February Activities

GUEST SPEAKERS, ART CAFE, AND MORE, P. 10–11

Youth Happenings

SUNDAY NIGHTS AND MORE, P. 5

Journeying Together for 150 Years!

HELP US CELEBRATE THIS YEAR, P. 6
church staff

Peggy Hillmon  LEAD PASTOR
Ron Bell       ASSOCIATE PASTOR
Jennifer Bryan ECUMENICAL OUTREACH PASTOR
Mary Clow
Ann Ober
Lisa Freeman  YOUTH MINISTRIES
Lori Campbell PRESCHOOL/CDO DIRECTOR
Trey Bures
Jenny Ewing
Nan Hulett
Blair Penney
Liesel Stephens
Charity Becker OFFICE STAFF
Lauren Lanigan
Linda Stokes

The deadline for the March issue of the Messenger is noon on February 14th. Submit items to Charity Becker (church mailbox or via email at Charity.Becker@lenexaumc.org.) The Messenger is available online, or you may pick up a copy at church.
Friends,

After weeks of “winter” weather, today the sun is shining, and the temperature is slowly creeping up to 50 degrees. Days like this would have prompted my grandmother to begin ordering garden seed from the Henry Fields catalogue she began thumbing through each December. I enjoyed looking at those catalogues, too. Pictures of peas and sweet corn, tomatoes and cucumbers, radishes, broccoli, green beans and apple and pear trees in bloom were especially pretty when the grass was brown and the trees were bare. Looking at the pictures made the work of planting, caring for the garden, picking, canning and freezing seem worth it. Besides that, with 6 siblings, my parents and grandparents, there were plenty of us to accomplish the tasks they represented. I am convinced my grandmother looked through those catalogues in part to remind herself that, despite all the dreary December and January days, spring was coming. New life awaited, and she needed to plan accordingly.

Waiting for, hoping toward, and living into new life is what we do in the church—it is what faithful members of LUMC have done for the past 150 years, and it is what we will continue to do as we move into the next 150 years. Like every other year, this one, too, is filled with possibilities as well as opportunities. In that regard, the Records and History Team is planning toward an appropriate celebration of our past, present and future as we move steadily toward June 29 and 30. There is much to remember and much to vision toward, as we plant seeds in God’s garden—seeds that will bear fruit in our lives as well as in the lives of others.

As you have heard, we are also making steady progress toward paying off the loan on the Education Building. As I recall, when I arrived nearly 10 years ago, our debt was 1.7 million dollars. As of this writing, it is just over $250,000. It has been my hope to retire that debt, have a mortgage burning as part of our 150th Anniversary Celebration, and begin the next 150 years focused on ministry. I realize that will take a concerted effort, and perhaps a miracle or two, but miracles happen, so I am trusting for one in that regard. The Property Management Team is exploring the possibility of a kitchen remodel. They are planting seeds of inquiry into needs, requirements and cost, and there is more work yet to do, but once they have the information needed to help you make an informed decision, they will present their findings and invite you to help grow that vision grow into reality. Our children, youth and young adults have plans too. There is a Global Youth Gathering to attend, as well as the usual VBS and mission trips in which to participate, as they, too, plant seeds of compassion and learning. Though this February will bring some difficult decisions at the special session of General Conference in Saint Louis, we at LUMC, have been planting seeds of understanding, that we might move through this process with knowledge and care. Regardless of the outcome, God will need faithful servants to share love and grace in the Lenexa community for the next 150 years, that God’s kingdom will continue to grow and flourish.

Grace and Peace, Pastor Peggy
The people of Lenexa United Methodist Church are amazing! After spending most of the year in an overage situation, we started running short in the 4th quarter. We let you know, and you responded with an outstanding December! We received $100,046 for the operating budget in December, making a total of $500,588 for the year.

We finished the year with all bills paid, including 100% of our Mission Share for the ninth consecutive year! This has not happened since 1984. That is something to celebrate! Additionally, we were able to add $9,075 to our Building Maintenance Reserve Fund and we will carry forward $26,800 that was prepaid for 2019.

Your generosity extends to so many projects above and beyond the operating budget; it’s impossible to name them all. In 2018, you contributed almost $13,000 to special offerings and other mission projects, including disaster relief, Hillcrest, Sunflower, and more. You gave $204,579 toward the debt on the education building which allowed us to reduce our loan from $453,639 on January 1 to $258,731 on December 31.

Lenexa UMC is truly blessed to have such wonderful support from our members and friends!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>December 2018</th>
<th>Total for Year</th>
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<tr>
<td>General Operating Fund Contributions Received</td>
<td>$91,996</td>
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<td>Building Use, Fundraising and Other Income Received</td>
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<td>Income from Bequest (Budgeted)</td>
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<td>Total Operating Income Received</td>
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<td>2018 Giving received in 2017</td>
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<td>2018 Operating Income Received</td>
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<td>2018 Annual Budget</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mission and Ministry Shares Paid – 100%</td>
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<td>$51,422</td>
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CAPITAL CAMPAIGN UPDATE

Thanks to you and your generosity, we are starting 2019 with a debt on the education building of $258,731. While still a number larger than what we would like, Pastor Peggy stated the outstanding debt on the education building was $1.7 million when they came here. In 2018, we reduced the debt $193,405 plus paid the interest every month on the total debt, which would have been around $12,000 in 2018. We have also been reducing the gap between outstanding pledges and debt owed. The gap between outstanding pledges and outstanding debt is currently $115,454. In 2019, every monthly payment will pay down more of the principal than in the past. New and additional donations, accelerating pledges, all help toward eliminating debt, and will enable us to pay less interest. We pray you will consider making an additional gift or accelerating your pledge between now and June 30th when we celebrate our 150th anniversary.
LUMYOUTH HAPPENINGS

LUMYOUTH PARENT MEETING!
DATE: Sunday, February 3rd
WHERE: The Wesley Room
TIME: 10:30 – 11:30 am

HEALTHY RELATIONSHIPS
Sunday, February 24th | 10:30 am to 1:30 pm | Wesley Room

We hope that all LUMYouth will be in Sunday School during the month of February. Our conversations on “Healthy Relationships” are packed full with honest information. Informed conversations will take place. Melinda and Mike Parks will lead the middle school conversations. Charity Becker and Bruce Freeman will lead the high school conversations.

ALSO...
We will wrap up our month of discussions with an “extended workshop”. We have an awesome video to see, we’ll have some lunch, and then we will divide up by age group and tackle an “assignment.” Parents and their youth are invited and ENCOURAGED to take part. Youth who ever plan to date someone should definitely attend. Lunch will be served!

LUMYOUTH SUNDAY NIGHTS

LUMYOUTH SUPER BOWL PARTY AT THE READ’S HOUSE
Sunday, February 3rd | 5 pm to the end of the game

LUMYOUTH “NOT-SO-NEWLYWED GAME” NIGHT
Sunday, February 10th | 5–7 pm

LUMYOUTH OUTREACH AT CENTER OF GRACE
Sunday, February 17th | 2–7 pm

CONFIRMATION RETREAT
Friday, Saturday & Sunday, February 16, 17 & 18

LUMYOUTH CHILI AUCTION WORK DAY
Sunday, February 24th | 5–7 pm

PEANUTS MISSION TRIP PLANNING MEETING
Sunday, February 24th | 7–8 pm

save the date!
LUMYouth Spring Retreat is March 8, 9, & 10. Cost is $85 per person. Participation envelopes are posted in Schneeberger Hall. Sign up by March 3rd to reserve your spot!
LENEXA UNITED METHODIST CHURCH:

Lenexa United Methodist Church holds many memories for each of us. Perhaps you were married in the church. Perhaps you or your children were baptized or went through confirmation here. Perhaps you or your children attended preschool, VBS, Sunday school, youth group, you name it! Lenexa UMC is a special place with special memories. As the Records & History team puts together those memories, we need your help. As you can see, we have some pictures, but we know you have more. We would especially like pictures of activities at the church from the 1950s, ’60s, ’70s, ’80s, and ’90s. If you’ve been around the church for a while, look in your old photo albums, boxes, attic, basement, see what photos you can find. If you have the ability to scan them, please do so and send them to charity. becker@lenexaumc.org or put them on a flash drive. If you don’t have a scanner, bring the pictures to the church office and we can scan them for you.

We are also interested in any other historical documents that you might have, such as meeting minutes, bulletins or Messengers. If you don’t know whether or not your item is historical, talk to Andy Oren or Linda Stokes and let them help you decide. We are always looking for new items to add to our collection, but especially now as we prepare for our very special Sesquicentennial Celebration to be held June 29–30, 2019.
JOURNEYING TOGETHER FOR 150 YEARS
THEME FOR EPIPHANY:

Filled

We began the Epiphany season with the arrival of the Magi, bringing their gifts to the manger child. Each Sunday, we reflect on what God's presence in Christ Jesus means in and for our lives. We encourage you to join us each week for our journey through Epiphany as God in Christ would enter again into your world.

FEBRUARY 3
4th Sunday after Epiphany

Peggy Hillmon preaching. Communion at both services. Chancel choir at 10:30.

FEBRUARY 10
5th Sunday after Epiphany, Scout Sunday

“Filled With Amazement”—Luke 5: 1–11
Ron Bell preaching. Joy Bells at 9:00, Children's Choir and Joy Bells at 10:30. Girl Scouts at 9:00, Boy Scouts at 10:30 God and Church Awards

FEBRUARY 17
6th Sunday after Epiphany

Peggy Hillmon preaching. Communion at 9:00. Chancel Choir at 10:30.

FEBRUARY 24
3rd Sunday after Epiphany

Peggy Hillmon preaching. Chancel Choir at 10:30.
CHILDREN’S MINISTRIES

join us for sunday school!

**9:00 A.M.**
- **Nursery:** Birth–3 years old
- **Kids’ Court:** 4 years old–Kindergarten
- **Kids’ Kingdom:** 1st grade–6th grade

**10:30 A.M.**
- **Nursery:** Birth–4 years old
- **Kids Connect:** 5 years old–6th grade

Note: The first Sunday of each month, Kids Connect will stay in the sanctuary for the 10:30 a.m. worship service to experience worship and communion.

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**upcoming activities**

**LENTEN FAIR**

*Wednesday, March 6*

Join us in Schneeberger for pancakes and children's crafts from 5:30-6:30pm before the Ash Wednesday service at 7pm. If you would like to volunteer to help with children's activities, contact Mary.Clow@lenexaumc.org.

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**CLUB 56**

5th and 6th graders are invited to Club 56 on February 17 from 5–7 p.m. Tonight we will be competing in a Nailed It! Cooking Competition.

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**save the date!**

**coming up in 2019...**

- Easter Eggs-travaganza: April 14
- Vacation Bible School: June 17–21
RD QUARTER 2018 FINANCIAL REPORT

As you know, because of the tax changes, several people prepaid their giving for 2018. That put us with an overage during most of the year. That overage is now gone, and we have used $4,972 in reserve funds in order to pay all bills current, including our year-to-date Mission Share. With the $94,978 in operating income received in the 3rd quarter, we are 9.8% behind budget year-to-date and 6.5% behind last year. With the faithful giving of our congregation and a traditionally strong 4th quarter, we should once again meet our financial goals for the year, but we need your help. If you are behind in your giving, please try to make it up before the end of the year. If you are blessed and can give extra, please do so.

Your faithfulness and generosity reach far beyond the operating budget. You contributed $44,840 to the building fund in the 3rd quarter, enabling us to pay $30,000 of additional principal, bringing our loan balance down to $314,453 as of September 30. Additionally, you gave $2,698.50 for Hillcrest Transitional Housing through the Hoop Shoot, and $896 to other special offerings and mission projects.

We also received a $85,000 bequest in the 3rd quarter. It is a wonderful blessing when members and friends remember the church in their wills so that their legacy can live on for generations. Have you included the church in your estate plan?

Lenexa UMC is truly blessed to have such wonderful support from our members and friends!

| General Operating Fund Contributions Received September 2018: | $29,871 |
| Building Use, Fundraising and Other Income Received: | $65 |
| Income from Bequest: | $0 |
| Total Operating Income Received September 2018: | $29,936 |
| Mission Shares Paid September 2018: | $4,285 |
| Mission Shares Paid Year to Date: | $38,566 |
| Budgeted Mission Shares Year to Date: | $38,566 |
| Total 2018 Mission Shares: | $51,422 |

GUEST SPEAKER—MINDY CORPORON

Sunday, March 3 | 9:00 a.m. | Wesley Room

LUMC is pleased to welcome Mindy Corporon as a guest speaker during the 9:00 Sunday School hour on March 3. Mindy founded the Faith Always Wins Foundation following the tragic murders of her father and son in a hate crime by a white supremacist whose goal was to kill Jewish people. Since that time, Mindy’s passion has been to promote understanding, encourage kindness, and embrace diversity across races, religions, and cultures. She will speak to us about her foundation and also about Give Seven Days—Make a Ripple, Change the World, an annual event that remembers those who were lost and, in their memory, seeks to create a wave of positive change for the future. Please join us for this informative event.

SUNFLOWER EDUCATIONAL SUPPORT

Thank you, thank you to all who purchased gifts for the Sunflower teachers. These gifts will be used in the classrooms to further the education of the students. Due to a special, generous donation, we were able to fill all requests. The teachers are very appreciative and excited to have these new items and put them to use. Again, a huge thank you to all those who supported Sunflower teachers and ultimately, the students. As one of the partners supporting Sunflower, LUMC was able to assist seven families this year for the Christmas holiday. Included in these families were 7 students and 18 adults for a total of 33 people. A gift card for each student, games and a grocery gift card for each family were given to all. Hopefully this made a brighter, happier Christmas for these families. The Sunflower committee thanks everyone for their generosity and assistance in making this happen. The committee hopes to assist in other ways as the year goes on.
“EVERYONE STRUGGLES: BEING PEER POSITIVE”

**Wednesday, February 13th | 6:30 to 8 pm | Wesley Room**

LUMYouthMinistries is hosting this outstanding gathering for all members and friends of LUMC…, especially youth, their parents, and grandparents. Our guest speaker, Joe Wilner, is a clinical psychotherapist in Lenexa and works with teenagers and their families to help them understand & cope with depression, anxiety, and the stress of life and all of its transitions. Joe is a very cool dude and is excited to join us! At this time a nursery is not provided.

**LARGE COFFEE CANS**

Does your coffee come in large cans? Please consider bringing them to the church office instead of throwing them out. A few large coffee cans are needed for Vacation Bible School.

**THANK YOU**

Thank you for your prayers and well wishes during my hospital stay and recovery. I truly appreciate them. Your visits and cards lifted my spirits during my recovery.

—Merilyn Sheffler and the Nitcher family

**FIBER FOR GOOD HEALTH**

Fiber is a carbohydrate found in plant food that cannot be digested, and while fiber is not an essential nutrient, it is important in our diet. Fiber slows digestion so that we feel full longer. It helps to lower our blood sugar levels and reduces the risk of heart disease, diabetes, high cholesterol, stroke, obesity and some cancers. Some sources of fiber are: oats, barley, beans, nuts, fruits, vegetables, whole grains and seeds. It is recommended we eat 25 grams of plant based fiber daily. Have a fabulous, fiber-ful February!

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS!**

Our annual youth chili auction will be March 3rd immediately following the 10:30 service. This annual event provides much needed funds for our youth’s mission work throughout the year. Please plan on attending, have some yummy chili and bidding on some great items!
SUNDAY SCHOOL FOR ADULTS

All are welcome to join one or more of these great classes!

SPECTRUM
9:00 a.m., Room 122

FOUNDATIONS
9:00 a.m., Room 105
Continuing lessons and guest speakers relating to building a firm faith foundation.

PATHFINDERS
9:00 a.m., Asbury Room

PULSE
10:30 a.m., Room 105

DASHERS
10:30 a.m., Asbury Room
Discussion centered around the day’s sermon and what it means for you.

LUMC LADIES’ BOOK CLUB
3rd Wednesday of each month, 12:00 p.m., Wesley Room

For February, we will be reading the classic Jane Eyre by Charlotte Bronte.
In March we will read The Hearts of Men by Nickolas Butler.

Both of these are in the Johnson County library. Contact Linda Stoker at lstoker98@gmail.com with questions. Guests and new members are always welcome.

PRESCHOOL NEWS

February is the shortest month of the year, but it is still FULL of learning and fun in our preschool and CDO classrooms! This month we focus on love and friendship. The children have been loving the new indoor play space in the basement of the preschool building--and with the cold winter weather upon us, we get to enjoy it often!

Wishing you a Happy Valentine’s Day!