'm sorry. It just isn't. If you disrupt your kids sleep schedule to spend time with family, they will probably be monsters or at least mine always were. Instead of Hallmark or Normal Rockwell Holidays, aim for something above National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation. Enjoy your time together.

Finally, keep Christ the focus of this Season. At the end of the day, the reason we celebrate is that God came down to us. God loves us so much that He sent his son to us, to save us, to teach us to love, and to give us life. If that isn't reason enough to celebrate, then I don't know what is!

So please take a moment to slow down this season. Savor the wonderful moments and step away from the stress and turmoil. Have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Blessings,
Pastor Raegan



The angels that appear in the story of Jesus' birth would have been very comfortable in our world of tweets and hashtags. Their messages were often short and to the point—their favorite line being #DoNotBeAfraid. As we look at the stories of these winged messengers to Zechariah, Mary, Joseph and the Shepherds and their reactions to them, we will contemplate what messages we can offer that will counteract a culture of fear and bring #morehope, #morepeace, #morejoy, and #morelove to the world.

Community Christmas Event

Saturday, December 4th at 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. **M&Ms** are invited to come sing. Please arrive at the log cabins no later than 4:40 PM.

Parsonage Open House

Saturday, December 18th
3:00-5:00pm
425 Burns Street

CHRISTMAS
PARTY
Fun and Fellowship

Longest Night

LUMC invites you to a special holiday service designed for those for whom the holidays might be difficult. If you have undergone a difficult loss, transition, or life change, the church cares about you and invites you to a special time of music and worship. This service will be held on Tuesday, December 21st at 7 P.M. in the Sanctuary.



December 24th

Christmas Eve Services

Contemporary Worship at 3 PM

Traditional Worship at 5:00 P.M.

Traditional Worship at 7:00 P.M.

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 during Sunday School from 10:30AM to 11:15AM on Sunday's. If you have questions or concerns please contact Jennifer Marek at 979-716-0468.



Mobile Food Pantry

Mobile Food Pantry will be **Friday, December 3rd** 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 **December 3rd** as well. This month's menu is: Sliced turkey with gravy, Mashed potatoes, Dressing/green bean casserole/corn casserole, Sweet Potato Yeast Rolls, Cake and Christmas cookies. Served as carryout only.



Backpack Buddies

Lexington Backpack Buddies would like to thank everyone who made the casseroles possible for our fundraiser this fall. We were able to make and sell over 190 casseroles! We truly appreciate your continued support.



Pat Ahrendt and
Priscilla Brister
visited with Lorene
Hall.

Women's Ministry

would like to Thank everyone who brought items, helped or came out and shopped at the bake sale in November!

December Birthdays

2—William Langehenning	12—B.J. Brister
2—Dempsey Stover	12—Rebecca French
3—Chrislynn Retzlaff	15—Trudy Doerfler
5—Cherry Stover	16—Phillip Boettcher
5—Katie Garza	17—Pat Ahrendt
5—Kailyn Keeling	18—Judy Curnutte
6—Lois Boyd	20—Doug Keeling
6—Heather Ahrendt	21—Raimond French
9—Lucy Reynolds	26—Monica Eberz
10—Sherry Owens	28—Kate Kellenberger
11—Rodney Organ	31—Trey Schumpert

Memorials

In Memory of Larry Drosche

by... Willis and Jeannine Brewer

In Memory of Dan Browder

by... Matt and Judy Everett

In Memory of Patsy Barker & Gorge Wright

by... Matt and Judy Everett

In Memory of Zackary Brister

by... Matt and Judy Everett

Tithes & Offerings

Thank you for continuing to give your tithes and offerings!

As of November 28th total monthly offerings were \$21,026 and total yearly offerings were \$232,480.

Ways to give:

- At Church:** during service, at the church office or in the drop box on the office door.
- Online:** www.lexingtonumc.org on the "donate" page.
- Mail or Bill Pay** (through your bank): PO Box 116 Lexington, TX 78947