The deadline for the April issue of the Messenger is noon on Thursday, March 19. Email articles to Lauren.Lanigan@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.

Cover image from Stitches Vectors by Vecteezy.
The way I see it, Lent is a learning time.

The “I believe in God” sermon from Adam Hamilton’s book Creed has stuck in my mind since I read it. Have you ever heard someone say, “It does not matter what I believe. It won’t make any difference to anyone else”? or “it doesn’t make any difference what I believe, as long as I believe in something”? Both of those statements are dead wrong! What you believe does make a difference to others, and it does make a difference to you.

For example: Reuben goes to McDonald’s for breakfast, buys a coffee and sits down to drink it. He looks on the side of his cup and finds a peel-off prize sticker. He pulls off the tab and yells, “I WON! I WON! I WON a trip to Hawaii! I WON a trip to Hawaii!”

The waitress looks to the owner wide-eyed, knowing that the biggest prize in the giveaway is a Hawaiian jacket. They both approach Reuben, saying, “You couldn’t possibly have won a trip to Hawaii, because we don’t offer that as a prize!” Reuben replies, “Nope, no mistake, I won a trip to Hawaii, I WON a trip to Hawaii! Look here,” and hands the prize ticket to the manager, which reads, “WIN Hawaiian jacket.” Reuben felt ashamed and depressed.

You may believe that you have won a trip to Hawaii, but all you end up with is a Hawaiian jacket, not Hawaii junket (Hawaii trip/journey). As a matter of fact, what a person believes has profound and widespread social consequences. It affects the lives of all the people they encounter. It can inspire, depress, or shame them.

Grace and peace,

Rev. Ezekiel Koech

HUMOR OF THE MONTH

One Sunday in church, a little boy took off his tie and put it into the offering plate.

“What are you doing?” asked his mother.

“What the minister said,” answered the little boy. “He told us to give out our ties and offerings”.

(Timothy Roland, Gillette, New Jersey)
LUMC FINANCIAL UPDATE

General Operating Fund Contributions Received January 2020 ................................................................. $50,022
Building Use, Fundraising and Other Income Received .................................................................................... $1,000
Income from Bequest ........................................................................................................................................ $0
Total Operating Income Received January 2020 ............................................................................................... $51,022

Mission Shares Paid January 2020 ..................................................................................................................... $4,256
Mission Shares Paid Year to Date ....................................................................................................................... $4,256
Budgeted Mission Shares Year to Date .............................................................................................................. $4,256
Total 2020 Mission Shares ............................................................................................................................... $51,075

Education Building Debt Report

Balance Due on Education Building Loan 1/31/20 ......................................................................................... $114,120
Amount Remaining on Capital Campaign Pledges .......................................................................................... $50,080
Gap .................................................................................................................................................................... $64,040

Kitchen Remodel Update

Each month, it is my intent to give you a progress report on the kitchen project. These progress reports will be in all of our communication platforms sent out by the church. As requested by the District Superintendent, there has been an oversight committee formed to oversee all aspects of the kitchen. Here are the members: Wendy Clay (wclay615@gmail.com), Mike Parks (mparks7864@gmail.com), Marvin Hammontree (jmhtree@gmail.com), and myself (rickhalley74@yahoo.com).

Within the next two weeks, the committee will be meeting with Derick Shackelford of ShackBuilt, LLC., the general contractor on our project, to begin conversation and review all aspects of the kitchen remodel.

I would like to thank everyone who has returned their pledge cards. Remember, we are requesting that all pledge cards be returned by March 15 so we can report our total pledges in our April communications.

God bless and thank you for your support,

Rick Halley
Oversight Committee

THIS MONTH’S UPDATE:

The Property Management committee met in February and is moving forward as follows:
After discussion of the church finances, the initial kitchen remodeling plans and other related concerns, an Oversight Committee meeting was proposed by Mike Parks. The meeting would address these concerns with Derrick Shackleford of Shackbuilt, the potential contractor. Hopefully, a more concrete pricing could be reached at that time. The members of the Oversight Committee are Wendy Clay, Marvin Hammontree, Rick Halley and Mike Parks. Kitchen Remodel Project status will be included monthly in the Messenger, as well as on the LUMC Family Facebook page.
MARCH 1 | 1st SUNDAY IN LENT

“Temptation Imprisons, Forgiveness Sets Free”

Genesis 3:3–5, Matthew 4:1–11
Temptation is the oldest problem. There has been temptation since the time of Adam and Eve. If you read the Bible, you will find out that many men and women of God faced temptations. Even Jesus himself was tempted in the wilderness. The same thing still happens to us now. We can be tempted at any stage in life. But the question is, do we fight temptation or give in to it?


MARCH 8 | 2nd SUNDAY IN LENT / DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME

“What Does it Mean To Be Born Again?”

John 3:1–17
Nicodemus is introduced to us as “a leader of the Jews.” He came to Jesus “by night,” perhaps because he was a private person. The big question that Nicodemus posed to Jesus: “What must I do to enter the kingdom of God?” Jesus told him that he must be born again. Nicodemus’s story relates to everybody. You never become so religious that you outgrow the need for daily washing of your sins, and Jesus is available day and night.


MARCH 15 | 3rd SUNDAY IN LENT

“What Kind of H2O Are You Drinking?”

Jeremiah 2:1–13
In the book of Jeremiah, God is about to bring divine judgment on Judah because of their continuous rejection of Him. This story helps us to think about the source of our satisfaction. Is it God or something else?


MARCH 22 | 4th SUNDAY IN LENT

“Judging Others Is Sin”

John 9:1–20
We are tempted to be more inquisitive concerning other people’s sins than our own sin. To judge ourselves is our duty, but to judge our brother is sin.

Rev. Ezekiel Koech preaching. Tree of Life Praise Band at 9. Praise Bells at 9, Celebration Bells at 10:30, and Joy Bells at both services.

MARCH 29 | 5th SUNDAY IN LENT

“Will You Answer Jesus’ Call?”

John 11:17–44
This story begins right where we are: in a world that is full of death, full of grieving, and full of loss. However, Jesus is calling us by name, just the way he called Lazarus to “come out!”

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. For March, Kids’ Kingdom at 9:00 will be studying Jesus’ healing miracles and the Last Supper. Kids Connect at 10:30 will participate in learning activities tied to the week’s scripture lesson from the church service.

upcoming events

FAMILY MATTERS

Family Matters for families with kids meets once a month from 11:30 a.m.–1 p.m. for lunch followed by an activity. Some months, we have a family bonding activity for parents and kids to participate in together, and some months, we split up for a guest speaker or discussion group for parents and separate activities for kids. Mark your calendars for the following dates and RSVP to Mary.Clow@lenexaumc.org so we know how many to expect. RSVPs are needed for nursery care for kids 3 and under.

SUNDAY, MARCH 22 | Family Scavenger Hunt
SUNDAY, APRIL 26 | Parent group lecture “Child Safety” with Lenexa PD Officer Danny Chavez; activities for kids
SUNDAY, MAY 31 | Merle Sparlin Fishing Derby

PJS AND POP-TARTS | March 8

Spring forward your clocks and spring out of bed to join us in Sunday School on March 8! Wear your PJs and we will have Pop-Tarts during 9:00 a.m. Kids’ Kingdom Sunday School and 10:30 a.m. Kids Connect Sunday School.

EASTER EGG-STRAVAGANZA | April 5 | 11:30 a.m.

Our community Easter Egg-Stravaganza is coming up! There will be lunch, activities, and Easter Egg hunts for kids. Please bring donations of individually-wrapped candy to the church office. If you would like to sign up to bring food for lunch or to volunteer, contact Mary.Clow@lenexaumc.org. Invite your friends and neighbors!

KNIGHTS OF NORTH CASTLE VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

June 15–19 | 9 a.m.–12:15 p.m.

Mark your calendars for Vacation Bible School! VBS is open to kids who will be 4 by August 31 through new 6th-graders. Registration forms will be available online and in the church office during March. Approximately 60 youth and adult volunteers are needed to make this week a success. Contact Mary.Clow@lenexaumc.org to sign up to help. Aftercare is available until 5 p.m. for working parents. Applications for paid aftercare workers, which are available in the church office, are due April 15. Workers must be at least 16 years old.
**Sunday, March 1**
**SPRING STATIONS**

**Sunday, March 8**
**SPOONS!**

**Sunday, March 15**
**LUMYOUTH TBD—SPRING BREAK**

**Sunday, March 22**
**PREP FOR CHILI AUCTION**

**Sunday, March 29**

**8:00 a.m. | ANNUAL LUMYOUTH CHILI AUCTION**

The annual LUMYouth chili auction is coming up! Youth will serve chili and baked potatoes and offer up silent and loud auction items to raise funds for LUMYouth programs. (More info on page 11.) We will meet at 8:00 a.m., and all those youth planning on coming to help should bring a double batch of chili and 1 gallon of ice cream.

**5:00 p.m. | LUMYOUTH GROUP**

**7:00 p.m. | PEANUTS PLANNING MEETING**

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**IT’S COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIP TIME!**

You are eligible if you meet the following criteria:

- you are a member of Lenexa United Methodist Church
- you have at least a 2.5 GPA or a GED
- you have been accepted to an accredited institution
- you will be a full-time student
- you have not received a scholarship in the past

In addition to the application, you will need to write a 300 - 500 word essay on your post-secondary plans, provide two letters of recommendation, and an official school transcript. Applications for the 2020 post-secondary undergraduate scholarships are available in the church office. The application deadline is April 12. These scholarships are made possible through the Lenexa UMC Scholarship Endowment Fund.

**ATTENDING CAMP THIS SUMMER?**

Camp Scholarship forms are available in the church office. Scholarships to summer camps for children and youth (Camp Chippewa, Institute, etc.) are available through the Richard W. Lipp Endowment Fund. Application deadline is April 12.
The United Methodist Church has a long history of tackling complicated, controversial and contemporary topics. For the past eight years, a diverse group of writers and editors has been revising the denomination’s Social Principles, which since its founding has been an expression of the Wesleyan commitment to social holiness for the United Methodist Church.

The 2012 General Conference commissioned the General Board of Church and Society, a World Service Fund–supported agency, to revise the Social Principles to enhance its theological foundations, global relevance and meaning, along with its focus and succinctness, said the Rev. Mary Elizabeth Moore, revision team chair. The Revised Social Principles will now go to General Conference in May for approval.

The revised document was divided into four sections: creation, economic, social and political communities. Scriptural passages and excerpts from John Wesley’s writings introduce each section.

Hearing from 1,700 United Methodists from across the connection, “The task force and editorial team listened to the chorus of voices and passions and the people of The United Methodist Church have their handprints all over the Revised Social Principles,” Moore said.

—Adapted from “Revised Social Principles Reflect Worldwide Church,” Kathy Gilbert, UM News, Dec. 12, 2019

We will observe UMCOR Sunday (formerly One Great Hour of Sharing) on March 22. When disaster strikes around the globe, the United Methodist Committee on Relief is prepared to act. Since 1940, UMCOR has responded to those in desperate need—today throughout more than eighty countries around the world. The response of UMCOR isn’t something “they” do, it’s something “we” do. Giving on UMCOR Sunday is what allows UMCOR to act as the arms and legs of Christ’s church, moving toward the most vulnerable in their darkest days. Convinced that all people have God-given worth and dignity—without regard to race, religion or gender—together we are assisting those impacted by crisis or chronic need. Because of our gifts, the United Methodist Church’s compassionate response to human suffering continues today.

“Is not this the fast that I choose: to loose the bonds of injustice, to undo the thongs of the yoke, to let the oppressed go free, and to break every yoke?”

ISAIAH 58:6, NRSV
JOB OPPORTUNITIES

Lenexa UMC has two job openings. We are currently in need of the following:

**LEAD CUSTODIAN** for building services. This staff opportunity is a 20-hour-a-week position.

Duties include:
- Standard cleaning—empty trash, vacuum, dust, and clean windows and bathrooms for both buildings.
- Setup—set tables and chairs for all church, preschool and guest events.
- Maintaining supplies—keep track of towels, toilet paper and cleaning supplies. Order as needed.
- Building maintenance—fix toilet valves and flapper, change light bulbs, change paper towel dispenser batteries, change furnace filters. Coordinate outside vendor for carpet cleaning and floor polish. Major paint projects are typically done by volunteers.
- Candidate needs to be able to lift at least 40 lbs. to handle trash and move tables.

**DIRECTOR OF YOUTH MINISTRIES** is a full-time staff position in the Lenexa United Methodist Church (LUMC). The Youth Director will provide spiritual and relational Christian leadership for Lenexa United Methodist Youth in the 7th through 12th grades.

Responsibilities include the following:
1) Youth Ministry:
   - Provide spiritual and relational Christian leadership for Lenexa United Methodist Youth in the 7th through 12th grades.
   - Challenge the youth to respond to God’s call to serve in their communities and the world.
   - Support, guide, and supervise all youth ministries of the church in accordance with the Mission and Vision of the Church.
   - Lead Sunday night youth fellowship.
   - Coordinate and lead youth retreats, youth mission trips and youth fundraising.
   - Coordinate youth Sunday School for grades 7 through 12.
   - Coordinate with the senior pastor to provide leadership for the confirmation program.
   - Lead youth to participate in the Kansas City District, & the Great Plains Annual Conference youth events.

2) Whole Church Ministry:
   - Attend worship services on a regular basis.
   - Participate in Sunday worship service planning and leadership, especially as it relates to youth involvement.
   - Organize and oversee an annual Youth Sunday where the service is performed by the youth. This includes presenting the message, liturgy, and ushering.
   - Be a member of the Inviting Ministries Team.

If you are interested in either position, contact Rick Smith at office@lenexaumc.org or (913) 888–5600.
For a complete list of responsibilities and job qualifications, visit https://lenexaumc.org/job-opportunities/.
BLOOD DRIVE
Monday, March 23 | 2:30–6:30 p.m. | Schneeberger Hall
Book your appointment today at savealifenow.org/group, and enter Group Code KCAJ. For additional details, contact Judy Rose at (913) 631-8661 or jrdrose@hotmail.com. Medical eligibility questions? Call 1 (800) 688-0900.

IS YOUR FAMILY PROTECTED?
Sunday, May 3 | 9 a.m. | Wesley Room
As Christians, God calls us to be prepared. If you have family, you’ll need to ensure they’re cared for in difficult times. The Health Ministries team is here to help you be ready for emergencies. Steve Anderson, a former LUMC member and experienced lawyer, will be hosting a talk about some of the legal documents we’ll all need at some point. Join us for this great opportunity to get some good, free advice.

SALTY PEANUTS ADULT MISSION TRIP
March 25–28
The SALTY PEANUTS’ mission trip is on for March 25-28. We are in the process of choosing our destination and project. Our next planning meeting is Sunday, March 8 at 11:30 a.m. in the Wesley Room. Interested adults 18+ years old should attend for final bits of information and participation forms. The participation fee of $200 is due at that time. Contact Marv Hammontree at jmhtree@gmail.com or Lisa Freeman at soaringhogs@sbcglobal.net with questions.

MEN’S FELLOWSHIP MEETING
Saturday, March 7 | 8 a.m. | Schneeberger Hall
LUMC Men will meet in March to have coffee and fellowship. It will also be a time to set a schedule for monthly men’s fellowship and decide on what day of the month it will be held and what program to study. All men are welcome! If you have any question, do not hesitate to ask pastor Ezekiel.

March Health Ministries

LUMC DADDY DAUGHTER DANCE
SATURDAY MARCH 7TH
6–7 PM
$10/GIRL $5 FOR ADDITIONAL SIBLINGS
PAY CASH ONLY AT DOOR
RSVP BY MARCH 2ND

RSVP to Lori at lori.campbell@lenexaumc.org
Open to church members, friends, neighbors etc.

LUMC LADIES’ BOOK CLUB
3rd Wednesday of the month | 12:00 p.m. | Library

The ladies’ book club will meet March 18 at noon in the library to discuss The Huntress by Kate Quinn. All are welcome. We will meet April 15 to discuss The Girl Who Wrote in Silk by Kelli Estes. Questions can be directed to Linda Stoker at lstoker98@gmail.com.

YOUNG ADULT GAME NIGHT
Saturday, March 14 | 6–10 p.m. | 8415 Broadmoor St.
All young adults 18–35 (without kids) are invited to the Freeman’s home for a night of food, beverage, and games. Food and beverage will be provided by the hosts. Bring a friend or two—the more, the merrier.

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All young adults 18–35 (without kids) are invited to the Freeman’s home for a night of food, beverage, and games. Food and beverage will be provided by the hosts. Bring a friend or two—the more, the merrier.
THANK YOU
Gratefully thanking the congregation for their thoughts and prayers with cards and calls through my sister’s passing. It’s been a rough time for me, and my church family has meant so much to me in their caring thoughtfulness. —Blessings to all, Bernie McNichols

LUMYOUTH CHILI LUNCH & AUCTION
Sunday, March 29 | 11:30 a.m. | Schneeberger Hall

The annual LUMYouth fundraiser will take place after church. Please join us for chili, baked potatoes and awesome auction items. Proceeds support youth ministries all year including PEANUTS, GREEN PEANUTS, retreats, and other service projects. We are accepting donations at this time. If you or your family have an item, gift card, service, or experience you’d like to donate, please drop it off in the church office or contact Sandy Gunkel or Melinda Parks. Earnings from the 2020 Chili Auction will fund the following events:

- PEANUTS Mission Trip - $8,000
- GREEN PEANUTS Mission Trip - $3,500
- LUMYouth Fall Retreat for all - $3,500
- Serving the families of the Ronald McDonald House twice - $600

As many of you know, the LUMYouth program’s biggest expense is PEANUTS workcamps. LUMYouth participate in two full weeks of mission & outreach every summer. Our middle school youth spend a week in June working at several local outreach programs in the Kansas City area. Our high school youth take one week in July to work with different agencies in neighboring states. In 2019, 20 youth and 10 adults traveled to Gore, OK to do a massive amount of construction and repair at Oklahoma United Methodist Circle of Care. Circle of Care operates two campus-based foster care sites. In 2018, 18 youth and 10 adults traveled to St. Paul, MN to work with the URBAN CROSS, a community renewal project based at Mounds Park United Methodist Church. URBAN CROSS works with homeowners in their surrounding neighborhoods who have the resources to purchase materials but lack the additional funds for labor. To fund these two weeks of mission, the LUMYouth must raise $12,500 and we need your help. Donate if you can, but either way, plan to attend the luncheon and auction!

INVITING MINISTRIES
The Inviting Ministries/Marketing Committee is looking for a several members who might be willing to volunteer to enhance the welcoming of visitors to our church. This is an important role as we continue our SPONGE Program this year.

GREETER COORDINATOR
Greeters are an important part of welcoming and assisting visitors. Right now we have no one who is the “go-to” person to coordinate the program. This person would maintain and update the greeters list so that each Sunday there would be a greeter at each door for each service. They would maintain a list of substitute greeters who could be called on to fill the position of a regular greeter, and would be the person a greeter would call if they were unable to greet on their assigned Sunday. If you can help with coordination of the greeter program, please call the church office or contact Wayne Dothage at wdothage@gmail.com. This is part of the P, O, and E in SPONGE: Participation, Outreach and Enthusiasm.

INSTAGRAM ACCOUNT MANAGER
The Inviting Ministries/Marketing Committee would like to increase its presence on social media by creating an Instagram account for LUMC. We are looking for a volunteer with Instagram experience who could coordinate and post pictures and descriptions of various church activities (children’s ministries, sermons, Dinner’s on Us, VBS, etc). This corresponds to the O in SPONGE: Outreach. If you would like to volunteer, call the church office or contact Wayne Dothage at wdothage@gmail.com. Thanks in advance for your help!

THANK YOU
Gratefully thanking the congregation for their thoughts and prayers with cards and calls through my sister’s passing. It’s been a rough time for me, and my church family has meant so much to me in their caring thoughtfulness. —Blessings to all, Bernie McNichols
SUNDAY SCHOOL FOR ADULTS

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

SPECTRUM
9:00 a.m.  |  Room 122
During Lent, the Spectrum Class will be studying *The Passion of Christ* by Rabbi Amy-Jill Levine.

FOUNDATIONS
9:00 a.m.  |  Room 105
During Lent, Foundations will be studying *The Walk* by Adam Hamilton.

PATHFINDERS
9:00 a.m.  |  Asbury Room
During Lent, Pathfinders will be studying *The Walk* by Adam Hamilton.

DASHERS
10:30 a.m.  |  Asbury Room
After experiencing 9:00 a.m. worship, we reflect on the day’s service through lively and thoughtful conversation. Someone often brings something from the editorial page for discussion, and we apply our faith walk to the topic at hand as we share our opinions. We know our date of birth, and don’t know the day we will die, but we’re doing our best to fill the dash.

YAC: YOUNG ADULT CONVERSATIONS
Sundays | 10:30–11:30 a.m.  |  The Underground
YAC: Young Adult Conversations happen each and every Sunday morning in the (recently spiffed up) Underground. Hot drinks and yummy treats are provided for us by Diane Troy. Our conversations are “all over the map,” as we pull topics from the editorial pages of our world. Bruce and Lisa Freeman serve as facilitators of this great group.

PRESCHOOL NEWS

Spring is here! We are looking forward to warmer weather, longer days, and flowers beginning to bloom. Our classrooms will be busy with activities to go along with the new season. The Daddy-Daughter Dance will be held on Saturday, March 7 (details on page 10.) This event is always a great time for the girls and their dads. All dads and daughters welcome! Enrollment for the 2020-2021 school year is now open. We still have a few spots available in our Preschool and Children’s Day Out classes. Please contact Lori Campbell, Director, at (913) 888-6300 if you are interested in our awesome program!