

THE VOICE



Lexington United Methodist Church

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July 2021



Visit www.lexingtonumc.org for more information.

First off, let me thank you all, especially Holly Newton, for holding down the fort while we went on vacation. We had an amazing and restful time that we are so thankful for. We also have amazing pictures of some amazing beauty this country has to offer. But we will spare you from a slideshow.

Before I left on vacation, I started reading this amazing book called *A Billion Hours of Good* by Chris Fields. I met Chris through his organization Mercy Project. Mercy Project's mission is to rescue children from slavery. They partner with families and communities trapped in the cycle of poverty, empowering them with sustainable economic solutions in order to free children from forced labor. It is an amazing group. Their work has been focused on Ghana and what they do helps set up a system that is not dependent on Western intervention. So of course, I am going to read this book!

The book is about how YOU, yes you, can change the world. Chris asks for 14 minutes a day, which is only 1% of your day. (For all the math people, yes, it is a little less than 1% but he rounded down.) While I haven't finished this book yet, I am loving it!! I love the idea that each one of us can change the world. Sometimes we think that there are special people with special talents that are the difference makers. But the truth is, God has given each one of us gifts and talents to make the world a better place. This book is firmly rooted in the Gospel with the message to love our neighbors. Remember Jesus' words in Matthew 22:36-40:

“You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.”³⁸ This is the greatest and first commandment.³⁹ And a second is like it: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’⁴⁰ On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.”

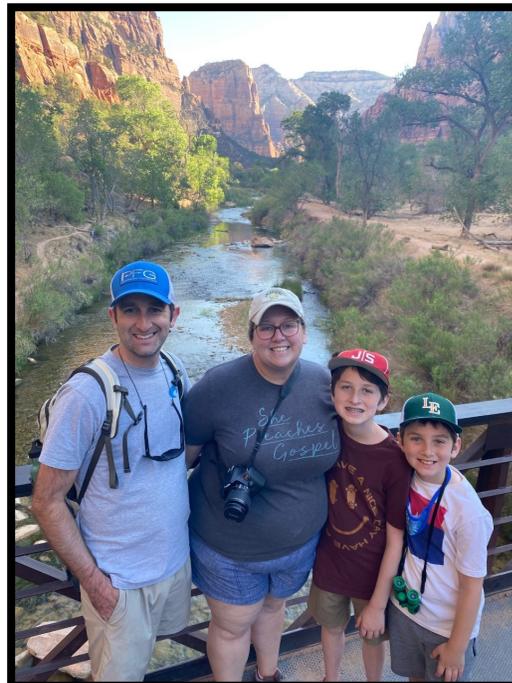
This verse asks us to ask the questions, who is my neighbor? And we again remember Jesus' words that our neighbor is everyone. Part of being willing to change the world and do the good God wants us to, is to have compassion for our neighbors. When we can see the needs of others, and respond with love, AMAZING things will happen. Compassion means we see a problem and instead of wanting someone else to fix it, we ask, “why not me?”

So I want to ask you, where have you been moved to compassion? Where have you seen a problem or difficulty around you and said “Someone needs to do something about that!” I want you to revisit that event and ask yourself instead, “what can I do about this?” God has called this church to step out in faith to know God, grow together, and share love. We can't do that if we are constantly asking someone else to do the hard.

You are capable. You are skilled. You are loved. God has more in store for you. And by serving Him, you will find meaning and purpose in your life. You just might also change the world. Are you ready?

Blessings,

Pastor Raegan





VBS is just around the corner.

July 12-14th! 6:00 - 8:30pm

There will be a preschool group for 3 and 4 year olds. *Volunteers are needed.* Please contact Milissa Davis if you are interested in helping out.



VBS is hosting a workday Sunday July 11th at 12:30 pm with lunch provided. This will be to help set up and decorate. We will also host a clean-up day on Thursday July 15th at 9:00 am with breakfast provided. This will be to help tear down decorations and get the place back in order.

School Supply Drive

We will be collecting school supplies for the Lexington ISD beginning Sunday, July 18th. Please bring in the supplies during service or during business hours. If you would like to make a donation to the drive, please write "school supplies" in the memo of your check on Sunday morning. Thank you!

Mobile Food Pantry

May Mobile Food Pantry will be **Friday, July 9th** at 11 a.m. Distribution will be similar to the recent ones where clients will remain their cars and pick up food in a drive thru line. The Free-Will Lunch will be at the Family Life Center on **July 9th** as well. This month's **menu** is: spaghetti with meat sauce and garlic bread, carrot salad, zucchini-orange cake. Served as carryout only.



It is the time of year when our youth spread their wings and go help others in and around the area through mission work. Here is a little information on BIG HOUSE

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.

Memorials

As of June 23rd

In Memory of ...Bob Belyeu

- by... Chester & Terrie Smith
- by... Kay Van Dorn
- by... Willis & Jeannine Brewer
- by... Dick & Sarah Hallum
- by... Darrell & Jennifer Marek
- by... Richard & Wanda Townsend
- by... Matt & Judy Everett

In Memory of ...Bill Curnutte

- by... Chester & Terrie Smith
- by... Dick & Sarah Hallum
- by... Bettye King
- by... Vicki Roberts
- by... Bobby & Connie Neuse
- by... Phillip & Monica Eberz
- by... Fred & Mrs. Heldenfels III
- by... Darrell & Jennifer Marek
- by... Willis & Jeannine Brewer
- by... Richard & Wanda Townsend
- by... Matt & Judy Everett
- by... Sharon Hodges

July Birthdays



- | | |
|---------------------|-------------------|
| 5—Becky Sims | 20—Robert Ahrendt |
| 6—Hannah Jackson | 20—Willis Brewer |
| 7—Case Boettcher | 21—Wyatt Retzlaff |
| 8—Carson Jackson | 22—Jace Bryan |
| 8—Genevieve Eberz | 23—Keegan Brade |
| 8—Adam Retzlaff | 24—Darrell Marek |
| 12—Joan Jackson | 27—Kevin Ahrendt |
| 13—Dan Harris | 28—Joshua Seaton |
| 14—Bradley Reynolds | 29—Wayde Dodds |
| 16—Joe Jackson | 30—Cecil Reynolds |
| 17—Suzy Borgfeld | |

Tithes & Offerings

Thank you for continuing to give your tithes and offerings! **As of June 21st** total offerings were **\$15,076.**

Ways to give:

1. **At Church:** during service, at the church office or in 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