



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



Visit www.lexingtonumc.org for more information.

Dear LUMC Family,

Gen A (the generation born in or after 2010) has thrown convention to the wind and collectively decided to change the meaning of words entirely or come up with completely new words through a combination of abbreviations and slang. Here's a sampling: "rizz" (and its' companion "rizzler"), "no cap," "fanum tax" and "bet." If you want to know what that means, come to middle school youth this week at 4:00 pm. Now, you might think it odd, but remember, every generation has had their share of slang, which other generations think strange. Remember groovy, far out, rad, phat, fly, bling, or lit.

While it may happen now at a faster rate than history has previously known, I suppose it's fair to say that this is just what happens with language. No language is static- it's dynamic and changing, which is part of what makes translating scripture difficult. It demands an understanding of both the original languages (Greek and Hebrew at a given point in history) and the contemporary language! As the contemporary language morphs over time, a translation that worked 30 or 50 years ago will feel less and less accurate. This is how the Standard Version became the Revised Standard Version and finally the New Revised Standard Version. Along with that transformation, words that were once bountiful in biblical passages fade into oblivion.

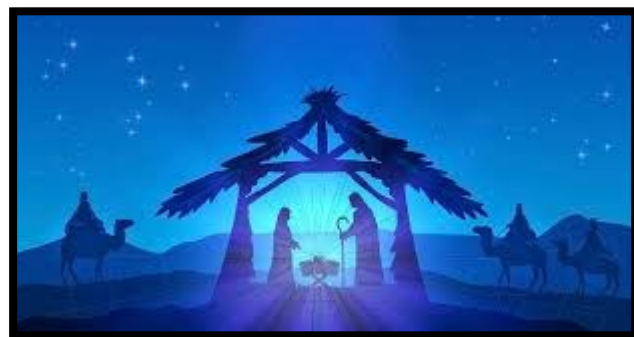
I happen to believe that most updates to biblical translations are value-added, but occasionally we say goodbye to useful words because they just aren't part of our vernacular anymore. 'Behold' is a great example. Those who grew up with the King James Version of the Bible would have encountered this word 1,298 times, while those who are more familiar with the New International Version only encounter 'behold' on one occasion!

I miss 'behold!' I think we should bring 'behold' back! We're missing something without 'behold!' Think about the shepherds: the NRSV's translation of Luke 2:10 says "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..." On the other hand, the King James Version translates the same passage "And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people." I'm not arguing that we should bring back the King James (too much evidence of poor translations throughout), but in this case, we ought to 'behold' the value of the 'behold!'

The angel doesn't want us to simply "see" the good news being delivered to the world, he wants us to "behold" it! The angel invites us to "note!" "Pay attention!" "Look!" It's more than an invitation; it's a command to stop and take notice that something incredibly important is happening!

This is a season for beholding. It's a season for noting, paying attention and regarding the entry of our savior into the world then and now. I may not always know what the kids are talking about, but I'm confident that I know what the angel is saying: DO NOT MISS WHAT IS ABOUT TO HAPPEN! Will your Advent and Christmas schedule allow space for beholding?

Blessings,
Pastor Chris



Ministerial Alliance Christmas On the Square

Saturday, December 2nd from 4-6PM Ministerial Alliance will be hosting A Night in Bethlehem again this year. 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.

Our Church is providing the stable with Mary, Joseph and Baby Jesus. We also will have a live donkey and Cow with a few of our Middle School Youth members as the handlers. Please stop by and say hello!



LUMC Women's Christmas Party

Join us **Saturday, December 9th at 6:00 p.m.** in the FLC for our 3rd Annual Women's Christmas Party! We are looking for women to decorate individual tables in their Christmas best. Our meal will be catered and we will have a guest speaker. Contact the office if you are interested in helping with this event. This years dinner is **free** but **please make sure you RSVP to the church office(979-773-2728) or Holly Newton as there are limited seats!** We hope to see you there!!



Kairos Torch is a positive, interactive, and thought-provoking program for young offenders 25 years of age and younger. By developing reasoning and holistic life skills, and engaging in the Torch mentoring program, participants are better able to see balance in their lives. Kairos Torch encourages these youth to realize their God-given potential through the creation of a safe environment allowing them to learn what life can be like in a loving, caring, and trusting community. While Kairos Torch may be the youngest and least well-known of the three programs of Kairos Prison Ministry International, like Kairos Inside and Kairos Outside we are advocates of Jesus Christ and the return of outcasts to society. Torch, like Kairos Inside and Kairos Outside is an international ministry program active in two foreign countries and 16 states here in the United States and with a total of 26 individual communities.


Torch is a faith-grounded, evidence-based behavior modification ministry program. It is designed for use in secured facilities allowing for presentation in the presence of minimal competing entities such as gang activities, video games and other such distractions for the youth to choose from while incarcerated. The Torch program encourages youthful offenders to realize their potential by creating a safe environment that allows them to learn what life in a loving caring and trusting community can be like. The operational foundation of this holistic program is weekly or bi-weekly one-on-one mentoring with formal and structured mentoring guides with 62 weekly sessions. There are guides for boys and for girls that, where applicable, address gender-specific concerns. The guides are flexible and can be adjusted to address specific needs of the individual child as determined with the assistance of the facility counselors.



Children's Christmas Program

Our Children's Christmas Program will **Sunday, December 17th at 6:00 pm.** The Children will present their program, and we will then end with refreshments. Please let the office know if you can help provide refreshments. We hope to see you there!


Again this year we will be volunteering to deliver Christmas presents for children here in the local area. **LUMC has 8 children to shop for this year so far.** You can select an Angel during office hours or on Sunday morning. If you are unable to shop but still would like to help we will be taking monetary donations as well. Please contact Holly Newton if you wish to volunteer. And please include the Angel Tree children in your prayers. Thank you for your generosity.



A huge Thank You to all of our M&M's and youth helpers this fall semester!! We appreciate you all and could not have made it a success without you all!!

Mobile Food Pantry

Mobile Food Pantry will be **Tuesday, December 5th** at 11 a.m. in the Lexington City Park. The Free-Will Lunch will be at the Family Life Center on **December 5th** as well. This Month's Menu: Chicken Spaghetti, Garlic Rolls and Cherry Crisp.

On **Tuesday, December 12th at 7PM** in the Family Life Center we'll have Charge Conference. This is our annual meeting to conduct the business of the church. Join us as we celebrate the work God has done this year and approve the work that is coming next year.

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.




2—William Langehennig
 2—Dempsey Stover
 3—Chrislynn Retzlaff
 5—Cherry Stover
 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
 25—Diane Scheler
 26—Monica Eberz
 28—Kate Kellenberger
 31—Trey Schumpert

Memorials

*as of November 30, 2023

*"...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*

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




5th Sunday Brunch

This year's last 5th Sunday happens to fall on New Year's Eve! What a wonderful way for us to end the year by having food and fellowship!! We will meet for brunch in the Family Life Center during the Sunday School Hour from 10:30-11:15AM. Please bring a dish to share and we are excited to see you all there!!

Tithes & Offerings

Total Monthly Offerings for **October** were **\$21,556.** Thank you for continuing to send in your tithes and offerings!



Ways of sending in your monetary gifts:

- At Church:** during service, at the church office, or 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

Get Connected at LUMC on Sunday Morning
Sunday School 10:30-11:15 a.m.

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

Weekly Emails

If you'd like to be added to the weekly email please send your e-mail address to:
lexingtonunitedmethodistchurch@outlook.com
 Or call the office at (979) 773-2728.



Middle School and High School Youth Groups will still be meeting until December 13th, 2023. Then will resume on January 17th, 2024.

Here is our Middle School Youth Group! **21 Kids!!** They are seen here enjoying hamburgers made by Chase Newton before having their lesson for the and providing service to our church by helping get Christmas decorations down from the attics.



Joyful Flow

What is Joyful Flow?!

Joyful Flow is a class that helps build strength, balance, flexibility, community all while melting stress away and giving yourself something good for your overall well-being. Plus it does wonders for aches and pains.

This holiday season, melt the stress away with Joyful Flow!

When: Wednesdays at 9am
Where: Lexington United Methodist Church
How Much: Donation Based
Leader: Teal Day



Christmas Eve Services
December 24th
 Contemporary Worship at 3 PM
 Traditional Worship at 5:00 P.M