STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN 2019

THIS YEAR’S PROGRAM, P. 9

LUMC ANNUAL BLOCK PARTY

& MORE SEPTEMBER ACTIVITIES, P. 10–11
# church staff

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<tr>
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<td>Lori Campbell</td>
<td>PRESCHOOL/CDO DIRECTOR</td>
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<td>Trey Bures</td>
<td>MUSIC STAFF</td>
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<td>Blair Penney</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lauren Lanigan</td>
<td>OFFICE STAFF</td>
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<td>Linda Stokes</td>
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The deadline for the October issue of the Messenger is noon on Thursday, September 19. Email articles to office@lenexaumc.org.

The Messenger is available online, or you may pick up a copy at church. If you would like a copy mailed to you, please contact the church office.
Our daughter, who is a student at Hoffman International Model and Talent Agency, will soon join Johnson County Community College. She has to work hard in school and at her job to make both ends meet. I rarely see her as I used to. She is always in a hurry to get somewhere.

As for our younger son, he just began his eighth-grade year at Prairie Trail Middle School. His homework has increased, and grades will now really mean something. On top of the academic challenges, he’ll have to navigate the social world of teenage life and making new friends.

So what will all this mean for my wife and me? Gone are the leisurely mornings of summer, replaced by the reveille rush of getting the kids up and out the door in time for class. I already long for those July mornings when all I had to worry about was getting myself up for work.

And relaxed evenings? Forget it. Instead of a family meal at the table, I’ll be sneaking in a quick bite between dropping my son off at sports practice and checking his homework or signing his school papers. Not to mention attending church committee meetings all day, and then having your son announce at 11:00 p.m. that the deadline for that big math assignment he’d forgotten about is tomorrow morning and he needs your help!

So how do I prepare myself mentally for the start of school, when the metabolism of our lives suddenly rockets with the ring of that first school bell? I offer myself the same advice I give to my kids when they’re stressed or can’t get to sleep.

First, take a deep breath...and remember, it’s only three months of school, then you take a break. There are also snow days and national holidays. Second, pray that the Lord may take away the challenges and frustrations

It’s hard to believe that summer activities are over. I hope you have enjoyed the season. It is time to go back to school! It is time to go back to church! Summer vacation and traveling are over.

Now that I’m the parent of two youths and one young adult, the realization that fall semester is here doesn’t feel wonderful to me anymore. Maybe family life was different several years ago, but parenting in 2019 seems a much more fast-paced affair. One of the differences is no doubt the fact that I’m a parent, but it also feels as if kids and their parents are leading more hectic, disjointed, and stressful lives than ever before. Let me give you three examples.

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First, take a deep breath...and remember, it’s only three months of school, then you take a break. There are also snow days and national holidays. Second, pray that the Lord may take away the challenges and frustrations
you may encounter during the school year. Despite the hectic and stressful lives of these days, church should remain the center of activities rather than school. Traditionally, Sundays and Wednesdays are the church days.

Shalom, everyone!

Humor of the month:

The local high school has a policy that parents must call the school if the student is to be absent for the day. Nadia, deciding to bunk and go to Walmart with her friends, waited till her parents had left for work and called the school herself. This is the actual conversation of the telephone call.

Nadia: “Hi, I’m calling to report that Nadia is unable to make it to school today because she is ill.”

Secretary at high school: “Oh, I’m sorry to hear that. I’ll note her absence. Who is this calling?”

Nadia: “This is my mother.”
Sundays with LUMYouth:

9:00 A.M.
Youth sit together in the front-right area of the Sanctuary for the 9:00 worship service.

10:30 A.M.
Youth meet for Sunday School—middle school in Room 119 in the basement, high school in the loft.

5:00 P.M.
Youth meet in Schneeberger Hall for a snack supper and a variety of different activities. We end with a devotional around 7:00.
CHILDREN’S MINISTRIES

join us for sunday school!

9:00 A.M.
Nursery: Birth–3 years old
Kids’ Kingdom: 4 years old–6th grade

10:30 A.M.
Nursery: Birth–3 years old
Kids Connect: 4 years old–6th grade

On the first Sunday of each month, Kids Connect stays in the sanctuary for the 10:30 a.m. service to experience worship and communion. In Kid’s Kingdom at 9:00 a.m., we will be studying Moses and the Plague during September. Kids Connect at 10:30 a.m. participates in learning activities tied to the week’s scripture lesson from the church service.

upcoming events

GOD AND CHURCH CLASSES
Mary Clow will be teaching God and Church classes at LUMC again this year. Youth in grades 6–8 are invited to participate. This is part of the P.R.A.Y. series, which is a program to help young people grow in their understanding of the Christian faith. The P.R.A.Y. program is recognized by Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, and American Heritage Girls, but it is open to all Protestant youth entering 6th–8th grade in Fall 2019. Registration is due by September 8 and the first meeting is Sunday, September 22 at 2 p.m. View the complete schedule and register online at tiny.cc/lumcgac2019 or contact Mary at Mary.Clow@lenexaumc.org.

BLOCK PARTY
Wednesday, September 18  |  5:00–7:00 p.m.
More details are available in the Upcoming Events section (p.10).

CHILDREN’S SABBATH
Sunday, October 20  |  9:00 and 10:30 a.m.
Kids are needed to help lead both worship services, including greeting, ushering, leading prayer, reading scripture. Contact Mary at Mary.Clow@lenexaumc.org to sign your kid up!

FALL FESTIVAL
Saturday, October 26  |  1:00–3:00 p.m.
Save the date for our Fall Festival on Saturday, October 26 from 1-3! There will be lots of games and activities for kids. Volunteers are needed to help decorate and run activities. Please contact Mary Clow at Mary.Clow@lenexaumc.org if you are interested. Invite your friends and neighbors for a fun event!
Music groups for kids and youth of all ages will meet up for practice every Wednesday night, starting September 4. Come sing and play with us!

**CELEBRATION BELLS**
5:30–6:00 p.m. | Music Room—Main Building | 2nd–6th grade

**GROWING IN GRACE CHOIR**
6:15–7:00 p.m. | 2nd floor—Education Building | K–6th grade
Growing In Grace Choir sings once a month in the 10:30 a.m. service (on either the second or third Sunday of the month). We will sing in the 10:30 service on September 15.

**PRAISE BELLS**
7:00–7:45 p.m. | Music Room—Main Building | 7th–12th grade


**SEPTEMBER 1**  
Mark 2:23–3:1–5  
**“What Do You Do With Your Sabbath Day?”**  
The Sabbath, a day to rest, was made for us. Jesus tells the Pharisees—and us—in Mark 2:23–3:1-5 that the Sabbath was made for our well-being. What are you doing with your Sabbath day?

**SEPTEMBER 8**  
John 15:1–8, Matthew 12:33–37  
**“What Kind of Fruit Do You Produce?”**  
In John 15: 6–8, Jesus says “If anyone does not remain in me, he is like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned. If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be given to you. This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples.” Jesus encourages us to “remain in Him” in order to produce good fruit. You may think you are producing good fruit, but it is only good fruit if God says it is. It's not by your standard that your fruit will be measured, but by God's standards.  
Chancel Choir singing at 10:30.

**SEPTEMBER 15**  
James 5:13–16, Colossians 4:1–4  
**“How Should We Pray?”**  
Prayer is one of the greatest gifts that God has given us, and it's a valuable resource that is often underutilized. It is talked about more than anything else and practiced less than anything else. How should a Christian pray? What do you pray for? Who do you pray for?  
Chancel Choir and Growing in Grace Choir singing at 10:30.

**SEPTEMBER 22**  
Luke 10:38–42  
**“Being Present in Worship”**  
The tragic warning of this story about Martha and Mary is that the very living Christ could visit our home or our church, and even then, we may be distracted by all of the things we're busy with. Could it be that God comes near to us, and we are too distracted to notice? The message here is not that it is better to be quiet than it is to be active, but rather this passage reminds us that we need balance.  
Joy Bells playing at 9:00 and 10:30.

**SEPTEMBER 29**  
1 Kings 17:12–14  
**“What Are the Benefits of Giving?”**  
Prophet Elijah said unto the widow of Serepath, “Fear not, go [and] do as thou hast said: but make me thereof a little cake first, and bring [it] unto me, and after make for thee and for thy son.” She was down to her last meal, but she shared it with Prophet Elijah and God met every need that she had. She never lacked again. You and I might think that in such a difficult situation God would excuse her from giving, but she was still asked to give. So are we.  
Chancel Choir singing at 10:30.
Our 2019 Stewardship Program begins September 15. This year’s stewardship campaign is built around the 5 key areas of focus in our United Methodist Membership vows and the LUMC global ends: prayer, presence, gifts, service and witness.

The “Faithful Together—150 Years of Generosity” stewardship campaign will begin on Sept. 15 with the topic of prayer. The sermon on this Sunday will be focused on prayer, and a prayer warrior from the congregation will talk briefly about what prayer means to them and to us. Each of the following four Sundays will also feature a sermon on that Sunday’s topic and someone from the congregation who is intimately familiar with that topic speaking about what it means to them.

Sunday school classes will be provided discussion points for each topic and asked to discuss them each Sunday. The tagline “Supporting our church with our Prayers, Presence, Gifts, Service and Witness” will help to keep us focused on what the campaign is all about and remind us of the five points of focus for the overall program.

This year, all materials for the program will be made available online, as well as by paper copy, to make it easy for everyone to follow along with and participate in the program including making their commitments in each area to LUMC. There will be a card for our commitments to the church in each of these five areas this year as well.

Specific dates for each stewardship topic are as follows:

- **September 15:** Prayer
- **September 22:** Presence
- **September 29:** Gifts
- **October 6:** Service
- **October 13:** Witness

A service event for packing meals with “Rise Against Hunger” (previously “Stop Hunger Now”) is being planned to coincide with the October 6 “Service” topic. That Sunday, an all-church potluck dinner will be held following the 10:30 service in Schneeberger, and the packing event will take place in the Underground immediately after the dinner.

Watch for more information regarding the details of the overall program in the coming weeks. We look forward to everyone’s participation in each topic.
UPCOMING EVENTS

NEW DIRECTORY PHOTOS
Monday, September 9 | Lakeview Village
If you did not have your picture taken at the church the last week of August, there is one more opportunity. We are doing pictures at Lakeview Village Retirement Community in the Eastside Terrace Conference Room on September 9. There are a few openings still available. You may sign up online at https://booknow-lifetouch.appointment-plus.com/b0b562ex/ or contact the church office. There is no obligation to purchase portraits, but each family photographed receives a free directory and 8x10". We would like all families to have their pictures taken, since this will be helpful to our members and especially to Pastor Ezekiel as he gets to know us.

BAND AND CHOIR PRACTICE
Chancel Choir practice begins on Wednesday, September 4. Tree of Life Praise Team will be meeting on Wednesdays at 7 p.m. for practice starting in September.

BELL PLAYERS NEEDED
The LUMC Bell choirs are looking for new ringers of all ages! No experience is required. Can't read music? No problem! We will work with you! All of our bell choirs are focused on growing both musically and spiritually and having fun while we're at it. Please email Trey.Bures@lenexaumc.org if you are interested, and we will find the choir for you!

FRESH START SUNDAY
Sunday, September 8

Hoop Shoot
The Annual Hoop Shoot will take place in the parking lot at 10:00 a.m. and 11:30 a.m. All proceeds benefit the LUMC Hillcrest Transitional Housing apartment.

Pound the Pastor
“Pounding” refers to the bygone practice—stretching at least back to the 19th century—of church members providing the new minister’s family with a pound of something, be it coffee, sugar, flour or honey to welcome them to the congregation. Over the years, the “Pounding” at LUMC has included gift cards, baked goods, pantry items and a variety of things that show how happy we are to have the pastor as part of our congregation. There will be a table in the narthex for you to deliver your gifts. It would also be nice if you wrote a note to the Koech family telling them a little about yourself or your family, maybe even a little about your spiritual journey or why you joined LUMC. Let's make it a warm welcome!

Potluck Dinner
Join us in Schneeberger at 11:30 a.m. for a potluck dinner. Bring a favorite dish to share (meat dishes, salads, desserts, veggies warm or cold, etc.). Church will provide drinks, plates and silverware. Join us for Fresh Start Sunday to kick off a new year!

FRESH START ARTS SUNDAY
Sunday, September 8

Hoop Shoot

BLOCK PARTY
Wednesday, September 18 | 5:00–7:00 p.m.
LUMC will be partnering with Salem Lutheran to host the 4th Annual Block Party on Wednesday, September 18. This is an opportunity for us to invite our neighbors in for an evening of fun and fellowship. We will also be inviting the students, parents, and teachers from Sunflower Elementary School. The Block Party will be on our parking lot and will include a barbeque dinner provided by Santa Fe Trail Barbeque Station and, of course, homemade ice cream. A SignUpGenius will be sent out so you can sign up to help. There will be an inflatable for kids and games for all. If you have any yard games (cornhole, giant Jenga, ladderball, etc.) that we could borrow, contact Mary.Clown@lenexaumc.org. This will give us another opportunity to celebrate 150 years of serving our neighbors in Old Town Lenexa! Put the date on your calendar and plan to join with our neighbors for an evening of good food, cool jazz, and delightful fellowship.

WORSHIP PLANNING MEETING
A worship planning meeting will be held on Sunday, September 22 at 11:30 a.m. in the Wesley Room.
IN OTHER NEWS...

SUNFLOWER EDUCATIONAL SUPPORT

The Sunflower team sends our tremendous thanks to you for your donations of school supplies for students at Sunflower Elementary. Your support is so appreciated. This year there will be no Trash to Treasure sale. Usually, the proceeds of the sale each year are used to assist LUMC’s work with Sunflower. Here are just a few of the ways we help Sunflower students:

- Gift cards for students & food for their families at the holidays
- Helping 6th–graders attend camp
- Assisting families with tragedies such as fires
- Assisting students who don’t have money for lunch
- Donation of school supplies
- Classroom gifts to teachers

Not having the funds from the sale this year, the committee is looking for money-raising projects to take its place. Two projects are now in the works, and we are asking for your support to help make these profitable. On September 15 through September 29, the committee will be selling kettle corn and pork rinds. Please stop and sample, and we hope you will place an order! In October, we are planning a Savers sale, and collecting items which will be delivered and sold to Savers. We will be asking for all clothing, coats, jackets, shoes, linens, drapes, curtains, jewelry, and accessories. Usually at this time of year you would be donating to the Trash to Treasure sale, and this year you can donate many of those same items this way. More information to come. Thank you, thank you for your generous support of Sunflower School. This year, especially, we need you.

THANK YOU

We received this thank you from Sheron Dice, one of the great-great grandchildren of Rev. Benjamin F. Dice (pastor 1903-07) who was here celebrating 150 years with us in June:

“Since my visit to Kansas, my thoughts have often turned to the wonderful community I encountered in your congregation. My sister and I were welcomed wholeheartedly by everyone we met! Thank you to all of you and your celebration for helping me find my Kansas roots and my connection to the remarkable city of Lenexa. I’ll never forget it!”

HILLCREST WORKERS NEEDED

Thank you for your donations to and purchases from Hillcrest Transitional Thrift Store. Hillcrest, located at 79th & Quivira, is in need of volunteers to help sort, organize, and hang clothing items. Eventually these items will move up to the Thrift Store and be sold, with the proceeds going to support the tenants in the Hillcrest apartments, one of which LUMC sponsors. The Thrift Store and Donation area are open Monday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., with the exception of Saturday when both close at 5 p.m. Hillcrest doesn’t need a long term commitment. It would be huge if you could help for a couple hours, one day of the week. If you have questions, please contact the Hillcrest Thrift Store at (913) 808–5360.

HEALTH MINISTRIES

FAITHFULLY FIT

Tuesday evenings | 5:45–6:45 p.m.
Thursday evenings | 4:00–5:00 p.m.

Give FaithFully Fit a try! Please join us in a fun, easy, very low impact movement class where we work on cardio, strength and flexibility using music, stretchy bands, squishy balls, paper plates and more. Intrigued? Twice-a-week classes resume Tuesday, September 3. Oh yes, and FaithFully Fit is FREE. Bring a friend!

Stay for Peaceful Stretch on Tuesdays at 7:00 p.m.

Questions? Contact Judy Rose at (913) 449–9498 or jrdrose@hotmail.com.

DINNER’S ON US

August 28 | 5:30–6:30 p.m.

Thank you to those who have stepped up so that Dinner’s On Us can continue. This Wednesday will not be the last week as previously announced. Please join us this week and every Wednesday for a free meal and be sure to spread the word to your friends and neighbors!
**SUNDAY SCHOOL FOR ADULTS**

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

**SPECTRUM**

9:00 a.m. | Room 122

This month, Spectrum Sunday School Class will be discussing each week’s stewardship campaign topic.

**FOUNDATIONS**

9:00 a.m. | Room 105

After we finish the “Revival” video series by Adam Hamilton, which takes a tour of places John Wesley lived and studied, we will start a video series on the history and context of the New Testament. Join us for a lively discussion!

**PATHFINDERS**

9:00 a.m. | Asbury Room

Pathfinders selects current issues in the news or other contemporary topics for discussion. We debate how these issues should be addressed in light of scripture and our Christian faith.

**PULSE**

10:30 a.m. | Room 105

This month in Pulse, discussions will center around each week’s stewardship campaign topic.

**DASHERS**

10:30 a.m. | Asbury Room

Every week in Dashers, we hold a discussion centered around the day’s sermon and what it means for you.

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**LUMC LADIES’ BOOK CLUB**

12:00 p.m. | Library

At our September 18 meeting, we will discuss *Jayber Crow* by Wendell Berry. Our October book is Caleb’s Crossing by Geraldine Brooks. And in November we will read The Moment of Lift by Melinda Gates. You may bring a lunch if you want. Questions? Contact Linda Stoker at lstoker98@gmail.com.

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**PRESCHOOL NEWS**

As summer comes to a close, we are very excited to start a new school year at LUMC Preschool and Children’s Day Out. It will be a great year of learning, friendships, and fun! Our annual Carnival and Open House will be next month on Monday, October 7th from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Everyone is welcome to join us for this fundraiser and fun family event. Come enjoy preschool carnival games with a pizza dinner and visit your child’s classroom. We hope to see you there!