

THE VOICE



Lexington United Methodist Church

September 2020

979-773-2728

www.LexingtonUMC.org

lexingtonunitedmethodistchurch@outlook.com



Church is back in person! Visit www.lexingtonumc.org for more information.

Dear Church Family,

As many of you know, my younger brother Rhett passed away suddenly on August 17. We have no answers about what happened but lots of grief and heartache. I hate grief. I'm sure no one actually enjoys it but I really really hate it. I hate how it makes me feel out of control of my emotions. I hate how it sneaks up on me when I least expect it. I hate how it makes me feel so vulnerable.

You see, I also hate being vulnerable. Again, I know most people do not enjoy being vulnerable as well, and I get the irony right now as I am going to be vulnerable with you all. It makes you realize how fragile life is. You see that life doesn't have the order you think it should. Someone you love is all of a sudden not there, and you realize that could happen again at any time. You realize that you do not have as much control as you would like. It is all around just the worst.

I wish I had some secret answer or shortcut for all of this. I don't. Instead I find myself asking if I am grieving correctly, as if there is a right or wrong way. Or I find myself trying to push through the grief so it can just be over. It is incredibly exhausting. And I am remind time and time again that to love another person is to be vulnerable, and I don't regret one day of loving my brother.

I also know that in my grief, you all have poured out your love on me. It has actually been overwhelming, to think about how loved and cared for I am. I honestly do not think I realized it. And I know that God is pouring out His love for me through each one of you. We love because God first loved us so all our love is an outpouring of God's love. I think this is one of the best parts of Christian community, and why it is so important to be plugged in to a church. Because in the midst of grief and pain, we can find love and hope. So thank you for loving on me and my family. Thank you for reminding me of God's hope. And let us not forget that death does not have the final victory. But in death we enter into eternal life through Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.

Blessings,

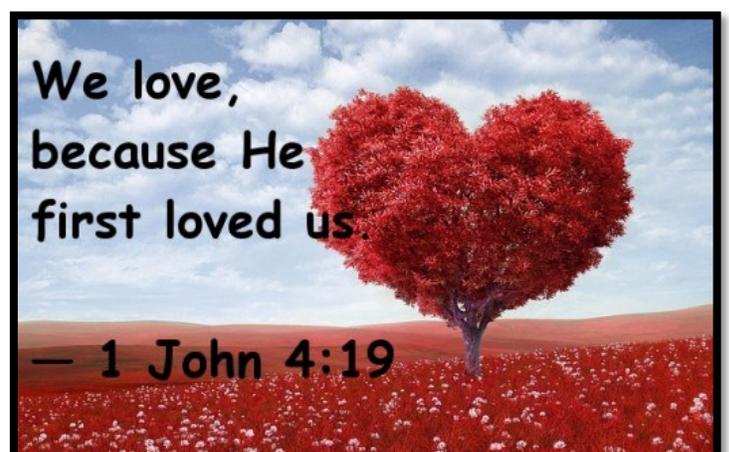
Pastor Raegan

What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? He who did not withhold his own Son, but gave him up for all of us, will he not with him also give us everything else? Who will bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. Who is to condemn? It is Christ Jesus, who died, yes, who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us. Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? As it is written,

'For your sake we are being killed all day long; we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered.'

No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

~Romans 8:31-39



Register Attendance Online

Please go to our website
www.lexingtonumc.org and under
worship select Register Your Attendance
to let us know that you were in worship!

Vibrant Church Initiative

Finance—Working on Power Church to get the budget info correct so we can better show the progress during the year—what percentage, how we doing by category, etc. At this time, we don't need a visit from Power Church for assistance.

Vision— Our vision logo and statement was presented to the Admin Council and was unanimously approved. Holly is starting to integrate it into our communications. Pastor was going to talk to our communications consultant to make sure we are picking the correct typeface for all our communications. The Vision team will start the vision/ministry alignment process later this fall after 2021 leadership is determined.

Hospitality—Milissa met with the Hospitality team to discuss the proposed 5 week plan for visitors. Everyone liked it. The form letters have been modified and are ready. Pat McKinley and Dawn Stefek have volunteered to be part of the hospitality group. Milissa is pleased to have one from each service and is looking for one person to be the initial contact for visitor information that she will pass along to these volunteers. We are now waiting for the "come back to church" day where we can start practicing with our procedures.

Communications—Speaking of communications, Katharine is waiting on the vision typeface to do the survey of the property for signage. Then she will forward to the Trustees to get bids.

Leadership—Donna and her team will start working the leadership for 2021 so we can get prepared for the Charge Conference and begin the lay leadership training.

If you have any questions, please send them along to John Gibbs or Pastor Raegan.

WE'RE HIRING!

Director of Family Discipleship Ministries Job Opening

We are seeking a called individual who would like to work with children, youth and families in the areas of Christian education, discipleship, mission, and outreach. This position is part time with varying hours. If you are interested please contact the office or John Gibbs, SPRC Chair at (512) 751-3923 or jgibbs78947@zochnet.com

Tithes & Offerings

Thank you for continuing to give your tithes and offerings! August total contributions were **\$14,245**.

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

Mobile Food Pantry

September's Mobile Food Pantry will be Friday, September 11th 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 September 11th as well.



Memorials

Memorial Fund

In Memory of ... Carlton Gibson

by... Matt & Judy Everett

In Memory of ... Rhett Birdwell

by... Willis & Jeannine Brewer

Backpack Buddies Fund

In Memory of ... Rhett Birdwell

by... Jan Woodward

"...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



LUMC YOUTH

Our Wednesday Youth will resume on Wednesday, September 9th. We will have a split Youth. 1 will be from 3:30 to 5 (geared toward Middle School but High School is certainly invited) and 5:30 to 7 (flipped - geared for HS but MS is invited). If you feel led to helping with, or leading, either group, please let the office know.



M&M's

Due to the restrictions surrounding the pandemic, M&M's will be virtual this fall. Please go to our website www.lexingtonumc.org to register.

Philippians 4:13

I can do all things through Him who strengthens me.



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

Church Directory

Make sure to stay in touch with fellow church members. On your phone, go to your app store and search "Instant Church Directory". Put in the email you have given the church to access the directory. Need help or prefer a hard copy? Call or email the church.

September Birthdays

4-Kaleigh Taizan
7-Tara Dodds
7-Stacey Washington
9-Jan Woodward
10-Richard Townsend
11-Michael Brewer
13-Pat Rao
14-Chris Borgfeld

15-Austin Retzlaff
15-Dana Brewer
20-Misty Schumpert
26-Priscilla Brister
28-Lorene Hall
28-Roland Doizer

