

A Prayer During This Pandemic Invitation to Come

God of the open door, in these troubled times, fill me with your peace that calms my fears and settles my uncertainty; fill me with your love that transforms me and gives me new life; fill me with your grace that reminds me that I and everyone you created are loved and precious. And God, just as your door is open, so too are your arms.

During these lonely times, Lord, please keep me from selfcenteredness. Even while maintaining necessary social distance, help me open my heart to all my brothers and sisters, to all your precious children.

Thank you, God, for meeting me on this difficult journey, for walking with me and reminding me of your resurrecting power. By your grace, help me push myself past the specter of anxiety to meet you in new ways, even through unwelcome experiences. Help me hear again your invitation to come and join in the feast -- and your call to invite others to join, too.

In your holy name I pray. Amen.

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https://www.umcsc.org/bestpractices/



A Word About These Guidelines

Bishop Holston affirms these Best Practices for in-person worship and other gatherings, compiled by a team of South Carolina United Methodist pastors and laity.

This resource has been updated to reflect the latest guidance from public health officials, placing a greater emphasis on what we now know to be the primary mode of transmission – airborne particulates – as opposed to surface contact.

Churches and congregations are strongly encouraged to remain vigilant in keeping themselves and each other safe and healthy until a vaccine is widely available.



CDC Guidelines for Churches

What if someone tests positive for COVID-19?

ADVENT SMALL GROUPS GOING VIRTUAL!

Pastor Kim will be offering three Advent study/devotion opportunities throughout this season of Advent. All three of the studies/devotions will be offered virtually, and will be posted on our LUMC website according to the following weekly schedule:

Tuesdays - "**Christmas in the Four Gospel Homes**" Study. Each week of this study we will be introduced to a distinctive perspective of the birth of Jesus or the incarnation offered by each Gospel. Please join us for this scholarly yet pastoral approach to the meaning and the mystery of Advent and Christmas.

Thursdays - "Awaiting the Already" Study. Each week of this study we will discover some unique lessons that each Gospel writer would have us learn regarding the anticipation and the arrival of the Word Made Flesh. In so doing, we will come to better understand the oddness of Advent, i.e., waiting for a Christ Who is already here.

Fridays - Each week you will be invited to hear a brief devotion, based on the Advent lectionary texts, which encourage us to imagine a new world which is free from fear, rather than one based on a "return to normal". "**Imagining A New World**" will provide us the opportunity to reflect on God's vision for our world and how we might find the courage to imagine... the permission to change... and the freedom to fear no more.

In addition to these videos being posted on the LUMC website each week, you will also receive an email link for each of them.



UPCOMING ADVENT WORSHIP SERIES

Hope - Peace - Joy - Love - These are the "typical" themes we highlight throughout the season of Advent. But are these "ideals' still "believable" given the past 10 months of 2020? 2020 has most certainly been a challenging, exhausting, "unbelievable" year - one that has truly "tested the faith" of so many! But thanks be to God, because we put our trust in a God of everlasting victory, we can most certainly look forward to a brand new season of hope, peace, joy, and love. We began the Advent Season on Sunday, November 29th, with four weeks of worship services celebrating the God-gifts of hope, peace, joy, and love. In addition to our liturgy and songs of celebration, we will also praise & worship with some "mini-celebrations" within our weekly faith gatherings: Advent 1 we presented Bibles to our 2nd graders AND presented Chrismons to our new LUMC members; Advent 2 will offer an opportunity to ponder "the peace of Christ which is beyond our understanding;

Upcoming Advent Worship Series (contd.)

Advent 3 will bless us with a reflection upon the joy God consistently provides in our lives even in spite of the struggles and setbacks; and Advent 4 will remind us of the love which is at the forefront of our existence as recipients of the gift of God's Son, the Messiah. On Thursday, December 24th, LUMC will offer three separate Christmas Eve services: an outdoor service at 4pm hosted by our Children and Youth Ministries; an indoor contemporary service at 6pm hosted by our praise band, Grace Station; and an indoor service at 8pm hosted by our LUMC Choir. All three services will include the celebration of Communion and Candlelight. Please join us live or live stream for these uplifting celebrations throughout the season of Advent!



BLUE CHRISTMAS WORSHIP OPPORTUNITY

Most certainly, not everyone is excited and eager about the Christmas holidays. Dealing with the recent death of a loved one, facing life after divorce or separation, coping with the loss of a job, living with cancer or some other dis-ease that puts a tentative edge to the future, and a number of other "dreaded" human situations can make "Happy Holidays" instead, very painful. Hence, the growing need for a sacred space and time for people who are struggling with heartache during the Advent season. This is what a Blue Christmas Worship service is all about. Blue Christmas Worship services are "reflective" in nature, filled with opportunities for honesty and acceptance, while simultaneously offering words of promise for hope and healing.

LUMC will host a Blue Christmas Worship service in the Ministry Center on **Sunday, December 20** at **5pm**. Traditionally, Blue Christmas Worship services are held on a possible date closest to the Winter Solstice, **December 21st**. There is an interesting convergence for this day as it is also the traditional feast day for Saint Thomas the Apostle. This linkage invites the opportunity to connect Thomas' struggle to believe the story of Jesus' resurrection (John 20:24-29) with the struggles of darkness and grief faced by those living with loss amidst the longest nights just before Christmas.

Our LUMC Blue Christmas Worship will be a time of prayer, song, and reflection in a setting of candlelight. Please join us.

American Red Cross Blood Drive

We had another fantastic blood drive on Nov. 9th! We surpassed our goal of 33 units and collected a whopping 45! That is the most we've collected at LUMC since January 2018! Those units will help save the lives of up to 135 hospital patients in need. See below for the final results.

We plan to raise the goals for next year's drives to match how many donors we typically see and to have additional staff to be able to see them in a timely manner. The next scheduled drive will be **Monday**, **January 11**th.

Kristen Boyle Donor Recruitment Account Representative American Red Cross Blood Services



Lexington United Methodist Church

Sponsor Group



When you made the decision to host a blood drive, you helped change lives.



At LUMC we promise to surround our children with a community of love and forgiveness, that they may grow in their service to others.

Family Advent Study:

Let's all get ready for our Journey to Bethlehem! It's not too late to pick up your family advent study bags! We will have a drive thru pickup this **Wednesday**, **December 2nd from 4:30-5:30pm** outside of the ministry center, where you can pull over to the side. If you are not able to make the pickup but still want to participate, please let me know and we will work it out. I can't wait to see all the things you create and hear what you're learning as we remember WHY we celebrate.

These bags have a great family devotional and some exciting crafts and colorings to go along with it. Plus, you'll be able to see some of the themes echoed in the weekly videos that will post on Mondays during Advent. I hope you'll share what you learn and create with me: <u>heather@lexumssc.com</u>

Parents, if you have any greenery/trimmings that you are able to donate for the Spiral Walk, please contact <u>heather@lexumcsc.com</u>.



Breakout Kidz (4th/5th graders):

This **Wednesday, December 2nd at 6:30pm** is our first Zoom meeting. If you'd like to read the verses that are part of our chat beforehand, they are Isaiah 7:14 CEB and Luke 1:46-55. This will last about 20-30 minutes and you'll want to have your Bible with you.

Here's the link for our meeting: <u>https://zoom.us/j/97216136266?</u>

At LUMC we promise to surround our children with a community of love and forgiveness, that they may grow in their service to others.

Breakout Kidz (4th/5th graders):

We WILL be having our Breakout Christmas party! It will look a bit different this year but will still be loads of fun! We are finalizing details at the moment but be on the lookout for an email this week. The party will be outdoors and mask wearing will be observed. Please note the date change: Saturday, December 19th, time and location TBD.

Breakout Kidz (4th/5th graders) are invited to a meet up **at Virginia Hylton Park at 2:30pm on the 11th**. This will be a time for students to hang out, play and see each other but in a casual, no lessons setting. *This is a family event, not a drop off*. Mask wearing will be observed. I'll be there from **2:30-3:30pm** and hope



Children's Ministry

exington

to see everyone!

Join us December 6th at 6pm for our Happy Birthday Jesus Celebration!

This year we will have a church-wide drive-in movie night, showing THE STAR. In honor of Jesus' birthday we are collecting plastic jars of PB&J for Snack Sack. Hot chocolate (with marshmallows!) and individually packaged

cupcakes will be provided. Watch from your car, in a tailgate chair, or on a blanket with your family unit. Masks are required when not eating or outside of your vehicle.

Save the Date! Monday, December 21st also known as Winter Solstice, the longest day of the year, we will have a church-wide Outdoor Advent 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 Saviour. Mask wearing & social distancing will be observed. The Spiral Walk will be available from **4:30-7pm**.

Remember, Children's Church is offered during the 9am worship service. I hope to see your smiling eyes very soon!

As we journey together toward Bethlehem,

Heather Connor

SOCIALLY DISTANCED

For the young and young at heart... you're invited

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HAPPY BIRTHDAY JESUS CELEBRATION!

DEC 6 • 6:00 PM BRING A PICNIC DINNER OR EAT BEFORE

Come celebrate the season with a drive-in movie The Star while enjoying hot cocoa and an individually packaged cupcake.*

In honor of Jesus' birthday, we will be collecting gifts of **plastic PB+J jars for snack sack**.

*Individually packaged allergy friendly treats available

Masks required when not eating or in vehicle



November was Mission Month for the youth group!



Our youth participated in four different ways to give back for the holidays. Week one, we brought hygiene supplies for Washington Street United Methodist Church Soup Cellar, which is located in Downtown Columbia.

On week two, we heard from Edie Burritt, who is a school counselor at a local elementary school that receives Snack Sacks each week. She shared with us the

importance of our ministry to those students in Lexington County. Each youth was encouraged to find a creative way to earn money and donate a part of it to the Snack Sack Ministry. Our LUMC Youth group raised \$282 for Snack Sack!



On the third week, we brought gifts to fill up four bins for Epworth Children's Home. The fourth and final week was led by one of our youth, Lila Crosswell.



She taught us how to make fleece scarves. We made 84 scarves and distributed them around downtown Lexington with a little note from our youth group reminding them how much God loves them. These scarves are for anyone who is in need of some warmth as the days get colder!

Mark your calendar as we look forward to our annual

Christmas party on December 13th from 5:30 to 7:30pm at Stephanie & Rick Thain's house.



UMW News:

Due to COVID 19, all of our planning from last year went out the window! We had fundraisers planned for May and for August, both of which unfortunately had to be cancelled. I think we were hoping that COVID would end and we could plan a normal fundraiser. Well, we all know that didn't happen, so we did not start raising money until September. The first thing we decided to do was a "No Bake" Bake Sale. This was our biggest fund-raiser of the year, raising \$4,620. The FAITH Circle sponsored a Virtual Walk/Run in October that brought in \$760. We had a soup sale in November that raised \$1,010. So, we have raised a total of \$6,390 in a short period of time to benefit UMW missions. We have an ongoing fundraiser where we are selling flags and crosses (wooden & painted on canvases). You can see these on the church website and the church Facebook page. These would make wonderful Christmas presents and, let's face it, shopping is a little more difficult this year. We hope to display some of these things after church service some Sundays so you can see them in person.

A big THANK YOU to everyone who supported us in these fundraisers. Within our group, we had ladies of all ages participating.

My heart is broken to think about losing Joan Kruger. She was at the church to pick up her soup just a few weeks ago and again on Saturday to pick up her pecans. You could always count on Joan to do her part for her beloved circle - the Agnes Rogers Circle. They will sorely miss Joan as will all of the UMW. And, you could always count on getting a birthday card from Joan. She has been sending these cards for years and so many of us will miss that connection from now on. We will miss you my friend.

Trudy Huffstetler LUMW President



Mission Lexington

Christmas Toy Shop for Neighbors

Looking for another way to serve your neighbors this holiday season? We're still in need of items for our Toy Shop, where Lexington County families who need Christmas assistance can shop (at no cost!) for their children.

Below is a *very specific list* of items that we need in order to have great choices for all age groups. Please bring items, unwrapped, as we allow families to choose what they would like for their children. We start handing out on **Dec** 7th, so please bring these items sooner than later—thank you for considering!



Last year, Mission Lexington gave out toys for almost 1,000 children, and we are asking you to consider donating again this year. Donations are being accepted now through **December 14th**.

Drop off is Monday-Friday, 10am-1pm at Mission Lexington's Donation Door! Questions? Email Lauren at lauren@missionlexingtonsc.org for more info.

Covid~19 Concerns



Are you feeling exhausted from all the disruptions to life brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic? Are you or someone you know struggling with challenges like:

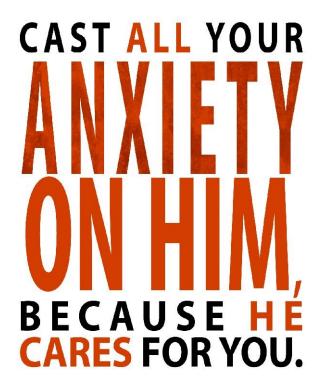
Isolation and Loneliness Anxiety over health Grief due to many different kinds of losses Tension from juggling work, childcare, and schooling Financial strain or job loss Uncertainty about the future Other unexpected life challenges?

If so, you don't have to face it alone. Stephen Ministers here at Lexington UMC are ready to listen, care, encourage, and provide emotional and spiritual support.

A Stephen Minister will meet with you privately---by phone or, by video chat, or, if safely possible, in person---to offer care and support. It's free and completely confidential.

For more information, call: Pastor Kim (803-359-6838); Nancy Caulder (803-356-0840); or Bob Graham (803-348-1079).

"Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest." Matthew 11:28



with author, pastor and photographer, Rev. Tony Rowell

Book signing

Saturday, Dec. 19 1-3 p.m. Lexington UMC, Asbury Hall

WHAT WOULD GRANNY SAY?

And Other Somewhat Embellished Memories

By the Rev. Tony Rowell

There's Still Opportunities to Make Christmas Merry!



The **Angel Wish** program is a chance to provide a gift to Christmas children at Epworth Children's Home. The unwrapped Angel Wish gifts are due this Sunday, December 6th. Lori Torbett can be reached via: 803-629-7126 or Ldtorbett@gmail.com

> The **Angel Tree** program is a chance to provide a gift to children who have an incarcerated parent. Rachel and Matt Buchanan are coordinating the Angel Tree program. The Angel Tree wrapped gifts are due (with Angel Tag affixed)

Tuesday, December 8th.

Thank you to all those who participated in these Ministries to provide children with a little joy this Christmas.

Habitat Home Visits

If you are looking for a rewarding outreach, please consider joining the Habitat for Humanity Home Assessment Committee. You will visit with and meet some wonderful people, especially the children who deserve a better living situation.

You will also meet some very kind and dedicated people who serve on this Home Assessment Committee.

For anyone who is interested in joining the committee. (The meetings will have the option to attend in-person or via Zoom)



- Tuesday, December 8th at 5:30pm
- Tuesday, January 12th at 12pm & 5:30pm

For questions about home visits, you may contact Mike mmitton@outlook.com

Joy Circle

Joy Circle decided to cancel their November & December meetings due to COVID-19 and plan to reevaluate in January 2021! 🛓 💖

Merry Christmas to all from Joy Circle



Community Spotlight



Reverend Delos Corderman was not only our pastor for several years, he was a dear friend. When our Minister at Virginia Wingard UMC learned my husband, John, and I were moving to Lexington in 1974, he contacted Delos to tell him about us. We received a letter from Delos saying that Mrs. Shealy, who was a longtime faithful member of the church, would be waiting in one of the nursery's rocking chairs for our son Jamie. The letter also told us that the LUMC Men's Club would be eagerly waiting to welcome John to their group and that a

choir robe was ready for me. We visited the first Sunday after our move, and Delos and the congregation made us feel at home right away.

When my father died in 1975, just before our daughter Julie was to arrive, Delos was at our house thirty minutes after John called him at 7:30 a.m. The caring support he gave me on frequent visits over the following weeks helped me through a very difficult time. I can't express enough how much he meant to me during that time and to all our family over the years.

Soon after, Delos was appointed Administrator of the Office of Ministerial Affairs for the South Carolina United Methodist Conference in 1976. He became the teacher of our Sunday school class and was our devoted leader until he passed away in 2009. Like his sermons, his messages in Sunday school were always interesting and well prepared.

Delos baptized our daughter Julie in 1975 and performed her marriage in 2000. He also drove to Rock Hill in 2004 and 2006 to baptize her sons. Delos was a special person and one of the wisest John and I have ever known. We are thankful that we were able to have Delos as both our Pastor and friend for so many years, and we still miss him.

-Joyce Bumgarner



The Caring Connections Team at LUMC is an outreach program which has the joy of sending out cards/notes to shut-ins, those in assisted living, military, get well, cheer, sympathy, and new members.

If you have a loved one you would like for us to send a card to, please let us know. Also, if you already have someone on our list that has had an address change, please let us know that as well. We have found that military addresses change often. We do not want anyone to be forgotten.

Please send the name, address and birth date to Sandra Brabham at: <u>ssbrabham@icloud.com</u> or 803-359-109.



The Legend of the Poinsettia

Poinsettias didn't arrive in the United States until the 19th century. The plant is named for the first U.S. Ambassador to Mexico, Dr. Joel Roberts Poinsett, who introduced America to the poinsettia in 1828, after discovering it in the wilderness in southern Mexico. Dr. Poinsett, who dabbled in botany when he wasn't politicking between nations, sent cuttings of the plant back to his South



Carolina home. While it wasn't initially embraced, its caught on over the years, and by the 20th century it was a holiday mainstay. In fact, National Poinsettia Day is celebrated on Dec. 12, honoring both the plant & the man who brought it to America.

So what does a poinsettia have to do with Christmas? The shape of the poinsettia flower and leaves are sometimes thought as a symbol of the Star of Bethlehem which led the Wise Men to the place where Jesus was born. The red colored leaves symbolize the blood of Christ. The white leaves represent his purity.

A Mexican legend tells of a girl who could only offer weeds as a gift to Jesus on Christmas Eve. When she brought the weeds into a church, they blossomed into the beautiful red plants we know as poinsettias, known as Flores de Noche Buena in Mexico (Spanish for "flowers of the holy night").

Vespers & Taizé

There has been an overwhelmingly positive response to the Midweek Vespers services. This Wednesday evening worship experience offers a 30 minute time of reflection, song, and prayer and is modeled after the Taizé service. The candlelit ambiance of the sanctuary may be just what you need to ease your holiday stress! Hope you can join us.

Services for the Vespers are Wednesday nights in the sanctuary at 6:30pm. The schedule this month will be December 2nd, 9th, & 16th. There will be a break during the weeks of Christmas and New Year's, then the services will resume January 6th.



Hello dear friends,

I am so very THANKFUL for each of you. Missing our Taizé times together. May each of you have a blessed Advent season.

Peace, hope, love, and joy,

-Lessie

Composting Anyone?

Friends In Faith would like to suggest you get a head start on your spring garden by beginning to compost! You can compost all kinds of organic waste, (no meat) and in the process of not putting it in the landfill, you can also have a nutritious base for your upcoming Spring garden.

Compost basics here: <u>https://lex-co.sc.gov/departments/solid-waste-management/</u> <u>beyond-basics/let-it-rot-compost</u>

Reference on Backyard Composting Program in Lexington County here: https://lex-co.sc.gov/departments/solid-waste-management/recycling/backyard-composting

Lexington County Compost, Mulch & Backyard Compost Bins

Pick Up at the Edmund Landfill

498 Landfill Lane, Lexington, SC 29073 Monday-Saturday * 7:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Lex-Co Natural Wood Compost

- * \$2 per bag (approx 40lb) or \$10 per ton
- * High carbon/low nitrogen untreated product made from clean wood waste, greenery, grass clippings and leaves
- * Average load for standard pickup truck or small trailer is about 1 ton

Lex-Co Natural Wood Mulch

- * \$10 per ton (average pickup truck holds 1/2 ton)
- * Untreated and uncolored

Lex-Co Colored Wood Mulch

- * \$2 per bag (2 cu. ft.) or \$45 per ton
- * Call (803) 755-3325 for available colors

Backyard Compost Bin

- * \$40 --- 80 gallon (3 ft x 3 ft)
- * Pre-order to avoid a wait at the landfill or to pick up at a special event.

Questions? Call Recycling Coordinator at (803) 785-3340 or email tsander@lex-co.com



US Composiing Seal of Testing Assurance





12/1 Tracy Rowe 12/2 Carolyn Johnson Lauryn Bliss Unger 12/4 Sutton Sinclair 12/5 Frank Macaulay Sammie Brown Mary Ashley Rodriguez 12/6 Jason Fortenberry Matt Cunningham Barbara Bodie Vivian Robbins 12/7 Meghan Field Frank Seeby Jr.

Everette Denny

Elsy Coleman

12/8 Todd Taylor **Gralynn Roberts** Sarah Thompson 12/10 Alison Davison **Todd Brandes** 12/11 Jack Young Olivia O'Neal 12/12 Donna Dunnagan Jim Athey Maddie Masters 12/13 Charlie Robbins Jr. 12/15 Cameron Rainey Lois Stuber **Bill Bodie**

12/16 Vicki Boylston Steve Burnett 12/17 Kitty Spence 12/18 Matthew Bowman Cameron Smith Elijah Stewart 12/19 Adam Britner 12/20 Cliff Rivers Jr. 12/21 Douglas Crossman Stephanie Atwood Kristen Richardson-Frick 12/22 Summer Edwards Sandra Young 12/23 Kathy Seeby 12/24 Donald Bickel Luanne Brabham

12/25 Lily Laffin 12/26 Zoe Trezise Mack Blume Eli Wicker 12/27 Don Myers Penny Wilson 12/28 Zach Rankin Sarah DeBerry Lorri Johnson 12/29 Sutton Betcher 12/30 Ken Parnell Conner O'Neal Tanner Munsch

Member News:

Gifts in memory of:

Bennie & Lee Powell Marjorie Carter

Lee Powell

Woody & Brenda Manus Paul & Gale Harman Cecil & Cathy Scoggins John & Joyce Bumgarner Allen & Brenda Hollis Wade & Alice Jackson Harriet Johnson Murphy Hobbs & Jenny Terry & Daisy Hicks Linda Rhoten Dr. Albert & Helen Thomas Judi & Craig Powell

Frona Ruth McCaslin

Buddy & Lynn Brewer

Joan Kruger

Buddy & Lynn Brewer Delos Corderman Fellowship Class John & Joyce Bumgarner **Berniece** Phillips Terry & Daisy Hicks Wade & Alice Jackson **Barr-Price Funeral Homes** Mike & Terrie Morrison Woody & Brenda Manus Bryant & Stephanie Davis

Bobby Bowers

Tom & Sandra Anderson Walter P. Rawl & Sons, Inc.



Gifts in honor of:

Malcolm & Loretta Jackson Terry & Daisy Hicks

Eddie Hicks

Wade & Alice Jackson





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Lexington United **Methodist Church**

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We're on the web: http:/www.lexumcsc. com



lexumc @LUMC_SC

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