The deadline for the June issue of the Messenger is noon on May 16. Email articles to office@lenexaumc.org. The Messenger is available online, or you may pick up a copy at church.
friends,

As you are by now aware, after thirty-four years of pastoral ministry, I plan to retire on June 30, 2019. It has been a blessed time—most recently the last ten years here at Lenexa UMC. I have enjoyed working with so many gifted staff and lay members and have appreciated your faithfulness to living out the gospel of Jesus through the many ministries in which you are engaged.

Though we have seen a few changes in our ministry staff, office staff and volunteers, it has been a pleasure to work with each person whose love for God and for LUMC has been exhibited in their commitment to the people, programs and work in which we are engaged. We have experienced both challenges and opportunities as we have shared God’s love together.

When Tom and I arrived, you were just beginning work on the education building. I had Linda do the math, and in the last ten years, you have paid $3,532,717 in construction costs, loan and interest payments. Thanks to your faithful giving, the balance owed is only $224,389. In a perfect world, I hoped we could have a mortgage burning at our 150th year celebration. There are still two months to make that happen! As John Wesley reminds us, we are all “going on to perfection!”

The Finance and Endowment Committees, Capital Campaign, Stewardship, and Property Management Teams have each done their work well. We have paid 100% of our Conference Mission Shares for nine years in a row. Our Endowment Fund has grown to $930,487, and, in the last ten years, we have paid $599,713 toward building/grounds/equipment expenditures to do much needed repairs and upgrades. Just in case you are wondering, that is a phenomenal amount for a congregation this size. Thank you!

The Hillcrest Transitional Housing, Sunflower Educational Support, and Visiting Angels Teams have done an awesome job helping those who are struggling, economically or educationally, feel supported in their efforts, by providing housing for and encouragement to challenged populations and those who work with them.

The Health Ministry, Inviting Ministry and Reconciliation and Education Teams have helped us be more mindful of our own spiritual, emotional and physical health while, at the same time, offering opportunities to better understand the spiritual, emotional and physical needs of others, as we welcome all into our faith community.

The Worship Planning Team, some of whom nine years ago joined me at a worship planning retreat with Dr. Marcia McFee, has taken what we learned to heart. Dr. McFee’s creativity sparked our own, and her inspiration helped us begin planning worship far in advance, that we might offer a richer and more meaningful worship
experience. We are blessed to have so many gifted musicians committed to helping us make a joyful noise to the Lord each week. I cannot thank them enough.

It seems like only yesterday, as Tom and I were looking for a house in Lenexa, that our realtor told us LUMC had the "best Preschool and Christian Education programs in the area." Though not a United Methodist, herself, she had done her homework, and she was correct. Add to that the awesome PEANUTS groups, and LUMYouth, and there is no better place to serve!

It has been a blessing to work with Rev. Jennifer Bryan, who for the past ten years has worked tirelessly to bring free health screenings to the uninsured population. Thanks to a Commission on Religion and Race Action Fund Grant, it looks like that dream is about to be realized at Metropolitan Avenue UMC in Wyandotte County. Congratulations on a job well done, Jennifer!

The Marketing Team has much to share as they tell your story in many ways. The Records and History Team is especially busy these days, helping us prepare to celebrate 150 years of faithful witness in and beyond the Old Town community as we Journey Together Toward Spiritual and Community Wholeness. You have both a rich history and a hopeful future.

All this is to say, “Thank you so very much for all you have done to keep God’s love alive in this time and place, and to help make ministry at LUMC exciting, rewarding and relevant in our day.” As we transition to new opportunities, I trust God will be with us, and that pastor Ezekiel and his family will feel as welcomed and blessed as Tom and I have.

Grace and Peace,

Pastor Peggy

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**LUMC FINANCIAL UPDATE**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>General Operating Fund Contributions Received March 2019</td>
<td>$32,222</td>
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<tr>
<td>Building Use, Fundraising and Other Income Receive</td>
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<tr>
<td>Income from Bequest</td>
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<td>Total Operating Income Received March 2019</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mission Shares Paid March 2019</td>
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<td>Mission Shares Paid Year to Date</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total 2019 Mission Shares</td>
<td>$50,250</td>
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</table>
LUMYOUTH HAPPENINGS

upcoming events

Sunday, May 5 | 5:00 p.m. | Sar-Ko-Par Trails Park
MERLE SPARLIN FISHING DERBY

Sunday, May 12 | 9:00 a.m. service
GRADUATION SUNDAY

Sunday, May 19 | 5:00–7:00 p.m.
BIGGER & BETTER SCAVENGER HUNT

Sunday, May 26
—NO LUMYOUTH TONIGHT—

Wednesday, May 29
LUMYOUTH DAY AT WORLDS OF FUN

Wednesday, May 30
LUMYOUTH COOKOUT & YARD GAMES
AT SAR-KO-PAR TRAILS PARK

1st Quarter Financial Report

The people of Lenexa United Methodist Church continue to show your generosity in so many ways! Our operating budget income for the 1st quarter was $122,774. As this includes $9,797 from the Mildred Thomas Budget Bequest, it puts us $5,099 ahead of budget for the year. In addition, $26,800 was prepaid in 2018 for 2019, giving us a substantial overage to begin the year. This will, of course, diminish during the year, so we need everyone to remain faithful in their giving. All bills are paid current, including 100% of our Mission Share to date. You also contributed $39,651 to the building fund, enabling us to pay $20,000 of additional principal, bringing our loan balance down to $224,389 as of March 31. Additionally, you gave $1,436 to special offerings and other mission projects. Lenexa UMC is truly blessed to have such wonderful support from our members and friends!
Lenexa United Methodist Church has been blessed with many wonderful pastors in the 150-year history. From Amos Avery, the first pastor in 1869, to Peggy Hillmon, who will be retiring on June 30 as the longest serving pastor in that history, they all have wonderful stories to tell. Here is a sampling of a few of the pastors:

- **Frank Hoyes (1875-1878)** was born in England and was a preacher in the Wesleyan movement in the Church of England for nineteen years before coming to America and settling in Kansas in 1871.

- **Stephen G. Griffis (1880-1881)** came to Kansas City, Missouri, in 1866 when it was a town of only 8,000. Construction began on the Grand Avenue Methodist Episcopal Church in downtown Kansas City during his pastorate.

- **Abraham G. Murray (1881-1882)** transferred from Kansas to the Indian Mission Conference in Oklahoma within a month of the territory being opened to settlers in 1889. He built, largely with his own hands, the first church building in Oklahoma City, the home to what became First United Methodist Church.

- **George S. Dearborn (1886-1887)** was one of the leaders who helped shape the Kansas Conference in the early days. He was a three-time presiding elder (forerunner to district superintendent) and a delegate to three General Conferences.

- **S. Alonzo Bright (1935-1935)** was Chaplain of the Wyoming Constitutional Convention and the first Wyoming legislative session before transferring to Kansas in 1897. His 60 years of active ministry was the longest in the history of the denomination at the time.

Those are just a few of the sixty-six pastors that have served this church over the years. The illustrated history that is being published includes bios of all of them, as well as a history of the church and lots of pictures. You’ll want to be sure to reserve your copy. You can order the book, order shirts, RSVP for the dinner, and see the schedule of events, all at [www.lenexaumc.org/150years](http://www.lenexaumc.org/150years). Be sure to be a part of the celebration on June 29–30, 2019!
The 150th Anniversary Celebration Schedule

SATURDAY, JUNE 29, 2019
Sar-Ko-Par Trails Park Grand Pavilion | 87th & Lackman, Lenexa, Kansas

6:00 p.m.
Bring your own picnic supper
Games for children will be provided

7:00 p.m.
Experience the past through music and historical reenactments with visits from Octave Chanute, the five women who founded our church and former pastors

SUNDAY, JUNE 30, 2019
Lenexa United Methodist Church

8:30 a.m.
PEANUTS Reunion with Refreshments | The Underground (basement of the Education Building)

9:00 a.m.
Worship Led by 2019 PEANUTS | The Underground (basement of the Education Building)

10:00 a.m.–10:30 a.m.
Heavenly Half Hour Social Time

10:30 a.m.
150th Anniversary Worship, Sanctuary
Great Plains Conference Bishop, Ruben Saenz, Jr., Preaching | Cornerstone Time Capsule Opening
Specially Commissioned Music by our Chancel Choir

12:00 p.m.–2:00 p.m.
Free Catered Fried Chicken Dinner
Farewell to Pastor Ron Bell
Rev. Peggy Hillmon's Retirement
150th Anniversary Celebration Program

8:30 a.m.–3:00 p.m.
Building and Historical Displays available for Viewing
WORDS ON WORSHIP

THEME FOR EASTER:

Step By Step

As we journey through the Easter season, we experience with the disciples what it means that Christ is alive. Slowly but surely, this band of devastated followers comes to a new understanding of what it means that the grave could not hold Jesus. Step by step, Jesus leads them into a new way of being in the world. Christ is risen! Death has lost its power! New life is possible—new life is here. Thanks be to God!

MAY 5
3rd Sunday of Easter

“Breakfast On the Beach”—John 21: 1–19
Confirmation Sunday at 9:00.
Rev. Peggy Hillmon preaching.
Chancel Choir at 10:30.
Communion at both services.

MAY 12
4th Sunday of Easter

“Hear My Voice”—John 10: 22-30
Graduation Sunday at 9:00.
Rev. Peggy Hillmon preaching.
Growing in Grace Choir at 10:30.

MAY 19
5th Sunday of Easter

“A New Commandment”—John 13: 31-35
Acolyte Recognition Sunday at 10:30.
Rev. Peggy Hillmon preaching.
Communion at 9:00.
Chancel Choir at 10:30.

MAY 26
6th Sunday of Easter

“Peace to You”—John 14: 23-29
Pastor Ron Bell 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.

upcoming activities

ACOLYTE SUNDAY | May 19
All current acolytes will be recognized at the 10:30 a.m. worship service, which will be followed at 11:30 a.m. by a pizza and ice cream celebration for current and new acolytes (current 2nd–6th graders).

PROMOTION SUNDAY | June 2
All children and youth will be promoted to the next grade for Sunday School class and other activities.

VBS 2019: TO MARS AND BEYOND
June 17–21 | 9:00 a.m.–12:15 p.m.
VBS is open to 4-year-olds through incoming 6th graders. Registration forms are available in the church office or online. The Early Bird Registration deadline is May 26th.

Approximately 55 volunteers are needed to make VBS a success! If you are available to help, contact Mary.Clow@lenexaumc.org.

mark your calendar!

All Church Day at Rockbottom Lake: Saturday, July 6 at 3 p.m.
Evening Camp: July 17, 24, 31 and August 7
NATIVE AMERICAN MINISTRIES SUNDAY
We will observe Native American Ministries Sunday on May 5. These special offerings allow the United Methodist Church to launch and strengthen Native American ministries and to recruit and prepare Native American pastors by providing seminary scholarships.

2019 ANNUAL CONFERENCE
The Great Plains Annual Conference will be May 29 – June 1 at the Expocentre in Topeka. The theme this year is “Therefore Go: Serve Others.” Lenexa UMC will be represented by Pastors Peggy, Ron, and Jennifer, and lay members Karen Crow and Linda Stokes.

A couple of things happening at annual conference that will be of interest to some of our members:
—The retirement celebration is Thursday, May 30, 6:00-7:00pm. All retirees of the conference will be recognized, including Pastor Peggy and a former pastor at LUMC, Lane Bailey.
—All churches celebrating 150 years in 2019, including LUMC, will be recognized Friday afternoon.

Anyone is welcome to observe any of the Annual Conference sessions and—especially—to participate in any of the worship services. A complete schedule is available at www.greatplainsumc.org/annualconference.

SHOW YOUR LUMC PRIDE!
As of the end of March, outstanding debt on the education building is $224,389. To reduce our debt so we pay less interest each month, we are collaborating with the 150th anniversary of our church by offering a lapel pin. Please consider helping us by donating, using the form below.
Show your pride for our church’s 150 years of ministry while helping reduce the outstanding debt on our education building. The “Finish Our Commitment” capital campaign has taken our 150th Anniversary logo and put it on a 1”x5/8” lapel pin that can be worn before, during, and after our celebration on June 29 and 30. The cost of the pins has been underwritten, so all gifts will be used to reduce our outstanding debt. While we want everyone who would like a pin to have one, we are asking you to consider making a monetary donation for each year of our ministry here in Lenexa.

For example:

150 years x 10¢ per year = $15
150 years x $1 per year = $150
150 years x $10 per year = $1,500

Any donation amount is appreciated! Please send or bring your donation, along with this form, to the church office, and we will make sure you receive your pin(s).

NAME ________________________________
ADDRESS ______________________________
_____________________________________

TOTAL AMOUNT OF DONATION AND PINS ORDERED:
Amount $__________   # of pins_____

Thank you!
UPCOMING EVENTS

ART CAFÉ
Saturday, May 1 | 6:00–7:00 p.m. | Room 123
All ages are welcome and all materials are provided. Young children must have parental supervision.

YOUTH CHOIR VISIT
Sunday, June 2
A youth choir from St. Stephen UMC in Amarillo, Texas will be travelling through our area on June 1 and performing at the June 2 service. LUMC will provide their Sunday breakfast.

BREAKFAST WITH THE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
Thursday, June 13 | 8:00 a.m.
The Inviting Ministries Committee has scheduled an AM Live with the Lenexa Chamber of Commerce to invite the business community to be a part of our 150-year celebration. We will serve a light breakfast and give the Chamber of Commerce information on our 150-year journey in Lenexa. More info coming soon.

MERLE SPARLIN FISHING DERBY
Sunday, May 5 | 5:00–6:30 p.m. | Rose’s Pond in Sar-Ko-Par Trails Park

FAMILY DAY AT ROCKBOTTOM
Saturday, July 6 | 3:00 p.m.
Our church family is invited to Rockbottom Lake! We will meet at Rockbottom at 3:00 and enjoy swimming, fishing, kayaking and canoeing. We will eat dinner around 5:30. The church will be providing hot dogs, hamburgers, buns, condiments, and paper goods. Please bring a side dish or dessert to share and drinks for your family. RSVP to Mary.Clow@lenexaumc.org so we know how many to expect.

VBS DONATIONS NEEDED
Please bring the following items to the church office to donate:
—Empty, clean yogurt cups
—Old CDs or DVDs
—Toilet paper tubes
SUNDAE SCHOOL FOR ADULTS

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

SPECTRUM
9:00 a.m. | Room 122
Spectrum Sunday School Class will begin a study on The New Reformation.

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
Pathfinders will be continuing their study of Adam Hamilton’s 24 Hours that Changed the World.

PULSE
10:30 a.m. | Room 105
Pulse is exploring “Holy Contradictions”, a collection of essays based on human sexuality and the United Methodist Church.

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

LUMC LADIES’ BOOK CLUB

We will discuss Three Women at the Water’s Edge by Nancy Thayer for our May 15 meeting. Linda has a copy and is circulating it. Unfortunately it’s not at the library but is available for purchase on Amazon and Half Price Books website. We will again meet in the Library at noon that day.

Our June book is Where the Crawdads Sing by Delia Owens. We are buying a couple of copies to circulate but you may want your own. We will meet June 19th at noon. The July book is The Silent Patient by Alex Michaelides. It is at the library so sign up NOW for the hold list. We will meet July 17, again at noon.

Questions? Contact Linda at lstoker98@gmail.com

PRESCHOOL NEWS

It is hard to believe another great school year at LUMC Preschool and CDO is already coming to a close! We still have a few openings for Fall 2019. If you are interested in learning more about our awesome program, please contact Lori Campbell at 913-888-6300. Have a fun and safe summer!