THE VOICE

December Newsletter:

Season's greetings Church!

A few years ago, my friend's wife had their third child. The child was born with a condition that resulted in several health concerns. The condition remains, but the child now seems to be thriving. I believe the child was born in November, but due to the condition and health concerns, the child, and parents too, were in the hospital throughout December and into the new year. I'm sure it was not the Christmas they had been imagining. I'm sure it was closer to resembling the first Christmas more than the ideal cozy Christmas a lot of people imagine. My friend, his wife, and child, were far from home and in an uncomfortable setting. Joseph and Mary had traveled far from home to go to Bethlehem. Upon arrival, instead of being able to find a room as they had imagined, they stayed in the manger. According to some scholars, this manger may have been in the entrance to a cave. Again, less than ideal. It was here, though, in this uncomfortable setting that Jesus showed up. It was here where God's presence became incarnate, in the flesh.

We like to imagine Christmas like the movies portray it. There might be some chaos, but that is outweighed by the comfort and coziness. It doesn't always play out that way though, does it? Often, the chaos dominates the season. Figuring out how to decorate the house. Deciding on, finding, purchasing, and then wrapping all the gifts. Trying to schedule all the different gatherings we have to go to. Traveling to all the differing gatherings. Dealing with family. On top of these things, you are also still dealing with your usual workload, which was already hard enough. These things can bring so much stress instead of comfort. A lot of people have a hard time during this time of year. They see others enjoying the Christmas (or Advent) season, and they wish they could do the same, but all they can think of is the loss and hardships they have faced throughout the year.

I'm not sure how the season has started for you, and I don't know what is in store. Maybe the struggle has yet to begin, but you are already getting stressed knowing what's ahead. If you are having a hard time, I hope you know I am here to listen. Also though, if you are having a hard time with the stress, I hope you recognize the presence and work of Jesus in your uncomfortable setting. I hope you are able to recognize the Holy Spirit at work in and around you, bringing you peace and comfort even in the midst of the chaos of life. Even in the hardship of the year, and the depressing feelings this time of year can bring, the one who will make all things well has been born and continues to be present. I hope, no matter how uncomfortable these days may be for you, I hope your heart may be merry this season as you know the presence of Jesus is always with you.

Full of good cheer,

Pastor William Murphree



Angel Tree is for our local children who are in need. We work with the elementary school to get a list of names of children/siblings in need this Christmas. **Please reach out to Terri Nolker at 512-964-5411 for an Angel.**

Saturday, December 5th from 4-6PM the ministerial alliance will be hosting "A Night in Bethlehem" again this year. During this night, families will wander through the bustling Bethlehem marketplace and discover what life was like when Jesus was born. Unlike your usual "living nativity", everyone will create unique keepsakes as they interact with local shopkeepers who share the Christmas Story. **This year LUMC will be the "Pottery Shed".** Please reach out to the church office for more information.





LUMC's Women's Group will be having their Christmas Party on **December 6th from 3-5PM** at Tina Woodward's Home. Bring a wrapped ornament and a snack to share if you wish. You can RSVP to Tina Woodward at 979-540-0421.



Lexington's Homeschool Co-op will have their Kids' Makers Marker on **December 1st from 5-7PM** in the Fellowship Hall.



Enjoy the presentation of scripture from a unique and original perspective that will stir your heart from laughter to tears and back again. The enhancement provided from both southern and contemporary gospel music throughout the program serves to add a dramatic representation like none you've previously experienced. **December 13th at 5:30 PM at LUMC.**

Our childrens program will be on **December 20th, 2026** in the Sanctuary at **6PM**. Followed by refreshments in the Family Life Center.
Practices are in the Sanctuary during Sunday School 10:30-11:10AM.





5 - Cherry Stover
6 - Heather Ahrendt
9 - Lucy Reynolds
11 - Rodney Organ
12 - B.J. Brister
12 - Rebecca French
17 - Pat Ahrendt
18 - Judy Curnutte
21 - Raimond French
28 - Kate Kellenberger
31 - Trey Schumpert



The Church office will be closed on Thursday, December 31st for Christmas. The Church Office will re-open with normal hours on Monday, January 4th.



Total Monthly Offerings for:
October were $14,896
Thank you for continuing to send in your tithes!

Ways to sending in your monetary gifts:

1. **At Church:** during services, at the church office, or the drop off box on the church office door.
2. **Online:** www.lexingtonumc.orgon the “donate” page.
3. **Mail or Bill Pay** (through your bank):
   P.O. Box 116 Lexington, TX 78947
4. **QR Code:**

Lexington UMC
@LexingtonUMCTX
venmo

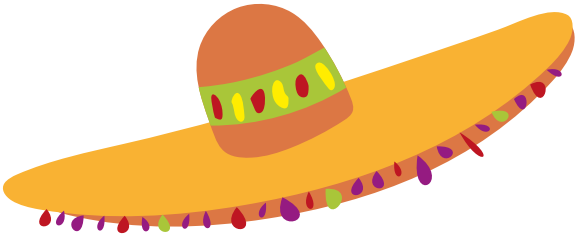
Through October 2026:
Income: $158,039
Expenses: $234,515
Expenses exceed income by $67,521
Bank Balances Totaled $649,494
Prepared by Andy Woodward: November 16, 2026

A Gift was given to Lexington UMC

“...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 in the offering plate or mail to the church office.





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

The Church office will be closed on Thursday, December 24th for Christmas. The Church Office will re-open with normal hours on Monday, December 28th.





Christmas Eve Service
December 24th Worship at 6:00 P.M In Church Sanctuary with candlelight service and communion.

Mid-Winter Camp is a weekend retreat for students grades 6-12 — bringing the energy of summer camp into the heart of February. From high-energy moments like polar plunges and quad zip-lining to powerful worship gatherings that draw groups closer to each other and to God, it's a weekend that creates space for both fun and meaningful growth.

$175 - register by 12/31/26
$200 - register after 12/31/26
Registration closes 2/1/2027 at midnight.

We are in need of Counselors for the Weekend. If you are interested in your child attending or Volunteering please get with Holly Newton in the Church office.

LAKEVIEW
MID-WINTER CAMP

mobile food pantry

The Central Texas Food Bank is bringing free, healthy food to Lexington! Every month held at the **Lexington City Park at 10 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 1st.**