

“Making disciples for the transformation of the World”

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Lexington
United Methodist Church

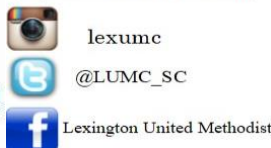
December 20, 2020

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>



4TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

9:00AM

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 20, 2020

GATHERING

GREETING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE *Your Love, O God, Has Called Us Here* M. L. Suitor

***CALL TO WORSHIP** (responsively):

L: Glory to God in the highest!
P: AND HOPE TO EVERY DISCOURAGED HEART!
L: Glory to God in the highest!
P: AND PEACE TO EVERY CONFLICTED SOUL!
L: Glory to God in the highest!
P: AND JOY TO EVERY DOWNCAST SPIRIT!
L: Glory to God in the highest!
P: AND LOVE TO EVERYONE!
L: Let us sing praises to our God!

***OPENING HYMN OF PRAISE #408** *The Gift of Love*

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES

A READING FROM THE PSALMS Psalm 139

ANTHEM *Love Came Down at Christmas* Harlan

A READING FROM THE NEW TESTAMENT 1 John 4:7-12

A WORD TO THE CHILDREN Lori Meyers

***GOSPEL LESSON** Matthew 1:18-25

***GLORIA PATRI #70**

WITNESS TO THE WORD

“God Loves Me, God Loves Me Not (NOT!)”
Rev. L. Kim Eanes

***SONG OF PRAISE #3048**

View the Present through the Promise

OFFERTORY

What Wondrous Love Is This
American Folk Hymn

***THE DOXOLOGY #95**

***PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

**PRAYER CONCERNS, PASTORAL
PRAYER, THE LORD’S PRAYER #895**

CLOSING HYMN OF PRAISE #242

Love Came Down at Christmas

***AN ADVENT CREDO** (*responsively*):

L: It is NOT true that creation and the human family are doomed to destruction and loss...

P: THIS IS TRUE - FOR GOD SO LOVED THE WORLD THAT HE GAVE HIS ONLY BEGOTTEN SON - THAT WHOEVER BELIEVES IN HIM SHALL NOT PERISH BUT SHALL HAVE EVERLASTING LIFE.

L: It is NOT true that we must accept inhumanity and discrimination, hunger and poverty, death and destruction...

P: THIS IS TRUE - I HAVE COME THAT THEY MAY HAVE LIFE - AND LIFE ABUNDANT!

L: It is NOT true that violence and hatred should have the last word, and that war and destruction rule forever...

P: THIS IS TRUE - UNTO US A CHILD IS BORN; UNTO US A SON IS GIVEN; AND THE GOVERNMENT SHALL BE UPON HIS SHOULDERS; HIS NAME SHALL BE CALLED WONDERFUL, COUNSELOR, MIGHTY GOD, EVERLASTING FATHER, THE PRINCE OF PEACE!

L: It is NOT true that we are simply victims of the powers of evil who seek to rule the world...

P: THIS IS TRUE - TO ME IS GIVEN AUTHORITY IN HEAVEN AND ON EARTH, AND LO I AM WITH YOU, EVEN UNTIL THE END OF THE WORLD.

L: It is NOT true that we have to wait for those who are specially gifted, who are the prophets of the church, before we can be peacemakers...

P: THIS IS TRUE - I WILL POUR OUT MY SPIRIT ON ALL FLESH; AND YOUR SONS AND DAUGHTERS SHALL PROPHECY; YOUR YOUNG PEOPLE WILL SEE VISIONS AND YOUR OLDER PEOPLE SHALL HAVE DREAMS.

L: It is NOT true that our hopes for liberation of humankind... of justice... of human dignity... of peace... are not meant for this earth and this history ...

P: THIS IS TRUE - THE HOUR COMES, AND IT IS NOW - THAT THE TRUE WORSHIPERS SHALL WORSHIP GOD IN SPIRIT AND IN TRUTH!

L: So let us continue our Advent journey in hope... even hope against hope.

Let us see visions of love and peace and justice.

Let us affirm with humility, with joy, with faith, and with courage... Jesus Christ, the life of the world!

P: JESUS CHRIST - THE LOVE OF THE WORLD! AMEN.

***POSTLUDE**

They’ll Know We Are Christian By Our Love

*Please stand as you are able

VESPERS

Vespers is a sunset evening prayer service. We gather every Wednesday evening at 6:30pm in the Sanctuary. Casual attire is encouraged. Face coverings are required & social distancing is practiced. Each service lasts about 30 minutes & includes opportunities for song, Scripture, prayer, and quiet reflection. Please join us!

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 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 **tomorrow, Monday, Dec. 21st from 4:30-7pm.**

VIRTUAL ADVENT STUDIES

Pastor Kim is 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. Because this week is Christmas week, our typical posting schedule will be adjusted, to reflect the following changes:

Tuesday you are invited to tune in to the final session of: Christmas in the Four Gospel Homes.

Wednesday you are invited to tune in to the final session of: Awaiting the Already.

And Thursday you are invited to tune in to the final Advent devotion: Imagining a New World.

Thank you for joining us for these studies/devotions throughout the Advent season!

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.

PRESCHOOL ANNOUNCEMENT

We have been extremely blessed and thankful for our Preschool Director, Jenny Kennedy, who has done an awesome job leading our Preschool and making sure that each child enrolled receives the quality Christian Education that the LUMC Preschool can offer. With that being said, we are saddened that she will be leaving us but happy for her and her husband as they enter retirement. We will now be in search of a new Preschool Director. Resumes and applications are being accepted for

this part time position. Contact Jim@lexumcsc.com for more information.

CHRISTMAS WORSHIP SCHEDULE:

Today, Dec. 20: Blue Christmas - 5pm

In the sanctuary. This service is provided specifically for those who have lost loved ones and are having a difficult time during the Holiday season.

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

Thursday, Dec. 24: Christmas Eve - 6pm Indoor Contemporary Service in Wesley Hall with Communion & Candlelight.

Thursday, Dec. 24: Christmas Eve - 8pm Indoor Traditional Service in Wesley Hall with Communion & Candlelight.

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.

Ushers: John Cooper, Rick & Stephanie Thain

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 25

Christmas Holiday-Offices Closed

7:00am Centering Prayer (MC106)

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 27

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

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

Most Recent Stewardship Figures:

Our Presence

9:00am (Traditional)	65
11:00am (Contemporary)	30
Viewed live online (Traditional)	23
Viewed live online (Contemporary)	8
Views (Traditional)	160
Views (Contemporary)	35
Vespers (12/9/20)	12
Total:	<u>333</u>

Our Gifts as of Dec. 13, 2020:

Received:	\$18,422
Needed Weekly	\$20,616
Budget Goal to date	\$1,030,800
Receipts to date	\$847,463
Expenses to date	\$862,997
Over/Under (revenue vs. expenses)	-\$15,534

Our Service

OUR CALENDAR

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 20

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

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

3:00pm SPRC Meeting (Asbury Hall)

5:00pm Blue Christmas Worship Service

MONDAY, DECEMBER 21

4:30pm Outdoor Advent Spiral Walk (outside by playgrnd)

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 22

5:30pm AI-Anon (MC106)

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 24

Christmas Eve Holiday-Offices Closed

4:00pm Christmas Eve Svc w/Communion & Candlelight (Outdoors)

6:00pm Contemporary Christmas Eve Svc w/Communion & Candlelight (Wesley Hall)

8:00pm Traditional Christmas Eve Svc w/Communion & Candlelight (Wesley Hall)

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 January. 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. The money for these items will go to LUMW missions which includes about 10 different organizations.

Blue Christmas Worship Service

Blue? Yes, blue, as in "the blues" as in "I am feeling blue". Not everyone is "bright and cheery" for the Christmas holiday. Dealing with the death of a loved one, facing life after divorce or separation, coping with the loss of a job,

living with cancer or some other disease that puts a question mark over the future, and a number of other human situations, make festivity and cheer painful for many people in our congregation and in our community. It is for these people and these situations of loss that the Blue Christmas Service is offered. If you are in need of a reflective and quiet time of remembrance, healing, and hope, please join us this Sunday, December 20th at 5pm, in the LUMC sanctuary, as we gather for this service of candles and Light.