



Lexington United Methodist Church
979-773-2728
lexingtonunitedmethodistchurch@outlook.com



Visit www.lexingtonumc.org for more information.

Church Family,

So let me be honest with you. Newsletter articles are one of my least favorite things to do as a pastor. I'm not a great writer. I cannot spell to save my life. And it is hard for me to come up with things to write each month. This leads to me waiting until the last minute to write anything and Holly gently reminding me that she needs my article. Usually, the whole newsletter is done and is just waiting on me. This time is no different.

How do I find the words to write knowing this will be my last letter to y'all as your pastor? How can I begin to express my thankfulness for the last four and a half years? How can I put into words how much you have all meant to me and my family? Do I even have enough space to talk about all the ways God has moved in me and our church family during this time?

I also know that this is the way of the United Methodist. Your pastors move. Some of you have seen more pastors than you would care to remember. And the wonderful thing that happens is that God works through each pastor bringing hope, joy, peace, and love. Looking back, you can see how each pastor has been the right fit for the church in the season it is in. As this season closes, I know God will bring a new pastor with new gifts for a new season.

This is the hope I keep every time I move churches. What God has done will happen again. God will continue to work through all of you. In Hebrews, we read that Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever. That means that the God that brought the people to start a church in Lexington, TX, the God that brought each one of you here, will continue to work and lead you.

I'm excited to see what God has in store for Lexington United Methodist Church. I know you will be in good hands because God will be leading. Stay faithful to whom God has called you to be. Remember to love the lost and seek out those who are hurting. Stay committed to knowing God, growing together, and sharing love.

I would love your prayers during this time for our family and transition.

Blessings,

Pastor Raegan



Ministerial Alliance Christmas On the Square

This year Ministerial Alliance is working to create a really amazing experience during Christmas on the Square. Instead of singing at the tree lighting, we will be creating a Night in Bethlehem. During this Christmas program, families will wander through the bustling Bethlehem marketplace and discover what life was like when Jesus was born. Unlike your typical "living Nativity," everyone will create unique keepsakes as they interact with local shopkeepers who share the Christmas story. And... they'll love talking to Mary and Joseph in The Stable—and hearing about the miracle of Jesus' birth. We will need lots of help to make this happen so please let us know if you want to be on the team!

Memorials

In Memory of Jim Davis
by... Matt and Judy Everett
In Memory of Jim Davis
by... Jan Woodward

*as of November 30, 2022

To make a memorial write "memorial" in the memo line of your check & place it in the offering plate or mail it to the church office.

Mobile Food Pantry

Mobile Food Pantry will be **Tuesday, December 6th** 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 6th** as well. This Month's Menu: Sliced turkey or ham; w/gravy Rice; Assorted casserole side dishes and Cake.



Enchilada Dinner



Sunday, December 4th
Serving begins at 11 a.m.
All Plates \$13
Drive Thru Only



We need help on Saturday, December 3rd to setup. Helpers don't have to stay the whole time, please come when you can and go as you need. We will need help on Sunday. Services on December 4th will be held in the Sanctuary.

Women's Ministries Christmas Dinner

Join us Saturday, December 10th at 6:30 p.m. in the FLC for our 2nd Annual Women's Ministry Christmas Party! We are looking for women to decorate individual tables in their Christmas best. Our meal will be catered by Hildebrants and we will have a guest speaker Mrs. Kendra Moore. Contact the office if you are interested in helping with this event. Tickets for the meal will go on sell December 1st.



Children's Christmas Program

Practice for our Children's Christmas Program are during Sunday School. Our Children's Christmas Program will Sunday, December 18th at 6:00 pm. The Children will present their program, we will have a brief sing-a-long and then end with refreshments. We hope to see you there!





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

LUMC Welcomes our newest Pastor Chris Waks and Family!

Pastor Chris Waks is an ordained elder in the Texas Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church. He previously served as an Associate Pastor at Moody Methodist Church in Galveston, Texas. There he oversaw the contemporary worship service, discipleship, and missions. During that time, he helped develop an exciting community ministry: a transitional housing program for folks in Galveston to transition out of homelessness.

Chris holds a Bachelor's degree in Theology from Azusa Pacific University in California and a Master of Divinity from Princeton Theological Seminary in New Jersey. Chris is married to Diana Waks, who he met in college when they were paired to serve communion together during chapel. They are parents to a wonderful daughter named Eleanor. And a delightful dog named Bella.

Chris grew up in Arizona, but he and his wife have been Texans since 2016. When not working, Chris loves to cook, hike, watch sports, and play at the park with his energetic two-and-a-half-year-old! Chris is passionate about helping folks learn more about the bible, growing in our faith, and doing ministry that makes a difference in the community.

Pastor Chris' first Sunday will be January 8th, 2023.



Instead of Angel Tree this year, we will be helping out a local family in need. They have 4 children:

- * Boy who is 13
- * Boy who is 11
- * Girl who is 9 almost 10
- * Boy who is 8

We would like to get them Christmas gifts and clothing. If you would like to help please pick up a tag on Sunday to shop for them. We would also like to bless the mom with some gifts so there will be a tag for her as well. Thanks so much for being willing to help this family.

MY KAIROS EXPERIENCE

by Sherry Hearon

Kairos Luther Unit #9 took place October 27 – October 30, 2022, with the closing ceremony occurring Sunday, the 30th, where the general public was invited to attend. I have been blessed and honored to participate in four Kairos closing ceremonies (and if God is willing, it will not be my last). Why do I continue to go back? Because I am awe-struck and excited to have witnessed what the love of Jesus coupled with the power of the Holy Spirit can do for a person who is in such brokenness and despair. I could be wrong, but what do you think a person might think of himself/herself who is convicted of a serious crime against humanity and is locked away from society? Broken, shame, guilt, no value, no purposes, broken and fractured relationships from loved ones and friends, stigma from society, where to turn, what does my future hold, hopelessness, etc. That sounds like a person who is in the pit of despair and possibly asking questions to help himself change.

That's where Jesus can do His best redeeming and transforming work in a person who is at the very bottom, the pit, and finally realizes that he cannot do life in his own strength. Corrie Ten Boom, author of the Hiding Place (a magnificent book proving God's mercy and power even in a concentration camp) has a beautiful, thought-provoking quote: "There is no pit so deep that God's grace is not even deeper." So, I have attended the Kairos closing because I want to experience for myself God moving in someone's life and guess what? God shows up every time!

It is so humbling to hear a man start his testimony by saying, " I am not a person who speaks in front of a group of people (you just know his heart is pounding, his palms and underarms are sweating!), BUT he has been touched by God and he starts to share about what he has experienced. Some men say a few sentences before emotion overcomes them and tears fill their eyes as they try to finish. Wonderful testimonies of having never experienced the agape love of Jesus, forgiveness for themselves and/or others, brotherly love, hope to start anew and changed perspectives.

Your initial thoughts of attending Kairos is to be a blessing to others and because Jesus wants us to be a light to those in prison (Matthew 25:36), but something amazing happens to you. You are immeasurably blessed by the sincere, gracious gratitude of the men participants and then, WOW!, your faith is strengthened, trust and belief in Jesus deepens, and you wonder why didn't I do this before now?

NOTE: The next Luther Kairos will be in April 2023. For more information contact John Gibbs at Lexington UMC or Barry Lynn at First Baptist Church



Kairos Torch Input

By John Gibbs

The initial Kairos Torch weekend of November 4-6 for Giddings State School was a success. This is the first Kairos Torch for a Texas state run juvenile detention facility. Texas Juvenile Justice Department (TJJD) has requested that Kairos International expand this program to all TJJD facilities. Kairos Torch is similar to Kairos Inside which is held in medium security prisons but Torch puts more attention to mentoring. We had 11 youth that completed the weekend led by 18 volunteers. We will mentor them every other week for six months.

John Gibbs was a volunteer from our church with other volunteers from Houston, San Antonio, Austin and several small towns in Central Texas. The participants as you might expect were a little slow to warm to the volunteers and the program, but in the end there was a definite feeling of community. It is a fact that 70% of juvenile offenders have a parent incarcerated. The goal of Kairos Torch is to help the youth find paths that can lead them to a prison-free life.

We will need more volunteers to make this happen. If God is calling you, please don't duck the call. Talk to John Gibbs from the Lexington United Methodist Church please. It is not as difficult as it may seem to you. And besides, God will have your back! He equips the called.



Get Connected at LUMC on Sunday Morning

Sunday School 10:30-11:15 a.m.

Children; meet in Fellowship Hall

Youth 6-12th grade; meet in FLC Classroom

With leader, Stewart Hervey

Men's Gathering; meet in the 2nd classroom with leader, John Gibbs

Journey Class for Adults; meet in the 1st Classroom with leader, Cinda Lewis

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 260 casseroles!

Backpack Buddies would like to Thank the Lion's Club for their help with power hours this fall!!

We truly appreciate your continued support.

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 Wednesday, December 21st at 7 P.M. in the Sanctuary.



Women's Thanksgiving Bake Sale

would like to Thank everyone who brought items, helped or came out and shopped at the bake sale in November! We made \$612 to help kids go to Lakeview Summer Camp in 2023.



December 24th

Christmas Eve Services
Contemporary Worship at 3 P.M.
Traditional Worship at 5 P.M.

Tithes & Offerings

Thank you for continuing to give your tithes and offerings! Total Monthly Offerings for **October** were **\$25,475.**

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



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

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.

Text for Info: We have enrolled in a text service so that we can text you updates about Church Events! All you have to do is text **LUMC** to **833-676-4943** to subscribe for church info. If you want to know about Youth events then text **YOUTH** to **833-676-4943**. We will have more groups coming soon!!

"Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit." Matthew 28:19