The VOICE

July 2024



Lexington United Methodist Church 979-773-2728

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Visit www.lexingtonumc.org for more information.

Dear LUMC Family,

Monday, June 27th, 2022, was Chris and Diana's. It was our terrible, horrible, no good, very bad day. The children's book loosely inspired me. But one month before that, I was rear-ended on my way up Highway 45 North going to the annual conference. I wasn't hurt too bad, thankfully, but my car was totaled. It was a painful process dealing with the claim and everything else involved, but things were starting to look up for the Waks family when that dreaded day hit. Four weeks and one day out from the accident, Diana is driving home out of Galveston after dropping Eleanor off at Daycare when she hits the world's most minor cloud of pouring rain. It hydroplanes her car into the guard rail, totaling the car. As calm and cool as a cucumber, Diana calls me to say, "Hey, I just want to let you know this is what happened." And I reply, starting to freak out. I asked if she was okay, and she told me she was just a bit sore. I'm worrying. I don't know what to do, and I cannot get to her because I don't have a car now. So, I called Sam Caminade, the Facility Director at our church, and he always answered his phone no matter what. He picked up, I explained what had happened, and he immediately ran over there. He tries starting her car but has no luck; they tow it. Sam, however, gives her the key to our sweet church van so she can get home. She cruises home, and I take her to the ER to get checked out. While she was doing that, I drove down to Galveston in a car seat because my boss told me she'd let me use her car until our situation was sorted out. What a mess of a morning.

Now, Diana gets all her scans done, and everything turns out okay. It's banged up, and nothing is broken. We called insurance to get the process started. It's a terrible day, but it's looking okay. So, I will go pick up Eleanor from the Daycare. Usually, whenever she gets picked up, she's SO excited and cheery and runs to hug us. She did not do that on this terrible, horrible, no good, very bad day. Instead, she walked out, holding her elbow and crying. The last time she did this, her elbow had been separated; it's called nursemaid elbow and is very common in kids under 5. And we hoped it wasn't that again, we drove home, and she seemed fine. But we get out of the car, and instead of her vibrant, playful self, she sits down, holds her elbow, and cries. So, we will head to the ER a second time. They were perplexed to see my wife as we walked in because they had already discharged her. And she told them, this time, she's here for Eleanor. And to top it all off, when we get there, they are so full that they're only allowing one parent in. So, I wait in the car and call my best friend Phil, who is thankfully a therapist and kindly lets me, for 20 minutes, yell choice words into the phone." Now, thankfully, for Eleanor, it was an easy fix, and once they did it, she was back to normal. We were in the waiting room, waiting for discharge paperwork. Diana and I swapped places, and she jumped off the chair, just bursting with energy like nothing ever happened. And we finally made it home at about 10 PM. And crash on the bed, ending Chris and Diana's terrible, horrible, no good, very bad day.

Maybe you have had a terrible, horrible, no good, very bad day. There may have been a day like ours where everything seemed to pile on simultaneously. It may have been a day when you got some bad news when you lost a loved one, or when something in your life changed drastically. We've all had terrible, horrible, no good, very bad days. The bible even has a story about someone who goes through that terrible, horrible, no good, very bad day. A guy by the name of Job. He was a righteous man from the land of Uz. Who was blameless in the sight of the lord. Yet, one day, he loses everything. His house, his business, his employees, his kids, his health. Then he realizes his friends aren't all that great, and his wife is very kind when they tell him to go ahead and give up. Job finds himself in this place of suffering without any indication of why.

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Over July, I want us to dig into the Book of Job. If there is one thing that is true for all of us, it's that we have experienced suffering in our lives. Job is a powerful book in the Scripture that teaches us about suffering, but the lessons we get might not always be what we expect. Job tries somewhat fruitlessly to make sense of his suffering and understand why it happened. When you get to the end of the story, Job never understands why certain things happened to him. Rather Job has

We also see examples of Job's friends who provide us a great template of what not to do when someone is going through something hard. Much like the time a parent or a coach told us to brush the dirt off ourselves when we had seriously hurt ourselves, Job's friends are convinced that Job did something wrong and that's why all this bad stuff is happening to him. And instead of listening and comforting their friend, they just bug him to "fess up" about what he did wrong.

All in all, the story of Job won't always help us understand why suffering occurs. But it tells the story of how God and the people of God show up during suffering. As humans, we have this strong innate desire to fix things. But things cannot be fixed; they can only be carried. Job will remind us what it means for us to "bear one another's burdens" (Galatians 6:2).

Blessings,

Pastor Chris



VBS 2024 is just around the corner!! This year we will host "Hero Hotline: Called together to serve God!" on July 8th—10th in the evenings like previous years.

Cookies are needed for VBS!

Please bring Homemade or store bought cookies for the kids to enjoy for snack! VBS is Monday- Wednesday 7/8-7/10

Feel free to drop cookies off on Sunday, June 7th or during the day on June 8th.

Thank you!





VBS: Clean-Up Day Thursday, June 11th 1PM until done The Voice Page 3

BIG House 2024





- 3—Dawson Janda
- 5—Amy Janda
- 5—Becky Sims
- 6—Hannah Jackson
- 7—Case Boettcher
- 8—Carson Jackson
- 8—Genevieve Eberz
- 8—Adam Retzlaff
- 12—Joan Jackson
- 13—Dan Harris
- 14—Bradley Reynolds
- 16—Joe Jackson
- 17—Suzy Borgfeld
- 20—Robert Ahrendt
- 21—Wyatt Retzlaff
- 24—Darrell Marek
- 27—Kevin Ahrendt
- 29—Wayde Dodds
- 30—Paisley Stevenson



Lakeview District Camp 2024

























Memorials

In Memory of Ann Stifflemire
by... James and Judy Dobson

*as of May 31, 2024

"...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.

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.

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.



Tithes & Offerings

Total Monthly Offerings for **May** were **\$23,967.**

Thank you for continuing to send in your tithes and offerings!

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

Get Connected at LUMC on Sunday Morning 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 with leader, Cinda Lewis

Youth and Children's Sunday Schools will be taking a break during summer!



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, July 2nd.





Scouts

Crew 630 F (comprised of Troops 142 and 204) on their first day at Philmont, New Mexico Sunday 6/30/24.

