

“Making disciples for the transformation of the World”

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Lexington
United Methodist Church

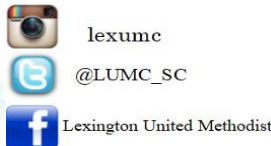
December 13, 2020

Weekly Worship Opportunities:
9am – Traditional Sunday Service
(Wesley Hall)
11am – Contemporary Sunday Service
(Wesley Hall)
6:30pm – Wednesday Vespers
(Wesley Hall)

Church Office: 803-359-6838
www.lexumcsc.com



We’re on the web:
<http://www.lexumcsc.com>



3RD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

11:00AM

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 13, 2020

GATHERING

GREETING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

***OPENING SONG**

Alive

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES

***PRAISE SONG**

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON

Philippians 4:1-9

A WORD TO THE CHILDREN

Lori Meyers

***GOSPEL LESSON**

Luke 1:26-56

WITNESS TO THE WORD

Joy Amidst Anything and Everything
Rev. Kim Eanes

SONG OF PRAISE

Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus

***A SONG OF JOY FOR ADVENT (RESPONSIVELY):**

L: Our souls magnify the Lord ...

P: AND OUR SPIRITS REJOICE IN GOD OUR SAVIOR ...

L: For He looks with favor upon us ...

P: AND SEES OUR UNREALIZED POTENTIAL.

L: In the tradition of Mary and all who have said "yes" to God ...

P: WE STAND HERE TODAY TO ADD OUR ASSENT TO THEIRS!

L: Like Mary, we feel overwhelmed ...

P: WE WONDER IF WE ARE WORTHY, OR CAPABLE, OF FOLLOWING THE CALLING.

L: Like Mary, we have our questions ...

P: AND WE WILL NOT BE AFRAID TO ASK THEM.

L: Like Mary, we will hear and ponder ...

P: THE ASSURANCE THAT GOD WILL EMPOWER US!

L: Like Mary, we will strive to say ...

P: "LET IT BE WITH US ACCORDING TO YOUR WILL".

L: To whatever God is inviting us at this time in our lives ...

P: WE WILL RELY ON GOD'S GRACE AS WE SAY "YES"!

OFFERTORY

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

PRAYER CONCERNS, PASTORAL PRAYER, THE LORD'S PRAYER #895

CLOSING SONG OF PRAISE *Gloria*

*DISMISSAL WITH BLESSING

*Please stand as you are able

ADVENT WORSHIP SERIES

Hope, Peace, Joy, Love - Do you believe in these words anymore? Do you trust in these promises still? 2020 most certainly has been a challenging, exhausting, discouraging year for us all! But thanks be to God, our Christian faith brings us a brand-new year through giving us the season of Advent - a season full of renewed hope, peace, joy, and love! Throughout the Sundays of Advent, in the midst of beautiful and symbolic decorations we've come to know and love at LUMC this time of year, we will remember, reflect on, and renew the promises of our faith in which God calls us to believe, despite whatever chaos is going on in the world around us! On Advent #1, we will concentrate on the HOPE God always provides; on Advent #2 we will reflect upon the PEACE which God always brings; on Advent #3 we will highlight the JOY which God always makes possible in our lives; and on Advent #4 we will celebrate the LOVE which God continues to share with us through the ever-present gift of His Son, Jesus Christ. Please also put at least one of our Christmas Eve services on your calendar! We will gather that evening for Communion and Candlelight at 4pm, 6pm and 8pm.

ADVENT ZOOM STUDY

Join Pastor Elizabeth on Mondays at **7pm** for a 4-week Zoom Advent study on Almost Christmas! This study began **Nov. 23rd** and goes through **Dec. 14th**. Make your Wesleyan heritage a part of your Christmas. In Almost Christmas: A Wesleyan Advent Experience, we will explore how we can make the same commitment to Christ during Advent and connect our Wesleyan heritage with the traditional Advent themes of Love, Hope, Joy, and Peace. One chapter of the book will need

to be read in preparation for each week! Check out the book here:

<https://www.cokesbury.com/Almost-Christmas-1>

Questions? Email at Elizabeth@lexumcsc.com

VIRTUAL ADVENT STUDIES

Pastor Kim will be providing three Advent studies/devotions throughout this season, all of which will be offered for your viewing pleasure via pre-recording and a follow up post on our website.

On **Tuesdays**, you are invited to "tune in" to a Study entitled: "Christmas in the Four Gospel Homes". This "approximately 20minute study" is a unique approach for participants to reflect upon the meaning of Christmas through the lens of the four Gospels. Every **Thursday**, you are invited to "tune in" to a second Study entitled: "Awaiting the Already". This "approximately 20 minute" study highlights a different character(s) out of each Gospel every week, while simultaneously uncovering Advent's tension between the past and the future. Finally, every **Friday**, you are invited to "tune in" to a devotion titled "Imagining A New World". This experience will highlight brief 5-minute devotions based upon Advent lectionary texts which will offer words of vision, courage, and inspiration as we move through this challenging time of "Christmas amidst a pandemic". Weekly

links to these studies/devotions will be sent to you via email. And of course, these studies/devotions will also be available on the LUMC website. Please join us!

CENTERING PRAYER

Centering Prayer is a small group that meets each Friday morning at 7:00am. The group welcomes all those who are interested in a meditative way to pray to our Lord. The session involves candlelight, bible readings, and prayer. If you would like to join the group or need more information, contact Joyce Clark 803-359-3463.

LUMC PRESCHOOL NEWS

If you are a parent of a one-year-old and are interested in starting your child in Preschool, we have good news for you! We are starting this class in January 2021! The one-year-old students will attend each week on Mondays

and Wednesdays. The monthly tuition is \$120 & there's a one-time registration fee of \$125. All church members get a 10% discount on tuition. This class is open to church members and all others in our community, so share this with your friends. Please contact Jenny Kennedy, the Preschool Director:

803-359-6838 ext. 107 or jenny@lexumcsc.com if you are interested or have questions.

CHRISTMAS WORSHIP SCHEDULE:

Sunday, Dec. 20-Blue Christmas-5:00pm-In the sanctuary. This service is geared toward those who have lost loved ones and are having a hard time during the holidays.

Thursday, Dec. 24-Christmas Eve Outdoor Family Oriented Service-4:00pm-by the playground-Communion/Candlelight

Thursday, Dec. 24-Christmas Eve Indoor Contemporary Service-6:00pm-Wesley Hall-Communion/Candlelight

Thursday, Dec. 24-Christmas Eve Indoor Traditional Service-8:00pm-Wesley Hall-Communion/Candlelight

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

Spiral Walk. A spiral walk symbolizes finding light in the darkness. Just as the shepherds and Magi followed the star to Bethlehem. Just as Jesus is the Light of the World. Come take a moment from the hustle and bustle of the season to take a peaceful walk toward the Light, toward Bethlehem and our Savior. Mask wearing and social distancing will be observed. The Spiral Walk will be **available from 4:30-7pm.**

CHURCH EMAIL

LUMC sends out church-wide emails almost daily. It's the way the church notifies members of the congregation about events, links to worship services and to the HOF, general announcements, and notices about hospitalizations and health issues of our members. Email is not perfect and occasionally, some members of the congregation stop receiving them from LUMC. It's a random thing and we don't know why this happens. If you don't receive any email from the church for several days or a week, please notify David Marshall at David@Marshallgenealogy.org and we'll see about fixing the problem. Remember to check your SPAM and JUNK email folders, our messages may be there.

Most Recent Stewardship Figures:

Our Presence

9:00am (Traditional)	70
11:00am (Contemporary)	30
Viewed live online (Traditional)	25
Viewed live online (Contemporary)	10
Views (Traditional)	156
Views (Contemporary)	43
Vespers (12/2/20)	12
Total:	<u>346</u>

Our Gifts as of Dec. 13, 2020:

Received:	\$24,715
Needed Weekly	\$20,616
Budget Goal to date	\$1,010,184
Receipts to date	\$829,041
Expenses to date	\$840,145
Over/Under (revenue vs. expenses)	-\$11,104

Our Service

Ushers: John Cooper, Rick & Stephanie Thain

OUR CALENDAR

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 13

9:00am Traditional Worship Svc. (Wesley Hall)

11:00am Contemporary Worship Svc. (Wesley Hall)

5:30pm Youth Christmas Party

MONDAY, DECEMBER 14

7:00pm Almost Christmas Advent Study (on Zoom)

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 15

11:30am Columbia District Clergy Zoom Meeting

Christmas in the Four Gospel Homes Virtual Study

5:30pm Al-Anon (MC106)

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 16

Virtual Advent Devotion with Pastor Jim

6:30pm Vespers Service (Sanctuary)

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 17

Awaiting the Already Virtual Study

10:00am Line Dancing (Wesley Hall)

6:15pm Girl Scout Troop 2207-Lisa Caherty (Rm. 209)

6:30pm Girl Scout Troop 1688-Amy Durso (Rm 204)

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 18

Imagining A New World Virtual Devotion

7:00am Centering Prayer (MC106)

10:30am Clergy Mentoring

6:30pm Worship Band Practice

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 19

1:00pm Book Signing with Rev. Tony Rowell

2:00pm 4th/5th Grade Breakout Party

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 20

9:00am Traditional Worship Svc. (Wesley Hall)

11:00am Contemporary Worship Svc. (Wesley Hall)

5:00pm Blue Christmas Worship Service

Make Christmas Merry! Snack Sack

School is now in full swing and we are feeding 500+ students again this year. Harvest Hope has delivered our inventory of food for November. The food comes prepackaged when delivered. This speeds up and limits the handling of food items. But this change also brings an increased cost! We now pay \$6 per student per week for the Harvest Hope food. We expect 32 weeks of feeding, starting with 500 students for an approximate cost of \$96,000. These numbers will change based on student counts. We thank you for your continued support of our Snack Sack Ministry.

Lexington United Methodist Women

The LUMW are selling wooden flags and crosses. You can view them on the church website or the church Facebook page. We will be adding painted crosses on canvases very soon to the sites. The money for these items will go to LUMW missions which includes about 10 different organizations.