

# the **MESSENGER**

a publication of Lenexa United Methodist Church | January 2019

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# church staff

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

The deadline for the February issue of the Messenger is noon on January 14<sup>th</sup>. Submit items to Charity Becker (church mailbox or via email at [Charity.Becker@lenexaumc.org](mailto:Charity.Becker@lenexaumc.org).) The Messenger is available online, or you may pick up a copy at church.

# PASTOR'S PEN



## ***Friends,***

This morning I heard the train that passes very near my house on a regular basis. One would think that I would hear it every day, but that is not the case. The truth is that I seldom even hear it as it rumbles along the track less than a quarter of a mile away from my front door. The “No Whistle” rule makes for a quieter neighborhood and the massive oak trees not only hide it from view but also muffle what little sound it creates. But it is winter—the leaves have fallen and the clouds were especially low—the train is clearly visible and much closer than I tend to imagine.

That’s the thing about winter—it reveals what we don’t ordinarily see. Empty tree branches etch the sky and reveal beautiful sunsets. Barren fields dot the landscape and reveal soil, rocks and what would otherwise be wonderful hiding places. Empty nests sway in the breeze, held delicately in place by spindled branches. Gullies and ditches appear where we may not otherwise have realized their existence. Even neighboring homes are more clearly visible as winter undresses nature and reveals the sometimes beautiful, sometimes stark truth of all that is around us. All life is a mixture of both.

Much of the time we think the good news is that “spring is just around the corner.” Spring, with its ground cover and tree cover and sound muffling protection, is most often, welcomed with open arms. But, this morning, when I heard the train, I was reminded of how we all need a season of winter in our lives to reveal the sometimes beautiful, sometimes stark truth within us. The broken heart that needs time’s healing balm—the wounded spirit that needs uplifting—the harbored resentment that needs the freedom forgiveness provides—the emptiness that needs hope’s fulfilling promise.

These “winter moments” come to us in times of grief or in the anxiety of financial insecurity. They come in times of loneliness or in the midst of overwhelmingly busy efforts. They come in the silence of the night or in the din of the day. When they come, our initial response may be to run for cover—to bury ourselves in some mindless activity—to hide ourselves behind a smile—to cover ourselves in lame excuses. But winter invites us to embrace the barrenness of our existence and sit for awhile in the beauty and the darkness of our reality, understanding that our life, too, is a mixture of both.

To recognize God’s presence in the midst of both is to understand, as theologian Barbara Brown Taylor reminds us, that “darkness does not come from a different place than light and it is not presided over by a different God.” The barrenness of winter and the fertility of spring remind us that both are fertile seasons for those who walk by faith and not by sight. Even when our lives are exposed for what they are, God goes on giving birth to the truly human in Christ and in us.

# PASTOR'S PEN (CONT.)

As the New Year begins with its promise of new life ahead, let us remember to appreciate and reflect on the life that may begin in us in any given moment. For the God in whom we live and move and have our being is closer to us than we may imagine. God is revealed most clearly when the leaves of our self-sufficiency have fallen and the sometimes beautiful, sometimes stark reality of our truth is laid bare before the love and grace of Christ Jesus.

Grace and Peace,

Pastor Peggy

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## FINANCIAL UPDATE

General Operating Fund Contributions Received November 2018: **\$25,990**

Building Use, Fundraising and Other Income Received: **\$1,861**

Income from Bequest: **\$0**

Total Operating Income Received November 2018: **\$27,851**

Mission Shares Paid November 2018: **\$4,285**

Mission Shares Paid Year to Date: **\$47,136**

Budgeted Mission Shares Year to Date: **\$47,136**

Total 2018 Mission Shares: **\$51,422**



# LUMYOUTH HAPPENINGS



## SUNDAY NIGHT GATHERINGS

### SUNDAY, JANUARY 6

3:00–7:00 p.m.: LUMYouth “Burn Notice” at Rockbottom

### SUNDAY, JANUARY 13

4:00–5:00 p.m.: PEANUTS Leadership Team meeting in The Loft

5:00–7:00 p.m.: LUMYouth plays “Underground Church”

### SUNDAY, JANUARY 20

5:00–7:00 p.m.: LUMYouth Game Night!

### SUNDAY, JANUARY 27

5:00–7:00 p.m.: LUMYouth “Gaga Ball!”

7:00–8:00 p.m.: PEANUTS Mission Trip planning meeting for all adults and youth going on the trip in June. We will meet in the Wesley Room and begin discussing destination and song of the week. And...

### —PEANUTS PARENTS!—

7:00–8:00 p.m.: Parents of PEANUTS Mission Trip travelers will meet in the Asbury Room. This gathering has become an important addition to our list of preparations. We will be discussing cost for participants, requirements for participation, and general guidelines for this week away. This year, we want to bring all of the parents in early to make sure that everyone starts out being informed.

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# A MOMENT FOR MISSION:

***“Those who find their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it.”***

— Matthew 10:39, NRSV

## WORLD SERVICE FUND

Basic to the financial program of The United Methodist Church, the World Service Fund (one of seven apportioned funds) is the primary way to support the denomination’s global mission and ministry. This vital fund connects local churches with ministries across the denomination through church agencies and other national and international programs.

The World Service Fund equips United Methodist boards and agencies to work in developing principled Christian leaders for the church and the world, creating new places for new people and renewing existing congregations, engaging in ministry with the poor, and stamping out killer diseases of poverty by improving health globally.

The World Service Fund truly demonstrates the mission of The United Methodist Church by supporting work with children, youth, students, people with mental and physical challenges, adults and older adults.

The World Service Fund makes sure that United Methodists speak and work to encourage a more ethical, just and humane world. World Service maintains a proud tradition of cooperation and dialogue with other faith traditions through interdenominational and ecumenical work.

When you give to Lenexa United Methodist Church, you are supporting the work of the World Service Fund.



# SPOTLIGHT ON WORLDWIDE METHODISM

## HUMAN RELATIONS DAY

On January 20, we will recognize Human Relations Day with a special offering. Celebrated on the Sunday before the birthday observance of the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr., Human Relations Day calls United Methodists to further the development of improved race relations and to recognize the right of all God's children to realize their potential as human beings in relationship with one another.

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## ALTERNATIVE WAYS OF GIVING

Do you have a New Year's Resolution to never get behind on your giving to the church? The first of the year seems a good time to be reminded that there are several ways to give to LUMC. As well as putting your offering in the plate on Sunday morning, you may give online, using a mobile app, or through text giving.

### **ONLINE GIVING:**

Go to [lenexaumc.org](http://lenexaumc.org) and click on online giving. You may give via electronic check, debit or credit card. You may make a one-time donation or set up recurring gifts. You may give to any fund in this manner.

### **MOBILE APP:**

Download ShelbyNext Giving to your smart phone and search for Lenexa United Methodist Church. Follow the instructions. As with Online Giving, you may make a one-time donation or set up recurring gifts and you may give to any fund.

### **TEXT GIVING:**

Text the amount you would like to give to the Operating Budget to 913-444-5960.

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If you have any questions about giving to Lenexa United Methodist Church, contact our Business Administrator, Linda Stokes, at 913-888-5600 or [linda.stokes@lenexaumc.org](mailto:linda.stokes@lenexaumc.org)

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# WORDS ON WORSHIP

## THEME FOR EPIPHANY:

## Filled

Now that the Twelve Days of Christmas are behind us, we celebrate Epiphany- God's coming in the flesh to fill the world with light. We begin the Epiphany season with the arrival of the Magi, bringing their gifts to the manger child. Each Sunday we will 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.

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**JANUARY 6** (The Epiphany of our Lord)—

**"Filled With Joy"**—Matthew 2: 1–12

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

**JANUARY 10** (1<sup>st</sup> Sunday after Epiphany)—

**"Filled With Expectation"**—Luke 3: 15–17, 21–22

Ron Bell preaching. Children's Choir and Chancel Choir at 10:30.

**JANUARY 20** (2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday after Epiphany)—

**"Filled With Newness"**—John 2: 1–11

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

**JANUARY 23** —

**"Filled With Song!"**— A Night of Music | 6:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary

Our choirs, praise teams, and music groups will provide us with an evening of praising God with song.

**JANUARY 27** (3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday after Epiphany)—

**"Filled With Power"**—Luke 4: 14–21

Ron Bell preaching. Joy Bells at both services.

# 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:** 1<sup>st</sup> grade–6<sup>th</sup> grade

### 10:30 A.M.

**Nursery:** Birth–4 years old

**Kids Connect:** 5 years old–6<sup>th</sup> 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.



## upcoming activities

### CHILDREN'S MUSIC

Growing in Grace choir for Pre-Kindergarten through 8th grade starts back up on Wednesday, January 9. Join us from 6:15-7:00pm on the 2nd floor of the education building. Following Growing in Grace, 2nd-5th graders are invited to join Celebration Bells from 7:10-7:55pm in the music room in the main building. Praise Bells for 6th-12th grade meets on Monday nights at 6pm.

### CLUB 56

5th and 6th graders are invited to Club 56 on January 20 from 5-7pm. We will be making dog toys to donate to Unleashed Pet Rescue.



## save the date! coming up in 2019...

Easter Eggs-travaganza: April 14

Vacation Bible School: June 17–21

# UPCOMING EVENTS



## THE LOWDOWN UNDERGROUND

**Thursday, January 17 | 7:00 p.m.**

The LowDown Underground is pleased to present our special guest for January, Sunayana Dumala. After an act of hate left her a widow, Sunayana has sought to spread love. Her husband, Srinivas Kuchibhotla, was killed in a 2017 hate crime that injured two others. Since then, Sunayana has worked to keep his memory alive. Sunayana is a database developer for Intouch Solutions, an Overland Park marketing agency. Working with the company, she developed a social media campaign called Forever Welcome. The campaign seeks to show that America is a welcoming and safe place for current and future immigrants. In November 2018, Sunayana was honored with the Consensus Civility Award, for which she was nominated by Congressman Kevin Yoder. Join us for an informative evening.



## LENEXA UNITED METHODIST CHURCH— **Journeying Together for 150 Years**

It was July 18, 1869 when 5 women met and organized the class that would become Lenexa United Methodist Church. Sarah Bradshaw, Clarissa Allen, Catharine Allen, Elizabeth Stinson, and Elizabeth Ransom had no idea then what they started. Here we are 150 years later. We are celebrating a church that has thrived in Lenexa for 150 years. A church that lived through the early pioneer days, through the grasshopper plague, through the turn of two centuries, through the depression and multiple recessions, through eight building projects. Lenexa UMC has been on this same corner in Lenexa (3rd & Hickory in those days) since the first building, a parsonage for the pastor, was built in 1870. There have been many changes in Lenexa over 150 years, but the Methodist church has been one constant. We have been in ministry with and for the people of Lenexa since that first meeting in July 1869.

2019 will be a year of celebration. We will celebrate all year but invite everyone to mark their calendar and join us for the big celebration on June 29-30. Saturday evening will be a Revival atmosphere at Sar-Ko-Par Trails Park to include the telling of our 150-year story. Sunday morning and afternoon will include a PEANUTS Worship Service and Reunion, 150th Anniversary Worship with Bishop Saenz preaching, dinner, Pastor Peggy's retirement, 150th anniversary celebration, and displays of our history. We hope all of our members and friends, as well as former members and pastors, will join us for this special weekend.



## EPIPHANY SPAGHETTI LUNCH

**Sunday, January 6 | 11:30 a.m.**

This free meal will be served by LUMYouth immediately after the 10:30 am worship service. "To-go" meals will be available.

## "NUTRITION: TRYING TO BE HEALTHY IN THIS CRAZY GRAB-IT-AND-GO WORLD"

**Monday, January 6 | 6:30–8:00 p.m.**

Nan Borchardt, RDN, LD, is a functional nutrition specialist and diabetes educator. She is bringing her expertise on many things including healthy fats, reasonable proteins, and "the biggest mistakes we make because it's just plain easy and we're busy people, darn it all". All LUMC friends and families are welcome.



## MAC & CHEESE COOK-OFF

**Sunday, January 6 | 11:30 a.m.**

Please join us for this second annual fundraiser for young adult missions. For each \$5 admission, you will get to cast two votes for the BEST mac 'n' cheese dish. (Competing cooks are needed, too! Entry fee is \$25.)

## A NIGHT OF MUSIC

**Wednesday, January 23 | 6:30 p.m.**

This special night features LUMC's musical groups! Join us in the sanctuary after Dinner's On Us.

## CONFIRMATION

Confirmation is available for all youth 7th grade and up. If you have not been confirmed and are interested in participating, please contact Mary Clow at [mary.clow@lenexaumc.org](mailto:mary.clow@lenexaumc.org) very soon! Confirmation starts January 30.



## 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.

## FOOD PANTRY NEEDS

Items needed: Tuna, Crackers, Canned Chili, Rice, Kidney Beans, Pork and Beans, Applesauce, Fruit Snacks, Popcorn, Ketchup, Mustard, Diapers Sizes 5 & 6. Please place donations in the grey bins located outside of the church office. Warm jackets and blankets (clean) may also be placed in the bins. All items are donated to the Johnson County Multi-Services Center.

## HEALTH MINISTRIES

Did you know? Automatic Electrical Defibrillators (AED) can save lives, and LUMC has two. In an emergency cardiac incident, this device can be used by anyone, trained or not, to save a person's life. It's simple to use, and will prompt the user step by step. One device is on the wall by Schneeberger Hall and one is in the office of the education building.

# SUNDAY SCHOOL FOR ADULTS

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

## SPECTRUM

**9:00 a.m., Room 122**

During January, the Spectrum Sunday School Class will be studying the new Adam Hamilton book *Simon Peter, Flawed but Faithful Disciple*. We invite everyone to join us at 9:00 on Sunday morning.

## 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**

January is the time of year where Pathfinders has a planning "party". This class also focuses on faith-based discussion.

## PULSE

**10:30 a.m., Room 105**

We'll be studying "Holy Contradictions", a collection of essays with different views on same-gender relationships and how it relates to the Bible, with an emphasis on unconditional grace.

## DASHERS

**10:30 a.m., Asbury Room**

Discussion centered around the day's sermon and what it means for you.

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## LUMC LADIES' BOOK CLUB

**3rd Wednesday of each month, 12:00 p.m., Wesley Room**

For January, we voted to read *The Woman in Cabin 10* by Ruth Ware. Our next meeting will be January 16.

In February, we will read the classic *Jane Eyre* by Charlotte Bronte.

March we will read *The Hearts of Men* by Nickolas Butler.

All 3 of these are in the Johnson County library. Contact Linda Stoker at [lstoker98@gmail.com](mailto:lstoker98@gmail.com) with questions.

Guests and new members are always welcome.