



Lexington United Methodist Church  
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Visit [www.lexingtonumc.org](http://www.lexingtonumc.org) for more information.



Dear LUMC Family,

At my last church, we had a Society of St. Stephen's ministry, much like we do here. If you're not aware, our Society of St. Stephen's exists to help folks in our community when they have needs. They may need help paying bills—water, electricity, utilities, and so on—and we provide assistance. It's one of the great ways we help people meet their needs.

At my last church, there was another pastor, Lance, whose primary responsibility was St. Stephen's. We would see about 30–40 people a week. Oftentimes, that meant referring them to the right place in town where they could get their needs met. Otherwise, they would complete intake paperwork, and we would try to find ways of assisting beyond just writing a check. Sometimes it helped with budgeting; other times, it helped them gather the necessary documents to get a job. It was really great work—but time-consuming. Because of that, we had a policy among the other pastors: anyone who came in for financial assistance had to go through Lance. Lance seemed to have the spiritual gift of discernment. He wisely discerned between genuine needs and questionable ones. He also had a gift for ministering to those who came in with less-than-honest intentions.

Now, when folks came in during the late afternoon, St. Stephen's was often closed for the day. People would say they wanted to talk to a pastor—and I was usually one of the only pastors in the office after three. So I met with a lot of unique folks, to say the least.

Often, I would tell them, "If you need financial assistance, let me set you up with an appointment with Lance and give you an application. Otherwise, I can pray with you or talk with you, if that's what you'd prefer." And again, I met some interesting people.

One person spent two hours telling me how they could summon and command angels—and that if I didn't pay attention well enough, they would command angels to arrest me. I asked whether they were accepting students who wanted to learn how to do such things, but they said no.

Another person told me that Michelle Obama was contacting them to evaluate churches in the area. I asked how we were doing. She said, "Not bad—but not great either."

There was also Shawn. Shawn told me he had worked for Disney, that he had sold the company a few years back, and was waiting on the check to clear and the paperwork to finalize. Shawn became part of our congregation for about a year and a half. He joined a Sunday school class with Pastor Lance, where he was warmly embraced.

One Sunday after church, on his way out, he grabbed me and told me that he and "the Big Boss"—Larry, one of our facilities team members—would be meeting with me that week to review my subpar sermon from Sunday. And honestly, Shawn wasn't too far off base on that one.

After about a year and a half, we connected with some of Shawn's family members who had been looking for him. They picked him up, brought him home, and, as far as I know, he was doing much better with proper medication.

I share all of that not to make light of the serious mental illnesses that people can face, but to say that as a pastor, I became a bit skeptical about what might come through my door in the late afternoon. Still, I tried to keep Lance's words in my mind: we never know why God puts someone in front of us. Even when it seems outlandish, maybe there is a reason beyond what we can see or understand.

God humbled me one afternoon.

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A gentleman came in looking to speak with a pastor. He sat down in the chair across from my desk. I gave my usual line: "If you're needing financial assistance, let me know, and I can set you up with an appointment." He insisted he was okay.

So I turned to him and asked, "What's going on?"

For the next 45 minutes, he told his story—and honestly, his life could have been the basis for a country song. His wife had left him. His dog had died. His truck wouldn't start. His job had disappeared—all within a few weeks. It was just him and his young son, who was turning ten the next day.

When he said that, I caught myself getting frustrated. *Oh, he's going to ask for money. I told him at the outset that I couldn't help him. Why did he waste both our time? I could have set him up with an appointment to get what he needed.*

All these thoughts flooded my mind.

But I paused and asked, "What do you need?"

He leaned back, paused for a second, and said, "Man, I just need help affording a birthday cake for my son."

I'm not sure if you've ever felt that divine conviction, but I'm pretty sure that was what hit me like a ton of bricks when he said that.

I had been completely wrong.

This wasn't someone trying to get around our system for money. This was a struggling father, down on his luck, trying to move heaven and earth to make sure his son had a good birthday.

I grabbed my car keys and told him to hop in; we were going to Walmart. We went to the bakery section and bought a birthday cake. Then we stopped by the men's department and picked out a new pair of shoes for his son to wear to school. I called one of the crafty folks in our church and asked if they could gift-wrap everything.

When I dropped him off at home, he gave me a long hug goodbye. He said it felt like a weight had been lifted off his chest. I prayed for him and his family before I left.

For me, that's one of the most memorable moments of ministry made possible by God. And as Lance said, we never know why God will place someone in front of us. All we can do is try to be faithful stewards of that time.

To me, this is at the heart of Leviticus, which we are journeying through this Lenten season.

Leviticus reminds us that if we want to make a spiritual difference in someone's life, sometimes we have to make a physical difference first. That difference may look like a birthday cake. It may look like a connection and presence. It may look like a meal.

Thank you for helping make a difference through our St. Stephen's ministry, M&Ms, Backpack Buddies, Kairos/Torch, and so much more.

Blessings, Pastor Chris

## *A Gift was given to Lexington UMC*

*In memory of Lois Boyd*

by... Matt & Judy Everett

*"...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.





The Backpack Buddies soup luncheon was a huge success thanks to YOU! YOU know who YOU are. I feel so blessed to have met so many people through this fundraiser and to have worked side by side with so many amazing folks. Your soups, desserts, breads, salad, were all delicious! For those who gave additional \$\$ from the heart and helped advertise and get the word spread....THANK YOU! Please know how much this day meant to me and how many tummies you will help feed in the coming months. Because of YOU there are enough funds to cover about 600 weekend bags!

**Simply amazing!** I feel blessed to be part of such a caring and generous community.  
Thank you again,  
Terri and the Backpack Buddies



**Palm Sunday**  
March 29th  
**Maundy Thursday**  
April 2nd  
**Good Friday**  
April 3rd  
**Easter**  
April 5th



We are starting to accept Easter Egg Hunt **Donations**. We are looking for candy/snacks, little stuffed animals, bubbles, play-doh, kites, slime, chalk, cups, jump ropes, frisbees, balls or anything you think the kids would enjoy!  
**Deadline for donations will be March 30th.** Donations can be brought to church office or to church on Sundays. Thank you!



- 1—Derek Jackson
- 3—Stuart McHenry
- 4—Margaret Woodward
- 6— Dawn Stefek
- 6—Judy Everett
- 7—Linda Wright
- 12—Logan Marek
- 18—Orean Frankeny
- 18—Chase Newton
- 19—Mike Wright
- 21—Matt Everett
- 22—Ryann Retzlaff
- 24—Cindy Herklotz
- 27—Erin Truho



Total Monthly Offerings for  
**January were \$14,553**

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](http://www.lexingtonumc.org) on the "donate" page.  
3. **Mail or Bill Pay** (through your bank):  
Po Box 116 Lexington, TX 78947  
4. QR Code



### M&M's

On Ash Wednesday our M&M's kids learned about the meaning of Ash Wednesday and imposition of ashes.

**Help us finish out the year strong! ONLY 8 M&M's days left!** WISH LIST—Chips, Cookies, Hawaiian Punch, Grape Kool-Aid, Welch's Fruit Snacks, Apple Sauce and Pudding cups. Individual Packages are appreciated.

We have been blessed with another amazing year with M&M's. Thank you so much to our volunteers both new and regular for making this happen.

**Our last M&M's is Wednesday, April 29th.**



### LUMC Youth Groups

Ash Wednesday our youth provided a Free Will Spaghetti Dinner before the Ash Wednesday service to help raise money for summer activities. Of course they took a break to also learn about the meaning of Ash Wednesday and imposition of ashes. **Thank you for your support!!**



On February 25th our youth group packed 300 bags for the Backpack Buddies Program!



**Youth Fundraisers**

LUMC's Women's Group is hosting a fundraiser night on **March 27th at 7PM** at Mom & Dad's Icehouse. \$20 at the door charge.



**Garage Sale—March 28th** in the Family Life Center. **We are accepting donations all Month.** Donations can be brought to the church office during business hours, before or after Sunday morning services or please get with Holly Newton 979-571-6934 to set up a time. \*\*Items should be in good working condition: Electronics work and clothes are not stained or torn.



**Bake Sale Fundraiser—Saturday, April 25th @ Snow's BBQ 8AM.** Any Donated baked goods are much appreciated!



**Car Wash—May 9th** at the Old Exxon on the corner of 3rd & Rockdale

Anyone wanting to attend summer activities is should plan on helping. All Sales go towards BIG House Mission Trip and Lakeview Summer Camp.



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, March 3rd.**

There will be no M&M's or Youth on **Wednesday, March 12th**



**This Sunday, March 2nd, 2025.**

We will have communion in both services at 9:30 and 11:15 AM.

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.



**Scholarship Applications**

**High School Seniors—**The school has posted the Lexington United Methodist Church Scholarship Application. If you have questions please get with your counselor or Holly Newton.

**Applications are due by April 25th.**

Our Prayer Group meets **every Tuesday** morning at **10 AM** in the middle class room to pray for those on our prayer list. Everyone is invited to join!



**Sunday Morning @ LUMC**

**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



**Welcome Families! Cub Scouting is coming to Lexington!**

- A Scout is:
  - Trustworthy
  - Loyal
  - Helpful
  - Friendly
  - Courteous
  - Kind
  - Obedient
  - Cheerful
  - Thrifty
  - Brave
  - Clean
  - Reverent



Come Learn more: Lexington United Methodist Church March 25, 2026 5:30 pm



- Teaching through fun activities like:
- Arts & Crafts
  - Day hiking
  - Camping
  - First Aid
  - Pinewood Derbies
  - Outdoor Games
  - Fishing
  - Community Service
  - And so much more...

For more information, visit Scouting.org or contact: Vicki Rosengarten @ 419-899-8373



Financial Assistance Available. No Child turned away!

**Summer—**If you are interested in your youth attending BIG House or Lakeview Summer Camp this year please reach out to Holly Newton (979) 571-6934. **We will also be needing Counselors!!** Please let us know if you or someone you know would be interested.

**BIG House—June 10-14th**

**Lakeview—June 22-26th**



**Weekly Emails**

If you'd like to be added to the weekly email please send your e-mail address to:

[Lexingtonunitedmethodistchurch@outlook.com](mailto:Lexingtonunitedmethodistchurch@outlook.com)

[@outlook.com](mailto:@outlook.com)

Or call the office at (979) 773-2728.

**Daylight Savings is March 8th!! Don't forget to Spring Forward!!**



*"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*