

Lexington & Blue  
United Methodist  
Churches

P.O. Box 116  
Lexington, Texas 78947

Address service requested

*The Voice*

Lexington UMC  
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[lexingtonunitedmethodistchurch@outlook.com](mailto:lexingtonunitedmethodistchurch@outlook.com)  
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Fifth Sunday Sing  
Sunday, March 29th at 6 p.m.  
Lexington United Methodist Church

Get Connected at LUMC on Sunday Morning  
Sunday School 9:45-10:45 a.m.

**Journey Class for Adults**  
Meet in the Family Life Center with leader, Cinda Lewis

**Men’s Gathering**  
Meet in the Family Life Center with leader, John Gibbs

**Coffee House**  
10:45 a.m.  
LUMC Fellowship Hall enjoy complimentary coffee & pastries  
Coffee & Pastries are also available during the 10 a.m. service in the Family Life Center



“All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness” 2 Timothy 3:16

*The Voice*

Lexington & Blue United Methodist Churches

Volume 19, Issue 3  
March 2019

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:	
<i>United Methodist Women</i>	2
<i>Blue UMC</i>	3
<i>Youth &amp; Children Ministries</i>	4 & 5
<i>Financial Report</i>	10
<i>Calendar of Events</i>	11

Scriptures for Lent

“Even now,” declares the LORD, “return to me with all your heart, with fasting and weeping and mourning.” Rend your heart and not your garments. Return to the LORD your God, for he is gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and abounding in love, and he relents from sending calamity. Who knows? He may turn and relent and leave behind a blessing— grain offerings and drink offerings for the LORD your God. Joel 2-12-14

Humble yourselves, therefore, under God’s mighty hand, that he may lift you up in due time. 1 Peter 5:6

I want to know Christ-yes, to know the power of his resurrection and participation in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, and so, somehow, attaining to the resurrection from the dead. Philippians 3:10-11

A WORD FROM THE PASTOR

Happy March and Happy Lent!  
Lent is a season of focus and preparation. It aligns our hearts with God’s heart as we approach Easter. The following are just a few ways, from ReThink Church gives, to focus and prepare.

1. **Give It Up:** Consider giving up something that distracts from your important relationships: like too much time on Twitter or Clash of Clans.
2. **Plug In:** Consider adding. In something that helps you connect with God. Read a book of the Bible, a devotional, or practice Lectio Divina on a daily basis.  
(Lectio Divina is a way of becoming immersed in the scriptures very personally)
3. **Serve:** Start a new routine of service. Volunteer regularly as a mentor a.t our schools, step up and volunteer in church, or visit a nursing home.
4. **Share It:** Make it a communal event. Share your Lent practices with others via a small group and/or attending worship.

**Sermon Series for Lent**  
The events of Christ’s Passion, which take place during the last week of Jesus’ life, often don’t receive enough time in our worship and study. These stories are important to our faith journey and our identity as followers of Jesus. And yet we often move too quickly from Palm Sunday to Easter Sunday with little time to take in the dramatic story of that last week. Throughout the six weeks of Lent we will “freeze-frame” moments in Holy Week so we might put ourselves in the picture, thereby “Entering the Passion of Jesus.” How might taking a closer look at the ancient story open us to deeper conviction for our role in its ongoing message? This series is inspired by Amy-Jill Levine’s book by the same name.  
Each week we invite you to take photos—to capture artful “life moments” through the lens of your camera and post to our church social media with the hashtag “#lifeframe” and “#LexingtonTxUMC” or “#bumc”. If you are not on social media, that’s okay! E-mail your pictures in to the church office at [lexingtonunitedmethodistchurch@outlook.com](mailto:lexingtonunitedmethodistchurch@outlook.com).  
Whatever you decided to do for Lent, dedicate yourself to it. Commit this time to the Lord, and see what He can do!

Blessings,  
Pastor Raegan



# LEXINGTON & BLUE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH'S WOMEN'S MINISTRY

*"And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up." Galatians 6:9*

## Lent Play Meal

Wednesday, March 25th at 6 p.m.

The Women's Ministry group will provide food for that evening's Lent Play. If you would like to help, please let Lora Barlow know.



Sarah Spivey leads a yoga class on Tuesdays at 6:30 p.m. in the Family Life Center. All skill levels are welcome. There is no charge for the class.

## February Community Care Visit

On Thursday, February 20th, Pastor Raegan, Cherry Stover, and Stephanie Kellenberger went to Taylor to visit with Dixie Reat and Catherine Steenblock. Dixie was in great spirits and enjoyed catching up on the happenings in Lexington. Trudy was also visiting her mom, Catherine, so we got to catch up with both of them!

Everyone is invited to join us the third Thursday of the month visiting those who are homebound or in Assisted Living homes.



MARCH 2020						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
	6:30 p.m. Bible Study	10 a.m. Lex Prayer Group 11 a.m. Birthday Lunch 6:00 p.m. FPU 6:30 p.m. Yoga 7 p.m. Boy Scouts - FH 6:30 pm VCI Group	11 a.m. Blue Prayer Group 3:30 p.m. M&Ms, Youth 5 p.m. Confirmation, Youth 6 p.m. Lent Play Campers To Host	11 a.m. Mobile Food Pantry 11:30 a.m. Free Will Lunch 6:30 p.m. Lion's Club		
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Daylight Saving			Spring Break			FLC Reserved 10-2 Selfert Reunion
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
	6:30 p.m. Bible Study 7 p.m. Texas Stars (BUMC)	10 a.m. Lex Prayer Group 6:00 p.m. FPU 6:30 p.m. Yoga 6:30 pm VCI Group	No M&Ms, Youth or Confirmation	9:30 a.m. Community Care Visit 6:30 p.m. Lion's Club		
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
11 a.m. & Noon Safe Sanctuary Training		10 a.m. Lex Prayer Group	11 a.m. Blue Prayer Group 3:30 p.m. M&Ms, Youth 5 p.m. Confirmation, Youth 6 p.m. Lent Play First Thursday To Host 7 p.m. Admin Council	7 p.m. Trustees		Cub Scouts Reserved Van
Cub Scouts Comm. Mtg. 3-4	6:30 p.m. Bible Study	6:30 p.m. Yoga 7 p.m. Boy Scouts - FH 6:30 pm VCI Group	11 a.m. Blue Prayer Group 3:30 p.m. M&Ms, Youth 5 p.m. Confirmation, Youth 6 p.m. Lent Play Women's Ministry To Host			Hospitality Meeting
29	30	31	1	2	3	4
Cub Scouts Reserved Van 6 p.m. 5th Sunday Sing (LUMC)	6:30 p.m. Bible Study	7 p.m. Boy Scouts - FH 6:30 pm VCI Group				



LEXINGTON OFFERING/WORSHIP ATTENDANCE REPORT

Date:		Offering & Special Gifts	Worship Attendance 10am/11am
February	2	\$7,839.84	63/65
	9	\$4,071	64/65
	16	\$5,541.14	51/69
	23	\$4,288	63/68

St. Stephen's Fund  
\$5,348.39

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. To contribute by check, please write "St. Stephen's" in the memo.

*Honor the Lord with your wealth and with the first fruits of all your produce; then your barns will be filled with plenty, and your vats will be bursting with wine.*  
Proverbs 3:9-10



Instant Church Directory™  
Your church directory on your mobile device. Instantly!

If you haven't already, make sure to get the church directory on your phone! If you have any issue, please let Stephanie know at 773-2728 or [lumcyouth@outlook.com](mailto:lumcyouth@outlook.com).

Sync Our Church Directory to Your Mobile Device

Now you can sync our church directory directly to your Apple, Android or Kindle Fire device with a FREE app! Search for other members, and then email, call or text – right from the directory app.

- It's Easy!**
1. Go to your device's App Store.
  2. Search for Instant Church Directory.
  3. Enter your email as it's listed in our church directory.
  4. Follow the directions on screen to complete the login process.



BLUE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



Pictures of some of our great members enjoying Valentine's Dinner together.  
Photo credit: Neta Callahan.



What a joy to have so many sweet young faces during the Children's Message!

Blue UMC Worship Attendance

February	2	29
	9	36
	16	44
	23	33

March Birthdays

- 3-Tommy Stegall
- 3-Matthew Moreno
- 9-Kate Drosche
- 14-Richard Hait
- 17-Adrian Early
- 17-Cheryl Medders
- 22-Luke Drosche
- 23-Chad Biehle
- 28-Paulette Pollock
- 31-Katie Turner
- 31-Malinda Turner



UPCOMING BLUE EVENTS

Sunday Mornings

- 9 a.m. Worship
- 10:15 a.m. Sunday School

Wednesday Mornings

- 11 a.m. Prayer Group

MARCH

- 2-BVFD
- 10-Texas Stars

St. Stephen's Fund  
\$926.33

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. To contribute by check, please write "St. Stephen's Fund" in the memo.



## YOUTH PROGRAMS

*"Don't let anyone think less of you because you are young. Be an example to all believers in what you say, in the way you live, in your love, your faith, and your purity." 1 Timothy 4:12*



Start gathering items for our April Garage Sale. Items should be in good condition: electronics work and clothes are not stained or torn.

We will start collecting items at the church on Sunday, April 4th.

## BIG HOUSE 2020

July 22-26

FUMC Mineola

BIG HOUSE is an acronym which stands for Believing in God, Helping Others Understand through Service Everywhere. Our mission is "To prepare youth and adults to be the hands and feet of Jesus Christ, by providing opportunity to be in mission to churches in need everywhere." We want to give opportunity for youth to come together and grow in their Christian experience, through all aspects of our mission trip, whether it be on the work site, or in fellowship with one another. Camps include participants who have completed the 6th through the 12th grade from all over Texas. These youth come together with the help of adults to work on churches and homes of those who are in need, and are unable to do the work themselves. At BIG HOUSE, the students and adults come together on Wednesday, meet their teams and begin planning work on their selected site. It could be a home they are painting, or a church they are cleaning and repairing, or perhaps it's working in a church food pantry. The work sites are varied and endless. In the evenings everyone will relax after a wonderful dinner at the evening activities. You might be swimming or playing messy games regardless, there is fun to be had by everyone. The camp wraps on Sunday morning with worship at the host church. BIG HOUSE is a very busy and spiritually fulfilling 5 days for these junior and senior high students.



## Confirmation

We are so happy to have 9 Confirmands this year! Classes on Wednesdays are going well and we look forward to learning more as we go. Confirmation Sunday is scheduled for **Sunday, May 31st.**

### Calendar of Events

#### Sunday

Sunday School

9:45-10:45 AM

(6-12th grade)

With Mr. Stephen

#### Wednesday

Middle School:

3:30 to 5 PM

High School &

Confirmation:

5 PM to 6 PM

#### Summer Dates

Camp: 6/28-7/3

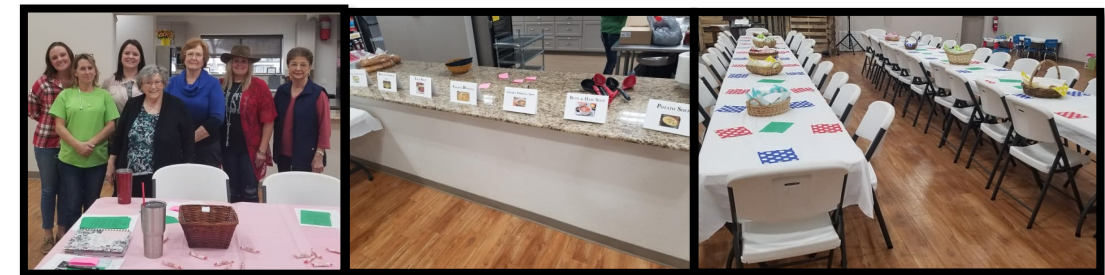
Big House: July 22-26

#### Counselors Needed

Before we know how many kids we can take, we will need to have confirmed counselors. Counselors need to be at least 18 and have graduated from high school. If you or someone you know is interested, please let Pastor Raegan or Stephanie Kellenberger know. Counselors need to be able to commit to the entire week and be enthusiastic about camp and the kids. It is a great experience and counselors come back with some amazing stories of seeing God in the camp and campers.

## Lexington Backpack Buddies

February was quite a month for Backpack Buddies. We had our Soup & Bread Lunch which was a great success, we spoke to the Lexington/Blue Women's Ministry about Backpack Buddies, and the Scouts hosted our first Power Hour of the semester. We are grateful to so many people who keep this program going. There are many hands doing God's work!



## Lent Wednesday Plays and Meals

Starting **March 4th**, Lexington UMC will celebrate Lent with a Wednesday evening service. The service will start at **6 p.m.** with a free will offering meal followed by a 20 minute Lent service. We will be presenting "CALL ME SOMETIME".

There will be a free will dinner hosted by different groups each week followed by the play. Everyone is invited and invited to bring friends!



## Update On General Conference

I know there is some growing anxiety about what will happen at General Conference in May. I wish that I could tell y'all the plan and what to expect but the truth is we just don't know. There are many plans that are circulating around for the future of the United Methodist Church but we do not yet know what will even be presented at General Conference. As we get closer to General Conference, I will communicate with you all as I know more. We will also have group meetings after General Conference and Annual Conference to discuss what happens. But until then, it is still business as usual. We are committed to helping people know Christ, growing in our faith together, and showing God's love to all people. We will continue with weekly worship, Sunday School, M&M's, Bible Study, Prayer Groups, First Thursday meals, and all the wonderful ministries we have going on. If you have further questions about this topic, please reach out to me. And keep praying! God is Good!

Blessings,

Pastor Raegan



MINISTRY HIGHLIGHT: M&M's PROGRAM

The M&M's Program was started in 1996 by *Cindy Jackson and Pastor Randy Thomas*. LUMC was investigating ways of serving school age children in the community when this program was initiated. The M&M's Program was developed to serve elementary school children on Wednesday afternoons at the Church after school until 5:00 p.m. Children were to be fed a snack, taught a bible story, enjoy a craft project and time to socialize.

Beginning with *Pastor Thomas*, all the preachers serving LUMC have participated in this Program. Initially, this program served up to 20 students. Since the Church did not have money to contribute to this Program, the volunteers furnished the food, drinks and paper goods to these students as well as supplying items for craft projects. Early volunteers (some of whom continue their participation in today's program) were: *Janie Ahrendt, Jeannine Brewer, Lorene Hall, Priscilla Brister, Peggy Brown, BobbieMorris and Jan Alexander*. In the early days, before a Lexington Independent School District bus was used, *Bobbie Morris and John Reat* would walk to the elementary school and escort the children to the Church.

After 10 years, the demands of teaching and faculty meetings took *Cindy Jackson* from overseeing this program, *Cinda Lewis* began managing the overall program with the same volunteers buying, preparing, serving food and assisting in the bible story session and the arts and crafts. Numbers of children being served had grown to approximately 30 children.

*Cinda Lewis* departed due to her teaching job. *Jennifer Marek* volunteered to lead the M&M's Program and did so for 8 years until 2015. The M&M's Program continued to grow in numbers of the children served – upwards of 40-45. And contributions from individuals whether monetary or donations of food, drink, paper supplies or craft items continued to support this program.

The snacks that were given to the children attending the program now became small meals. After a few years, the M&M's Program expanded the outreach of students to include middle school students (6<sup>th</sup> grade thru 8<sup>th</sup> grade) and *Stephanie Kellenberger and Sarah Hallum* began serving the Program in a dual leadership role. The Program was now serving an average of 56 students each week. Monetary donations from individuals and monies from LUMC budget supported this Program. When the after-school students from the My Friend's House Day Care began attending, the number of children being served jumped considerably. Fortunately, My Friends House Day Care offered and has continued to supply drinks and volunteers to help with the Program.

Beginning in 2018, the M&M's Program expanded to serve high school students (9<sup>th</sup> grade thru 12<sup>th</sup> grade). The number of students being served continued to grow. In 2019, the Program hit a high point of number of students served – **one week a total of 114!** Average attendance per week is now at 97 students.

M & M'S Fall Semester, 2019 (9/04-11/20)

<b>Attendance</b> Total: 1,286		<b>Food Expenses:</b>	
Average for these 3 months are:		Collected from Individuals in Sept.	\$634.00
M&M Kids (K-5 <sup>th</sup> grade)	87	Money spent on Food	
Middle School Youth	14		\$933.21
High School Youth	<u>6</u>	Average Amount spent on Food per Week:	<u>\$ 77.77</u>
Total	107		
<b>1,286 Students were served 12 meals in 3 months!</b>			

METHODIST CHILDREN PROGRAMS

*Jesus said, “Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these.” Matthew 19:14*



Children’s Church is available during the 11 a.m. service. This part of the service is for elementary-aged children.

Save the Dates!  
Vacation Bible School  
July 13 through July 15  
More details coming soon!



Midweek Methodists (M&M’s)

M&M's is our community-wide after school program for children in Kindergarten through 5th grade. It runs from 3:30-5:00 p.m. on Wednesdays during the school year. Each week children are picked up by bus at Lexington Elementary School and dropped off at the church where they enjoy a snack, music, bible story, crafts, and outdoor recreation. We sincerely believe that your child will be blessed as they study God’s word each week with their friends! Registration forms are available in the church office and online ([lexingtonumc.org](http://lexingtonumc.org)). We hope your children can join us!

Safe Sanctuary Training

Safe Sanctuary Training will be **Sunday, March 22nd at 11 a.m. (in the Family Life Center) and noon (in the Fellowship Hall)**. This is for adults that work with our kids (M&Ms, Youth, VBS, Children’s Church, Sunday School, camp counselors, Big House counselors, etc.). Individuals will need to provide their date of birth and name as it appears on their driver’s license. This training will take roughly 1 hour.  
**This is the recertification year for EVERYONE and training is mandatory for everyone working with our kids and youth.**



**March Acolyte:**  
**Alexus Taizan**

**January Sunday School Attendance Awards:**  
Jace Bryan and Joshua Seaton

**Upcoming Events for Sunday School**

April 12th (Easter) Sunday School Plans:  
Sunday School begins at 9:45  
Easter Egg hunt 10:30  
Photo on the front steps of the church 10:50

April 19th: The Sunday School kids will a special song during each service.

## Welcome New Members



Please welcome our newest members:

Phillip and Ashlyn Boettcher along with their kids Case and Ella (pictured left)

Trent and Cara Carter along with their kids Bryson and Briggs (center)

Christy and Philip Concan

## VCI Prescription Update #3

Dear Church, February saw the Vibrant Church Initiative (VCI) Prescriptions continue to gain steam and traction!

**Prescription #1: Vision and Structure.** The Visioning Team headed by Chuck Moore has continued to meet discussing the inputs from the congregation and the vision workshop from November. They have boiled down the core values into a short visioning statement that continues to be refined with the assistance of the Annual Conference VCI consultants. They are offering their help in designing the logo to go with the vision statement. Our goal is to get it right and not get it fast. Please continue to pray for their work and deliberation.

**Prescription #2: Implement Financial Clarity and Transparency.** Our team continues to implement Power Church. Any new software offers its own challenges in learning the ins-and-outs of it. You can identify with that I know. Latest update is that we are now “totally” in the cloud and still moving to enter all our vendor information. Their goal is to have new reports ready for the March Admin Council meeting. We appreciate the extra hours and efforts they have put into this program to bring our church finances into the digital world while keeping Quicken up-to-date at the same time. Thank you guys and keep up the good work.

**Prescription #3: Strengthen Intentional Hospitality.** The team is responsible for developing systems that focus on: guest recognition, guest follow-up, ensuring new people form meaningful connections (assimilation) and tracking member attendance. Milissa has been awesome in getting the team organized and energized. Jan Floro, a consultant hired by the Conference VCI team, came to Lexington on February 16 and led a three hour workshop on hospitality. She will continue to assist the team. The team’s goal is to have the new systems working before Easter. **REMEMBER: EVERYONE IS A GREETER—THERE IS NO EXCUSE FOR SOMEONE TO VISIT US AND NEVER GET SPOKEN TO.....yes, it has happened here!**

**Prescription #4: Strengthen Internal and External Communications.** Katharine Ladd and her team continues to review all forms of communication, internal and external, and make recommendations for improvements for the sake of better connections with those outside the church and to enhance congregational unity and understanding among the members. April Canik, our communications consultant, has been very helpful in guidance and direction. This is a BIG, complicated process and they also are grateful for your prayers.

Every month Mike Tyson, our coach/team consultant, meets with the Pastor and the team leaders to see how we are doing. Overall, he is seeing things coming together and enjoying the enthusiasm of the teams and the church. Much remains to be done.

Please remember to talk to the team if you have any questions or suggestions....and pray!!

Respectfully, John Gibbs

## A Gift was given to Lexington UMC

Memorial Fund

In Memory of ...John Kalmach

by... Matt & Judy Everett

In Memory of ...Stanley & Sharon

Townsend

by... Richard & Sarah Hallum

Memorials reflect all gifts received and recorded as of February 23rd.

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.

*“...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*



### With Gratitude...

Our family would like to thank Pastor Raegan, Matt Everett, and all of those who put together such a wonderful memorial service for Robert. The food was delicious, the music was beautiful and Pastor Raegan’s words were comforting. Thank you church family.

~Priscilla Brister and the Brister Family

## MARCH BIRTHDAYS

1-Derek Jackson

1-Danny Brade

4-Margaret Woodward

5-Robert Lewis

6-Dawn Stefek

7-Linda Wright

8-Henrietta Thompson

12-Logan Marek

18-Orean Frankeny

18-Chase Newton

19-Mike Wright

22-Ryann Retzlaff

24-Cindy Herklotz

24-Jacklynn Casiano

27-Erin Truho



## Scout Update

February was a busy month for our Scouts! Scouts attended the Annual Report to State in Austin, TX; where they walked down Congress to the front steps of the State Capital. 7 Arrow of Light Scouts completed the Religious Emblems for 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> graders. Cub Scouts celebrated with their Annual Blue and Gold Banquet and had 9 scouts crossover into Troop. The following day was Scout Sunday in both services and in other churches in our community. Thank you Lexington United Methodist Church for all your support!!!



## Free Will Lunch Update

For our February Food Pantry/Free Will Lunch, we served 95 people. In the past month, we've brought 50 home-delivery meals to local recipients.