

# the MESSENGER

a publication of Lenexa United Methodist Church | October 2023



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# church **staff**

**Rev. Ezekiel Koech**

**PASTOR**

**Paige Foster**

**YOUTH AND CONGREGATIONAL MINISTRIES**

**Mary Clow**

**CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES**

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**WORSHIP WITH US**  
in person or online!

 [facebook.com/lenexaumc/live](https://facebook.com/lenexaumc/live)

The final day to submit contributions for the November issue of the Messenger is  
**Wednesday, October 18.**

Email articles to [Lauren.Lanigan@lenexaumc.org](mailto:Lauren.Lanigan@lenexaumc.org).

The Messenger is available online or at church. If you'd like a copy mailed to you, please contact the church office.

Lenexa United Methodist Church | 9138 Caenen Lake Road, Lenexa, KS 66215

# PASTOR'S CORNER



*“Is anyone among you sick? Let them call the elders of the church to pray over them and anoint them with oil in the name of the Lord.”*

– James 5:14 NIV

On September 15-16, some of the Congregational Care Team went for training at Overland Park Church of the Resurrection on 95th Street.

Karen Lampe, who was leading the training, reminded us that each person in the church is called to care for others because we are all a priesthood of believers (1 Peter 2:9 NIV). One doesn't have to be ordained or licensed to be part of the Congregational Care Team. All you need is basic training on how to make phone calls, visitation, serving Holy Sacrament, anointing and prayer. Even just calling and checking on each other is enough. Especially if somebody hasn't been in the church in a long time.

First, caring is a spiritual and theological orientation, and not primarily a clinical one. The church as a context in which care is offered and received is not the same as a mental health professional or therapist's office.

Second, for the Christian, the “care giver” and “care receiver” are one. Neither lives out of a permanent role, and the person who receives care at one moment in time may offer the “giver” care at another time. Concerns of mutuality and equal regard define God's people in the Church, and this affects the ways in which we care with and for one another.

With the understanding that the giver and receiver are one, we will “see” each person as one with gifts to offer, whether that person is developmentally disabled, physically handicapped, or of a different political, ethnic, racial, or sexual orientation.

The caring congregation is a place, and a sanctuary, where our human stories are connected with God's story. It is also a place where our puzzling narratives find a place in the presence of God, who heals and sustains, who guides and reconciles, and who empowers and nurtures. If we are going to be a caring congregation, then we need to care for each other by checking on each other. Everyone is called to care because God cares. You are welcome to join the Congregational Care Team. Say yes!

Peace be with you all,

*Ezekiel Koech*

Pastor Ezekiel Koech

# WORDS ON WORSHIP

**SUNDAY, OCTOBER 1** | GENEROSITY CHALLENGE—WEEK 3

## *“Revealed Through Prayer”*

**Luke 6:12-13, 11:9-10; James 5:13-15.** Most of us are good at the first baby step of prayer. It is easy to ask God to do something. Unfortunately, after the asking, we think that we are finished; we think that since we have already asked, we are expected to do nothing more. But there is more to do. It takes many more steps to continue a real journey of prayer. Rev. Ezekiel Koech preaching. Communion at 9:00 and 10:30. Tree of Life Praise Band at 9:00. Chancel Choir at 10:30.

### **COMMUNION SUNDAY:**

9:00 a.m.— When receiving communion, you have the choice of either bread or gluten-free wafer, and of pre-packaged juice cup or the chalice for intinction.

10:30 a.m.— All are invited to kneel or stand at the altar rail when receiving communion. You will have the choice of either bread or gluten-free wafer and be served juice in small cups.

If worshipping at home, you are invited to supply your own bread and juice.

**SUNDAY, OCTOBER 8** | GENEROSITY CHALLENGE—WEEK 4

## *“Sealed By Faith”*

**Luke 12:15-20.** Often times when we read the stories of the Bible, we can see ourselves in the characters. Jesus invites us to learn from him so that we can carry on his missions. Rev. Ezekiel Koech preaching. Tree of Life Praise Band at 9:00 a.m. Chancel Choir at 10:30.

**SUNDAY, OCTOBER 15** | YOUTH SUNDAY

## *“We Must Go Forward”*

**Psalms 106: 1-6, 19-23.** Tradition is something that often brings us together, but it can also divide. Jesus was a revolutionary man of his time. Our youth are also revolutionary; they are blazing trails no one ever imagined! Let us learn from their example. Paige Foster, Director of Youth and Congregational Ministries, preaching. Tree of Life Praise Band at 9:00 a.m. Chancel Choir at 10:30. Communion at 9:00 and 10:30.

**SUNDAY, OCTOBER 22** | CHILDREN'S SABBATH

## *“Who Did God Make You To Be?”*

**1 Corinthians 12:12-20.** God had a plan when creating you. Your family needs you. Your church needs you. Your world needs you. Exactly how God made you to be. Mary Clow, Director of Children's Ministry, preaching. Tree of Life Praise Band at 9:00 a.m. Joy Bells at 9:00 and 10:30. Growing In Grace Children's Choir at 10:30.

**SUNDAY, OCTOBER 29** | TOGETHER SUNDAY | **One combined worship service at 10:00!**

## *“Christians Are Privileged With Heritage”*

**Luke 2:1-10.** This sermon emphasizes the biblical spiritual heritage that we have as God's people. Rev. Ezekiel Koech preaching. Tree of Life Praise Band, Chancel Choir, and communion at 10:00.



**worship  
with us**  
in person  
or online!

**9:00 a.m.**

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**Blended Worship**  
*(Contemporary/Traditional)*

**10:30 a.m.**

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**Traditional Worship**

*Participate in Sunday worship remotely in any of these ways!*

**#1: LIVESTREAM**

At 9:00 or 10:30, you can watch worship live at [facebook.com/lenexaumc/live](https://www.facebook.com/lenexaumc/live). You do not need a Facebook account to be able to watch. If you go to the website before the video has started, it will not automatically show up when worship begins. You will need to refresh the webpage for the video to load.

**#2: WATCH LATER**

The videos from both services are posted each week at [lenexaumc.org/worship-online](https://www.lenexaumc.org/worship-online). They are posted shortly after worship ends on Sunday morning and are available to watch anytime during the week. Videos are left on this page for at least 3 months, so you can go back and watch previous weeks if you missed them or want to watch them again.

**#3: LISTEN TO A  
CD RECORDING**

If you don't have internet access or would prefer to listen on CD, we have audio recordings of the 9:00 and 10:30 A.M. services available. Contact the church office at [office@lenexaumc.org](mailto:office@lenexaumc.org) — we'll mail you a CD each week.

# CHILDREN'S & FAMILY MINISTRIES

## 9 A.M.

**Kid's Kingdom:** Kids age 4–5<sup>th</sup> grade—2<sup>nd</sup> Floor of the Education Building

## 10:30 A.M.

**Kids Connect:** Kids age 4–5<sup>th</sup> grade—meet in the Sanctuary, pick up on 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor of the Education Building

## 9 & 10:30 A.M.

**Nursery Care:** Kids 3 and under—Room 206

In October, we'll be finishing the Generosity Challenge.

## GROWING IN GRACE CHILDREN'S CHOIR | Wednesdays, 6:15–7 p.m.

Join us for Growing in Grace Children's Choir! We practice on Wednesday evenings from 6:15–7 p.m. If kids are interested in singing with us but can't make it Wednesday nights, no worries! We also practice our songs during 10:30 a.m. Sunday school. Growing in Grace Choir is for kids ages 4 through 5<sup>th</sup> grade. Kids participate in music activities and lessons for fun with music, learning basic musical and singing skills, and to provide music for the 10:30 a.m. service once a month. Please feel free to contact Liesel Stephens at [liesel.stephens@lenexaumc.org](mailto:liesel.stephens@lenexaumc.org) with any questions.

## FAMILY HAYRIDE | Sunday, October 15

We will have a family hayride on Sunday, October 15 from 5:30–7:30 p.m. at Oak Ridge Parklands at Shawnee Mission Park. There will be s'mores and hot dogs to roast over the fire. Space is limited—please RSVP to [Mary.Clow@lenexaumc.org](mailto:Mary.Clow@lenexaumc.org) to reserve your spot.

## CHILDREN'S SABBATH | Sunday, October 22

Children's Sabbath will be October 22. Children will be helping Ms. Mary lead worship at both 9:00 and 10:30 a.m., so please mark your calendars to be there.

## GO NUTS FOR KIDS

Our annual nuts fundraiser for children's ministry kicks off on October 22! We will collect preorders through October 29. You can order at church or online at [www.lenexaumc.org/children](http://www.lenexaumc.org/children). Preorders will be available to pick up at the church on November 5. There will be a table of nuts available for purchase during Heavenly Half Hour on November 5 and 12. All orders must be placed by November 12 and will be available to pick up on November 19. Nuts and other treats make great holiday gifts for teachers, family members, and stocking stuffers! Thank you for your support of LUMC Children's Ministry!

## *save the date!*

**WHAT IS ADVENT? FAMILY WORKSHOP | December 3 at 11:30 a.m.**

# YOUTH

**Sunday Morning Worship:** 9 a.m.

**Sunday School:** 10:30 a.m. in the Loft

**Youth Group:** 4–6 p.m.

## OCTOBER YOUTH CALENDAR

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<b>SUNDAY, OCTOBER 1</b>	<b>4:00 P.M.</b>	<b>Youth Make Dinner</b> The youth will work together to create a delicious dinner and dessert for us to all enjoy!
<b>SUNDAY, OCTOBER 8</b>	<b>4:00 P.M.</b>	We will do some fall activities and then we will have a mission trip meeting beginning at 6:10 in Schneeberger.
<b>SUNDAY, OCTOBER 15</b>	<b>5:30 P.M.</b>	<b>Family Hayride</b> Fall is here and we are heading out on a Hayride at Shawnee Mission Park! Meet at the park at 5:00 for the hayride and stick around for s'mores and hot dogs at a campfire! RSVP to Paige at (913)-957-1708.
<b>SUNDAY, OCTOBER 22</b>	<b>3–6 P.M.</b>	<b>Leaf Raking</b> We will head around town to rake leaves for those who need it! Meet in the parking lot at 3:00PM. We will be done at 6:00.
<b>SUNDAY, OCTOBER 29</b>	<b>4:00 P.M.</b>	<b>Halloween Party at the Efurd's!</b>





# TOGETHER SUNDAY

## Celebrating our Heritage

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 29 | 10:00 AM

### WORSHIP TOGETHER

One combined worship service at 10:00 AM  
featuring music from Chancel Choir and Tree of Life Praise Band  
and Holy Communion

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### EAT TOGETHER

Bring an entree, side dish, or dessert to share for a traditional  
all-church potluck!

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### BE TOGETHER

Join us in celebrating our heritage, including a  
fun trivia game and living history activity!



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## HUB SERVICE DAY

**October 14 | 9 a.m.–12 p.m.**

Rev. Carter Ellis brought us a powerful word last month while Pastor Ezekiel was gone. As the director of the HUB Argentine, she does A LOT! On October 14, there will be a District Service Day at The HUB Argentine from 9 a.m.–12 p.m. There will be jobs for all ages and abilities! Whatever gift you have to offer, The HUB has a place for you! If you intend to go or if you'd like more info, contact Paige Foster at [paige.foster@lenexaumc.org](mailto:paige.foster@lenexaumc.org).

## GOSPEL OF MARY MAGDELENE STUDY

**Fridays, 10:30–11:30 a.m.**

Beginning October 20, Paige Foster will be hosting a book study in the Wesley room from 10:30–11:30 a.m. If you need Zoom accommodations, let us know! We will dive into the text of Mary Magdelene and what her inspired words can mean for us. We will also spend some time studying other female theologians like Susanna Wesley, Julian of Norwich and some contemporary voices. You are invited to bring your favorite journal and pen as we will spend time each week with some written reflection time. I hope for this space to be inviting to all, open to new ideas, and willing to dive deeply into conversation.

## HOSTING INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS FOR THANKSGIVING

Thanksgiving is one of the biggest family holidays of the year in America. Everyone is thankful to God for what they have, and there's a fun, festive vibe in the air.

International students at surrounding universities and colleges may miss a chance to celebrate Thanksgiving because their families are far away, and the Thanksgiving holiday may even be a new experience for them. If you and your family would be interested in hosting one or two international students at your Thanksgiving celebration, please let Pastor Ezekiel or Barbara Pendleton know by Sunday, November 12.

## FITNESS CLASSES

Hooray! FaithFully Fit and Peaceful Stretch Community classes have resumed in Schneeberger Hall. FaithFully Fit will meet from 6-6:45 p.m. on Tuesdays only. Peaceful Stretch will follow from 7-8 p.m.

Faithfully Fit is a free, low-impact movement class open to adults of all fitness levels. We use chairs to assist with simple cardio and balance movements, resistance bands and simple stretches to help us stay agile, strong and moving. Wear comfortable clothing, supportive tie-on shoes and water. We'll supply everything else needed. Masks are totally optional, but we will attempt to maintain safe spacing.

Peaceful Stretch Community Class is a gentle yoga class designed to help you release stiff joints, achy muscles and mental tension. There is no fee and no reservation is needed; classes are ongoing and newcomers may join at any time. Please bring a yoga or exercise mat, a beach towel, and two yoga blocks to class. There are a few extra supplies that you can borrow if you are just visiting or trying out the class. Contact Diane Doolin at [going2stretch@gmail.com](mailto:going2stretch@gmail.com) with questions.

## DONATIONS WANTED

We are collecting Pringles cans, tennis ball cans, coffee cans, and similar cans WITH LIDS for a project. If you have some to donate, please bring to the church office.

## CANDLELIGHT PRAYER TIME

Starting soon, we will have candles available in the sanctuary during worship. You will find a candle there to light the others from. During the time of offering, you are invited to light the candle with the intentions of prayer or meditation. Praise or thanksgiving. When you come forward you are also invited to bring your offering. These candles will serve as a threshold between here and the heavens. May God hear your prayer, see your pain, and nourish your soul. Amen.

# a MOMENT for MISSION

Episcopal Fund

*“The law of the Lord is perfect, reviving the soul;  
the decrees of the Lord are sure, making wise the simple;  
the precepts of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart.”* — PSALM 19:7-8A, NRSVUE

Bishop David Wilson is the first Native American bishop of The United Methodist Church. A member of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma, he was elected in November 2022. Wilson is our Bishop, leading the Great Plains Conference, which encompasses the states of Kansas and Nebraska. He shares what he values about The United Methodist Church:

“I appreciate The United Methodist Church’s work around inclusion, in terms of understanding that this gospel is for everybody. It’s like we say when we serve communion, ‘This table is open for everybody. Come and partake.’ Also, its emphasis on social justice and how we help the world through the United Methodist Committee on Relief, feeding the hungry, caring for the poor, and the programs we do around the world. We’re doing this because we’re part of the church. We’re doing this because you’re a human being and we’re called to care for you and help you out.”

One of seven apportioned giving opportunities of The United Methodist Church, the Episcopal Fund pays for bishops’ salaries, office and travel expenses and pension and health-benefit coverage.

*Adapted from an excerpt of a story by Jim Patterson, UMNS reporter, Nashville, Tennessee.*

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## The Generosity Challenge: 28 Days of Gratitude, Prayer, and Faith

We have been participating in a church-wide Generosity Challenge program, centered around the principle that we are created in the image of God; hence: we are born to be generous! We hope and pray that you have found the daily challenges, the small group discussions, and worship inspiring. The program continues through October 8.

As you find your way home to the loving and generous person God created you to be, we invite you to consider making a financial commitment to Lenexa United Methodist Church in the coming year. If you haven’t already, you should receive an Estimate of Giving card in the mail in the next few days. Please carefully consider how God is calling you to support the work God is doing through Lenexa UMC grounded in gratitude, revealed through prayer, and sealed by faith. Then bring your estimate of giving card with you to worship on October 8. If more convenient, you may mail it or drop it by the church office. Alternatively, you may complete the card online at [www.lenexaumc.org/give](http://www.lenexaumc.org/give). If you do not receive a card in the mail, contact Linda Stokes in the church office and she will send one to you.

# FINANCIAL UPDATE

## WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY

October 1, 2023

On World Communion Sunday, we partner with other UMC congregations in a special offering to support young adults and make a global impact for Christ. Half of the offering benefits World Communion scholarships for graduate students from the U.S. and other countries. The remainder provides grants to support training for worldwide inclusion, diversity, equity and access. These funds are administered by the General Boards of Global Ministries and Higher Education.

As followers of Jesus, we are called to be part of restoring joy and hope in the world. Through our gifts and support, we are invited to partner with God to infuse Christ's loving presence with our words and actions and through our support of young faithful leaders around the world. By investing in the next generation, we can help them build a brighter future for their communities and the world. When you give generously on World Communion Sunday, you partner with talented, qualified students from around the globe to transform the world as witnesses for Christ. You may give in the offering plate on World Communion Sunday, by mailing a check to the church, or online at [www.lenexaumc.org/give](http://www.lenexaumc.org/give).

## AUGUST 2023

General Operating Fund Contributions Received August 2023 .....	\$31,651
Building Use, Fundraising and Other Income Received .....	\$4,250
Income from Endowment Funds .....	\$2,759
Total August 2023 Operating Income .....	<u>\$38,660</u>
2023 Annual Budget .....	\$534,204
Mission Share Paid in August .....	\$3,443
Mission Share Paid Year to Date .....	\$27,544
2023 Mission Share .....	\$41,316
Kitchen Remodel Contributions Received August 2023 .....	\$559
Loan Balance August 31, 2023 .....	\$102,155

## GIVING ALTERNATIVES

There are several options for giving your tithes and offerings to the church. You may support the operating budget, kitchen project, special offerings, and any of the many causes we give to in any of these ways:

- Place your gift in the offering plate on Sunday morning.
- Mail a check to 9138 Caenen Lake Road, Lenexa, KS 66215.  
Designate the desired fund(s) in the memo line.
- Give online. Go to [www.lenexaumc.org/give](http://www.lenexaumc.org/give) for information and the link to give online.
- Give via mobile app. Download the ShelbyNext Giving App on your smart phone and search for "Lenexa United Methodist Church." Follow the instructions to make a one-time or recurring gift.
- Give via text. Text the amount you would like to give to (913) 444-5960.
- Use your bank's Online Bill Pay to have your bank mail a check to the church.



# SMALL GROUPS

## FOUNDATIONS

After we conclude the Generosity Challenge, we will start "Surprised by Hope" by N. T. Wright. Christians normally think of the future in terms of heaven, but the promised reality is much greater: a new heaven, a new earth and a whole new creation. Foundations meets at 9 a.m. in the Asbury Room. Contact Tammy Shepherd at [shepherd.tammy@yahoo.com](mailto:shepherd.tammy@yahoo.com) for more information. See you there!

## SPECTRUM

As the name suggests, the Spectrum Class welcomes a spectrum of ages. We also study a spectrum of lessons, some of our favorite authors being Amy-Jill Levine and Adam Hamilton. Come join us at 9 a.m. in Room 122. For more info, contact Wayne Dothage at [wdothage@gmail.com](mailto:wdothage@gmail.com).

## DASHERS

Dashers Sunday School Class meets at 10:30 in the Asbury Room. We explore a variety of theological topics such as how other religions relate to Christianity, how the Bible came to be, and many more. Drop by on Sunday morning or contact Dave Glisson at [daveglisskc@gmail.com](mailto:daveglisskc@gmail.com) for more information.

## YOUNG ADULTS

LUMC young adults group is a community of adults over the age of 18 with no age limit. We are passionate about our faith and seeking to grow in their relationship with God and the community. We come together to support and encourage one another, study the Bible, and engage in meaningful discussions about our beliefs and how they apply to our lives.

We also participate in service projects and outreach activities to make a positive impact in our community. Our group is a safe and welcoming space where young adults can connect with others who share their values and find encouragement in their spiritual journey. Join us in the Underground each Sunday morning at 10:30 a.m. for Young Adult Conversations. For more information, contact David Hartel at [davidhartel@gmail.com](mailto:davidhartel@gmail.com).

## CHRISTCARE

The Friends and Followers ChristCare group meets in Room 105 on the 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of each month. The group is a caring, confidential circle of friends with Christ at the center where the ups and downs of life can be shared in a safe environment. After catching up on joys, concerns, and activities of the past month, we share a brief devotion together. If you'd like more information or want to join, contact Linda Stokes at [lindalipp@gmail.com](mailto:lindalipp@gmail.com).

## MEN'S GROUP

The Men's Group will meet on Saturday, October 14 at 8 a.m. in the Wesley Room. Come see Dr. James Naismith, the inventor of basketball and the first basketball coach at Kansas University! Dr. Naismith will be portrayed by Bill Nicks. We will learn about Naismith's childhood in Canada, his education, why he came to Lawrence, his military service, his family, the 1936 Olympics, how he came to invent the great game the world loves to play and much, much more. Coffee will be served. If you'd like notifications about meetings or have questions, contact Chuck Sheppard at [shepcr@sbcglobal.net](mailto:shepcr@sbcglobal.net).

## DINNER'S ON US OUTREACH

Lisa Freeman coordinates the group of members who serve at and bake cookies for our Wednesday evening drive-thru free dinner. Contact Lisa Freeman at [soaringhogs@sbcglobal.net](mailto:soaringhogs@sbcglobal.net) if you'd like to volunteer!