



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



Visit www.lexingtonumc.org for more information.

Dear LUMC Family,

"Don't miss it," I wrote on a Post-it note and placed it inside my notebook. Last month, I was in Arkansas doing some continuing education. Our facilitator asked us what we needed to give ourselves permission for when we were back at work to still be our best selves. It could take some time to check your email; it could be to try something you didn't want to try. Anything was on the table.

It took me a little time. I can often get so caught up in the business of what's going on, my work to-do list, Sunday's sermon, and preparing for M & Ms that I miss what's going on around me.

Luke 10:38-42 always convicts me. In the story, Martha gets so caught up in preparing for Jesus that she MISSES Jesus showing up. It can be valid for many of us that we get so caught up in the preparation for this season that we miss the meaning of this season.

We spend so much time setting up for the Christmas party that we don't enjoy the folks we had the party for. We spend so much time fretting over gifts that we don't enjoy giving a loved one a gift. We worry so much about attending all the Christmas programs that we don't want them. We get so caught in the bustle of the Christmas season, that we don't stop to remember and take from the reason for the season. In short, we miss it.

As Jesus said about the sabbath, we weren't made for the Christmas season; the Christmas season was made for us. All the stuff we do should help point us TO the reason. It should direct our hearts to look more like Jesus. I invite you to permit yourselves this Christmas season not to miss it. Please don't get caught up in all the needless demands of Christmas we place on ourselves.

Instead, think about how we can simplify Christmas. How can we make this a time of joy and celebration with our family? How can this be a time of strengthening our faith as a part of this church? How can I share the love and generosity that Christ calls me to day in and day out?

When we give ourselves that reminder not to miss it, I wonder what will change in us. For once, we won't feel like we're slogging through a busy season; instead, we will feel like we're taking it all in. We won't feel like we're waiting for this commitment to be over; instead, we will take joy in the things we are a part of.

What would look different if you were committed not to miss it?

Blessings,
Pastor Chris



M&M's Update

The first semester of M&M's 2024/2025 has come to an end. We had so much fun with these kiddos and I know we are all looking forward to their return in January. From the time they walked in the door to the time they were picked up, they were busy! Great meals were prepared, a kid friendly message delivered, and lots of fun had on the playground or doing a craft. Each week they came in with lots of smiles, laughter, and hugs!

I have been a volunteer with this program for about 3 years and can honestly say I look forward to my Wednesday afternoons. There is such excitement in the air as they walk through the door and offer their smiles and hugs. There's a song that says "Thank God for kids there's magic for a while, A special kind of sunshine in a smile". My heart is full after I leave having been surrounded by a lot of smiles. They can bring sunshine to even the dreariest day.

Dawn Stefek

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!!!

Holly Newton

Enchilada Lunch

The Enchilada was a great success again this year! Thank you to our many volunteers and to Chuck Swisher for heading it up!!



We have 23 Angel Tree tags! Gifts are to be wrapped and brought to the Church Office no later than **December 16th**. Please attach the tag to the gifts so we know which presents belong to which Angel. The Angels all have a "#"; **please email that number to terribowdenolker@gmail.com** so we can keep track of the Angels.



**Christmas Eve Service
December 24th
Worship at 5:00 P.M
In Church Sanctuary**

A Gift was given to Lexington UMC

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|---------------------------------|------------------------------|
| <i>In Memory of Phillip Jay</i> | by... Ahrendt Family Reunion |
| <i>In Memory of Mike Organ</i> | by... Matt and Judy Everett |
| <i>In Memory of Mike Organ</i> | by... Rebecca French |
| <i>In Memory of Mike Organ</i> | by... Patti Lerche |
| <i>In Memory of Mike Organ</i> | by... Judy Dobson |



*"...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.

Halloween was huge this year! We had so many chili cook off entries. Every crock pot of chili was empty at the end of the evening. Thank you to all who participated. This year was the biggest crowd yet. Also thank you for all the generous candy donations.

Rhonda Janda



LUMC hosted the Ministerial Alliance Thanksgiving Meal this year on Sunday, November 17th at 6 PM. It was well attended and all enjoyed fellowship and food!! Thank you to all of our volunteers and Diana Waks for heading it up!



Total Monthly Offerings for October were \$19,635.

Thank you for continuing to send in your tithes!

Ways of sending in your monetary gifts:

1. **At Church:** during service, at the church office, or 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
4. QR Code



Children's Christmas Program

Practice for our Children's Christmas Program is during Sunday School. Our Children's Christmas Program will **Sunday, December 22nd 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!

Ministerial Alliance Christmas On the Square

Saturday, December 7th 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. Thank you **Stephen Meuth** for signing LUMC up to help with the photo booth.

DECEMBER

- 4—Mary Sue Reynolds
- 15—Piper Swisher
- 19—Rob Kellenberger
- 19—Kirby Jackson
- 21—Jeannine Brewer
- 22—Dawn Jackson
- 22—Janie Ahrendt
- 25—Carter Robertson
- 26—Weston Stevenson
- 27—Kevin Retzlaff
- 27—Coby Robertson



DIY Christmas Paint Night



Torch Update from John Gibbs:

Giddings Torch weekend is December 6-8. We will have 12 new participants to go with the 8 we continue to mentor.

Additionally, we will have a Christmas celebration on December 17th, with special food and fun.

Donations are still appreciated.



*For unto us a child is born
Isaiah 9:6*

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.



The Church Office will be closed December 24th through December 26th and December 31st and January 1st



The Central Texas Food Bank is bringing free, healthy food to Lexington! Every month held at the Lexington City Park at 11 a.m.. If you know of anyone who would benefit from this program please let them know. This month's mobile food pantry is Tuesday, December 3rd.

Churches Food Drive—Sponsored By Ministerial Alliance There is now a food pantry set up at First Christian Church that is open on the 3rd Tuesday of every month at 10AM. All Churches in Lexington are called to bring can goods to church services on **December 8th and December 15th**.

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

Men's Gathering; 2nd classroom
Journey Class for Adults; 1st Classroom
Children will meet in the 3rd classroom

If you are interested in helping with Youth or Children's Sunday Schools please reach out to Holly Newton in the church office.